



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



NOVEMBER Bulletin Sponsor

OPEN

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, November 10

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social / Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 13

6:00 PM: Fire Training

Friday, November 15

NATIVITY FAST BEGINS

Saturday, November 16

6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, November 17

9:35 AM: Hours

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

GENTLE REMINDER OF ORTHODOX BEHAVIOR

Over the last few weeks people arrive late to Divine Liturgy, and now are leaving before the final blessing, venerating the Cross and announcements.

This is not proper conduct in Orthodox worship. We have been invited by God to the Feast of Feasts, the Holy Eucharist. In order to be fully prepared, we must be physically and spiritually be in Church at "Blessed is the Kingdom" and remain until the final blessing and venerating the Cross.

Please be aware, these actions are not considered acceptable in the OCA Tradition. Thank you for your consideration.

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

November 17- AP Vladimir Demshuk
December 1- Monk Nicodemus

Luke 10:25-37 (Gospel)

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Historical Origins of the Nativity Fast

Delving into the historical origins of the Nativity Fast highlights a rich tapestry dating back to the early Christian Church. The practice began around the fourth century and was initially observed by monks. Over time, it became a widespread custom among all Christians to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity, which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.

Early church documents, such as the Canons of the Council of Hippo in 393 AD, showcase discussions about fasts leading up to major feast days. The Nativity Fast is mentioned as a distinct period of fasting, reflection, and heightened spirituality. The Council of Saragossa in 380 AD **Con't Pg 9**

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PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS– UPDATED 10-21-24

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

Steward Sunday: Thriving in Ministry Program for Parish Priests and Clergy Wives

On Steward Sunday, we are called to reflect on our role in supporting the pastoral life of our Church, and one way we accomplish this is through the Office of Pastoral Life’s Thriving in Ministry Program. This program, specifically designed for parish priests and clergy wives, is focused on creating a supportive network and providing resources that enable both clergy and their spouses to flourish in their ministries.

In today’s world, the role of a parish priest is increasingly demanding, and the challenges of parish ministry often extend to the entire family. Recognizing this, the Thriving in Ministry Program, supported by a matching grant from the Lilly Endowment, is structured to support not only the priests who serve but also the clergy wives who walk alongside them. The inclusion of clergy wives in this program ensures that their unique perspectives, needs, and spiritual lives are equally nurtured, helping to fortify the entire family in their commitment to our parishes.

Key Components of the Thriving in Ministry Program

1) Peer Learning and Support Groups for Clergy and Clergy Wives: Recognizing the value of community and

mutual support, the program offers facilitated peer learning groups for both priests and clergy wives. In these groups, participants are encouraged to share experiences and wisdom, providing a peer support system to openly discuss the joys and challenges of their parish ministries. Clergy wives, in particular, benefit from a space tailored to the unique responsibilities and expectations they face, as well as opportunities to form meaningful connections with other clergy wives.

2) Mentoring Relationships: Within the Thriving in Ministry Program, priests and clergy wives often find opportunities to connect with others at various stages of ministry, including both newly ordained and more seasoned clergy families. These relationships naturally offer guidance and understanding of the complexities of parish life, often evolving into trusted, supportive connections that address the unique dynamics of a clergy family.

3) Emotional and Spiritual Well-Being: Parish ministry can be an isolating vocation, and the stresses can weigh heavily on both priests and their wives. Through facilitated peer learning groups, the Thriving in Ministry Program creates spaces where clergy and their spouses can share experiences, discuss challenges, and provide mutual support. These groups offer a valuable opportunity for clergy families to reflect on their emotional and spiritual well-being, helping them feel more connected, supported, and resilient in their shared ministry. **Con’t Pg 6**

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PRAYER LIST– Updated 11-5-24

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Sherrie Fredericks / George Horodnic / Matushka Christine Hryb / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Matushka Helen Psinka / Carol Ruff / Sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Gary Thompson / Patty Thompson / Marion Zwinski

