



# The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



September Bulletin Sponsor  
OPEN

## Liturgical & Events Schedule

### Sunday, October 12

8:35 AM: Hours (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida for  
AP Vladimir Demshuk

3:00 PM: Thomson / Willision Wedding

### Wednesday, October 15

7:30 PM: Public City Council Meeting

### Thursday, October 16

10:00 AM: Calling Hours for Paula Voytilla @  
Wasko Funeral Home

11:00 AM: Funeral Service @ Wasko Funeral Home

### Saturday, October 18

5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't

6:00 PM: Vespers followed by Confessions

### Sunday, October 19

9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /  
Social (Open at this point) / Choir Re-  
hearsal / Council Meeting

## Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council Commemorated on October 12

Today the Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council under the holy Patriarch Tarasius (February 25).

The Synod of 787, the second to meet at Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine VI.

The Council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype (the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because "no man has seen God at any time" (John 1:18).

In Greek practice, the holy God-bearing Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council are commemorated on October 11 (if it is a Sunday), or on the Sunday which follows October 11. According to the Slavic menaion, however, if the eleventh falls on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, the service is moved to the preceding Sunday.

## Luke 7:11-16 (Gospel)

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

## 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (Epistle)

But this I say: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

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

<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.

**Mrs. Mary Fredericks**  
648 Dumont Ave  
Campbell, OH 44405

**Matushka Helen Psinka**  
c/o Concordia Villa St. Joseph  
1030 W State Street / Room 1B49  
Baden, Pa, 15005

**Mrs. Dorothy Shirilla**  
8362 Van Dr.  
Poland, OH 44514

**Joan Cross**  
97 Butler Street / Apt 1-rear  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Mrs. Audrey Chengelis**  
c/o Assumption Village  
9802 Market Street / Room 132  
North Lima, OH 44452

**Emilia Yannitto**  
8017 Salinas Tr.  
Boardman, OH 44512-5402

**Mrs. Pauline Fesz**  
488 Harmony Lane  
Campbell, OH 44405

**George Horodnic, Sr.– Updated**  
c/o Briarfield Place  
8400 Market Street / Room 306  
Boardman, OH 44512

**Mrs. Julia Simko– Updated**  
c/o Caprice Senior Care Facility  
9184 Market Street  
North Lima, OH 44452

**Carol Ruff**  
2207 Birch Trail Blvd  
Youngstown, OH 44515-4910

**Sue Kennedy**  
593 Hyatt Ave  
Campbell, OH 44405-1479

**Ann Cvercko– Updated**  
1875 Mallard Land  
North Lima, OH 44452

### 100th Anniversary Pilgrimage of Fort Ross, CA

On Saturday, October 4, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest participated in the 100th anniversary pilgrimage to Fort Ross. Since 1925 liturgical services have been held in the chapel every year except when a fire destroyed it in 1970. Then pilgrims held the services outside the chapel until it was rebuilt in 1972. 2025 marks One Hundred Years of Divine Services at the Fort Ross Chapel.

On Friday, October 3, a conference was held at St. Seraphim Cathedral, Santa Rosa, CA, on Fort Ross, and

focused on topics such as Orthodoxy in California, and the canonization of St. Peter the Aleut. Later in the day the All Night Vigil was celebrated at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Santa Rosa, CA.

On the following day, pilgrims made their way to Fort Ross for the historic celebration which was marked by both the Orthodox Church in America and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, who worked together to organize the event. Divine Liturgy was celebrated by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikolai of New York and Eastern America, First Hierarch of the Russian Church *Con't by 6*

### PRAYER LIST

**PARISHIONERS:** Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Matushka Helen Psinka / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko

**CLERGY:** AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyan / Fr. Peter / For Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family and his faithful at the parish of St Makarios in the Metropolis of Nairobi, Kenya / Fr. Michael Dayang & his family & his parishioners at 3 Hierarchs parish in Cameroon / Fr. Raphael Stephano & his family and parishioners of his 2 mission communities in the Diocese of Western Tanzania

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Ginny McCay (Fredericks) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Matt Turner (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac) / Genna Koval & her unborn baby

**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.

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## OCTOBER Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

**Bulletin: OPEN**

**Wine:** For the health of Karen Debiec on the occasion of her birthday– Given by Gene & Paula Kennedy

**Incense: OPEN**

**Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:** In memory of George & Mary Vasile & George Robert Vasile– Given by Jim & Elaine Johnston

