



# The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



**DECEMBER Bulletin Sponsor**

**In memory of Kenneth Ruff- Given by Carol Ruff**

## Liturgical & Events Schedule TWO WEEK EDITION

**Sunday, November 24**

9:30 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social

**Sunday, December 1**

9:35 AM: Hours

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

**Thursday, December 5**

6:00 pm Vespers for Feast of St. Nicholas

**Friday, December 6**

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 8**

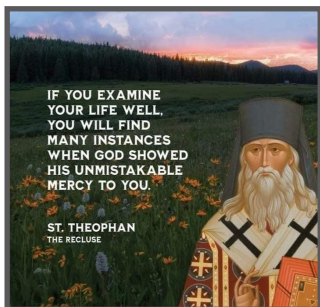
9:30 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida / Visit by St. Nicholas / Social / Council Meeting

## 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.



## ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE ON DIOCESAN DEPARTMENTS PLAN & GOALS

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest,

The Lord bless you!

After Our Lord's Resurrection, He commanded the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, promising to be with them until the end of the age (St Matthew 28:18-20). This Great Commission has been passed down through the ages as generations of Orthodox Christians bore witness to the Gospel message of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Today, it is our common responsibility within the territory of the Diocese of the Midwest to fulfill Our Lord's command. Since becoming your Archpastor, I have listened and observed during parish visits, taking account of what you need to be the Church and make disciples, while seeing many wonderful examples of how the Holy Spirit is at work in our parish communities.

I have met seniors, youth, families, and individuals in parishes small and large, all filled with the desire to grow closer to Our Lord. I have encountered both lifelong and newly-Chrismated Orthodox, all being cared for by our clergy. I am grateful that all of you daily accept the call to take up your Cross and follow Christ, and especially I give thanks to Almighty God for the desire of so many to be faithful Orthodox Christians in today's uncertain world.

For this reason, our Diocese has invested considerable time and resources over the past year to prepare the organizational plan which was adopted during the 63rd Annual Diocesan Assembly this past October. The vision and goal of this plan is to build upon the work of those who have gone before us, while leveraging the talents, skills, knowledge, and experiences of today's diocesan membership to grow the Faith in our vast diocesan territory. We can now leverage technology for new resources and to collaborate virtually, effectively reaching across the breadth of our Diocese to provide the spiritual resources and programs necessary to fulfill the Great Commission in every parish and monastic community.

Our organizational plan is grounded **Con't next Pg**

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

[padrebartek@gmail.com](mailto:padrebartek@gmail.com)

## PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

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### *AB Daniel message con't from pg 1*

in Scripture and begins with our newly adopted diocesan mission statement:

Uniting the faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest to discover a Christ-centered life, welcoming all to worship and live in the Orthodox Christian Faith.

This mission statement defines the focus of our new diocesan organizational plan, including the establishment of new departments for Evangelization, Christian Education, Christian Service & Humanitarian Aid, Liturgical Practice, Communications, and Clergy & Clergy Family Life.

This mission statement is also a call for each of us to recommit to our role of being bearers of Christ in our daily lives. By living in this way, we all fulfill the Great Commission, showing those around us the joy and radiance of following Jesus Christ in the fullness of the Orthodox Faith.

As you prepare for the beginning of the Nativity Fast, I encourage you to find renewed focus in anticipation of the coming of Our Lord, and to gather in your parish communities for discussion and reflection that will identify:

how your parish is successful in living out the Great Commission; and

where there are opportunities to do more, or simply begin anew.

By organizing such informal gatherings during this season, we can turn from the hustle and bustle of our consumer-driven society and focus again on the majesty and innocence of the Incarnation of Our Savior. We can also give serious consideration to how our parishes can be places where members and seekers can encounter the divine.

When you gather to complete this self-assessment for your parish, I encourage you to identify things that are working well, opportunities for improvement, and ideas for growing closer to Jesus Christ. Use the self-assessment to identify what your parish has set forth as goals, projects, activities, and service ministries. Please complete this form by Monday, Dec. 16, and submit it online.

Our Diocesan Chancellor, Archpriest Herman Kincaid, will gather your insights and ideas, sharing them with the directors of our new departments. Beginning in January 2025, these departmental directors will commence working with their teams to connect parishes with individuals who are able to develop the resources needed in our communities. **Con't Pg 7**

## 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 (Gemmell) / 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.

