



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 21

9:35 AM: Hours

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

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

Monday, January 22

Home Blessings

Tuesday, January 23

Home Blessings

6:00 PM: Orthodoxy 101 Class

Wednesday, January 24

Home Blessings

6:00 PM: Fire House Meeting

Thursday, January 25

11:00 AM: Book Club

Saturday, January 27

11:00 AM: O'Donnell Baptism

4:00 PM: Bible Study

6:00 PM: Great Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, January 28

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Celebration cake

5:00 PM: Retirement party for Fr. Andrew Clements (in Mentor)

ANNUAL MEETING

This is the first announcement that the Annual meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 4th** following Liturgy. There will be a meal provided.

If you are not a member in good standing, you are welcome to attend but will not be able to vote or speak at the meeting.

There will be a packet sent, or given, to you prior to the meeting.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Announces Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 21, 2024

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

As we mark Sanctity of Life Sunday this year, there will be much discussion of the “right to life.” Of course, we Orthodox Christians believe that certain rights, the right to life among them, should be respected, enshrined in law, and protected by civil authority. But human life is something even more precious than a mere right: it is a divine gift.

“Lo, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward,” as the Psalmist says (Ps. 126:3). We are called to recognize every human life, from conception to natural death, as a gift of the Lord. This means protecting the unborn, but in a broader sense this means helping our broken society and broken world to view our fellow human beings not as mere mouths to feed or potential threats or problems to be solved or subjects to be controlled, but as blessings from above. The unborn are a blessing; children are a blessing; the elderly are a blessing; the difficult people in our lives are a blessing; even our enemies—perhaps especially our enemies—are a blessing.

Moreover, we speak of the sanctity of life for two reasons: because life comes from the Lord, and because it should be offered back to the Lord through service to him and to others, resulting in sanctity. If we understand that we are merely servants, doing as we have been bidden (Lk. 17:10), and if we recognize that the greatest and holiest is the one who became a servant of all through his Incarnation, his ministry, and his Passion and Rising (Mt. 23:11), then we are in the best position of all to treat each human being as a blessing, not in an abstract sense, but in the sense of someone whom we are privileged to serve. **Con't Pg 5**

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<https://www.stjohnthebaptist-campbell.org/>

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PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS– UPDATED 1-18-24

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

JANUARY FINANCIALS

Expenses \$6,459.15
 Income..... \$16,373.00
TOTAL..... \$9,913.85

NOTE:

Received Kolachi donation of \$7,635

Weekly Tithe \$8,007
 Weekly Candles \$196
 Christmas Offering..... \$110
 Christmas Card..... \$40
 St. Herman’s Candles \$180
 St. John the Baptist Candles..... \$60
 Panteleimon Candles..... \$30
 Protection Candles \$30
 Unneeded Gifts \$285
 Monthly Flowers \$75
 Religious items..... \$285
 Church Donation \$100
 Rectory bed reimbursement \$100
 Fall Social \$10
Monthly Charity Income
 OCMC..... \$309

| 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 (Jan. 6 2024) | No record | 8 people |
| Divine Liturgy | 65 people Communicants: 45 | 55 people Communicants: 38 |
| 3rd week of the month | | |
| Vespers | 10 people | 6 people |
| Divine Liturgy | 71 people Communicants: 39 | 33 people Communicants: 22 (weather related) |
| 4th week of the month | | |
| Vespers | 6 people | |
| Divine Liturgy | 71 people Communicants: 42 | |

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.) / 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) / Jonathan Leso (Fr.) / 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.

Matthew 22:1-14 (Gospel)

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’ But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Colossians 1:12-18 (Epistle)

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

40 Day Remembrance

Feb. 4– Kim
Feb. 11– Mother Elizabeth
Feb. 18– AP Moses Berry

Mother Elizabeth (Lutz)

Mother Elizabeth, née Helen Mann Lutz, age 96, fell asleep in the Lord just prior to the Liturgy on the Feast of Theophany, January 6, 2024, at the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA, where she has lived and served for the past 43 years.

Born May 15, 1927 in Methuen, Massachusetts, she earned Bachelors and Masters degrees, as well as an RN nursing license. She was a talented writer, poet and pianist. The book she wrote and illustrated for her own children many years ago, Micha Mouse, was recently published and is sold in the monastery bookstore.

