



Weekly Bulletin - Sunday, July 21, 2024

Schedule of Services and Events

Date	Time	Service/Event
Sunday, July 21	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, July 21	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, July 21	Following Liturgy	Church council meeting
Wednesday, July 24	6:00 p.m.	Service of Supplication
Saturday, July 27	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, July 28	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, July 28	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, July 28	12:00 p.m.	Young adult gathering (See below for details)

St. Raphael on Science and Religion

Please find below the very important words from St. Raphael of Brooklyn that I referenced last Sunday. This quote below comes from a hand written lecture note from St. Raphael at his first recorded talk given in America. He delivered these notes, and further teachings to a gathering of Syrian men in New York on December 17, 1895. St. Raphael is speaking to warn the faithful again adopting new philosophical and scientific ideas that were opposed to the simple yet complete truths delivered already to them through their inherited Holy Orthodox Faith.



(Hand-written in Arabic by St. Raphael of Brooklyn; translated into English by Dr. Sam Cohlma in 2004)

"Every true mind cannot but rejoice when it encounters education and knowledge. Every peaceful heart, too, cannot but be reverend when it beholds great philanthropic endeavors which are crowned with a crown of goodness. Therefore, truth becomes evident in the ministry of education; and goodness becomes visible in the works of kindness. It is, then, truth and goodness which promote mental success and literary advancement in every place and every age. For this reason, mental success stirs up within us joy and happiness; and literary advancement excites within us poetic words of thanksgiving.

Having said that, I cannot but convey the great joy which I feel in my heart at the founding of this literary gathering, which is composed of Syrian men who have graciously poured out love for the improvement of their own literacy, education, and knowledge. At the same time, they have spread such virtues to the rest of their un-enlightened brethren. Therefore, I cannot but offer great thanks to the founders of this congregation and all of those who have helped and taken part in its establishment. I ask Him who is of true heart and spirit that He may fill the hearts and minds of the founders of this congregation (whether those

who make literary offerings or gifts of money) with the spirit of wisdom, the spirit of knowledge, the spirit of truth, and the spirit of zeal and vision for the future; that they may spread their literary and visionary knowledge to all of their country's descendants throughout all of the ages.

What I behold in this, your first gathering, is your treasured and righteous intention, throughout all of your discussions and resolutions, "not to believe every spirit," but "to examine everything and hold onto what is good." Knowledge cannot be established, even if many attest to its truth and validity, if it is handled with chaos and dissension, doubt and deviance; such limiting factors will soon alienate the knowledgeable and the wise, the poet and the counselor. Nonetheless, today knowledge has been strongly established as truth through the wisdom of our past.

Therefore, if you read or hear that [the findings of] certain of the sciences contradict religion, it behooves you to understand that such sciences have never been originally founded in truth; indeed, true knowledge and true science is the kin of true religion and true faith. So neither true science nor true faith has the ability to contradict the other. On one hand, true religion is the introduction of what God has revealed to us, with respect to those things that have been termed "the truths of faith and religion." On the other hand, true science is the introduction of what God has sent to us through His creation and His laws, which have been termed "the laws of nature." Having said this, is it possible for a true mind to surrender to the notion that what God revealed to us as "the truths of faith and religion" can be contradictory to what He sent to us as "the laws [or regularities] of nature"? Is it possible that the message of God can contradict what He created? Therefore, religious disbelief among the people [on the grounds of a supposed conflict of science and religion] is an indication of the lack of intellectual balance regarding truth; in addition, religious disbelief among scientists is an indication of the lack of intellectual balance regarding true science.

In conclusion, my beloved and dear sons, "Do not believe every spirit, but examine everything and hold onto what is good" [1 Thess. 5:21; cf 1 Jn. 4:1-6], hold fast throughout your scientific discussions what has been forgotten by those who have alienated themselves from true science. Be mindful of how some of the famous scientists of our current age established their beliefs after careful examination and great reflection, determining that the notion that science is contrary to religion is a lie. Therefore, in the midst of the multitude of scientific opinions, remember to preserve and protect your religious and literary ties from the attacks of ignorance, darkness, false truths, and other personal pleasures."

Psalter Prayer Group

The Psalter prayer group is currently in need of one more person. If you have not participated in the past, this is how it works. Each person is assigned a different kathisma to start. Each person reads one kathisma each day in sequential order, along with opening and closing prayers and prayers for the living and departed. Between the group, the entire Psalter is read each day. The Psalter prayer group usually takes breaks after Great Lent and the Nativity Fast.