### A Huge Thank You

A huge thank you for our parish family and their generosity for the Wilson family gifts for St. Nicholas Day! An addition to fulfilling all of the gifts on the wish list, we are also able to give the family \$200 in Amazon gift cards and an additional \$750. Thank you all for your generosity and example of Christian love!  
*Beth Willison*

### New Date Announced for Archbishop Daniel's Birthday Celebration

The Diocese of the Midwest has announced a new date for the celebration of the birthday of its Diocesan Hierarch, Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest. The celebration will now take place on Thursday, December 19.

The observance of this day will be held at St. Nicholas of Myra Church, McHenry, IL, one of the newest parishes of the diocese. Mitered Archpriest Vladimir Kovalchuk, Rector of the parish, organized the event to honor the Archbishop. "We requested to host this event many months ago to honor our archpastor. He has taken great care of our community he received us into his diocese. We also wanted to host this event to welcome and host the other local parishes that have not had a chance to visit us and see our work here."

The celebration will be held on Thursday, December 19, the patronal feast of the temple. The day will begin with the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. and then a banquet will be held in the parish hall after the services. Services were postpone due to the repose of His Eminence Archbishop Peter (Loukianoff).

### 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	\$12,345.86
Income	<u>\$13,705.89</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+1,360.03</b>
Weekly Tithe	\$7,224
Weekly Candles	\$364
Bulletin	\$50
Barbeque / Chicken Dinner	\$5,000
Christmas Flowers	\$20
Altar Candles	\$50
Reimbursement of Church Credit Card	\$160
Protection Candles	\$30
Christmas Card	\$200
Unneeded Gifts	\$500
Missions	\$50
Reimbursement Dinner of AB Visit	\$50
PNC Reimbursement	\$8
Monthly Charity Collection: (St. Vladimir's Seminary)	<b>\$441</b>

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## DECEMBER Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

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**Bulletin:** In memory of Kenneth Ruff– Given by Carol Riff

**Wine:** In memory of my parents George & Mary Rusnak– Given by sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak

**Incense:** In memory of my parents George & Mary Rusnak– Given by sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak

**Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:** In loving memory of parents Nicholas & Mary K. Libertin, Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant

**Altar Candles:** In memory of my mother Margaret Boldish- given by Nancy Tusinac / In loving memory of brother Dr. Nick Libertin, Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant

**Candles:** In memory of my brother Danny Yannitto– Given by Melanie Yannitto

**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**

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### \$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*

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## MESSAGE FROM VICE-CHANCELLOR

It is hoped that this message, along with other materials on the Diocesan Departments initiative, will reach as many of the faithful as possible. Please note the following points in particular:

(1) Parish self-assessment

Parishes are asked to engage in conversation and reflection during this Nativity Fast regarding the strengths and opportunities of parish life, and fill the online assessment accordingly.

(2) Updated parish leadership/ministry contact information, to be updated on the reporting website or forwarded to the Chancery.

(3) Department heads & contact information to be available soon via diocesan website.

In the meantime, please note that capable people, both clergy and lay, are being actively sought for initiatives in all six areas: (a) Evangelization, (b) Christian Education, (c) Christian Service & Humanitarian Aid, (d) Liturgical Practice, (e) Communications, and (f) Clergy & Clergy Family Life. Please encourage those within your reach to engage, according to their own strengths and abilities!

Please address any questions regarding the departmental initiative or the organizational plan as a whole to Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Diocesan

Chancellor: chancellor@domoca.org. Questions on specific areas will be directed to department heads as they are identified.

Wishing to one and all a blessed beginning of the Nativity Fast, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Priest Esteban Vázquez

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## PAN-ORTHODOX HOLY UNCTION SERVICE

WHEN: December 18, 2024

TIME: 5:30pm

WHERE: St. Mark Orthodox Church  
3560 Logan Way, Youngstown, OH

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## Archbishop Daniel Participates in Funeral Services for Archbishop Peter

On Saturday, November 16, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest participated in funeral services for the newly departed Archbishop Peter (Loukianoff) of Chicago and Mid America for the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

His Eminence was joined by delegation of clergy of the Diocese of the Midwest.

