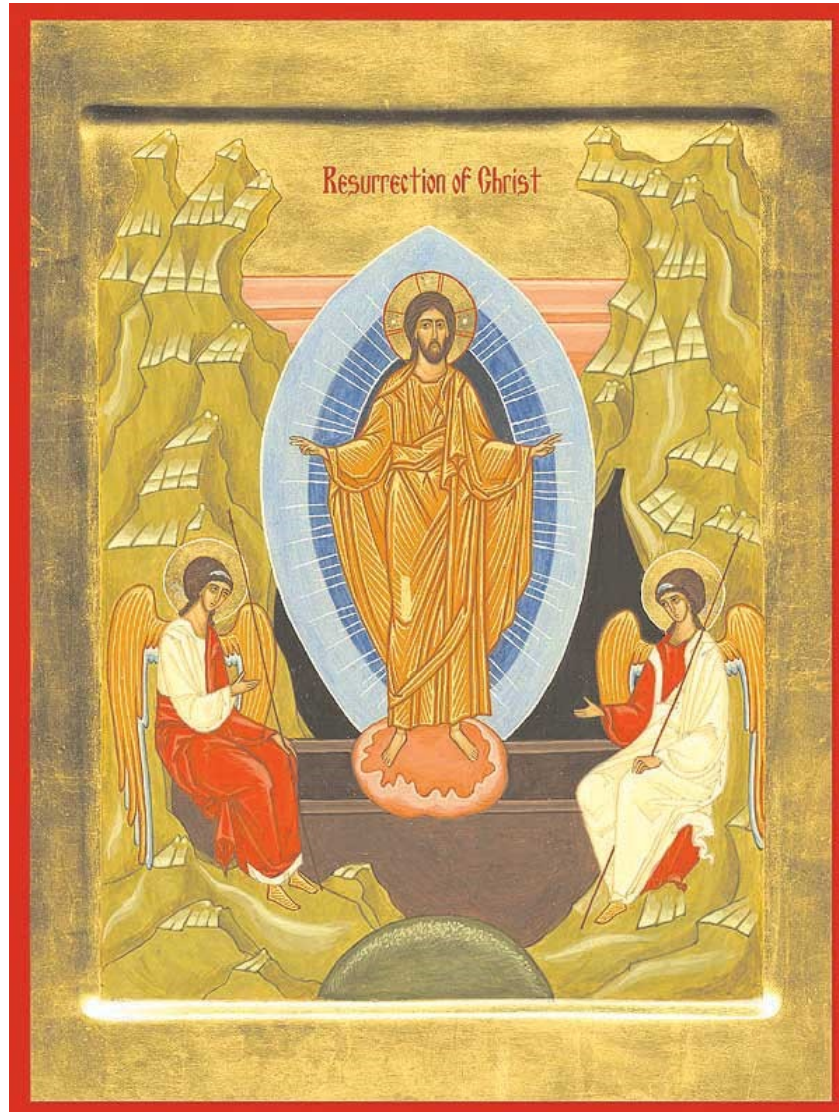


**CHRIST IS
RISEN
INDEED HE
HAS RISEN!**



**Greek:
Christos
anesti!
Alithos
anesti!**

**Tagalog:
Si Kristo ay
Nabuhay!
Siya talaga
ay nabuhay!**

**Russian:
Khristos
voskrese!
Voistinu
voskrese!**



The Weekly Forerunner



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405
OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

*MAY Bulletin Sponsor– In honor of my 20th Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood–
Given by AP Andrew*

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, May 25

9:50 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida for all
Military / Social / Grave Blessings

Wednesday, May 28

6:00 PM: Vespers w/ Litia

Thursday, May 29

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy followed by Breakfast at
local restaurant

Saturday, May 31

6:00 PM: Vespers

Sunday, June 1

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Liturgy / Social

SOCIALS FOR MAY / JUNE

May 25 – Council
June 1 – O Club
June 8 – OPEN (Pentecost)
June 15 – Father’s Day (by women of the Church)
June 22 – Council
June 29 – Sisterhood Strawberry Festival

MAY 2025 Reader Schedule

May 25 – George Horodnic
June 1 – Deacon James
June 8 – Deacon David
June 15 – Natalie Simko
June 22 – Sub-deacon Donald Tamulonis
June 29 – Reader Matthew Vansuch