At the age of 53, she discovered the ancient Orthodox Christian Faith, was baptized and soon after entered as a novice at the monastery in Ellwood City. From her first day in the sisterhood she served faithfully as the aide and driver for the founding abbess, Mother Alexandra, until the Eldress' repose in January 1991. Mother Elizabeth professed monastic vows on November 21, 1984, under the Mantia of Mother Alexandra, receiving the name Elizabeth, after the grand-duchess and new martyr of Russia.

She was a member of the Executive Committee and Spiritual Council of the monastery since 1987, assisting Mother Abbess Christophora in administrative decisions and spiritual oversight of the sisterhood. She was gifted with a keen sense of spiritual discernment, a motherly instinct, as well as clever wit.

Other obediences at the monastery included serving in the altar as ecclesiarch, tending flower gardens, caring for the cemetery, nursing sick sisters and, her greatest pride, emptying trash baskets several times a day throughout the monastery complex. This activity kept her active and mobile to the very end. She was also a faithful correspondent, keeping in touch with her own children and grandchildren, as well as a number of spiritual daughters.

The monastic sisterhood will remember Mother Elizabeth for her dedication, encouragement and her way with words. Her hearing and eyesight failed greatly in later life, but she continued to faithfully attend all the divine services and always knew what each sister was up to, both day and night.

She is survived by her three children, Melinde, Roald, and Seabright, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents, Charles and Ruth Mann, and her brother and sister.

The monastery sisterhood is deeply grateful to all the ministering clergy, the medical care directed by Dr. Dn. Michael Wusylko, Dr. Anastasia Neil, and the staff of the Teolis Funeral Home for their compassionate care and kind assistance. May Mother Elizabeth's memory be eternal!

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 / Memory of Mary Evanoff– Given by Mary & Sherrie Fredericks

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

Metropolitan Tikhon Con't from pg 1

Living in this way, we also better understand our own life as a blessing, a blessing because it is an opportunity to attain to holiness. If we truly live according to our belief in the profound sanctity of life, then we will naturally "commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God," sending up thanksgiving and blessing his holy Name on account of the incalculably precious gift of human life and for every man who comes into the world (Jn. 1:9).

On this Sanctity of Life Sunday, we pray that all people of North America and throughout the world would come to recognize the good and perfect gift (Jam. 1:17) that is human life and learn to cherish that gift and render glory unto the Giver, the benevolent Creator of all things, one God in Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, unto the never-ending ages.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

January Celebrations

Birthdays

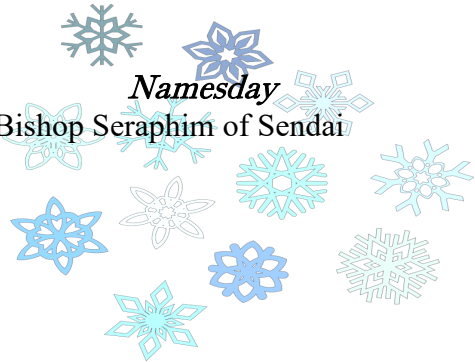
- 1 Beth Hull
- 2 Stella Jane Zelinsky
- 3 Terri Konik
- 4 John Starcher
- 5 Andrew James (Tusinac)
- 6 Karen Smiko
- 7 Lueleta Dardovski, Luke Rusnak
- 9 Brian Bishoff
- 10 Elizabeth Willison
- 15 James Bufalini
- 19 Balaci Kristian, Nicola Nicoloff
- 23 Susan Beskid
- 25 Frank Batura
- 30 Bob Whitham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



Theophany Celebrated with Ordination and Great Blessing of Water

On Friday, January 5, and Saturday, January 6, services were held in celebration of the great feast of Theophany, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL.

Festal services began on Friday morning with the celebration of the Vespers Liturgy served by Cathedral Dean, Priest Alexander Koranda, Protodeacon Thomas Keith, and Deacon Paul Garklavs. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, the Great Blessing of Water was celebrated, and the festal icon was processed into the center of the Cathedral. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest was in attendance. Later that evening, the Archbishop celebrated Great Compline and Festal Matins. Serving with His Eminence were Archpriest John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, Fr. Alexander, Deacon Paul, and Deacon Philip Dage.