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: AP James Gleason (Fr.) / Fr. Michael Rustic / Fr. Edward / Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family & parish

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Karen Debiec / Donna Chiarelli / Bruce Harris (Sabo) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Mea Mahan / Mary Mahan / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Eugene Pallai / Teri Petroff (Fr.) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Joanna Shepelevich / Julia Shirilla / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Brian (Shirilla) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Ellen (Clark) / Ellen (Kessler) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Karen (Gemmel) / Karen (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Katie (Garrity) / Paul (Kolesar) / Paula (Voytilla) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Richard (Tusinac)

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 & Metropolitan Arseny imprisoned / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

November Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Fr John Zdinak
- 2 Melina Livosky
- 5 Maya Kubancsek
- 6 Geo Kennedy
- 11 Ethan Vansuch
- 13 Elliot Vansuch
- 14 Lynn Krause
- 16 Valerie Schutt
- 17 Mark Livosky
- 18 George Horodnic, Jr / George Horodnic
- 20 His Holiness Patriarch Kryill
- 24 Lara Wise (Polewan)
- 25 Michael Livosky Jr / Donna Lynn (Ruff) / Iris Konik / Geno Kennedy
- 30 Kristen Basala

Anniversary

- 13-2012 The Most Blessed Tikhon elected as Primate
- 15-1980 AB Nathaniel of Detroit

Names Day

- 8 Michael Centofanti / Michael Polewan / Michael Simko / Gabriella Hryb / Michele Basile
- 14 Gary Thompson
- 16 Reader Matthew Vansuch
- 24 Sherrie Fredericks
- 25 Retired Bishop Lazar of Ottawa
- 30 His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland / AP Andrew Bartek

Regarding the Prayer List

Fr. Andrew continually updates the prayer list and would like it to be as current as possible.

If any name(s) can come off the list, please let him know.

NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$5,110.53
Income	<u>\$1,967.89</u>
TOTAL	-\$3,143.64
Weekly Tithe	\$1,655.89
Weekly Candles	\$102
Altar Candles	\$50
Reinbursement of Church Credit Card	\$160

Monthly Charity Collection: (Hurricane Relief) \$252

Christmas Cookie Walk

Fundraiser to benefit our parish

We are seeking donations of 10 dozen of one cookie type from your secret Christmas cookie file. These are for a walk on December 14th.

Please see Cindy or Nancy for more details or to donate cookies.

NOVEMBER Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

NOTE: If anything is missing from the Sponsorships please contact Fr. Andrew ASAP

Bulletin: OPEN

Wine: OPEN

Incense: OPEN

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of Mary Kennedy on the occasion of your anniversary of repose— Given by Martha Centofanti & Sue Kennedy / In honor of our three Grandchildren Ava , Ethan & Elliot who are celebrating their birthdays Given by Reader Nick & Monica Vansuch

Altar Candles: For the health of Karen Debiec— Given by the Kennedy Family

Tetrapod Candles: For Health of Geno Kennedy on the Occasion of his birthday— Given by Kenney Family

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 Geo Kennedy on the occasion of his birthday— Given by Kennedy Family

Protection Icon Candles: In memory of my parents Bill & Helen Bakish— Given by Patty Thompson

St. John the Baptist Candles: OPEN

Flowers: OPEN

<u>\$50 per month</u>	<u>\$30 per month</u>	<u>\$25 per month</u>
*Wine	*St. Herman candles	Incense
*Bulletin	*St. Panteleimon Icon candles	
*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light	*Protection Icon candles	Flowers - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time— <i>Updated</i>
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	
*Tetrapod Candles		

Relics of St. John of Chicago Enshrined at Diocesan Cathedral on the Feast of the Hieromartyr

A historical celebration took place this year for the feast of the Hieromartyr John of Chicago, in the very city in which he labored in for over a decade. October 30 and October 31 brought together clergy and faithful from all over the Diocese of the Midwest to greet, for the very first time, the relics of St. John Kochurov.

