



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 17

9:35 AM: Hours

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

Wednesday, November 20

6:00 PM: Great Vespers w/ Litia

Thursday, November 21

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, November 23

6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, November 24

9:30 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social



Gentle Reminder

To properly prepare for the Nativity of our Lord, we should come to the Sacrament of Confession. Please come early and not wait until the last minute.

Please do not approach the Chalice on Christmas Day and beyond until we are properly prepared to receive our Lord at the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

ATTENTION ALL CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS & CHOIR

The Parish Council would like every club, parish organization and choir to have a written report plus tentative yearly calendar prepared by the end of the year. Please be prepared to present it at the Annual Meeting in February.

The Parish Council is trying to organize the parish activities throughout the year, understanding the dates are tentative and can change. Included would be accomplishments of the year and projected objectives for next year.

Luke 12:16-21 (Gospel)

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Galatians 2:16-20 (Epistle)

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

November 17- AP Vladimir Demshuk

December 1- Monk Nicodemus

December 15- AB Peter from Chicago

CHRISTMAS CARD

Would you like your name included in this year's Christmas card? If so, please give \$20 to Cindy by the end of November.

Office: 330-755-4931 / Cell: 570-212-8747

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

padrebartek@gmail.com

PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS— UPDATED 11-12-24

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

Strengthening Clergy Brotherhood Through In-Person Retreats: The Value of Gathering Bishops and Parish Priests

This past year, nearly 120 bishops and priests from across the Orthodox Church in America came together for a 3-day OCA Clergy Retreat at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake Conference Center in Mundelein, IL. Organized by the Office of Pastoral Life, this gathering offered a much-needed opportunity for in-person fellowship, prayer, and education. The event emphasized the importance of face-to-face interaction, where shared worship and conversation could nurture both the spiritual and communal relationships between clergy members.

These retreats are vital to strengthening the priestly brotherhood in the OCA, fostering relationships built on trust, shared experiences, and mutual support.

Parish ministry can be a deeply rewarding yet isolating vocation, with priests often serving in communities geographically distant from other Orthodox parishes. . Bringing bishops and parish priests together in the same space allows for a communion beyond formal meetings, creating lasting connections that help sustain them in their ministry.

In his reflections during the retreat, His Beatitude

Metropolitan Tikhon spoke poignantly about the strength of these clergy relationships. “We gather as this bench of brothers and concelebrants,” he said, “sharing wisdom with one another, consoling or commiserating with one another, bearing one another’s burdens and thus fulfilling the law of Christ — the law of love.” His words captured the heart of what the retreat offered: a time to share in the common joys and challenges of the priesthood, knowing that in coming together, the clergy are united in their service to Christ and the Church.

The retreat also provided important educational opportunities. Very Rev. Archimandrite Dr. Maximos Conostas led sessions on the Prayer of the Heart, offering participants both theological insight and practical instruction. These teachings, along with the rich liturgical services shared at the retreat, gave clergy a chance to reconnect with the foundational spiritual practices that nourish their ministries.

Beyond the formal sessions, time for conversation and fellowship was abundant. Clergy took walks on the scenic grounds, shared meals, and spent time in personal discussions, all of which deepened their sense of connection. These informal moments are as important as the structured ones, reinforcing the bonds that sustain them in their daily ministry. *Con’t pg 4*

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	\$8,928.54
Income	<u>\$5,448.89</u>
TOTAL	-\$3,479.65
Weekly Tithe	\$4,941
Weekly Candles	\$200
Altar Candles	\$50
Reimbursement of Church Credit Card	\$160
Protection Candles	\$30
Christmas Card	\$60
PNC Reimbursement	\$8
Monthly Charity Collection: (Hurricane Relief)	\$332

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.

