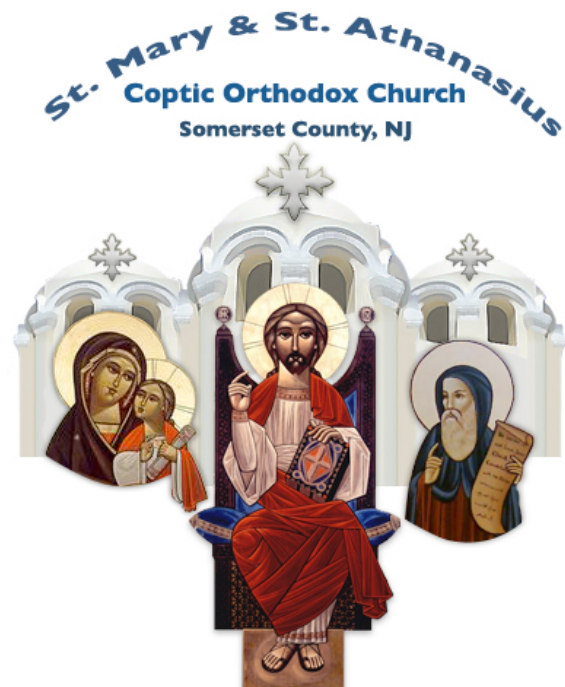


Weekly Newsletter



*“There would be no need for sermons, if our lives were shining;
There would be no need for words, if we bore witness with our deeds.
There would be no pagans if we were true Christians.”*

-St. John Chrysostom

Church Contact Information

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Each year, a theme is established for the congregation to focus on both in church as well as in the home

Theme of the Year

Fasting & Prayer

“ ‘Now, therefore,’ says the Lord, ‘Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.’ So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm” (Joel 2:12-14).

Church Service Schedule

Feb. 2 – Feb. 8, 2015 (Monday–Sunday)

Feb. 2	Monday	Touba 25, 1731
Weekday Lent Tune – Fasting – Abstaining – NO Fish		
<i>Jonah/Nineveh Fast</i>		
Evening		
4:30pm – 7:00pm Divine Liturgy		
7:00pm – 7:30pm Prayer Meeting		
7:30pm – Church Cleaning		

Feb. 3	Tuesday	Touba 26, 1731
Weekday Lent Tune – Fasting – Abstaining – NO Fish		
<i>Jonah/Nineveh Fast</i>		
6:00AM – 8:00AM Divine Liturgy		

Feb. 4	Wednesday	Touba 27, 1731
Weekday Lent Tune – Fasting – Abstaining – NO Fish		
<i>Jonah/Nineveh Fast</i>		
Evening		
4:30pm – 7:00pm Divine Liturgy		
7:00pm – 8:30pm Men’s Arabic Prayer and Bible Meeting		

Feb. 5	Thursday	Touba 28, 1731
Annual Tune – NO Fasting		
<i>Jonah/Nineveh Feast</i>		
6:00AM – 8:00AM Divine Liturgy		
1st and 3rd of the Month		
Evening		
7:30pm – 9:00pm Gentlemen’s English Prayer & Bible Meeting		

Feb. 6	Friday	Touba 29, 1731
Annual Tune – Fasting – Abstaining – NO Fish		
8:30AM – 10:30AM Divine Liturgy		
Evening		
7:00pm – 8:30pm Ladies’ Prayer & Bible Meeting		
7:00pm – 8:15pm Youth Meeting		
8:15pm – 9:00pm Youth Alhan Class		
(2 Youth Groups: 7 th –12 th Graders, and College & Graduates)		

Feb. 7	Saturday	Touba 30, 1731
Annual Tune – NO Fasting		
3:00pm Church Cleaning		
Adults		
5:00pm–5:30pm Vespers Agpeya Prayers		
5:30pm–6:30pm Family Meeting		
Children, Grades K – 6		
5:00pm–5:45pm Religion Class		
5:45pm–6:30pm Hymns Class (Alhan)		
All		
6:30pm–7:00pm Vespers Praises		
7:00pm–7:30pm Raising of Vespers Incense		
7:30pm–9:30pm Midnight Prayers and Praises		

Feb. 8	Sunday	Amshir 1, 1731
Annual Tune – NO Fasting		
7:30AM – 10:30AM Divine Liturgy		
10:30AM – 3:00pm Deaconate Day Seminar		

Announcements

Jonah/Nineveh Fast is Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 2-4. This fast holds two purposes:

1. Preparation for the Great Fast (Lent) which always starts two weeks after
2. That it sets the spirit of the Great Fast... repentance, pleading in prayer, strictness and self-discipline.