On Wednesday evening, the All Night Vigil was held at the historic Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, the very temple the saint built in 1903. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest presided over the service. Serving with the Archbishop were Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, Archpriest Mousa Hadad (Antiochian Orthodox Church), Priest Nikolaj Kostur (Serbian Orthodox Church), Archpriest Mykola Bodnarchuk, Archpriest Michael Myers (Bulgarian OCA), Priest John Kennerk, Deacon Paul Garklavs and Deacon Andrew Bender.

Litiya was served outside making a procession around the temple that the saint built. During the Polyeleos, the icon containing the relics of St. John was processed to the center of the Cathedral for the singing of the Magnification. “This was the first time St. John has physically returned to this city since leaving for Russia,” reported Fr. Herman, making this the first time that Orthodox Christians in this country were able to venerate the missionary saint of America. The responses were

sung by the Chicago Deanery Male Choir under the direction of Reader Philip Sokolov. At the end of the vigil, the Archbishop greeted everyone and offered a reflection of St. John’s labors and work.

The very next day, the feast of St. John of Chicago, clergy and faithful gathered to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Archbishop Daniel was the main celebrant and was joined by, Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, Mitered Archpriest Vladimir Kovalchuk, Priest Andrew Kishler (Antiochian Orthodox Church), Archpriest Tarasy Maxim, Archpriest Michael Myers (Bulgarian OCA), Priest John Segvich, Priest John Kennerk, Priest Anthony Saunders, Priest Joseph Whittaker, Deacon Paul Garklavs and Deacon Nikolai Tambur. The responses were sung by the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Reader Vladimir Lyamar.

During his homily, Archbishop Daniel shared the importance of St. John and his presence at the Cathedral. “We know St. John because his life and testimony reach out to us through the decades since his martyrdom. We know saint John because he intercedes for us. This is certainly a special day, celebrating saint John, especially since we know him and feel his presence here spiritually here at all times. We know that he worships with us in this temple.”

Following the Archbishop’s remarks, Fr. Alexander greeted the Archbishop and gathered clergy, “This is always an inspirational day for us in Chicago. We have always felt the prayers of our Father John, but now to have him permanently in the Cathedral **Con’t pg 7**

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NOVEMBER Reposed List

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Infant Kapsonris (1962) © | 12- Steve Bura (1985) © |
| Maria Vaselas (1963) © | 12- John Livosky (1946) © |
| Eva Georgiades (1963) © | 13- Stamatis Kousoufis (1943) © |
| 1- Still born Stalian (1920) © | 14- Thelma Paullas (1957) © |
| 1- Barbara Boyiazas (1931) © | 16- Donald Keegan (2021) |
| 1- Maria Vovlas (1962) © | 16- John Lebo (1985) © |
| 2- Still born Volchko (1922) © | 16- Nicholas Petzakes (1936) © |
| 3- Efrosinia Melnik (1929) © | 16- Infant Spirtos (1959) © |
| 4- Myrna Tucci (1996) © | 17- John Graban (1979) © |
| 5- Fr. Peter Tutko (2021) | 18- George Pallas (1962) © |
| 5- Mary Pavoula (1948) © | 19- Fr. John Dolhy (2006) |
| 5- Dan Shirilla (1963) © | 19- William Bolresh (1985) © |
| 5- Anna Pasco (1962) © | 19- Mike Talaban (1958) © |
| 6- Edward Krajnak (1941) © | 19- Theodore Cougras (1960) © |
| 6- Simon Zografas (1947) © | 20- Russell Harvischak (2020) © |
| 6- Mary Feltovich (1963) © | 21- Fr. Joseph Mihaly (1975) |
| 7- Desiree Flaherty (1960) | 21- Paul Waychik (1975) © |
| 7- Helen Korchniak (1920) © | 21- Mary Lebo (2010) © |
| 8- Anna Fesz (1980) © | 22- Olga Vansuch (2007) © |
| 8- Michael Puskas (2012) © | 23- Serge Mihaly (2019) |
| 8- George Pacak (1931) © | 23- Cilina Tolich (1993) © |
| 8- Julia Stuller (1956) © | 23- Anna Graban (2009) © |
| 9- Walter Leshinsky (2012) © | 23- Andrew Kotchmar (1965) © |
| 9- Ann Liszka (2006) © | 24- George Harvischak (1963) © |
| 9- John Zanbetis (1930) © | 25- Luba Johnson (2020) |
| 10- Mary Billy (1934) | 25- Thelma Herman (1952) © |
| 10- Theodore Theodosiou (1957) © | 26- Slavi Radivojkov (1921) © |
| 11- Dorothy Bartek (2005) | 26- Infant Xenakis (Still Born) (1963) © |
| 11- Protodeacon Dennis Lucak (2018) | 27- Louise Despetorich (1999) © |
| 11- Matushka Helen Lucak (2018) | 28- Livan Ostovich (1921) © |
| 11- Elias Maillis (1961) © | 28- Michael Pogonis (1973) © |
| 11- Charles Demetrios (1963) © | 29- His Eminence Archbishop David from Alaska |