**Altar Candles:** In honor of the 65th Wedding Anniversary Of Gary & Patty Thompson– Given by Gary & Patty Thompson

**Tetrapod Candles:** Sponsored by Linda Lovosky

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

**St. Panteleimon Icon Candles:** In honor of my daughter, Karen Debiec the occasion of her birthday on Oct. 5th – Given by Sue Kennedy

**Protection Icon Candles: OPEN**

**St. John the Baptist Candles: OPEN**

**Monthly Flowers:** In honor of Connor & Hannah on their wedding– Given by the Willison & Steffaro Family

\$50 per month

\$30 per month

\$25 per month

\*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– *Updated*

\*Altar Candles

\*St. John the Baptist candles

\*Tetrapod Candles

### St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church CRATES & BASKETS RAFFLE & SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 9, 2025 1 - 4 PM

Drawings begin at 3 PM. Winners need not be present.

Admission Tickets \$3.00 - At the Door \$5.00

Slavic Foods will be available for dine-in or take-out.



And more.....

For tickets: Church (leave a message) 330-755-2223

Cindy 330-531-1119

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

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

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

## OCTOBER Celebrations

### Birthday

- 1 Trudy Ellmore
- 2 Tina Litzie / Nathaniel Willison
- 3 Ethan Chendorain
- 5 Maya Kubancsek / Karen Kennedy
- 6 Michelle Horodnic
- 7 Gabriella Hryb / Sophia Jesko
- 8 Monica Vansuch
- 9 Kelly Ann Ferrick / Zoe Kalantzis
- 10 Krissy Nicoloff Young
- 11 Zachary Rusnak / Danielle Taylor
- 13 Colin Henry Felker / Shelia Jesko
- 14 Fr. Andrew Groom / Ann (Polewan)
- 16 Fr George Lardas / Mary Ruth Mico
- 17 Tim Glovinsky
- 18 Nicole Batura
- 22 David Livosky / Zuza Livosky / Ellen Harvischak
- 25 Sam Dardovsky
- 31 Fr. Peter Zarynow

### Anniversary

- 1-2009 AB Irene of Ottawa & Archdiocese Canada / Gary & Patty Thompson / George & Tracy Rusnak
- 2 Fr. Matthew & Pani Eleni Stagon
- 3 Fr. Matt Stagon Priestly ordination
- 7 Fr. Eli & Mat. Larissa Bremer
- 9 David & Terrie Konik
- 14 Michael & Lynn Polewan
- 19 Archpriest John & Mat. Cynthia Zidinak
- 27 Dc. James Hryb Diaconate ordination
- 29 William & Nadine Sabo
- 31 Paul & Layne Demkosky

### Names Day

- 9 The Most Blessed Tikhon
- 14 Gary Thompson
- 23 Elliot Vansuch

## OCTOBER SOCIAL

October 12– Council

## OCTOBER Reader Schedule

October 12– Sub-Deacon Dr. Donald Tamulonis  
 October 19- Reader Matthew VanSuch  
 October 26– Reader Nick VanSuch

## October Charity

Second Harvest Food bank of Mahoning Valley

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - OCTOBER	2024	2025
<b>1st Week</b>		
Vespers	No Vespers	6
Liturgy	65 / 44	46 / 31
<b>2nd Week</b>		
Vespers	6	
Liturgy	63 / 41	
<b>3rd Week</b>		
Vespers	7	
Liturgy	44/32	
<b>4th Week</b>		
Vespers	7	
Liturgy	52 / 40	
<b>5th Week</b>		

## OCTOBER FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$2,556.45
Income	\$1,881.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$674.75</b>
Weekly Tithe	\$1,566.70
Weekly Candles	\$214.00
Coffee Hour Free will	\$20.00
Coffee Hour reimbursement	\$65.00
Raffle Tickets sold	\$16.00
Monthly Charity: 2nd Harvest	\$243.00

## THANK YOU RECEIVED

Glory to God!

Dear Fr. Andrew Bartek & parishioners,

Your love for Christ, the children, and staff at Holy Trinity is beautiful! Thank you for your generous gift you have shared with us!

With much gratitude & love,

Holy Trinity students & staff.

