

4th Sunday of Lent

April 15th-April 21st, 2024

April 16, 2024 Tuesday
12pm. Synaxis

April 17, 2024 Wednesday
12pm. Synaxis
6pm. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
7:15pm. Lenten Potluck Meal
8pm. OCF @ SU

April 18, 2024 Thursday
10am. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy w/His Eminence
12pm. Deanery Meeting
6pm Great Canon of St. Andrew
8:45pm. Panera Bread Recovery and Food Recovery

April 19, 2024 Friday
9am. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
11am. Schools Pick Up Dinners
11:15am. Outreach Street Food Ministry
6pm. Akathist to the Theotokos

April 20, 2024 Saturday
3:30pm. Foundations
5pm. Great Vespers
5:45pm. Choir Rehearsal

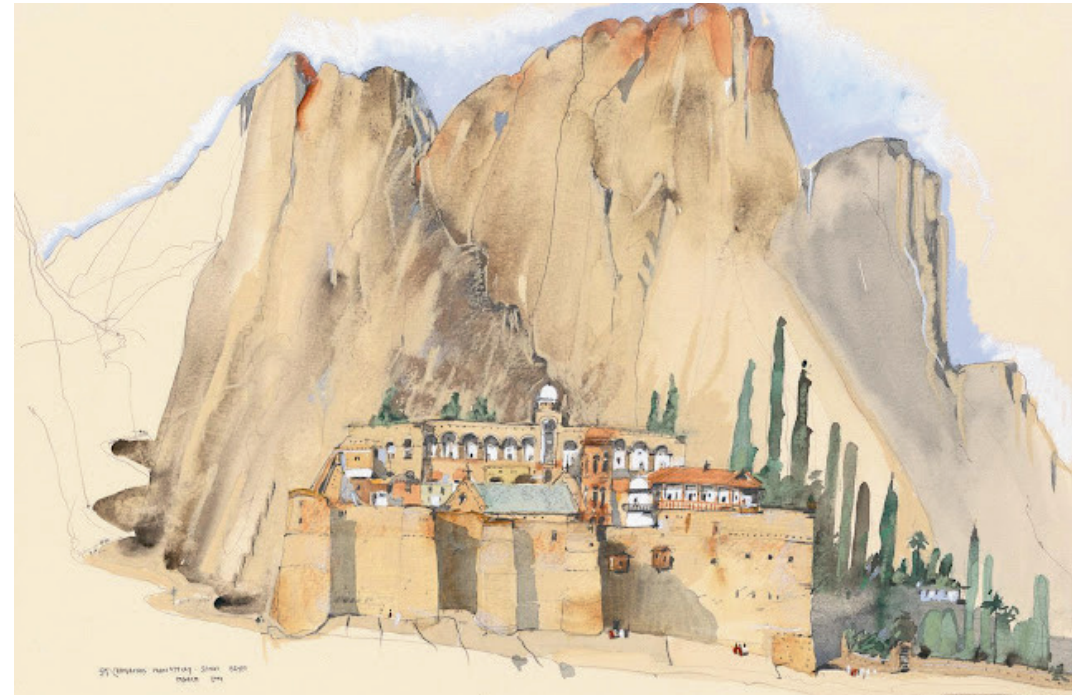
April 21, 2024 Sunday
8:15am Ridesharing
8:45am Holy Confessions
9am. Choir Rehearsal
9:10am. 3rd & 6th Hour
9:30am. Divine Liturgy
11:15am. Agape Meal
11:30am. Church School
11:55am. CFD PREP
12:30pm. Parish Council



April 15th-April 21st, 2024, Tone 4
Fourth Sunday of Lent.

The Weekly

On St. John Climacus



Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

401 Hamilton Street
Syracuse, NY 13204

Fr. Ambrose Inlow's Cell: (315) 418-5738
Rector: (315) 468-0442
sspeterandpaulsyracuse.com

Announcements



Welcome all visitors!

Please join us after the service for Coffee Hour. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Ambrose and others as we would love to meet you! We are delighted to have you here with us.