Over 50 Orthodox Faithful Gather for Music Workshop at St Paul the Apostle Church

On October 26-27, St Paul the Apostle Church in Dayton, OH welcomed over 50 Orthodox faithful from five states for an enriching workshop focused on liturgical music, prayer, and fellowship. Sponsored by the Diocese of the Midwest's St Andrew of Crete Music Ministry, the event was a benefit and blessing to all who participated.

The workshop commenced on Friday evening with Great Vespers for the feast of St Demetrius, followed by a rehearsal and a delightful reception. Saturday was filled with rehearsals, Divine Liturgy, music instruction, and fellowship, concluding with another Great Vespers service.

Participants were guided by a talented group of conductors and vocal instructors, including Priest Gregory Ealy (St Paul's, Dayton), Matushka Miho Ealy (St Paul's, Dayton), Matushka Elizabeth Frase (St Gregory's, Columbus), Ms. Amedee Royer (St Paul's, Dayton), and Mr. Jonathan Wey (St Stephen's, Lima).

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. One participant from St Elizabeth Church in Walbridge remarked, "We just had a wonderful time at the workshop and all of us were so blessed to participate...how wonderful of you to share it with us all! It was both humbling and encouraging to be there!"

Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Diocesan Chancellor, traveled from Chicago to serve at the Divine Liturgy and Great Vespers on Saturday. A former choir director himself, he expressed his gratitude for the vibrant atmosphere of the workshop: "I wish that I could capture and bottle up the energy here today and distribute it to all the parishes in our diocese. It's a blessing for me to be here with you at the Divine Liturgy." One of the highlights of the workshop was the performance of a 15-voice children's choir led by Ms. Amedee Royer. At Great Vespers on Saturday evening, the children sang the prokeimenon and verses at the First Kathisma, filling the church with their sweet and spirited voices. Plans are already underway for the fourth annual workshop, scheduled for Fall 2025 at St Paul's in Dayton. Those interested in participating next year can contact Fr Gregory Ealy at frgregory@stpd Dayton.org to be placed on the contact list.

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ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE REGARDING DIOCESAN DEPARTMENTS

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, Glory to Jesus Christ!

The recent Diocesan Assembly held at St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore, Ohio was a very uplifting and encouraging gathering for the clergy and faithful who attended and also for me personally, as I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our worship, discussions, deliberations, and fellowship.

When we gather each year for the Assembly, we are given an opportunity to pray, reflect, and discern to what good works our Lord Jesus Christ is calling us to in our diocese—both collectively and in each parish, bearing witness to the Holy Gospel.

I am encouraged by the enthusiasm and willingness expressed during our gathering to renew our commitment to accepting the Great Commission as our life's primary responsibility. The work before us is significant and requires a proper order and plan to grow our parishes and the diocese.