## OCTOBER Reposed List

- Michael Kropenoh (1987) ©  
2- His Grace Bishop Antoun (2017) / Mary Evanoff (1970) © / George Graban (2004) © Anna Kristian (1932) ©  
3- Mary Libertin (1986) © / George Kalas (1994) © / Mary Novak (1994) © / Anthony Shepelevich (2004) © / George Robert Vasile (2019) ©  
4- Louis Boldish (1960) © / Michael Tevonyoh (1987) © / John Hanuscin (1920) ©  
6- Helen Korechko (2021) © / Kaliope Ellinos (1941) ©  
8- Still Born Rosko (1923) © / Still Born Rosko (1923) © Twins / Matthew Shirilla (1939) ©  
9- Barbara Matzye (1971) © / Walter Wilfong (2012) © / AP Vladimir Demshuk (2024)  
10- Mary Vasile (1995) ©  
11- Helen Zelina (1982) © / Paul Zeleniuk (1924) © / Olga Roman (1926) ©  
12- Eli Tsvetanoff (1953) ©  
13- Mary Basala (2006) / John Kristian (1994) © / Mary Vodilko (1998) © / N. Musolin (1923) ©  
14- John Livosky (1985) © / Larry Sozur (1998) © / Joseph Jackubek (2022) © / Mary Papac (1928) © / Veronica Kristian (1936) © / Anna Ivancho (1939) © / Anna Midlik (1943) © / Dan Vansuch (1965) © / Margaret Zappia (2006) © / Ramiro Albarran (2023)  
15- Helen Feltovich (1919) © / Dorothy Kirtos (1994) © / Peter Nickoloff (1970) © / Anna Simko (1929) © / George Petro (1959) ©  
16- Frank Flaherty (1999) / Ronald Tucci (2013) © / Nicholas Hamamzis (1959) ©  
17- Mary Kalas (1939) © / Nicholas Ellinos (1953) © / Mary Milner (1967) © / Sophie Sobey (2002) ©  
18- Joseph Sirilla (2012) © / Helen Macala (1958) ©  
19- Christopher John White (1973) © / Rochelle McIntire (1993) © / Archpriest Sergei Garklavs (2015) / Gori Pietropolo (2017) / His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius (2020) / Mary Holovatiuk (1933) ©  
20- Helen Lebo (1988) © / Mary Ann Volk Dunchak (2018) © / Magdalene Carantonis (1940) ©  
21- Regina Lomme (2021) / Helen Bura (2006) © / Andy Cvercko (1960) ©  
22- Thelma Jean Cialella (2021) © / Helen Gerakios (1924) © / John Patzakes (1945) ©  
24- Arnold Bickley (1977) © / Infant Lyras (1950) © / Martha Voytilla (1960) © / John Matzye (1964) © / Mike Despatorich (1965) ©  
25- Serge Mihaly Jr (2019) / John Rosko (1920) © / Victor Zelina (1963) ©  
26- Emil Gozur (2006) © / Irene Gozur (2006) ©  
27- Eva Zurau (1982) © / Richard Guerrieri (2005) ©  
28- Kathryn Puharich (2005) © / Christallou Demetrios (1942) © / Steve Koties (1953) ©  
30- Joseph Malchisky (1993) / Harold Zastany (2017) ©  
31- Margaret Basala (2002) / Still born Zlatkoff (1937) ©

### Archbishop of Chicago and Bishop of San Francisco Concelebrate During Historic Weekend

On Sunday, October 4, at the invitation of His Grace Bishop Vasily of San Francisco and the West, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest presided over the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA. Serving with the hierarchs were Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, Chancellor of the West, Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, Priest Andrew Smith, Diocesan Secretary. The Archbishop offered the sermon after the reading of the Gospel.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy the hierarchs greeted one another expressing their gratitude to God for the opportunity to be able to serve together. His Grace noted the the Diocese of the West and the Diocese of the Midwest have enjoyed good relations with one another which has been strengthened by Archbishop Daniel's presence in the diocese for important occasions. Upon thanking His Grace, Archbishop Daniel reflected on the important and historical aspect of Diocesan Hierarchs serving with one another as a sign of unity in the Lord.

A festive meal was held in the cathedral hall at the conclusion of the Prayers of Thanksgiving.

His Eminence is in the West for the historic 100th anniversary of pilgrimage to Fort Ross.

## **Matushka Carrie Foley appointed program lead of Clergy Wives Ministry**

Matushka Carrie Foley has been appointed as program lead of the Clergy Wives Ministry. She will begin her work on November 1. In this role, Matushka Carrie will guide the continued growth of this vital ministry, which provides encouragement, fellowship, and resources for the wives of clergy across the Orthodox Church in America.