Please fill out your information at <https://www.sspeterandpaulsyracuse.com/new> as we would love to keep you connected with our events.

If you are not Orthodox Christian, please do not approach the chalice during the distribution of Holy Communion. Please, however, come up and kiss the cross at the end of the service and introduce yourself to Fr. Ambrose.

An agape meal rotation schedule is being put together. If you would like to join the rotation please see Jessica Gressel. Any help with the Coffee Hour / Agape Meals is welcomed!

At Coffee Hour please donate what you can in the donations box. \$2 per meal is suggested. We are in need of plates, cups, coffee, utensils, etc... Please donate!

To make a confession simply come early to any Divine Liturgy, stay after at any vespers service, or make an appointment.

Communion is for Orthodox Christians who have prepared by prayer, fasting from midnight on, reconciliation, and a recent confession. For the reception of communion it's also good to arrive on time to Divine Liturgy and not later than the reading of the Holy Gospel.

If you or someone is admitted into the hospital or needs emergency pastoral assistance, then please call Fr. Ambrose at 315-418-5738. Make sure to put Fr. Ambrose as one of your hospital contacts to ensure that he is easily able to come and visit.

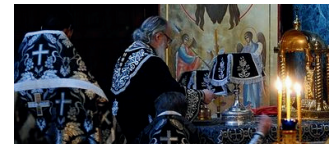
Please consider donating for Paschal Flowers. In your donation, please include those whom you would like to commemorate in memory of.

Important Upcoming Services and Events



Pan-Orthodox Vespers Tonight

6pm at St. Luke's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Warners.



Pre-Sanctified Liturgies

This Wednesday evening at 6pm, followed by a lenten meal, and this Friday at 9am.



Food Recovery on Thursday Night

We are looking to recover food from 5 SU dining halls this Thursday and we could use some extra help!



Pre-Sanctified Liturgy w/His Eminence

This Thursday at 10am here. All are welcome to join us.



Pysanky Egg Making

April 23rd from 6pm - 8pm down in the church parlor. Both children and adults are invited to come and make their own Pysanky Egg.



Family Dinner

Monday, April 22nd from 4:30pm-6pm. Preparation will be on Sunday, April 21st after Coffee-Hour.

2024 Stewardship

Ss. Peter and Paul parish is supported entirely through the generosity of its members, friends, and benefactors.

If you are active in your support of Ss. Peter and Paul, thank you! If you are new to Ss. Peter and Paul and/or regularly attend, please consider making a regular offering (weekly or monthly) in support of our parish and its projects.

By contributing to the General Fund in 2024 you are supporting the mission and activities in the parish, which include divine services, outreach, evangelism, church school, parish social activities, community efforts, and many more. There are so many things that are happening at Ss. Peter and Paul and contributing to the General Fund helps to advance this mission.

The best way to give is by check (or cash) placed in an envelope in the offering baskets.. We also have an online giving system (Breeze) as a way to offer your tithes and offerings.

The Impactful Ministries of Ss. Peter and Paul

- Free Family Dinner for the entire community. 4th Monday of every month.
- Food Recovery Ministry: during the school semester a team of us recover up to 500 lbs of cooked food every week.
- Elementary School Outreach - we then take the recovered food and give it to families at local elementary schools.
- Church School Ministry - every Sunday, after Liturgy, during the school year, we have Church School lessons for grades pre-k through 12th.
- Hospitality Team Ministry
- Choral Ministry
- Senior Moment Lunches
- Altar Server Ministry
- Synaxis Meetings during Fasting Periods..
- Foundation Classes
- Ladies Nights
- Men's Fellowship Dinners and Outings
- Family Potluck Events
- Educational Field Trips for Children
- plus much more....

Please support the present and future ministry of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church!

What's My Weekly Tith?

