



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



JANUARY BULLETIN SPONSOR

Memory of my father, George – Given by AP Andrew Bartek

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, January 14

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida for Alex Zenko
Social / Council Meeting / Home Blessings

Monday, January 15

Home Blessings

Tuesday, January 16

Home Blessings

6:00 PM: Orthodoxy 101 Class

Wednesday, January 17

Home Blessings

7:30 PM: City Council Meeting (Open to public)

Thursday, January 18

11:00 AM: Book Club

Saturday, January 20

4:00 PM: Bible Study

6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, January 21

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida / Social

3:00 PM: Pan-Orthodox Blessing of the Lake

January 2024: Monthly Charity Support

OCMC– Support a mission priest.

JANUARY SOCIALS

Jan. 14– Council

Jan. 21– Sisterhood

Jan. 28– OPEN (Birthday / Anniversaries)

Ephesians 6:10-17 (Epistle)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Luke 18:35-43 (Gospel)

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS– UPDATED 1-8-24

Send a “Thinking of You” card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please contact Fr. Andrew.

FINAL DECEMBER FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$20,582.25
Income.....	\$26,026.49
TOTAL.....	\$5,444.24
Weekly Tithe	\$17,494
Weekly Candles	\$649
Christmas Offering.....	\$390
Christmas Flowers	\$395
Reimbursement of Calendars	\$572.90
Christmas Card.....	\$215
Pre-Advent Social	\$9,000
Rubrics Book	\$100
Monthly Flowers	\$75
Religious items.....	\$285
Monthly Flowers	\$2
Rectory bed reimbursement	\$100
Fall Social	\$10
Other Income	
Alaska Outreach.....	\$265

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison	2023	2024
1st week of the month		
New Years Day	No record	Liturgy: 19 Communicants: 16
Theophany Eve	No record	Liturgy: 9 Vigil: 9
Theophany Liturgy	No record	Liturgy: 20 Communicants: 18
2nd week of the month		
Vespers	No record	8 people
Divine Liturgy	65 people Communicants: 45	55 people Communicants: 38



PRAYER LIST– Updated 1-8-24

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Donna Chiarelli / George Horodnic / Irene Horodnic / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Paula Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Mary Jane Puskas / Kenny Ruff / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Marion Zwinski

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: Archbishop Benjamin / Archbishop Alexander / Archbishop Melchizedek / Bishop Matthias / Fr. James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Moses Berry / Fr. Michael Rustic (Fr.) / Fr. Mirolyub Ruzik / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath (Fr)

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Chrissy (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Dominic (Centofanti) / Ellen (Clark) / Trudy Ellmore (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Katie (Garrity) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Ellen (Kessler) / Eleanor Marie / Paul (Kolesar) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Debbie Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Mea (Mahan) / Mary (Mahan) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raissa (Nicoloff) / Eugene (Pallai) / Ksenia and her unborn child (Petrochko) / Matushka Helen (Psinka) / Chris Quotap (Fr. / Kristianna & infant Mary Louise (Robinson) / William Romanchak (Fr.) / Roxanne Yannito) / Julia Shirilla / Katherine (Steffaro) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Richard (Tusinac) / Brian (Shirilla) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Paula (Voytilla) / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Drew (Willison) / Emilia Yannitto / Charlette Zenko / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Zoland Zile (Fr.)

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky)

MISCELLANEOUS: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Diocese of Aleppo) & Archbishop John (Archdiocese of Aleppo) still being held captive / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

2023: A Diocesan Year in Review

The past year proved to be another active period for Diocese of the Midwest. During this time the diocese had the honor of hosting several major events, honoring distinguished clergy and laity, and several historic announcements being made. The Chancery itself saw several changes with the sale of the Burbank Chancery and officially moving into St. George Cathedral in Chicago, IL. Priest Esteban Vazquez was appointed as Vice Chancellor to assist with day-to-day operations, while long time Diocesan Treasurer, Robert Koncel, announced his retirement from the position after more than 30 years of service.