On Saturday morning, the Archbishop celebrated the Divine Liturgy with Fr. Alexander, Fr. John, Archpriest Paul Albert, Archpriest Tarasiy Maxim, and Deacons Thomas, Paul, and Philip. After the Great Entrance, Deacon Philip was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. Following the Liturgy, the Great Blessing of Water was held and the Archbishop blessed the temple and faithful gathered.

The Archbishop concluded the day offering remarks to the newly ordained priest and his wife encouraging them to remain faithful to Christ and His Church, and also the great gift of the priesthood given to us by Christ. The Archbishop also welcomed the faithful from SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Detroit, MI, who traveled to Chicago to support their seminarian who was being ordained. Following the Prayers of Thanksgiving, a reception was held in the parish hall.

Fr. Philip is a third year seminarian of the Diocese of the Midwest at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Upon graduation in the Spring, Fr. Philip will be assigned to a parish in the diocese.

THANK YOU RECEIVED FOR THE CHURCH

Dear Parishioners of St John the Baptist,

Love & prayers for continued growth in your beautiful & glorious church. May God in His grace touch each & everyone of you.

Our Home Town Parish, thank you for your Visa gift card. It was very thoughtful!! And we appreciate your generosity.

Thank you for taking care of your Holy Church. It's more than beautiful.

We love the Precious Icon of St. John. Will pray for everyone and hold memories forever!

Love & prayers

Archpriest Joseph & Mat. Wargo



Venerable Maximus the Confessor Commemorated on January 21

Saint Maximus the Confessor was born in Constantinople around 580 and raised in a pious Christian family. He received an excellent education, studying philosophy, grammar, and rhetoric. He was well-read in the authors of antiquity and he also mastered philosophy and theology. When Saint Maximus entered into government service, he became first secretary (asekretis) and chief counselor to the emperor Heraclius (611-641), who was impressed by his knowledge and virtuous life.

Saint Maximus soon realized that the emperor and many others had been corrupted by the Monothelite heresy, which was spreading rapidly through the East. He resigned from his duties at court, and went to the Chrysopolis monastery (at Skutari on the opposite shore of the Bosphorus), where he received monastic tonsure. Because of his humility and wisdom, he soon won the love of the brethren and was chosen igumen of the monastery after a few years. Even in this position, he remained a simple monk.

In 638, the emperor Heraclius and Patriarch Sergius tried to minimize the importance of differences in belief, and they issued an edict, the “Ekthesis” (“Ekthesis tes pisteos” or “Exposition of Faith”), which decreed that everyone must accept the teaching of one will in the two natures of the Savior. In defending Orthodoxy against the “Ekthesis,” Saint Maximus spoke to people in various occupations and positions, and these conversations were successful. Not only the clergy and the bishops, but also the people and the secular officials felt some sort of invisible attraction to him, as we read in his Life.

When Saint Maximus saw what turmoil this heresy caused in Constantinople and in the East, he decided to leave his monastery and seek refuge in the West, where Monothelitism had been completely rejected. On the way, he visited the bishops of Africa, strengthening them in Orthodoxy, and encouraging them not to be deceived by the cunning arguments of the heretics.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council had condemned the Monophysite heresy, which falsely taught that in the Lord Jesus Christ there was only one nature (the divine). Influenced by this erroneous opinion, the Monothelite heretics said that in Christ there was only one divine will (“thelema”) and only one divine energy (“energia”). Adherents of Monothelitism sought to return by another path to the repudiated Monophysite heresy. Monothelitism found numerous adherents in Armenia, Syria, Egypt. The heresy, fanned also by nationalistic animosities,

became a serious threat to Church unity in the East. The struggle of Orthodoxy with heresy was particularly difficult because in the year 630, three of the patriarchal thrones in the Orthodox East were occupied by Monothelites: Constantinople by Sergius, Antioch by Athanasius, and Alexandria by Cyrus.

Saint Maximus traveled from Alexandria to Crete, where he began his preaching activity. He clashed there with a bishop, who adhered to the heretical opinions of Severus and Nestorius. The saint spent six years in Alexandria and the surrounding area.