She succeeds the volunteer committee that has nurtured the Clergy Wives Ministry in recent years.

The Office of Pastoral Life expresses deep gratitude to Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, Matushka Alexandra Safchuk, Matushka Jennifer Levine, Matushka Wendy Cwiklinski, Matushka Miho Ealy, and Matushka Lela Powell for their dedicated work, vision, and commitment in establishing and sustaining this important effort.

Matushka Carrie studied cross-cultural missions, fine art, and literature, and graduated magna cum laude from Piedmont University. She spent a decade managing offices while helping to establish St. Timothy's Orthodox Church in Toccoa, Ga. Through the years, Matushka Carrie has served as parish council treasurer, taught church school, led sisterhoods, organized deanery campouts, led youth group, and sung soprano in several choirs. Since 2004, she has worked as a freelance graphic designer, with SVS Press among her notable recent clients.

She later worked 15 years as director of marketing and operations for a financial advisory firm in Greensboro, N.C., leaving in 2020 to care for her adult son with disabilities. That same year she launched an Airbnb management and design company. Matushka Carrie is a writer and speaker, recently presenting at the Gathered As One Body disability conference. She brings both pastoral sensitivity and practical experience to her new role. Alongside her husband, Archpriest Christopher Foley, Matushka Carrie helped plant and has served Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Kernersville, N.C., where Father Christopher has been parish priest for 19 years.

"The work of a clergy wife is like that of a womb. It is often hidden. It makes space for others to grow. It is a place of loving sacrifice, deep communion, and hidden wonder. And, with patience and humility, her mysterious work can become her deepest joy as she delivers Christ to this weary world," said Matushka Carrie. "I see my new role as akin to that of a birth doula. It will be my greatest honor to serve the clergy wives of the Orthodox Church in America as they carry Christ into the world through their ministries. I know that nurturing, encouraging, and listening to them is vital to the spread of the gospel in North America. My patron saint, St. Salome the Holy Myrrhbearer, was a midwife at the birth of Christ. And it is my hope that by St.

Salome's prayers, I'll be made worthy to serve my sisters as they labor in the fields that are so white for harvest at this moment."

"Matushka Carrie Foley brings a wealth of experience as an entrepreneur, women's group leader, director, mother of four, and clergy wife that uniquely prepares her for this work," said Director of the Office of Pastoral Life Archpriest Nicholas Solak. "Her leadership will strengthen the Clergy Wives Ministry, ensuring that this vital expression of care, connection, and encouragement continues to grow and to support clergy families across the Church with intention."

The Office of Pastoral Life invites the faithful to remember Matushka Carrie, her family and all clergy wives of the Orthodox Church in America in prayer as this new chapter of ministry begins.

### **About the Clergy Wives Ministry**

The Clergy Wives Ministry of the Office of Pastoral Life builds community among clergy wives who share a unique and often unseen vocation in the life of the Church. Through retreats, online gatherings, newsletters, and gestures of connection such as cards and prayers, the ministry nurtures faith, resilience, and mutual support. This same spirit extends to clergy widows, who gather online for fellowship and encouragement. By strengthening clergy wives and widows, the ministry affirms their vital role in parish life and supports the health of clergy families, which in turn fosters the health of parishes across the Orthodox Church in America.

### **About the Office of Pastoral Life**

The Orthodox Church in America's Office of Pastoral Life supports the well-being of clergy and their families, the foundation of parish life across North America. Believing the health of the Church is inseparable from the health of her clergy, the Office offers programs that build resilience, connection and pastoral joy. Programs include Thriving in Ministry peer-learning groups, Financial Health Initiatives, quarterly Synaxis Gatherings, National Clergy Retreats and Clergy Wives Ministry. In partnership with bishops, dioceses, parishes and our generous donors, the Office of Pastoral Life helps create sustainable conditions in which priests, deacons and their families of the Orthodox Church in America can flourish spiritually, vocationally and personally through every season of parish ministry.

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### ***100th Ann con't from pg 2***

Abroad, His Eminence Metropolitan Maximillian of Irkutsk, Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco, Archbishop Daniel of Chicago, Bishop Vasily of San Francisco, Bishop Theodosy of Seattle, and Bishop James of Sonora. Retired Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco was in attendance. The hierarchs were joined by clergy and faithful from both jurisdictions throughout the country.