The Diocese of the Midwest also played a central role in hosting various events this past year. The Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America held its Regular Fall Session at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL and elected a new hierarch for the New England Diocese and made the announcement for the canonization of Matushka Olga of Alaska. The National Clergy Retreat for the OCA was also held in Chicago-land with a Primatial Liturgy being held at the Diocesan Cathedral. The Diocese also conducted the 62nd Diocesan Assembly at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Burr Ridge, IL.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest took on various travels making 24 pastoral visits throughout the year. The Archbishop also lead a

pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and lead the pilgrimage for the Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, MI. His Eminence continued making several trips to the seminaries to visit the diocesan seminarians. In addition to visiting them the Archbishop also held a retreat over the summer bringing the seminarians together for several days of prayer and fellowship. The diocese has seen an increase in seminary students, and therefore also ordinations. Two recent graduates, Priest Joseph Whittaker, and Priest Mark Therrian were both ordained and are now serving parishes within the diocese. Recently ordained Priest John York will be finishing up his third year before assignment, while Philip Dage and Jared Ries were ordained to the holy diaconate.

The diocese experienced some major announcements this past year. One prominent announcement was the creation of the Dakotas Mission District, which was created to focus on the growing spiritual need of that geographical territory. In February, the local leaders, both clergy and laity, gathered for the Dakota Mission Summit which was an intensive study on the needs and the step-by-step process to accomplish the various demands. The diocese also announced the reception of a new parish into its canonical territory, St. Nicholas of Myra Church, McHenry, IL. This active community serves the Ukrainian population in the Northern Illinois region and continues to grow and see the fruits of their labor.

Continued p 5

Saint Savva I, first Archbishop of Serbia Commemorated on January 14

Saint Savva, First Archbishop of Serbia, in the world Rostislav (Rastko), was a son of the Serbian king Stephen Nemanya and Anna, daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Romanus. From his early years he fervently attended church services and had a special love for icons.

At seventeen years of age, Rostislav met a monk from Mount Athos, secretly left his father's house and set off for the Saint Panteleimon monastery. (By divine Providence in 1169, the year of the saint's birth, the ancient monastery of the Great Martyr and healer Panteleimon was given to Russian monks.)

Knowing that his son was on Athos, his father mobilized his retainers headed by a faithful voevod and wrote to the governor of the district which included Athos, saying that if his son were not returned to him, he would go to war against the Greeks. When they arrived at the monastery, the voevod was ordered not to take his eyes off Rostislav. During the evening services, when the soldiers had fallen asleep under the influence of wine, Rostislav received monastic tonsure (in 1186) and sent to his parents his worldly clothes, his hair and a letter. Saint Savva sought to persuade his powerful parents to accept monasticism. The monk's father (in monasticism Simeon, commemorated on February 13) and his son pursued asceticism at the Vatopedi monastery. On Athos they established the Serbian Hilandar monastery, and this monastery received its name by imperial grant. At Hilandar monastery, Saint Savva was ordained to the diaconate and then presbyter. His mother Anna became a nun with the name Anastasia (June 21).

For his holy life and virtuous deeds on Mount Athos, the monk was made an archimandrite at Thessalonica. At Nicea in the year 1219 on the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, the Ecumenical Patriarch Germanus consecrated Archimandrite Savva as Archbishop of Serbia. The saint petitioned the Byzantine Emperor to grant permission for Serbian bishops to elect their own Archbishop in future. This was a very important consideration in a time of frequent wars between the eastern and western powers.

Having returned to the Holy Mountain from Nicea, the saint visited all the monasteries for the last time. He made prostrations in all the churches and, calling to mind the blessed lives of the wilderness Fathers, he made his farewells to the ascetics with deep remorse, "leaving the Holy Mountain, as if from Paradise." **Con't Pg 7**

January Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin: In Memory of my father George on the occasion of his 41st year of repose – Given by AP Andrew Bartek

Wine: Memory of my wife Laurissa– Given by Subdeacon Vladimir

Incense: Memory of my brother George—Given by Subdeacon Vladimir

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: For all my family and friends – Given by AP Andrew Bartek / In memory of Mary & George Rusnak – Given by Subdeacon Vladimir

Altar Candles: In memory of my husband Robert Kennedy on his heavenly birthday on January 3 – Given by Sue Kennedy

Tetrapod Candles: In memory of my mother Jennie Rudiak on her anniversary January 3 – Given by Sue Kennedy

St. Herman Candles: Commemorating all who participate in maintenance of the church, the teachers, singers & those who participate in social events. Praying for everyone to love one another.