## DECEMBER Reposed List

- Dan Ivanovich (1929) ©  
1- Sam Zilens Sr (1978) ©  
1- Mary Livoniak (1952) ©  
2- John Gozur (1972) ©  
2- Marian Dunchak (1999) ©  
2- Priscilla Sirilla (2003) ©  
3- John Korchniak (1919) ©  
3- Irene Black (2003) ©  
4- Kathleen Garman (2010) ©  
4- Anakreon John (1923) ©  
5- Mary Bobosh (1975) ©  
5- Michael Evans (1977) ©  
6- Sophie Sasnowchik (1975) ©  
6- Ann Dahulich (2017)  
6- Mary Krajnak (1945) ©  
8- Anna Hastol (1982) ©  
8- Bill Soltis (2014)  
8- George Kotie (1940) ©  
8- Mary Pretko (1947) ©  
8- Anna Papoch (1963) ©  
9- Mary Niznih (1990) ©  
9- Emanuel Ginnis (1954) ©  
9- Joseph Andrasko (1960) ©  
9- Judith Banas (2018) ©  
10- Michael Basala (1991)  
10- Suzanne Marinelli (1999) ©  
12- Pauline Truhan Livosky (2017) ©  
13- Andrew Libertin (1931) ©  
14- Michael Hastal (1984) ©  
14- Susan Marie Sveda (2004) ©  
15- Theodore Fesz (2020) ©  
15- Joseph Graban (2003) ©  
15- Still born Cmur (1924) ©  
15- Catherine Papantonakis (1951) ©  
15- Eugenia Pontikos (1953) ©  
16- Ann Cvercko (1996) ©
- 16- Svetlana Gozur Evanoff (2014) ©  
18- Archbishop Job (2009)  
18- V. Rev. Michael Macura  
19- Edward Malchisky (2001)  
19- Catherine Bondar (2010) ©  
19- Margaret Boldish (2016) ©  
20- George Fischu, Sr (1983) ©  
20- Anna Livosky (1946) ©  
20- Loukas Arfaras (1951) ©  
21- John Kotchmar (2022) ©  
22- Susan La Valle (2019)  
22- Peter Alesaudridis (1946) ©  
22- George Roman (1953) ©  
23- Fr. David Sedor (2008)  
23- Anna Volchko (1989) ©  
23- Mary Vansuch (2008) ©  
23- George Matzye (1950) ©  
24- John Feltovich (1981) ©  
25- Stephen Vansuch (2002) ©  
26- Fr. Robert Sally (2002)  
26- Julia Malchisky (1971)  
26- John Joseph Marinelli (1996) ©  
27- Eileen Elash (2009) ©  
27- Adam Nedastup (1920) ©  
28- Fr. John Kuchta (2019)  
28- Julia Zora (2001) ©  
29- Andrew Midlik (1943) ©  
29- John Vansuch (1995) ©  
30- Bishop Boris (2000)  
30- Ed Pehanich, Sr (2019)  
30- Kosta Alesandridis (1928) ©  
30- Christina Chulik (1943) ©  
31- Robert LaVallee (2007)  
31- Hermenegildo Guerrero (2018)  
31- Mary Shirilla (1952) ©  
31- John Niciforos (1964) ©

### Missing Pledge Forms!

There are many pledge forms missing!

As of November 18, only 10 have been returned. Yours is missing!

Please find your and submit it by December 1.

Thank You!



*Food Drive to benefit Second Harvest  
Will continue through Sunday after Thanksgiving. Please be generous!  
Please see Dr. James for more Information*

### Some Gentle Reminders

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

**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.).

## December Celebrations

### *Birthdays*

- 1 Ileana Bruner / Thomas McDonald
- 3 Melanie Yannitto
- 4 Stephen Calzone / Hannah Willison
- 5 Ted Fesz / Mat. Laryissa Bremer
- 6 Paul Demkosky Sr
- 8 Nicholas Basile / John Koval
- 9 Alexis Jesko / Pauline Meath / Angie Dardovsky / John Koval
- 10 Karen Phillips
- 12 Nicholas Shirilla
- 13 Helen Colaluca
- 16 George Clark
- 17 Ann Cvercko
- 27 Claudia Moore
- 30 Jeff Stokely / Christina Adzima
- 31 Ken Krause

### *Anniversary*

- 2-2023 His Grace Bishop Benedict Bishop of Hartford & New England
- 5-2004 AB Mark of Philadelphia & Eastern, PA
- 19-197 Retired Bishop Seraphim of Sendai
- 26 Anthony & Shelia Jesko, Jr.
- 31 Jimmy & Christine Billy