DECEMBER 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 our godparents George & Ruth Libertin and grandparents Andrew & Mary Libertin- Given by Charissa Oliphant & Mark Libertin

Altar Candles: In memory of my mother Margaret Boldish- given by Nancy Tusinac / In memory of parents Nicholas & Mary K. Libertin & brother Dr. Nick Libertin- Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant, Mark & Colette Libertin

Tetrapod Candles: OPEN

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: OPEN

Protection Icon Candles: OPEN

St. John the Baptist Candles: OPEN

Flowers: OPEN

\$50 per month

*Wine

*Bulletin

*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light

*Altar Candles

*Tetrapod Candles

\$30 per month

*St. Herman candles

*St. Panteleimon Icon candles

*Protection Icon candles

*St. John the Baptist candles

\$25 per month

Incense

Flowers - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time— *Updated*

In Memoriam: Archbishop Peter of Chicago and Mid-America

His Eminence Archbishop Peter of Chicago and Mid-America of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia reposed in the Lord today, November 8, 2024.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest expresses his condolences to His Eminence Metropolitan Nikolai, First Hierarch of the Church Abroad, Archpriest Gregory Joyce, Secretary of the Mid-American Diocese, and the all of the clergy, monastics, and faithful of Mid-American Diocese.

In a memo to diocesan clergy, the Archbishop reflected on the good relationship that the Diocese of the Midwest shared with the reposed hierarch, “Vladyka Peter has been a constant friend and supporter to me, to my predecessors and to our diocesan clergy. I ask that he be remembered in your prayers, both privately and liturgically.”

A memorial service was held at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, shortly after the news was received.

May the Lord grant His servant, the newly-reposed Archbishop Peter, rest with the saints in the Kingdom of Heaven and memory eternal! Funeral services will be announced once they are available.

Clergy brotherhood con't from pg 2

The gathering at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago for the Divine Liturgy was a high point of the retreat. Bishops and priests stood shoulder to shoulder, concelebrating the Liturgy and offering prayers for the clergy who had passed on before them. This sacred moment was a powerful reminder of the timeless nature of the priestly calling and the need for ongoing mutual support.

As Fr. Nicholas Solak, Director of the Office of Pastoral Life, noted, “This retreat was a wonderful opportunity for our clergy to strengthen our priestly brotherhood. The fellowship, the talks, and the time worshipping together are all very important to our priestly work.” His words highlight the lasting impact these retreats have on those who attend, giving them the tools and relationships they need to continue serving their parishes with renewed vigor and commitment.

Supporting these in-person retreats and other programs of the Office of Pastoral Life is essential to the ongoing spiritual health of the OCA’s clergy. To ensure that our bishops and parish priests continue to have these opportunities for growth, fellowship, and learning, we invite you to become a Steward of the OCA today. Your support helps sustain the ministry of those who serve our communities and strengthen the bonds that unite us in Christ.

NOVEMBER Reposed List

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

Work Continues at St. Theodosius Cathedral after Fire Earlier this Year

St. Theodosius Cathedral, Cleveland, OH has seen a lot of work and progress since suffering damage from a tragic fire back in May of this year. Archpriest Jan Cizmar, Cathedral Dean, and the Cathedral Faithful have been working tirelessly as a community to preserve and restore their historic cathedral.

Just two days after the fire was discovered, the main dome began to tilt towards the west, dropping six inches in one day. The west and south sides of the square box beneath the dome were heavily damaged by the fire. It was impossible to level and repair the dome's square base in place because the dome was approximately 90,000 pounds and 60 feet tall from top to bottom (the main church building is only 36 feet tall). As a result, the difficult decision was made to dismantle the dome. The city ordered the evacuation of the surrounding buildings because the dome was in immediate danger of collapsing. This was a long and tedious process, and engineers had to prepare structural plans for carefully dismantling the box, as it was part of the roof structure. The church has been cleaned of debris, and a massive shoring wall was built to support the roof and the middle-sized domes.

The construction team constructed a temporary roof on top of the shoring due to the compromised original roof structure that could not support additional loads. Concurrently, the roof and gutters were cleaned of debris, and some minor repairs were completed. The ceiling on the west (man) side was demoed due to charred light wood members that require replacement. It is assumed that the entire ceiling, plaster, and frescoes cannot be salvaged and must be demolished due to water damage.