If you are interested in joining the Psalter prayer group, please see [Svitlana Breniser](#). You will need to provide her with your baptismal name and 10 names for the prayer list (living or departed).

Young Adult Monthly Activities

Our young adults have been talking about getting together regularly. We started off with a trip last week to the Lancaster Ice Rink. We had a great time, and some of us were able to follow it up with some pool time at the Brenisers.

Our goal is to start having monthly events that we will include in parish announcements, and we will coordinate by texting. We are discussing dates/ideas for August. Stay tuned!

Young Adult Monthly Gatherings with Fr. Daniel

As young people, we have a lot of questions, and want learn more about our Holy Orthodox Faith. Fr. Daniel has agreed to start meeting with our young adults on one Sunday a month for topical discussions, studies, and Q&A. We also want to do a nice treat for each gathering.

For our first Sunday gathering, we plan to meet on Sunday, July 28 from 12pm-1pm. Afterwards, we will enjoy some time together downstairs with a variety of ice cream and cones.

Church Cleaning

Cleaning Schedule

The church cleaning schedule for the second half of 2024 is available [here](#). A [cleaning list](#) and other helpful information is also available for those volunteering.

Volunteers are needed to clean the church for the following weeks:

- August 18 - August 24

If you are interested in cleaning the church during any of these weeks, please reply to this email or see Alexandra Salaneck.

Cleaning Groups

In order to schedule the church cleaning weekly, we are looking for *2-3 additional cleaning groups* to join the cleaning rotation and clean on a regular basis (about once every 7-8 weeks). Volunteers are assigned a specific week and can choose which day to clean the church during the week. Volunteers can form a standalone cleaning group or team up with another family. If you are interested in helping, please see Alexandra Salaneck or reply to this email.

Prayer List

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Catechumens

Cipolle, Kate
Rogozin, Daniel
Rogozin, Ryelle
Rogozin, Danielle

To add a name to our prayer list (health, newly departed), please reply to this email or see Fr. Daniel.

July Celebrations

Name Days

- July 17 - Maria Kelly, Anastasia Kelly

Birthdays

- July 3 - Lydmila Lenski
- July 6 - Irina Kaulback

Many Years! Многая Лета!

If you would like to be included in the parish directory of commemoration dates (birthdays, name days, and marriage anniversaries), please submit the information in this [form](#). If you

Reminders

Online candle stand: Candles and vigil lights can now be ordered [online](#) to be lit at the next service.

Online donations: One-time or recurring donations to the church can be made [online](#). The recurring option is a convenient way to donate and also helps to better plan our budget.

Benevolent fund: The benevolent fund was established to help those in need. To donate specifically to the benevolent fund, please use the special pink envelopes that are available at the candle stand or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Building fund: The building fund was established to save for future building projects. Our next major [maintenance project](#) will be the tree removal and sidewalk and curb replacement on the Spruce Street side of the church. Preliminary estimates for this project range from \$26,000 to \$35,000. Please consider donating to the building fund to help us reach this goal. The building fund currently has a total of about \$19,000. To donate specifically to this fund, please use the special blue envelopes that are available at the candle stand or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Rectory fund: The rectory fund was established to save for a future rectory close to the vicinity of the church. To donate specifically to this fund, please use the special yellow envelopes that are available at the candle stand or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Church cleaning schedule: The church cleaning schedule for the second half of 2024 is available [here](#). A [cleaning list](#) and other helpful information is also available for those volunteering.

Church calendar: You can subscribe to the church calendar (add the church calendar to your mobile device or calendar application) by using these links: [Services](#) and [Events](#).

* **Save the date - Picnic:** A church picnic will be held following Liturgy on Sunday, September 15, 2024, at [Breneman Park](#) pavilion, 2914 Reedy Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608. More details to come.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser: Our parish is participating again in the annual Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser. The shopping passes are \$5 and are good for 25% off almost all purchases made on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at all Boscov's locations. Our church keeps 100% of the shopping pass proceeds. If you would like to purchase a discount shopping pass or help sell them, please see Jean Salaneck.

A Parish of the Moscow Patriarchate | Reading, Pennsylvania | Founded in 1905
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