### *Names Day*

- 4 Barbara Kolesar / Alex Vansuch
- 6 Nicholas Basile / Dr. Niicla Nicoloff / Reader Nick Vansuch / Mildred Wilfong
- 9 Ann Cvercko / Kelly Ann Ferrick / Annie Jesko / Sue Kennedy / Linda Livosky / Carol Ruff / Lynn Krause / Audrey Chengelis
- 15 Debbie Zelinsky
- 22 Nancy Tusinac
- 27 Stephen Simko
- 29 David Dionisio / Dc. David Gemmel / David Konik
- 31 Melanie Rusnak / Melanie Yannitto



## 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.

## 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

December 1- Monk Nicodemus  
December 15- AB Peter from Chicago

## 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

## NOVEMBER CHARITY

St. Vladimir's Seminary

## DECEMBER CHARITY

Zoe House in Cleveland for un-wed women

## 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 27<sup>th</sup>

Call: 330-727-7323

## 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.

## 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.

<b>ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - NOVEMBER</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>1st Week</b>		
Vespers	8	5
Divine Liturgy	64 / 34	56 / 37
<b>2nd Week</b>		
Vespers	7	8
Divine Liturgy	67 / 41	45 / 35
<b>3rd Week</b>		
Vespers	8	4
Divine Liturgy	50 / 31	60 / 49
Vespers for Mary	8	
D.L. for Mary	No record	
<b>4th Week</b>		
Vespers	5	
Divine Liturgy	52 / 31	
<b>5th week</b>		

**Congratulations from Metropolitan Meletiy of Chernivtsi and Bukovina, to Archbishop Daniel on the Occasion of his Birthday**

Your Eminence, dear Vladyko!

I warmly congratulate you on this remarkable occasion—your 70th birthday! Your life testifies to the fact that a soul that sincerely believes will always find paths leading to the light of the holy Orthodox faith. You have traveled a long journey to the Orthodox Church and to the high archpastoral service, fortifying Yourself with the works of the Holy Fathers, whose wisdom and spiritual experience remain relevant through the centuries, inspiring Christians toward strong faith, the pursuit of perfection, and the search for inner peace.

“You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You”: so writes the illustrious Western holy hierarch, blessed Aurelius Augustine. This divine rest, as a Bishop of the Church of Christ, You daily proclaim to those near and far, preaching the Risen Savior and praying to Him for the devout flock entrusted to Your pastoral care. Now, dear Vladyko, as the light on a stand (cf. Matt. 5:14-16), you shine with a steady light, guiding the faithful on the Gospel path toward salvation.

I prayerfully wish that the grace and love of our Shepherd, Jesus Christ, may always be with Your Eminence, strengthening You in Your responsible apostolic ministry for the glory of our Heavenly Father, for the benefit of

***AB Daniel message con't from pg 2***

In the coming weeks, our diocesan website will be updated to feature information about each department, the newly appointed directors, and how to contact them. They will rely on the information you share—both the successes and the opportunities—to begin assembling teams drawn from parishes across the Diocese to work collaboratively and wisely to build up the Body of Christ together by the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12).

The clergy in each parish should also ensure that the contact information for your ministry leaders is up to date and on file with the Diocese, so that our departments can effectively communicate with parish leaders responsible for music, church school, mission and outreach, and charitable programs in your parishes. Please update this information through the reporting website, or forward to the Diocesan Chancery.

As Orthodox Christians of the Diocese of the Midwest, we are called to follow the example of the Apostles who gathered in council together (Acts 15:28-29), like them identifying the work set before us, and then putting our faith into action by being witnesses in our local communities (Acts 14:21-22).

The fields are white for harvest in the Diocese of the Midwest, and I firmly believe that Our Lord is inviting us to accept the call to be His witnesses—from the Dakotas to the Great Lakes, and from the Plains to the Ohio River Valley.

I pray that you will be inspired and motivated by what I have shared here, and that working together to enliven the Orthodox Faith in our parishes and in our local communities, one day we may hear Our Lord say: “Well done, good and faithful servant” (St Matthew 25:21).

Invoking God’s blessings upon our efforts, I remain,  
**DANIEL**

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

the Holy Church, and for the God-loving flock of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest!

With brotherly love in Christ,

+MELETIY

Metropolitan of Chernivtsi and Bukovina,  
Head of the Department for External Church Relations of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church,  
Permanent Member of the Holy Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church

## Congratulations from His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufry to Archbishop Daniel on the Occasion of his Birthday

Your Eminence, dear Vladyko!