The west slate roof was completely burned and will need to be rebuilt. After gaining access to the south and north gable (roof), the team was able to inspect the interior. The north side appears to be in better condition than the south, which is heavily charred. Most likely, the majority of the south roof will have to be removed and replaced. The north gable will also need some work, specifically the ridge beam, 8 to 12 joists, and new sheeting in some **Con't pg 8**

The Nativity Fast as a Journey of Preparation

Embarking on the Nativity Fast, I view this period not just as a time of abstinence but as a journey of preparation. It's a unique opportunity for personal growth — both spiritual and physical. The preparation isn't merely about refraining from certain foods; it's about preparing my heart and mind for the coming of Christ. It's a holistic process that impacts every facet of my life.

Spiritual Cleansing and Renewal

During the fast, I focus on cleansing my spiritual palate. I spend more time in prayer and meditation, aiming to draw nearer to the divine. I read scripture more regularly, absorbing the messages and teachings that help me on my path. I'm also more vigilant about my thoughts and actions, ensuring they align with the virtues I seek to cultivate.

Acts of Charity and Love

Love and charity are at the core of the Nativity Fast. I'm prompted to extend my efforts beyond my personal sphere, reaching out to others in need. By doing so, I practice the Christian mandate to love thy neighbor. I find this especially fitting during the Advent season as it reflects the unconditional love of the Nativity.

Assisting at food banks

Donating to charities

Volunteering my time and skills

These acts of kindness and generosity enrich both the recipient and me, creating ripples of positive impact within the community.

Reflection and Connection

The Nativity Fast encourages me to reflect on my year, acknowledge my growth, and identify areas for improvement. This period also fosters a deeper connection to Orthodox Christian traditions and the global community observing the fast alongside me.

As the days progress, I sense a shift within myself — a slow transformation towards a more contemplative state of being. The anticipation of celebrating Christ's birth grows, but it's the journey, not the destination, that truly refines my spirit. With each day, I discover a little more about the patience, resilience, and discipline required to faithfully walk this path.

Embracing the Nativity Fast has been a transformative experience that goes far beyond the surface of dietary changes. It's a profound journey that prepares me for the joyous celebration of Christ's birth, allowing for a deeper connection with my faith. Through acts of charity and a focus on spiritual renewal, I've found this period to be a time of significant personal growth. It's a reminder that the true essence of the season lies in the virtues we cultivate and the love we share. As I

continue to reflect and participate in this time-honored tradition, I'm reminded of the powerful impact it has on my life and the lives of those around me.

The Purpose of the Nativity Fast

When exploring the reasons behind the observation of the Nativity Fast, it's essential to recognize that its purpose extends far beyond a mere formality. It's a profound spiritual journey that prepares the faithful for the incarnation of Jesus Christ. This preparation isn't just physical; it's also about making room in one's heart and mind for the divine.

At its core, the Nativity Fast is about spiritual cleansing. By abstaining from certain foods and indulgences, I'm reminded of the virtues of self-discipline and moderation. This not only helps me maintain a healthy lifestyle but also fosters a spirit of sacrifice. The abstinence of physical pleasures serves as a reminder of the larger sacrifices made by Christ.

During this period, prayer and meditation occupy a central place in my daily routine. Through increased prayer, I connect with God on a deeper level, gaining clarity and insight into my personal life and the greater mysteries of faith. It's a period where I strengthen my commitment to God and reinforce the values He embodies, such as love, mercy, and humility.

Giving to others is another pillar of the Nativity Fast, emphasizing the importance of charity and generosity. It's a time when I'm called to reflect upon the needs of others and act to alleviate their suffering. Whether it's through donating to charity or volunteering, the Fast encourages a profound sense of community and solidarity with those in need.

The Nativity Fast also serves as a reminder of the historical continuity of the Christian faith. By engaging in this age-old practice, I feel linked to a long lineage of believers who've prepared in similar ways over the centuries, thus preserving the rich traditions of the church.