Patriarch Sergius died at the end of 638, and the emperor Heraclius also died in 641. The imperial throne was eventually occupied by his grandson Constans II (642-668), an open adherent of the Monothelite heresy. The assaults of the heretics against Orthodoxy intensified. Saint Maximus went to Carthage and he preached there for about five years. When the Monothelite Pyrrhus, the successor of Patriarch Sergius, arrived there after fleeing from Constantinople because of court intrigues, he and Saint Maximus spent many hours in debate. As a result, Pyrrhus publicly acknowledged his error, and was permitted to retain the title of “Patriarch.” He even wrote a book confessing the Orthodox Faith. Saint Maximus and Pyrrhus traveled to Rome to visit Pope Theodore, who received Pyrrhus as the Patriarch of Constantinople.

In the year 647 Saint Maximus returned to Africa. There, at a council of bishops Monothelitism was condemned as a heresy. In 648, a new edict was issued, commissioned by Constans and compiled by Patriarch Paul of Constantinople: the “Typos” (“Typos tes pisteos” or “Pattern of the Faith”), which forbade any further disputes about one will or two wills in the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Maximus then asked Saint Martin the Confessor (April 14), the successor of Pope Theodore, to examine the question of Monothelitism at a Church Council. The Lateran Council was convened in October of 649. One hundred and fifty Western bishops and thirty-seven representatives from the Orthodox East were present, among them Saint Maximus the Confessor. The Council condemned Monothelitism, and the Typos. The false teachings of Patriarchs Sergius, Paul and Pyrrhus of Constantinople, were also anathematized.

When Constans II received the decisions of the Council, he gave orders to arrest both Pope Martin and Saint Maximus. The emperor’s order was fulfilled only in the year 654. Saint Maximus was accused of treason and locked up in prison. In 656 he was sent to Thrace, and was later brought back to a Constantinople prison.

The saint and two of his disciples were subjected to the cruelest torments. Each one’s tongue was cut out, and his right hand was cut off. Then they **Con’t next Pg**

Venerable Maximus con't from previous pg

were exiled to Skemarum in Scythia, enduring many sufferings and difficulties on the journey.

After three years, the Lord revealed to Saint Maximus the time of his death (August 13, 662). Three candles appeared over the grave of Saint Maximus and burned miraculously. This was a sign that Saint Maximus was a beacon of Orthodoxy during his lifetime, and continues to shine forth as an example of virtue for all. Many healings occurred at his tomb.

In the Greek Prologue, August 13 commemorates the Transfer of the Relics of Saint Maximus to Constantinople, but it could also be the date of the saint's death. It may be that his memory is celebrated on January 21 because August 13 is the Leavetaking of the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

Saint Maximus has left to the Church a great theological legacy. His exegetical works contain explanations of difficult passages of Holy Scripture, and include a Commentary on the Lord's Prayer and on Psalm 59, various "scholia" or "marginalia" (commentaries written in the margin of manuscripts), on treatises of the Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3) and Saint Gregory the Theologian (January 25). Among the exegetical works of Saint Maximus are his explanation of divine services, entitled "Mystagogia" ("Introduction Concerning the Mystery").

The dogmatic works of Saint Maximus include the Exposition of his dispute with Pyrrhus, and several tracts and letters to various people. In them are contained explanations of the Orthodox teaching on the Divine Essence and the Persons of the Holy Trinity, on the Incarnation of the Word of God, and on "theosis" ("deification") of human nature.

"Nothing in theosis is the product of human nature," Saint Maximus writes in a letter to his friend Thalassius, "for nature cannot comprehend God. It is only the mercy of God that has the capacity to endow theosis unto the existing... In theosis man (the image of God) becomes likened to God, he rejoices in all the plenitude that does not belong to him by nature, because the grace of the Spirit triumphs within him, and because God acts in him" (Letter 22).

Saint Maximus also wrote anthropological works (i.e. concerning man). He deliberates on the nature of the soul and its conscious existence after death. Among his moral compositions, especially important is his "Chapters on Love." Saint Maximus

the Confessor also wrote three hymns in the finest traditions of church hymnography, following the example of Saint Gregory the Theologian.