One of the highlights of our recent Assembly was the presentation of an organizational plan to strengthen our shared efforts in specific areas of parish life: evangelization, charitable service, education, music, liturgics, and the support of our clergy and clergy families. This plan, adopted by those gathered at the Assembly, will benefit your parish and your parish's local programs in these vital areas of Christian witness.

In the coming month, my office and our Diocesan Chancellor, Archpriest Herman Kincaid, are appointing qualified individuals to lead and staff each department, so that by Friday, November 15, I will be able to provide you with our initial plan and short term goals for working in the Lord's vineyard locally and at the diocesan level.
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Prior to November 15, the representatives from your parish who attended the Assembly should be sharing information about the organizational plan to raise awareness and lead discussions to identify the needs of your parish in each area, so we can work together to strengthen our witness to the Holy Orthodox Faith.

As part of the role of the departments, our diocesan website will serve as a central hub for the sharing of ideas and information, so we can work wisely within our resources in collaborative and efficient ways from parishes to deaneries to the diocesan level.

I have stressed to those in my office the need for consistent and clear communication, so that we can work effectively, with realistic goals and objectives to make meaningful contributions for the growth of our diocese and parishes. Your involvement in these efforts is needed and appreciated, so that our diocesan departments

facilitate the good order of the work given to us by Our Lord.

As your Archbishop, I offer my prayers to God each day for you, for your parish, and for every community in our diocese. I thank God for your current service in this vineyard and your future efforts to support the well-being and growth of Holy Orthodoxy throughout the Diocese of the Midwest.

May our Lord, Jesus Christ, always bless our common work and fellowship, and may our sacrifices, labors, and worship be acceptable offerings before His Throne of Glory.

With gratitude and love in Christ,

DANIEL Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Steward Sunday con't from pg 2

4) Ongoing Formation and Education: The program also supports the continuing education of clergy wives and priests alike. These facilitated peer learning groups cover topics relevant to both the practical aspects of parish ministry and personal spiritual growth, ensuring that clergy families are equipped to serve fully and effectively in our parishes.

The Role of Stewards in Supporting This Work

Stewards Sunday is also a time for us to reflect on our role as faithful stewards in the life of the Church. The Office of Pastoral Life and the Thriving in Ministry Program rely on the generous support of the faithful. Your stewardship helps provide the resources and infrastructure necessary to ensure our clergy families have the tools and support they need to thrive. With the matching grant from the Lilly Endowment, every dollar contributed toward this program is doubled, amplifying the impact of each contribution.

Our clergy families work tirelessly to serve Christ and His people, often quietly making sacrifices that go unseen. As we celebrate Stewards Sunday, please remember that by supporting initiatives like the Thriving in Ministry Program, we are not only giving back to those who serve us but also ensuring the future health and resilience of the Church.

For more information on how you can support the Office of Pastoral Life and the Thriving in Ministry Program, please visit the Office of Pastoral Life's website.

Together, let us continue to build up the Body of Christ by supporting the dedicated families who have answered the call to serve.

OCTOBER CHARITY

St. Vladimir's Seminary

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - NOVEMBER	2023	2024
1st Week		
Vespers	8	5
Divine Liturgy	64 / 34	56 / 37
2nd Week		
Vespers	7	
Divine Liturgy	67 / 41	
3rd Week		
Vespers	8	
Divine Liturgy	50 / 31	
Vespers for Mary	8	
D.L. for Mary	No record	
4th Week		
Vespers	5	
Divine Liturgy	52 / 31	
5th week		

2024 - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Tusinac (President)
Phone- 724-456-7366
Cindy Ferrick (Treasurer)
Phone 330-531-1119
Joann Sirilla (Financial Secretary)
Phone 330-881-6775
Sub-deacon Dr. Donald Tamulouis (Council)
Phone 330-774-8860
Natalia Simko (Council) (Cemetery issues)
Phone- 330-980-3033

Maintenance Issues:

Michael Simko - 330-565-0084
Michael Centofanti - 330-544-3518

CHRISTMAS KOLACHI

Apricot, Nut & Poppyseed
Cost: \$15.00
Pick-up Dates: Thursday December 5 3-6pm
Friday December 6: 3-6pm
Deadline for orders: November 27th
Call: 330-727-7323

Relics con't from pg 4

is a great blessing and inspiration.” After the Prayers of Thanksgiving a festive meal was held in the hall.