In practicing the asceticism and contemplation encouraged by the Nativity Fast, I experience a period of intense personal growth and renewal. This preparation helps to realign my focus towards the spiritual aspects of the season, setting the stage to celebrate Christ's birth with genuine joy and thankfulness.

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	8
Divine Liturgy	67 / 41	45 / 35
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

Spiritual Benefits of the Nativity Fast

During the Nativity Fast, I've found that the spiritual cleansing it offers is unparalleled. This time allows me to shed my habits of overindulgence and turn my attention inward. I refocus on the virtues of temperance and moderation, which are not only beneficial during the fast but are also important life skills.

The practice leads to enhanced self-discipline, bolstering my willpower and helping me resist everyday temptations. It's not just about avoiding certain foods; it's a comprehensive exercise in self-control that impacts all areas of life. By adhering to the fasting guidelines, I sharpen my decision-making skills and cultivate a sense of resilience.

Meditation and prayer also play significant roles. These moments of quiet reflection offer me a chance to connect more deeply with my faith. I'm reminded of the purpose beyond the physical aspects of fasting — the spiritual journey is about preparing my heart for the coming of Christ. The time I set aside for prayer allows me to enter a state of mindfulness, casting away distractions and focusing on the divine.

Engaging in acts of charity and generosity is encouraged during the fast, emphasizing the importance of compassion and kindness. These acts go beyond mere good deeds; they're a tangible expression of the love and generosity the season embodies. They serve as a reminder to care for others just as Christ did.

Moreover, this period of fasting strengthens my sense of community within the church. The collective experience of observing the Nativity Fast binds us together, building camaraderie and reinforcing the shared values we hold dear. Sharing this journey with others enhances the spiritual growth I experience, as we support one another in pursuit of our faith goals.

Through the Nativity Fast, I've also learned to appreciate the historical continuity of the Christian faith. Recognizing that generations before me have embarked on this same spiritual endeavor deepens my connection to the teachings of the Orthodox Church. It's a humbling reminder of the enduring traditions and the timeless wisdom they impart.

Missing Pledge Forms!

There are many pledge forms missing!

As of November 12, only 5 have been returned. Yours is missing!

Please find your and submit it by December 1.

Thank You!



Practices and Guidelines for Observing the Nativity Fast

When I embark on the Nativity Fast, I follow a set of practices and guidelines that help enhance my spiritual journey. The duration of the fast typically spans from November 15th to December 24th, and it's a time I find crucial for my spiritual renewal.

Dietary Restrictions are a cornerstone of the fast. During this period, I abstain from:

- Meat and dairy products
- Fish and poultry
- Olive oil and wine on specific days

This dietary discipline aids in exercising self-control and reminds me to nourish my soul with the Word of God instead of indulging in earthly pleasures.

In addition to the dietary aspect, the fast is about increasing my focus on spiritual activities. I dedicate more time to Prayer and Meditation, seeking deeper communion with God. Attending church services becomes more frequent during this period, and I make a conscious effort to participate in the sacraments, especially confession and communion.

Reading scripture is another key practice. I particularly concentrate on passages that prepare my heart for the coming of Christ. This includes studying the prophecies of His birth and reflecting on the theophanies in the Old Testament.

Acts of Charity also take on greater significance. By giving to those in need, I embody the spirit of the season, which is about sharing love and compassion. This could mean volunteering at local shelters, donating to charities, or simply helping a neighbor in need.

It's essential to remember that the Nativity Fast isn't just about abstinence; it's also a period for Positive Action. I strive to practice kindness, humility, and patience more conscientiously, treating others with the gentle spirit of the season.

I find that keeping a fast with both body and spirit challenges me to grow in virtue and draw closer to the essence of what Christmas represents: peace, joy, and the transformative love of God.

Christmas Flowers

Your loved one's name (living and/or deceased) will be remembered at the Christmas Liturgy. Cost: \$15 per flower. Please give names to the Church Office or Father Andrew directly.