The theology of Saint Maximus the Confessor, based on the spiritual experience of the knowledge of the great Desert Fathers, and utilizing the skilled art of dialectics worked out by pre-Christian philosophy, was continued and developed in the works of Saint Simeon the New Theologian (March 12), and Saint Gregory Palamas (November 14).

**Thank You Notes
from Archpriest Joseph & Matushka Wargo**

Ladies of the kitchen & Linda Livosky, thank you for a beautiful banquet coffee hour in honor of Fr. Joseph's celebration of 50 years in the priesthood. You have always been there for us and many others. We thank you! It was beautiful!

Altar Servers, what a wonderful, beautiful Liturgy for Fr. Joseph's 50th celebration! Your service in the Liturgy was amazing! Each of you were honorable and respectful. It's very nervous to be celebrating with a bishop. Especially a tall one!

Dr Nicoloff "Choir Director," your works are wonderful! Everyone said how beautiful the Liturgy was. Thank you!

Choir Members, thank you for your beautiful voices in prayers of the Liturgy for Fr. Joseph's 50th celebration. It was so heavenly, prayerful and spiritual. Thank you for your love.

Love, prayers and admiration,
Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Wargo



In Memoriam: Archpriest Moses Berry

Archpriest Moses Berry, 73 of Ash Grove, fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, January 12, 2024. Fr. Moses (Karl) was born August 20, 1950, to Charles Berry Jr. and Wanda Lee (Carlock) Berry in Lockwood, Missouri. On May 7, 1983, Fr. Moses and Magdalena Arkin were united in marriage and shared over 40 years together.

Fr. Moses grew up in Missouri but traveled and lived across the country in his youth. After a trying experience with the law, he strengthened his faith in God, joining a national spiritual community where he would eventually become a minister, and later meet his wife.

As their studies deepened, many members of the community became interested in Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Fr. Moses was eventually received into and ordained a priest in the Orthodox Church in 2000, becoming a spiritual father to hundreds.

In 1998, Fr. Moses returned to Ash Grove after inheriting the farm built by his great-grandfather in 1873 — a homestead his ancestors started after being freed from enslavement following the Civil War. Fr. Moses donated some of his family's land to establish Theotokos Unexpected Joy Church, an Eastern Orthodox Church he grew from a mission to a full congregation, introducing many in the Ozarks to the faith.

The acreage also includes the family's cemetery, which was established in 1875 and dedicated to "Slaves, Indians and Paupers"— people who were excluded from burial in traditional, segregated resting places. The cemetery, reconsecrated as Holy Resurrection Cemetery, is now on the national and Greene County registers of historic places. This is also where Fr. Moses will be laid to rest on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Fr. Moses was known for his impact as a spiritual leader, often combining a deep love for African American cultural heritage with a deep knowledge and commitment to Eastern Orthodox Christianity. He was a founding member of the Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black, an organization in support of African Americans in the Eastern Orthodox Church, leading their annual conference for decades. Fr. Moses was instrumental in making hundreds of African Americans who were interested in Orthodoxy but concerned about inclusion feel more comfortable in pursuing the faith.

In 2002, Fr. Moses opened the Ozarks Afro-American Heritage Museum on Main Street in Ash Grove with more than 100 artifacts and heirlooms, many of which were saved and preserved by his

own family. He was a nationally popular speaker and advisor on African American history and issues of spirituality, often using stories of his mother and grandmother's strong faith as examples. A New York Times story once referred to Berry as a "one-man racial reconciliation committee."

Fr. Moses is survived by his wife, Magdalena Berry; son, Elijah Berry; daughter, Dorothy Berry; brother, Keith Berry; sister, Darla Jackson; other family and many friends.

Fr. Moses is preceded in death by his parents, Charles Berry Jr. and Wanda Lee Berry and brothers, Charles and Gary.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to Holy Resurrection Cemetery and may be left with the funeral home or mailed to Wilson-Griffin Funeral Home, PO Box 217, Ash Grove, MO 65604.

May Fr. Moses' memory be eternal.

JANUARY SOCIALS

Jan. 21– Sisterhood

Jan. 28– OPEN (Birthday / Anniversaries)

January 2024: Monthly Charity Support

OCMC– Support a mission priest.

Monastery News

NIANGUA, MO [DOM] – Holy Resurrection Monastery offers the following updates on work that has been accomplished and work that is to come.