### ***Con't next pg***

## Fall 2025 Diocese of the Midwest Liturgical Practicum

The Diocese of the Midwest is hosting a Liturgical Practicum from November 14-16, 2025 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago, focused primarily on the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. It is open to current and prospective readers, subdeacons and deacons who want to become more proficient serving this service and gain confidence and competence when a hierarch is serving.

Topics include: preparing for the service, conduct a walkthrough of the entire service, important aspects and moments of the service, managing the vestments, order of censings, and some key things specific to subdeacons and deacons. There will be back-to-back Hierarchical Divine Liturgies on Saturday and Sunday mornings to assist with retention and gaining experience with the service.

Those interested are encouraged to register early and contribute \$50/person to cover meals. Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging arrangements. The schedule and practicum materials will be distributed once registration has been finalized. The registration deadline is November 3rd, 2025.

The instructors for the liturgical practicum will be Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk and Subdeacon Dimitri Pletz. Protodeacon Peter was the Metropolitan's subdeacon for many years and now regularly serves as his Protodeacon. He has extensive experience serving in all settings of Church life, both in large venues with multiple bishops and servers, and small parish situations. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience, and will be able to answer most any question deacons and subdeacons alike may have. Subdeacon Dimitri has over 20 years experience as a subdeacon and has led trainings like this practicum several times before in the Diocese of the West for existing and prospective deacons, subdeacons and readers.

To register go to Diocesan Website.

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## Archbishop Daniel Celebrates Third Year of Enthronement as Midwest Hierarchy

The clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest congratulate Archbishop Daniel on the occasion of his enthronement anniversary, which is celebrated on October 1.

May God grant His Eminence many years.

## 100th Ann. Con't from previous pg

At the conclusion of the service, a procession was held to the cemetery of the historical grounds. Following the memorial service, lunch was held on the grounds of the fort.

The Ross Colony, founded in 1812 by the Russian American Company based in Alaska, is the home to the first Orthodox church outside of Alaska in all of North America. The chapel at Fort Ross, known as Holy Trinity-St Nicholas Chapel, is the "birthplace" of Orthodoxy outside of Alaska, which is a distinguished title and quite remarkable for this humble little chapel.

After the chapel was built in 1822 it was noted by Ivan Kuskov that a cantor would offer simple reader's Services. However, it was Priest John Veniaminov, the future Saint Innocent Metropolitan of Moscow, who in 1836 traveled the 1100 miles from Alaska to visit Fort Ross, a part of his pastoral territory, and became one of the first Orthodox priests to serve the first Divine Liturgy outside of Alaska. Subsequently, after Fort Ross was sold in 1841 no other Divine Services were held at Fort Ross until a visit by St Sebastian in 1897 and later by His Holiness Tikhon Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia in 1905, when he was Archbishop of North America. In 1905 the Russian Orthodox Church traveled on a pilgrimage to Fort Ross for a service and picnic. In April of 1906, the San Francisco Earthquake flattened the little chapel. It was years of fundraising by the Orthodox Church to rebuild and on July 4th, 1925, they held their first pilgrimage marking the beginning of this annual tradition. Since 1925 liturgical services have been held in the chapel every year except when a fire destroyed it in 1970. Then pilgrims held the services outside the chapel until it was rebuilt in 1972. Therefore, 2025, marks One Hundred Years of Divine Services at the Fort Ross Chapel.

The priest who held this first service, Archpriest Vladimir Sakovich is remembered greatly for his passion and efforts in organizing this pilgrimage. We are honored and blessed to welcome his granddaughter, Maria Sakovich, as our honored guest and our keynote speaker at the "Fort Ross, Then and Now" conference being held on October 3rd, 2025.