Fredericks, Sherrie (1 Flower)

- ♦ In memory of my dad Robert Fredericks

Fredericks, Mary (1 Flower)

- ♦ In memory of my parents Naume & Mary Evanoff

Bartek, V.R. Andrew (10 Flowers)

- ♦ In memory of my Ordaining Hierarch His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, AB Paul, His Grace Bishops John & Matthias
- ♦ In memory of My parents George & Dorothy & all my family & friends
- ♦ In memory of the diptychs of the parish including John Shirilla killed in action & all the priests who served this parish (Priest: Theodore Kulchitsky, Daniel Kreshko, Joseph Dvonchik, Isadore Salko, Peter Honchok, Michael Ugrin, Nicholas Yuschak & Archpriests: Michael Kostyk, Nicholas Vansuch, John Psinka
- ♦ All the military who lost their lives defending the freedoms of this country will still observe
- ♦ For the Health of all our parishioners & their families especially the former Priests who served here, Archpriest John Steffaro, Archpriest Andrew Nelko; for the parish council; all the organizations of this parish; and all those on our prayer list
- ♦ For the Health of the Campbell City Hall, all the residents & businesses of this City, including the Fire Department: Stephen, David, Evan, Greg, Robert, Steve, Bryan, Nick
- ♦ For the health of all my friends & family especially my 5 God-children
- ♦ For the health of all the active military especially those in harm's way and away from their families
- ♦ For the health of all who are homeless, depressed, lonely and all those in need of God's mercy

St. Theodosius Con't from pg 5

areas. The team did not know if the south and north roofs could withstand a snow load, so they were shored. This means that only one of the four roof sections is structurally sound and will not need to be replaced or repaired.

The team's findings suggest that the two medium-sized domes (Evangelist domes) on the south side will need to be demolished and rebuilt. It may be more cost-effective to rebuild them rather than repair them in place. This is still being evaluated.

A team of fine art experts and members will conduct a moisture survey to determine how much water remains behind the plaster and how it can be dried and cleaned of soot. All of this work was part of an emergency plan to protect, waterproof, and stabilize the cathedral's structure. Engineers have finalized the structural designs and are **Con't Pg 10**

Office: 330-755-4931 / Cell: 570-212-8747

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

padrebartek@gmail.com

Sponsored by the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



ST. NICHOLAS WISH LIST PROGRAM

For over 24 years the FOCA has gathered wish lists from married students at St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminaries (gift card donations are sent to St. Herman's of Alaska). These lists are filled by parishes, chapters, or individuals from around the country. In those 24 years, we have fulfilled the wishes of over 1,000 seminarian families and have donated over \$120,000 to the married seminarians families at St. Herman's seminary.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Parish/Chapter

- Hold a fundraiser to purchase items on the list
- Make a paper tree and place ornaments of the wanted items for parishioners to take, they purchase and return items by a given date
- Hold a gift card collection - ask for donations from the list below

OBTAIN A LIST by emailing michaelsteffaro@comcast.net

Monetary donations should be made payable to the FOCA
Gift card donations should be sent to Allison Steffaro ASAP

Send either to Allison Steffaro, 38 Beryl St. South River, NJ 08882

All wish list items **MUST BE
DELIVERED TO THE SEMINARY BY
DECEMBER 3rd**

****If you live in the New Jersey area you
can drop them off at the Steffaro home
by December 4th****

Gift Cards Needed:

- Amazon
- Target
- Walmart
- Khols
- Barnes and Noble



Food Drive to benefit Second Harvest

Will continue through Sunday after Thanksgiving. Please be generous! Please see Dc. James for more Information

St Theodosius Con't from pg 8

now moving on to another phase, the construction design. The next step will be to replace or reinforce the fire-damaged main roof structure, followed by the rebuilding and repair of slate roofs, the main box, and the domes.

Simultaneously, various companies are working to restore heavily damaged chandeliers made from original Bohemian glass and repair the stained-glass windows.

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.).



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!