It was in 1899 that Father John Kochurov commissioned noted architect Louis Sullivan to construct what is today Holy Trinity Cathedral. The new church was consecrated by Saint Tikhon of Moscow in 1903 and designated a cathedral in 1922. After his return to Russia, Father John became the first clergyman to be martyred at the outset of the Bolshevik Revolution. He was glorified as Saint John of Chicago and Tsarskoye Tselo in December 1994. Now, in 2024, a portion of his relics have been transferred to this temple and are enshrined for veneration.

OCA Delegate at National Council of Churches Annual Christian Unity Gathering

On October 15-18, 2024, the National Council of Churches (NCC), representing 37 member communions from mainline Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, African American, and others convened its annual Christian Unity Gathering (CUG) in Nashville, Tennessee. The OCA delegates, V. Rev. Peter Baktis and Pdn. Sergei Kapral, attended the event, which serves as an opportunity for the NCC’s member bodies to review their work and set future goals.

At this year’s gathering, the Interfaith Convening Table reviewed two documents, which it then advanced to the NCC Governing Board for adoption.

One of the proposed documents, titled “The Problem of Religious Nationalism, in the US and Globally: A Policy Statement of the National Council of Churches,” reflects the continued work of the NCC’s Theological Task Force, which includes Fr. Peter. This statement builds upon the 2021 NCC policy, “The Dangers of Christian Nationalism in the United States,” but expands its scope to address the growing issue of religious nationalism both domestically and internationally.

The second document was the “Resolution on the Persecution of Religious Minorities, in India and Beyond.” Developed by the Interfaith Convening Table, this resolution highlights the NCC’s advocacy for religious freedom worldwide.

The work of the Interfaith Convening Table, and the Theology Taskforce in particular, is to address issues central to NCC member communions in their dialogues with interfaith partners. Their efforts focus on matters that impact our Christian witness in the world and on the lives of our faithful members who may face injustices in their communities.

ST. NICHOLAS DAY PROJECT 2024

This year the seminarian family we will be helping this year is the **Irenaeus and Ruth Wilson** family from St. Tikhon's Seminary.

There is a sign-up sheet at the candle desk. All items or donations must be returned to our church by Sunday, November 17th in order to get the items to Pennsylvania in time.

If one does not want to purchase items themselves, Beth Willison will shop for you.

Ruth:

1. Bread bow knife made by Generations Acres Farm
2. Green linen apron
3. Icon of Saint Edith of Wilton

Irenaeus

1. A black oil skin raincoat, size M
2. Black fleece vest, size M
3. Burning Bush coffee

Esther - 7 years

White and red Mary Poppins dress up dress (size 7/8)
Colonial girls costume (size 7/8, or small - Target has a floral, light tannish pink one)

Black Mary Janes shoes (size 11 or 12 in little kids)

John Forerunner kids book by New Rome Press
(<https://newromepress.com/saint-john-the-forerunner-prophet-apostle-and-martyr/>)

Ezra - 5 years

Motorcycle building kit (either from Lego or Gean-gvn)

Black Retrospec elbow and knee pads (child size 3-9 years)

Wooden farm truck building paper plan (<https://www.woodcraft.com/products/wood-magazine-woodworking-project-paper-plan-to-build-farm-truck>)
Chickadee Wooden Toys Ship puzzle (<https://chickadeeswoodentoys.com/products/ship-puzzle>)

Edyth - 3 years

Calico Critters Huskey family (<https://a.co/d/6a6KXx3>)