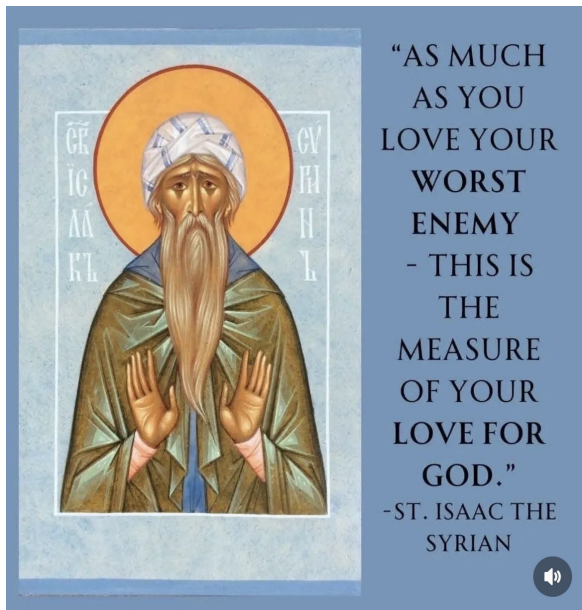
All roads of Orthodoxy outside of Alaska lead to Fort Ross! This little fort and the humble chapel have many firsts in all of North America. Fort Ross is home to the first Orthodox church, the first Divine Liturgy as noted above, the first Baptisms, the first Orthodox weddings, and the first catechumens in the contiguous United States. These "firsts" are noteworthy and important to our Orthodox history.

Furthermore, many Saints have walked the sacred lands of Fort Ross. These Saints include Saint Peter the Aleut who lived at Fort Ross in 1815. He was a young Kodiak man working for the Russian American Company (RAC). In 1815 he traveled with a group of Alaskan hunters and other RAC employees as a part of a sea otter hunting party. While in the San Pedro Bay near Los Angeles, this hunting party was captured by Spanish soldiers. Saint Peter was subsequently martyred at the San Gabriel Mission as he refused to meet the demands of the Catholic priests **Con't next pg**

### 100th ann. Con't from previous pg

to be Baptized by them. He is the first Orthodox Christian Martyr outside of Alaska. The second Saint to visit Fort Ross is Holy Hierarch Innocent Metropolitan of Moscow who as a missionary priest labored in Alaska. He traveled to Fort Ross in 1836 and there served Divine Liturgies, performed Baptisms and Marriage Rites, heard confessions, and performed Funerals. The third Saint to visit Fort Ross was Saint Sebastian of Jackson and San Francisco who in 1897 visited Fort Ross. Born John Dabovic, he grew up in San Francisco serving his church. At the age of 21 he was sent to Alaska to serve in the Cathedral (that St Innocent built) in Sitka. After three years of study in Russia, John was tonsured a monk in 1887 with the name Sebastian. Following his ordination to the diaconate, St. Sebastian returned to San Francisco where he served as deacon at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco. In 1902. Saint Tikhon, (noted above) ordained Saint Sebastian to the priesthood and elevated him to the rank of Archimandrite in 1905. The fourth Saint to visit Fort Ross Saint Tikhon in 1905 the head of the Orthodox Diocese in North America (later Patriarch of Russia). And finally, the fifth Saint is St John of Shanghai and San Francisco, whom we all know and love. He visited Fort Ross around 1962. We know very little about this visit.

Following in the footsteps of these Saints, Fort Ross is honored as a place of pilgrimage, remembering its history and all of those who came before us.



## 2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS

### **Nancy Tusinac, President**

(Sub-committee Chairman for all social events)  
Phone- 724-456-7366

### **Cindy Ferrick, Treasurer**

(Sub-committee Chairman of the Sunshine Club)  
Phone 330-531-1119

### **Joann Sirilla, Financial Secretary**

(Sub-committee Chairman on all fundraisers)  
Phone 330-881-6775

### **Sub-deacon Dr. Donald Tamulouis, V. President**

(Sub-committee Chairman on all Maintenance issues). He will be working with Michael Simko  
Phone 330-774-8860

### **Sherrie Fredericks, Secretary**

(Sub-committee Chairman on sending articles & pictures of events to the Diocese)  
Phone: 330-881-5087

### **Natalia Simko, Council Member**

(Sub-committee Chairman on all Cemetery issues)  
Phone- 330-980-3033

### **David Konik, Council Member**

(Sub-committee Chairman on Welcoming Cmte)  
Phone: 330-717-6714

### **David Dionisio, Council Member**

(Sub-committee Chairman on all organizational issues in the church (including safety issues)  
Phone: 425-241-7825

## NEW COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES

You will note, each Council member is in charge of keeping order in their respective areas. If there are any issues in a particular area, please contact the responsible Council member.

They are responsible to find a solution to the reported issue. That may include seeking your or another person's help. This will allow more organized response and avoid one person being burdened with everything.

Sunshine Club – This new club is responsible for sending out birthday, anniversary and get well cards.

## Maintenance Issues:

Sub-Deacon Donald, VP

Michael Simko - 330-565-0084

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