St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: For the Health of the AP Andrew Bartek – Given by Dc. David & Mat. Pauline

Protection Icon Candles: For the Health of Dc. James & Family—Given by Dc. David & Mat. Pauline / In memory of Ken's parents Frank & Norma & Carol's parents Hank & Dorothy Karr– Given by Ken & Carol Ruff / Memory of my two sisters Ann & Nadine– Given by sub-deacon Vladimir

St. John the Baptist Candles: For the Health of Dr. Nickoloff & Family & Choir– Given by Dc. David & Mat. Pauline

Flowers: In memory of my God-mother Helen – Given by AP Andrew Bartek

<u>\$50 per month</u>	<u>\$30 per month</u>	<u>\$25 per month</u>
*Wine	*St. Herman candles	Incense
*Bulletin		
*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light	*St. Panteleimon Icon candles	<u>Flowers</u> - \$75
*Altar Candles	*Protection Icon candles	
*Tetrapod Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	

REPOSED LIST FOR JANUARY

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Margaret Graban (1978) © | 17- Vera Kawalik (2001) © |
| Judith Banas (2019) | 17- Anna Talaban (1949) © |
| 1- Katherine Kristian (1994) © | 18- Andrew Kovach (1994) © |
| 1- Anna Harvischak (2013) © | 18- Margaret Domowchik (1996) © |
| 2- Nicholas Libertin (2021) © | 20- Joshua Zdinak (2016) |
| 2- Nicholas Bohac (1921) © | 20- Marie Borsic (1984) © |
| 2- Elia Dudin (1949) © | 20- Catherine Cochran (2011) © |
| 3- Mitred Archriest Stavros Rousos | 20- Diamada Patellis (1929) © |
| 3- Anna Roman (1978) © | 21- George Evans (1984) © |
| 3- Elizabeth Kuzma (1925) © | 21- Fr. Michael Shuster (2020) |
| 4- George Bartek (1983) | 21- Ann Shirilla (2012) © |
| 4- Archpriest Michael Slovesko | 21- Charles Patellis (1928) © |
| 4- Peter Fatholitis (1937) © | 21- Catherine Vojtilla (1942) © |
| 5- Ann Marie Petroff (2006) © | 22- Fr. John Stefanik (2000) |
| 6- Helen Pender (2016) | 22- Andrew Pacak (1973) © |
| 6- John Timkovich (1951) © | 22- Michael Pasloskey (1985) © |
| 6- Infant Klimis (still born) (1964) | 22- Steve Dmetruk (2002) © |
| 7- Mary Vansuch, Sr. (1971) © | 22- Nicholas Bobosh (2008) © |
| 7- Mike Felt (1920) © | 22- Lubica Krestich (1926) © |
| 8- Bishop Mark of Boston (2018) | 23- Fr. Michael Sopoliga (2009) |
| 8- Sub-deacon John Zeling (2012) © | 23- Helen Midlick (2004) © |
| 8- John Voytilla (1945) © | 23- Eugene Kennedy (2004) © |
| 8- Mary Graban (1995) © | 23- Rudolph Zelina (2007) © |
| 9- Katherine Trovers (1980) © | 23- Kosovka Raslta (1923) © |
| 9- Carolyn Weil (1998) © | 24- Madeline Puskarcik (2006) © |
| 9- Vasil Kovach (1925) © | 25- Steve Sirihla (1977) © |
| 9- George Ontko (1943) © | 25- Helen Graban (1992) © |
| 9- William Boldish (1968) © | 25- George Magriplis (1931) © |
| 11- Alan James Cole (2017) © | 25- Veronica Shirilla (1995) © |
| 14- George O'Shanic (1981) © | 26- Nate DiPero (1985) © |
| 14- John Graban (1990) © | 26- Baby Brown (1939) © |
| 14- Helen Papach (1929) © | 26- Vasil Maximor (1957) © |
| 14- Michael Harvey (1958) © | 27- Joe Vansuch (1998) © |
| 14- John Genaros (1960) © | 27- Michael Guorgiadis (1952) © |
| 15- Augustine Shima (1928) © | 28- John Anos (1936) © |
| 15- Fedor Chulik (1943) © | 28- Vasil Vasilagas (1959) © |
| 16- Elizabeth Mariniak (1927) © | 29- George O'Shenic, Jr. (1986) © |