Waldorf Doll "Hanne" by Blissful Pixie (<https://a.co/d/hlLe7dl>)

Yellow/Mustard color Mary Jane shoes (size 9, little kids)

Ephraim - 8 months

Crochet rattle animals

Soft cotton pants (size 9-12 months)

Chickadee Wooden Toys building block set
([https://chickadeeswoodentoys.com/products/natural-wooden-building-block-set?](https://chickadeeswoodentoys.com/products/natural-wooden-building-block-set?srsltid=AfmBOooQwSexAcSRlovT-k_BmL75GEOB5uxVT1CJKqPQrukHw86q3MDy)

[srsltid=AfmBOooQwSexAcSRlovT-k_BmL75GEOB5uxVT1CJKqPQrukHw86q3MDy](https://chickadeeswoodentoys.com/products/natural-wooden-building-block-set?srsltid=AfmBOooQwSexAcSRlovT-k_BmL75GEOB5uxVT1CJKqPQrukHw86q3MDy))

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Attends Diocese of the South Assembly

On Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, Archbishop of Dallas and the Diocese of the South, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon traveled to Richmond, VA, to participate in the annual Assembly of the Diocese of the South. His Beatitude was accompanied by Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America.

On Tuesday morning, a Molieben was served by Archpriest Marcus Burch, Chancellor of the Diocese of the South, to open the assembly. Following the service, the business of the Assembly began. His Beatitude addressed the Assembly later that afternoon during its second session.

That evening, the Assembly participants traveled to St. Andrew Church in Ashland, VA where Vespers was served by the Rector, Priest Adam Sexton. Following the service, Archbishop Alexander recognized two parishioners with diocesan gramoti, and His Grace Bishop Gerasim, Bishop of Fort Worth, gave a brief homily on the Epistle reading of the day. Dinner was then served at a local venue.

On Wednesday, the day began with His Beatitude presiding at the celebration of the hierarchical Divine Liturgy at St. Cyprian of Carthage Church in Midlothian, VA. Concelebrating with His Beatitude were His Eminence Archbishop Alexander and His Grace Bishop Gerasim. Also serving were Archpriest Marcus Burch, Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, and other clergy from the Appalachian Deanery. Before the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Alexander tonsured Roman Bohuk and Romanus Brown as Readers. At the Little Entrance, His Eminence elevated Priest Jason Foster to the dignity of Archpriest. He also awarded the jeweled cross to Archpriest Mark Sutton and the Gold Cross to Priest David Ogan.

His Beatitude offered the homily, where he explained how Christ's words show that all are guilty before God, no matter how scrupulously our piety. He said, "Many of us fall short both here and there, both with respect to the spirit and the letter, the inner and the outer... And yet, in the beautiful irony of the divine economy, it is precisely this recognition of our incorrigible sinfulness wherein lies our hope for holiness. The one who truly knows his sinfulness is humble, and the one who is truly humble is holy. Becoming the greatest of saints is inseparable from knowing oneself to be the worst of sinners."

On Wednesday afternoon, His Beatitude and Fr. Alessandro gave a presentation on the Orthodox Church in America's conciliar structure and process and the upcoming 21st All-American Council. His Beatitude especially highlighted his call for reflections and offered some of his own considerations on the present life of the Church.

History of Nativity Fast cont from Pg 1

and the Council of Constantinople in 1166 AD affirmed its importance, illustrating the enduring commitment to this preparatory tradition.

Traditionally, the Nativity Fast lasts 40 days, beginning on November 15 and concluding on December 24. This period aligns with the Roman fast that prepared believers for Epiphany. However, it shifted focus to Advent, and by extension, the Nativity, after the declaration of December 25 as the official celebration of Christ's birth.