This fast follows the same practices of the Great Fast – No fish and longer abstaining hours (by guidance of spiritual advisor).

God willing, the Great Fast will start February 16th, 2015 and the Feast of the Resurrection will be April 12th.

Text Messaging System: We have initiated a text messaging system for the church in order to relay emergency notification or changes that may occur on short notice. Please register for this system on the church website (smsanj.org) as soon as possible. Twitter will continue to be a source of notification for the church as well.

Diaconate Seminars: These monthly Diaconate Seminar Days are half-day seminars on Sundays, after the Divine Liturgy, that replace the weekly meetings. The default is the 2nd Sunday of every month, however, due to the priest's schedules, this can and usually is changed to a different Sunday. These dates will be announced regularly. The Diaconate Day is open to all, men and women, boys and girls. The day will go as follows: After the Divine Liturgy, we will have a small brunch together, then lessons, with breaks and snacks in-between. There are no fees or pre-requisites to attend this service, however, serious commitment is expected. This commitment will be seen in consistent attendance and a dedicated notebook. Any relevant church books will be ordered and shared as needed.

God willing, the Next meeting dates will be **Sunday Feb. 8th and March 15th. Please refer back in case there are changes.**

Children and Food: With the exception of nursing babies, there should be no reason to feed children during services. The common abstaining rule is 2 hours plus 1 hour per year of age. For example, infants nurse about every 2 hours, so a 1-year-old toddler can add 1 more hour to the 2 hours – so a 1-year-old could abstain 3 hours.

Please be aware to encourage older siblings to abstain more hours rather than feeding them with their younger siblings. Much of the lack of spiritual strength in our Church today lies in the fact that parents' compassion overrides the parental responsibility of training and raising children properly. The reflection of this is seen in childhood obesity, poor hygiene and underachievement in abilities and studies. May God add to our love and wisdom, so that we can faithfully raise His children entrusted in our hands.

Weekly Meetings: Aside from the Youth Group meetings and Religion Classes (Sunday School), please be aware that the church provides weekly meetings for specific groups, which bring benefit by focusing on their particular needs.

Gentlemen's Meeting (Arabic): This is primarily a Bible Study with a special focus on dogmatic and theological matters. This group becomes an open forum for any topic dealing with the man in society and within the home and family. This group meets Wednesdays 7pm-8:30.

Gentlemen's Meeting (English): This group is an open forum for any topic dealing with the man in society and within the home and family. This group meets every 1st & 3rd Thursday 7:30pm-9:00.

Women's Meeting (English): This group provides a forum for Bible learning and discussions dealing with personal and social issues to help support the woman through today's demanding role. This group meets Fridays 7pm-8:30 during the Youth Meeting.

Family Meeting (English): Discusses issues of the FAMILY such as: husband and wife matters, raising children, family life, awareness of social issues dealing with the family, awareness of matters in the education system, matters of finance, as well as sharing resources to empower the family. This meeting is held Saturdays from 5pm-6:30 during Sunday School Classes.

These groups also enjoy fellowship and support, not only in the meetings but also through activities and outings.

Parking for Church Services: The church thanks everyone for parking in the VFW parking lot, and very conscientiously! Please remember that anything negative stemming from our actions, is received by the parish of Saints Peter & Paul Church, who is renting us this blessed space.

- Avoid parking in front of people's homes on any street
- Please continue to park at the VFW for ALL services
- **Do not honk horn for any reason (unless emergency)**
- **If your car whistles or beeps when using a remote, please do it MANUALLY to prevent noise**
- **Homes are very close – loud talking and laughing go right into their homes**
- **Be mindful of other cars going through the street**

For everyone's safety and your convenience, on Sundays and major services, the spaces in front of the entrance are coned off so as to create a safer drop-off and pick-up area.