2023 in review con't from pg 3

Several communities also celebrated special commemorations and anniversaries. Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL celebrated the 120th anniversary of consecration by St. Tikhon of Moscow. Holy Assumption Church, Marblehead, OH enjoyed its 125th anniversary, and St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Lorain, OH, community rejoiced in their 110th year, while St. Innocent Church, Olmstead Falls, OH, was honored by their 40th year of service to the Lord.

The various ministries of the diocese were also busy offering their skills to enrich one another for the benefit of the communities. The St. Andrew of Crete Music Ministry held a Paschal Concert recording various children's choirs and had a full and successful musical workshop in Dayton, OH. The Clergy Wives group held several retreats offering support and prayer to one another. The Diocese also conducted the 10th Small Parish Forum, gathering strong participation from within and beyond the diocese. Children's camps continued to offer sessions throughout the year, both in the summer and winter. These efforts provided educational, spiritual, and fun opportunities for the youth of the diocese to engage with their faith. The DOM also offered scholarships to the children of the diocese to attend these camps through the Archbishop Job Memorial Fund. *Continued p 8*

January Celebrations

Birthdays

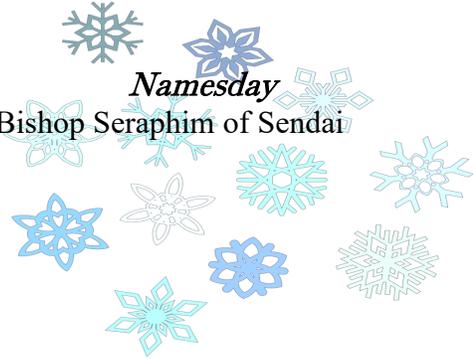
1	Beth Hull
2	Stella Jane Zelinsky
3	Terri Konik
4	John Starcher
5	Andrew James (Tusinac)
6	Karen Smiko
7	Lueleta Dardovski, Luke Rusnak
9	Brian Bishoff
10	Elizabeth Willison
15	James Bufalini
19	Balaci Kristian, Nicola Nicoloff
23	Susan Beskid
25	Frank Batura
30	Bob Whitham Jr.
31	Julie Dardovski

Anniversaries

24-2015	AB Daniel of Chicago & the Diocese of the Mid-west
25-2020	His Grace Bishop Alexis Bishop of Alaska
January 6	Fr. James Gleason (Fr. Andrew's spiritual Father) Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood

Namesday

2	Retired Bishop Seraphim of Sendai
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PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES

Before the Priest arrives at your home, here are a few reminders on how to prepare:

- * In the main room of the home, usually the kitchen or dining room, have placed on the table a white cloth, a candle and /or an Icon or cross. You may place a small container of Holy Water on the table. (Note: Father will be bringing his own.)
- * Make a list of those living in the house including pets and all deceased you want prayed for.
- * Turn off all TV's, radios, computers, etc. so as to keep focused on the blessing service.
- * Make sure that pets are heeled or restrained so as not to get underfoot while Father goes through the home.
- * In some customs, someone (usually a child) takes a candle and leads Father through the house while the rest follow.
- * If you have any items to be blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.) put them on the table where the blessing will take place.
- * When the priest arrives, have everyone in the home gather around the table and join in the blessing. **PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT.**
- * Invite friends or neighbors to participate and witness the beauty of this tradition.