Weekly Income	10%	5%	4%	2%
\$200	\$20	\$10	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$10
\$750	\$75	\$37	\$30	\$15
\$1,000	\$100	\$50	\$40	\$20
\$1,500	\$150	\$75	\$60	\$30
\$2,000	\$200	\$100	\$80	\$40

On St. John of the Ladder

Today, on this Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we celebrate St. John the Sinaite, also known as St. John "Climacus" (Ladder). Although the Saint's feast day is on March 30th, the Church wants to highlight the narrow path of asceticism and virtue on this particular Sunday of Great Lent, and St. John is an exemplary guide in following this path with sincere love for Christ.

St. John was born in Syria in 523 AD. At the age of 16 he joined the Monastic Brotherhood of the famous Sinai Monastery, where he labored as a Monk under obedience to his spiritual father for 19 years. Because he was attracted to ascetic life in the desert, he fled to a secluded cell, five miles from the Monastery. It is hard to describe the Holy Saint's struggles in asceticism, but from his writings that have survived we can get a sense of the spiritual heights he reached. His most famous work, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent" has been spiritual food for Orthodox monks and nuns for over 1400 years. It is read not only individually, but also communally in the Monasteries during Great Lent. Although it was originally written for monastics, the laity can also benefit from a careful study of the text.

The idea of classifying the virtues as ascending steps for the Christian to reach heaven was inspired by Jacob's famous vision, where he saw a ladder resting on the earth which reached heaven, and had the angels descending. It is a simple measure of where a Christian is in the spiritual life. As St. John writes, anyone with faith can climb the ladder to Heaven, step by step. A person reflects on their passions and the virtues that God has given to them, seeing what rung they are on. It is a non-stop process, for the Christian is always striving upwards to the next level. St. John urges patience for those who are just beginning, as it is a constant and never ending struggle. Just as you would climb a regular ladder carefully, step by step, so it is with this spiritual ladder. There is no rush or skipping rungs. Thirty steps to the Heavenly Kingdom. Don't be tempted by the thought of doing it by your own power or will, or discouraged by the height. You will not be alone, but the Holy Angels will be with you, helping you. At the top is Christ, giving you strength.

Let's look at some of these thirty virtues (corresponding to Christ's years on earth until His ministry began), which are not only for monastics, but for all Christians. As St. John notes, before a person can even begin the ascent, there are some basic virtues that must be nurtured:

Humility. Humble yourself, and you will see how much easier it is to take that first step. True humility requires actions, not words. St. Paul the Apostle says of himself: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15). It was in this humility that the Lord saved him.

Obedience. To obey God first in our lives. Because Adam and Eve failed to do this, they lost Paradise and all the evils came into the world. With our free and unselfish obedience to God, we will regain Paradise. This obedience includes the people who lead us to God, who are responsible for the care of our souls. It even extends to those in our family and society. The man listens to his wife and the woman listens to her husband. Brothers and sisters listen to each other.

Other virtues mentioned by Saint John are: Repentance, meekness, forgiveness, kindness, fasting, mental and physical purity, almsgiving, discernment; we must act accordingly in our lives. Prayer unites us with God. On the last steps are faith, hope, and love for God and man. That's where the thirty-step ladder ends. One of these virtues alone will not save us. A ladder that is missing rungs is impossible to climb. It is like a royal crown, which is adorned with diamonds of different sizes, pearls, and other precious gems. All of these virtues come together in a glorious crown.

St. John encourages us all: "Go up, brethren, go up willingly and rejoice in this angelic ladder, that we may come to the mountain of the Lord, to His high throne." Amen.

A collection of colorful, intricately decorated Ukrainian Easter eggs (Pysanky) in shades of red, orange, yellow, and white, with various geometric and floral patterns.

Pysanky Egg Making

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD
FROM 6PM - 8PM.
ADULTS, YOUTH, AND
CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

HERE @ THE CHURCH

SEE BRENDA GELOFF
FOR MORE DETAILS



BAPTISMS ON
LAZARUS
SATURDAY,
FOLLOWED BY
ANNUAL CHURCH
CLEANING PARTY

Saturday, April 27th

Baptisms @ 8:30am

Divine Liturgy @ 9:30am

followed by breakfast, then

Annual Church Cleaning Party