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on this significant occasion—your 70th birthday!

Following the holy will of Christ the Savior, the Great Struggler, and obeying to His gracious Providence, throughout your life, you have sought to present yourself as a worthy servant of God, “as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). From your youth, you have devoted yourself to serving God and the Holy Church, and now you remain faithful to the calling of your heart, becoming, by the action of the Holy Spirit, a bearer of Divine Grace, capable of kindling the fire of faith in Christ and brotherly love in the hearts of the faithful.

Honoring Your Eminence on this anniversary, I sincerely wish you, with the help of God, good health, spiritual strength, and blessings in your ministry, granted by our Savior. May the Lord abundantly bestow His mercy upon you and generously bless you and all the spiritual children under your protection.

With love in Christ,  
ONUFRIY,  
METROPOLITAN OF KIEV AND ALL UKRAINE,  
PRIMATE OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX  
CHURCH

“Western theologians who disagree with aspects of their church’s teaching or practice mostly remain dedicated to their particular church with a hope and expectation that they can influence it, change it, or reform it. By contrast, the true Orthodox theologian does not try to change, develop, or improve the Orthodox Church but seeks to conform his own mind to the mind of Christ and the Church, to achieve a deeper understanding of what has already been received.”

— Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou, *Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind*

## 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
- ◆ For the Health of the entire Diocese, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Chancery staff, all my former parishes & their parishioners and my home parish

## New Serbian Bishop Welcomed in Chicago

Several important events have taken place in the Diocese of the Midwest this week, including a welcome reception for the new Vicar Bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gračanica-Midwestern America.

Sunday, November 10 – His Eminence Archbishop Daniel commemorated the Venerable Olga of Alaska at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. In his homily, the Archbishop reflected on the gospel of the Good Samaritan and spoke about Matushka Olga's life, and her attribute of loving her neighbors. "She would even use her talents by knitting hats and gloves for everyone, showing love in the most practical of ways." His Eminence also updated the Cathedral faithful on the upcoming canonization events for Matushka Olga.

Tuesday, November 12 – Archbishop Daniel welcomed the newly consecrated Vicar to the Metropolitan of Midwestern America of the Serbian Orthodox Church, His Grace Bishop Seraphim of Kostajnica, to Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas; Archpriest Gregory Joyce, Secretary of the Mid-America Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia; Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, Diocesan Secretary; and Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, joined the gathering.

The Archbishop's guests venerated the Chicago Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, as well as the relics of St. John of Chicago. Following the veneration of the relics, Fr. Alexander served a memorial service for the newly-departed Archbishop Peter of Chicago and Mid-America. His Eminence presented Bishop Seraphim with a gift and hosted those gathered for lunch.

Wednesday, November 13 – On the commemoration of St. John Chrysostom, His Eminence served the Rite of Consecration of Antiminsia at the Diocesan Cathedral. The Archbishop consecrated 11 new antiminsia prior to the Divine Liturgy.

Thursday, November 14 – The chancery held a regular meeting under the chairmanship of Archbishop Daniel reviewing various aspects of diocesan life and upcoming events.

## Great Martyr Katherine of Alexandria Commemorated on November 24

The Holy Great Martyr Katherine was the daughter of Konstos, the governor of Alexandria, Egypt during the reign of Emperor Maximian (305-313). Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Katherine received an excellent education, studying the works of

the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. Young men from the most worthy families of the empire sought the hand of the beautiful Katherine, but she was not interested in any of them. She told her parents that she would enter into marriage only with someone who surpassed her in nobility, wealth, comeliness and wisdom.

Katherine's mother, a secret Christian, sent her to her own Spiritual Father, a saintly Elder living in a cave outside the city, for advice. After listening to Katherine, the Elder said that he knew of someone who surpassed her in everything. "His countenance is more radiant than the shining of the sun, and all of creation is governed by His wisdom. His riches are given to all the nations of the world, yet they never diminish. His compassion is unequalled."

This description of the Heavenly Bridegroom produced an ardent desire in the soul of the holy maiden to see Him. "If you do as I tell you," said the monk, "you will gaze upon the countenance of this illustrious man." In parting, the Elder gave Katherine an icon of the Theotokos with the Divine Child on Her arm and told her to pray with faith to the Queen of Heaven, the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom, and she would hear Katherine and grant her heart's desire.