NOTE: Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy and love for mankind.

HOME BLESSING SCHEDULE

Theophany is but a month away. Please contact Fr. Andrew if you have a certain day and time you would like reserved to have your home blessed. The schedule fills up quickly!

Home Blessings will begin January 8th, 2024.

St. Savva con't from Pg 4

Saddened by his separation from the Holy Mountain, the saint went along the path from Athos just barely moving. The Most Holy Theotokos spoke to the saint in a dream, "Having My Patronage, why do you remain sorrowful?" These words roused him from despondency, changing his sorrow into joy. In memory of this appearance, the saint commissioned large icons of the Savior and of the Mother of God at Thessalonica, and put them in a church.

In Serbia, the activity of the Hierarch in organizing the work of his native Church was accompanied by numerous signs and miracles. During the Liturgy and the all-night Vigil, when the saint came to cense the grave of his father the monk Simeon, the holy relics exuded fragrant myrrh.

Being in charge of negotiations with the Hungarian King Vladislav, who had declared war on Serbia, the holy bishop not only brought about the desired peace for his country, but he also brought the Hungarian monarch to Orthodoxy. Thus he facilitated the start of the historical existence of the autonomous Serbian Church. Saint Savva also contributed to strengthening the Serbian state. In order to insure the independence of the Serbian state, Archbishop Savva crowned his powerful brother Stephen as king. Upon the death of Stephen, his eldest son Radislav was crowned king, and Saint Savva set off to the Holy Land "to worship at the holy tomb of Christ and fearsome Golgotha."

When he returned to his native land, the saint blessed and crowned Vladislav as king. To further strengthen the Serbian throne, he betrothed him to the daughter of the Bulgarian prince Asan. The holy hierarch visited churches all across Serbia, he reformed monastic rules on the model of Athos and Palestine, and he established and consecrated many churches, strengthening the Orthodox in their faith. Having finished his work in his native land, the saint appointed the hieromonk Arsenius as his successor, consecrating him bishop and giving his blessing to all.

He then set off on a journey of no return, desiring "to end his days as a wanderer in a foreign land." He passed through Palestine, Syria and Persia, Babylon, Egypt and Anatolia, everywhere visiting the holy places, conversing with great ascetics, and collecting the holy relics of saints. The saint finished his wanderings at Trnovo in Bulgaria at the home of his kinsman Asan, where with spiritual joy he gave up his soul to the Lord (+ 1237).

At the time of transfer of the holy relics of Saint Savva to Serbia in 1237, there were so many healings that the Bulgarians began to complain about Asan, "because he had given up such a treasure." In the saint's own country, his venerable relics were placed in the Church of Mileshevo, bestowing healing on all who approached with faith. The inhabitants of Trnovo continued to receive healing from the remnants of the saint's coffin, which Asan ordered to be gathered together and placed in a newly built sarcophagus.

The legacy of Saint Savva lives on in the Orthodox Church traditions of the Slavic nations. He is associated with the introduction of the Jerusalem Typikon as the basis for Slavic Monastic Rules. The Serbian Hilandar monastery on Mt. Athos lives by the Typikon of Saint Savva to this day. Editions of The Rudder (a collection of church canons) of Saint Savva, with commentary by Alexis Aristines, are the most widely disseminated in the Russian Church. In 1270 the first copy of The Rudder of Saint Savva was sent from Bulgaria to Metropolitan Cyril of Kiev. From this was copied one of the most ancient of the Russian Rudders, the Ryazan Rudder of 1284. It in turn was the source for a printed Rudder published in 1653, and since that time often reprinted by the Russian Church. Such was the legacy of Saint Savva to the canonical treasury of Orthodoxy.