+ Mother attended a Deanery gathering in February 2023 to welcome and visit with His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel. She attended the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Holy Annunciation at Annunciation in St James, MO for His Eminence's pastoral visit, and then again in December when His Eminence served Divine Liturgy and ordained Deacon John.

+ Many guests have been offered hospitality. Many Orthodox inquirers visit.

+ Mother has sent monastery reports to the Diocesan Council and to the Diocesan Assembly.

+ The monastery continues without regular Divine Liturgy being served.

+ Repairs resumed as the weather allowed. Mother painted and stained the back deck – lower and upper, and repaired a portion that was rotted. Lighting was added around the monastery. **Con't Next Page**

Monastery con't from previous pg

The deck in front of the shed was entirely replaced as the support beams had rotted. In the Spring, after the treated wood is ready, those repaired sections will be stained and sealed. More dead trees were felled and cleaned.

+ A guest room was converted to a monastic cell. The same will be done to another guest room, and the preparations will continue to further improve the downstairs accommodations.

+ A nun has joined Mother. There have been vocation visits and Mother is in contact with interested women

+ A table that was damaged was stripped, new stain and polyurethane applied, and now it serves as the monastic trapeza.

+ The tool shed was organized with the addition of shelving and hooks.

+ The candle work continues. Soon Mother will train the new Sister to assist with this blessed work.

+ Mother and Sister visit local parishes as they are able. The rising cost of gas has made this more difficult. Consider that 2 parishes are an hour away. Two others are 1 hour and 40 minutes, and another 3 hours.

+ The cost of food has put a strain on the monastery. Thank you to the local faithful who bring fish, shrimp, and other staples to defray the cost of the monastery's grocery bill.

+ Thank you again to all who have donated their time, talents, and funds for the furtherance of good things at Holy Resurrection Monastery. An up to date needs list is maintained on the monastery website and was recently updated in November 2023.

+ Please continue prayers for the Diocese of the Midwest: Our Archbishop Daniel, the Diocesan Council, vocations to the priesthood, vocations to Holy Resurrection Monastery, the health of the Fr Peter who serves at the Monastery, all the sick and suffering, and the furtherance of all good things.

+ The Monastery remembers these intentions and many others in our prayers. If you would like to submit names, use the website form, email us, or send the form included in this newsletter by snail or email.

Coming up in Spring 2024, God willing

+ Work on the upper back staircase will continue. The landing deck, the lower steps and the railings require replacement.

+ The new deck in front of the equipment shed and the portion of deck that was replaced near the bells will be stained and sealed.

+ A monastery sign will be purchased, constructed, and installed.

+ Mother and Sister will have subscriptions to a local health service for regular checkups, care in the event of an illness visit, and simple emergencies. These cost \$100 per person monthly.

+ Install a window with a screen in the candle shop.

+ Extend electricity to the shed.

+ Construct monastic seating in the chapel.

+ The rotted railroad ties that serve as retention near the chapel will be replaced with stone. The same will occur in two other places where rotted ties surround flower beds.

+ We hope to begin a prayer walk with kiots and icons.

+ Please keep those candle orders coming! Many thanks to all the parishes who order. Orders are received by phone, email, text, or the website. holysurrectionmonastery.org Thank you in advance for supporting the monastery!

+ The Monastery's Donation page now has an option for a one-time or a monthly gift. In addition to your prayers, please consider supporting the monastery in this manner.

Coming Events—Mark Your Calendar!

PAN-ORTHODOX OCMC EVENT

Saturday, March 9

St. John the Baptist O.C. will host an OCMC event Saturday, March 9. The times are to be determined. There will be a luncheon and program lasting about 2 hours, followed by Vespers. Sign-up sheet in the vestibule. Further info. will be forth coming.

First Annual "KICK OFF TO SUMMER" Festival

June 29 ~ Noon to 5 PM

Helpers are needed and welcomed. Watch for further information.

LENTEN PARISH RETREAT

Saturday, March 30 ~ 9 AM to 3 PM

Spirituality in Everyday Life

We will be hosting this retreat. Invite your friends and family.

Sign-up sheets for these events are in the Vestibule. Watch future bulletins for details.