Katherine prayed all night and was permitted to see the Most Holy Virgin, Who said to her Divine Son, "Behold Thy handmaiden Katherine, how fair and virtuous she is." But the Child turned His face away from her saying, "No, she is ugly and unbelieving. She is a foolish pauper, and I cannot bear to look at her until she forsakes her impiety."

Katherine returned again to the Elder deeply saddened, and told him what she had seen in the dream. He received her, instructed her in the faith of Christ, admonished her to preserve her purity and integrity and to pray unceasingly. She then received the Mystery of Holy Baptism from him. Again Saint Katherine had a vision of the Most Holy Theotokos with her Child. Now the Lord looked at her tenderly and gave her a beautiful ring, a wondrous token of her betrothal to the Heavenly Bridegroom (this ring is still on her hand).

At that time Emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival. Therefore, the celebration was especially splendid and crowded. The cries of the sacrificial animals, the smoke and the smell of the sacrifices, the endless blaze of fires, and the bustling crowds at the arenas defiled the city of Alexandria. Human victims also were brought, the confessors of Christ, who would not deny Him under torture. They were condemned to death in the fire. Katherine's love for the Christian martyrs, and her fervent desire to ease their sufferings, compelled her to speak to the pagan priest and to Emperor Maximian.

Introducing herself, the Saint confessed her faith in the One True God, and exposed the errors of the pagans. The beauty of the maiden captivated the Emperor. In order to convince her of the superiority of pagan wisdom, the Emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, *Con't Pg 11*

**Luke 13:10-17 (Gospel, Sunday Nov. 24)**

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

**Galatians 6:11-18 (Epistle, Sunday Nov. 24)**

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be



**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!*

## ***Katherine Con't from pg 9***

but the Saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. Saint Katherine made the Sign of the Cross over the martyrs, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burnt alive by order of the Emperor.



Unable to persuade the Saint, Maximian tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Hearing her angry refusal, the Emperor ordered his men to subject the Saint to terrible tortures, and then throw her in prison. The Empress Augusta, who had heard much about the Saint, wanted to see her. She prevailed upon the military commander Porphyrios to accompany her to the prison with a detachment of soldiers. The Empress was impressed by Katherine's strong spirit, and her face was radiant with divine grace. The holy martyr explained the Christian Faith to them, and they were converted to Christ.

On the following day, they again brought the martyr to the judgment court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, she was urged to renounce the Christian Faith and to offer sacrifice to the "gods." The Saint steadfastly confessed Christ and she was taken to be tortured on four wheels with sharp iron spikes, but an Angel smashed the instruments of execution, which shattered into pieces with many pagans standing nearby.

After seeing this miracle, the Empress Augusta and the imperial courtier Porphyrios and 200 soldiers confessed their faith in Christ before everyone, and they were beheaded. Maximian tried again to entice the holy martyr, offering to marry her, and again he was refused. Saint Katherine remained faithful to her heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and after praying to Him, she laid her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword.

The relics of Saint Katherine were taken by the Angels to Mount Sinai. In the VI century, the venerable head and left hand of the holy martyr were found through a revelation and transferred with honor to the newly-constructed church of the Monastery on Mount Sinai, built by the holy Emperor Justinian (November 14).

Saint Katherine is called upon for relief and assistance during a difficult childbirth. Pilgrims to her monastery on Mount Sinai are given souvenir rings as a remembrance of their visit.

## **Prophet Nahum Commemorated on December 1**

The Holy Prophet Nahum, whose name means "God consoles," was from the village of Elkosh (Galilee). He lived during the seventh century B.C. The Prophet Nahum prophesies the ruin of the Assyrian city of Nineveh because of its iniquity, the destruction of the Israelite kingdom, and the blasphemy of King Sennacherib against God. The Assyrian king Ashurbanipal died in 632 B.C., and over the next two decades, his empire began to crumble. Nineveh fell in 612 B.C.

Nahum differs from most of the prophets in as much as he does not issue any call to repentance, nor does he denounce Israel for infidelity to God.

Details of the prophet's life are unknown. He died at the age of forty-five, and was buried in his native region. He is the seventh of the Twelve Minor Prophets.

The Prophet Nahum and Saint Nahum of Ochrid (December 23) are invoked for people with mental disorders.

### **Ephesians 2:4-10 (Epistle, Sunday 12-1)**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

### **Luke 18:18-27 (Gospel, Sunday 12-1)**

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."