DECEMBER Liturgical Attendance			
Day	Vespers	Divine Liturgy	Communicants
Sat. Dec. 2	7		
Sun. Dec. 3		52	35
Tuesday Dec. 5 Vesperal Liturgy		23	
Sat. Dec. 9	15		
Sun. Dec. 10		67	37
Sat. Dec. 16	16		
Sun Dec. 17		60	46
Sat. Dec. 23	31		
Sun. Dec. 24		95	53
Mon. Dec. 25		79	52
Sat. Dec 30	15		
Sun. Dec. 31		101	74

40 Day Remembrance

Feb. 4– Kim
Feb. 11– Mother Elizabeth

In Memoriam: Anniversary of the Repose of Bishop Boris

December 30, marks the 23rd Anniversary of the repose of His Grace Bishop Boris of Chicago and the Midwest. Bishop Boris served the Diocesan Hierarchy of the Midwest Diocese from November of 1978 until his retirement in November of 1988.

Born on November 18, 1923 in Portage, PA, the son of the late Archpriest Theodore and Mary [Youshak] Geeza, he was a 1945 graduate of Columbia University, New York, NY. The following year he graduated from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and was married to Helen Korba.

Following his graduation and marriage, he served as choir director and teacher at Three Saints Church, Garfield, NJ until his ordination to the priesthood by His Eminence, Metropolitan Theophilus [Pashkovsky] in 1947. After serving as pastor of Saint Nicholas Church, Weirton, WV, he was commissioned as an Orthodox chaplain in the US Navy in March 1953. In recognition of his long and distinguished service in the chaplaincy, which included a tour of duty in Vietnam, he was named as the first Dean of Orthodox Chaplains in 1970 and was awarded the Chaplain's cross for meritorious service the following year.

Following the repose of his wife in 1971, he continued his ministry until his retirement from the chaplaincy in 1975. Having pursued post-graduate studies at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, he was appointed Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA and Chancellor of the Diocese of the West.

In July 1978, he was named Bishop-elect of Manhattan, a new post created by the Holy Synod of Bishops to assist His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius. On September 16 of the same year he was tonsured into monastic orders by Metropolitan Theodosius at Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers, NY and elevated to the rank of archimandrite.

Upon the retirement of His Eminence, Archbishop John [Garklavs] of Chicago in September 1978, the 18th Assembly of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest, meeting in Madison, IL on October 1, 1978, unanimously nominated Archimandrite Boris to fill the vacant episcopal see. Members of the Holy Synod of Bishops, meeting in New York on October 17-18, 1978, formally elected him to succeed Archbishop John.

On November 11, 1978, he was consecrated to the episcopacy by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius; Archbishop John of Chicago; His Grace,

Bishop [later Archbishop] Kyrill of Pittsburgh; His Grace, Bishop Firmilian of the Serbian Orthodox Church; and His Grace, Bishop Ireney, Vicar of the Moscow Patriarchate at Chicago's historic Holy Trinity Cathedral. During his tenure as Bishop of Chicago, Bishop Boris organized diocesan departments, initiated publication of a diocesan newspaper, *The Vigil*, and promulgated uniform parish bylaws. He also oversaw the establishment of several new missions and parishes throughout the Midwest Diocese, the OCA's largest.

In November 1988, Bishop Boris retired from active ministry, but remained active in various aspects of Church life.

May Bishop Boris' memory be eternal!



2023 in review con't from pg 5

Other highlights also include Archpriest Basil Stoyka being awarded the miter for his many years of service. This would make him the first in the diocese to receive a miter since the Holy Synod renewed the award. One of the musicians of the diocese received the synodal St. Romanos Award. Michael Pilat, recently retired choirmaster, was given this honor following 57 years of service leading various choirs.

In the past year, the diocese also experienced the loss of Archpriest Eugene Tarris, Archpriest Daniel W. Rentel. This past year the diocese also marked the one-year anniversary of the passing of the beloved hierarch, Archbishop Paul (Gassios). Services were held at the Diocesan Cathedral and in Holy Dormition Monastery in Michigan to solemnly mark the occasion. May their memory be eternal!

Much good has come from the past year inspiring the hopes of those in this diocese, while also creating challenges for our continued effort. May God continue to bless and strengthen our hierarch, Archbishop Daniel, our clergy and faithful in the upcoming year, assisting us in keeping our eyes on our home – the Heavenly Kingdom.