Significance is attributed to the length of the Nativity Fast; 40 days is symbolic, mirroring the biblical periods of trial and transformation such as Moses on Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, and Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

Orthodox Christians view this fast not merely as a period of dietary restraint but as a time of personal and communal transformation. The fasting extends beyond food, encompassing aspects such as forgiveness, charity, and prayer — practices firmly rooted in early church traditions aimed at nurturing spiritual growth and readiness to receive the incarnate God.

The Nativity Fast maintains centuries-old traditions that act as spiritual bridges connecting modern believers with the convictions and practices of their early Christian predecessors. It's a time-honored observance that personifies the anticipation of Christ's birth and a conduit for deepened faith and reflection.

Thank You

Thank you everyone for all your love you have given me; through prayers, cards, flowers, food and support, during my difficult time of the passing of my husband, the Archpriest Vladimir. May God Bless you all!

Protinica Kathleen

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Thank you everyone, for your prayers for me and my brother as he struggles through health issues. May God bless all of you!

Nadine Sabol

Apostles of the Seventy: Erastus, Olympas, Herodion, Sosipater, Quartus, and Tertius Commemorated on November 10

The holy Apostles Erastus, Sosipater (April 28), Olympas (January 4), Rodion (April 8), Quartus and Tertius (October 30) were disciples of Saint Paul. They all lived during the first century.

The Apostle to the Gentiles speaks of them in the Epistle to the Romans, "And Erastus, the city treasurer, greets you, and Quartus, a brother" (Rom 16: 23).

Saint Sosipater, a native of Achaia, was Bishop of Iconium, where he also died. Saint Paul mentions him in Romans 16:21.

Saint Olympas was mentioned by the holy Apostle Paul (Rom 16:15). He was also a companion of the Apostle Peter. Saint Rodion (Herodion), was a kinsman of the Apostle Paul (Romans 16:11), and left the bishop's throne at Patras to go to Rome with the Apostle Peter. Saints Rodion and Olympas were beheaded on the very day and hour when Saint Peter was crucified.

Saint Quartus endured much suffering for his piety and converted many pagans to Christ, dying peacefully as a bishop in the city of Beirut.

Saint Tertius is mentioned in the Epistle to the Romans, "I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord" (Rom 16:22). Saint Tertius, to whom Saint Paul dictated the Epistle to the Romans, was the second Bishop of Iconium, where also he died.

Galatians 1:11-19 (Epistle)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.



*Food Drive to benefit Second Harvest
Will continue through Sunday. Please be generous!*

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Some Gentle Reminders

Bulletin: Would you like to put something in the bulletin? Deadline is to submit by Wednesday morning at the latest. Sometimes bulletin is done before Wednesday.

Nativity: Prepare your heart for The Nativity of Christ by coming to Confessions during the Fast.

Parishioner: What makes everyone members of the parish? Sacraments First. Tithing and gifts are necessary, but are secondary.

2025 Pledge: Please return the below 2025 pledge form to Father Andrew or the Church Office so we can properly prepare the 2025 Budget.. Deadline: December 1.

Home Blessing: Please consider having your homes blessed in January. Contact Father Andrew to set up a time. Home blessings will take place from January 6th through February 1st. (Bring Christ into your home for a good & real relationship with Him.).

Christmas Flowers: Would you like to help defray the cost of Christmas flowers? Cost: \$15/flower. It is a lovely way to remember or honor your loved ones during the Christmas Day Liturgy. Please give your intentions to either Father Andrew or Church Office.



Give As You Have Been Blessed

"You shall truly tithe all the increase... year by year. And you shall eat before the Lord your God... the tithe of your grain and your new wine... that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" (Deuteronomy 14:22-23)

2025 Household Estimate of Giving

\$ _____ - weekly – biweekly – monthly - (circle one)

\$ _____ Total Annually

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Please remember: if unforeseen hardships change your ability to give, you will not be held accountable to your original estimate. Simply speak with Fr. Andrew and different arrangements will be made. Conversely, if the Lord blesses you more than you had originally foreseen, feel free to give more than your estimate.

Return by December 1, 2024

May our Lord God bless you as you follow His commands!