May CHARITY St. Tikhon’s Seminary

MONTHLY CHARITY FOR 2025

January: OCMC: \$900 + \$300 from the church—
Total \$1,200

February: CA Fire Relief: \$524 + \$300 from the
Church – **Total \$824**

March – Cleveland Deanery- \$632 + \$300 from
Church= **Total \$ 932**

April – Workers of St. Basil- \$760.00 + 300 from
Church= **\$1,060**

May – St. Tikhon’s Seminary-

MAY FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$14,151.33
Income	\$ 8,208.70
TOTAL	-\$5,542.63
Weekly Tithe	\$7,600.70
Weekly Candles	\$499.00
Pascha Flowers	\$60.00
Religious Items	\$24.00
Decorated Candle	\$25.00
Monthly Charity: St. Tikhon’s Seminary	\$493.00

Summer Conducting Lessons Registration Now Open

The OCA Music Department is pleased to announce an opportunity this summer for intermediate- and advanced-level choir directors to take private conducting lessons with Dr. Peter Jermihov.

Those who are interested should complete **Con’t Pg 7**

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

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

Mrs. Julia Simko
c/o Inn At Poland Way
6501 Poland Way / Rm 122
Poland OH, 44514

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Pauline Fesz
488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

Sue Kennedy
593 Hyatt Ave
Campbell, OH 44405-1479

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

George Horodnic, Sr.
c/o The Inn at Walker Mill
8060 South Ave, Rm 216
Boardman, OH 44512

Helen Colaluca
c/o Victoria House
5295 Ashley Circle / Room 115
Austintown, OH 44515

Ann Cvercko
2769 Donna Dr.
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - MAY	2024	2025
1st Week		
Vespers	29 (Pascha Matins)	8 (reg. Vespers)
Liturgy	175 / 84 (Pascha)	51 / 37 (reg. Liturgy)
2nd Week		
Vespers	9	8
Liturgy (Mother's)	70 / 50	64 / 44
3rd Week		
Vespers	9	No Vespers
Liturgy	55 / 41	44 / 35
4th Week		
Vespers	10	
Liturgy	69 / 50	
Ascension Vespers	17	
Ascension Liturgy	18	

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Congratulates Newly Elected Pope Leo XIV

On May 8, 2025, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon sent a letter of congratulations to the newly elected Pope Leo XIV.

"I write to congratulate Your Holiness upon your election to the See of Rome, the Chair of St. Peter. As the primate of the Orthodox Church in America, it is my special joy to congratulate Your Holiness as the first American pope.

As I greet your election with joy, it is my prayer that Your Holiness might, after the example of your universally venerated predecessor, St. Leo I the Great, always proclaim the Christian faith with boldness and zeal.

Furthermore, just as the faith of St. Leo, articulated at the Fourth Ecumenical Council, remains a bridge between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, it is my hope that, under your pontificate, our Churches might find continued opportunities for cooperation and dialogue as we all seek to proclaim the light-bearing Gospel of the Savior."

JUNE Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: In memory of my father Harry Sveda- Given by Barbara Kolesar

Wine: In memory of my brother Stephan Elash and in memory of Steve & Eileen Elash and Tim & Eileen Nolder and all members of the Elash and Graban families- Given by Cindy Ferrick

Incense: for the health of all the members of the Elash & Graban Families- Given by Cindy Ferrick

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of my mother Helen Korechko on her occasion of her 98th b-day- Given Joann Sirilla / In memory of Marion Zwinski- Given by family

Altar Candles: In honor of our grandson Alex & daughter Sarah on the occasion of their b-days- Given by Reader Nicholas & Monica Vansuch

Tetrapod Candles: in honor of our mother (Sue Kennedy's) b-day – Given by Paula & Gene Kennedy

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:

Protection Icon Candles:

St. John the Baptist Candles: In honor of our mother (Sue Kennedy's) b-day – Given by Paula & Gene Kennedy

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*

Youth Program at 21st All-American Council, Phoenix, AZ: Registration Open

An exciting and spiritually enriching youth program is planned for the 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ, on July 14-18, 2025. Youth participants and adult volunteers are invited to join us.

The All-American Council is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for our youth to see the life of the Church in action — all in one place. They'll witness the Synod of Bishops, clergy, and faithful coming together to strengthen and guide the Church in North America.

Each day, youth will attend educational sessions and workshops with guest speakers where they will focus on the lives and impact of Saint Tikhon and Saint Olga — their stories, hymns, and experiences. These sessions will lead to their final project: a play to be performed at the Grand Banquet. This will be a fun and engaging way for our children and youth to learn about the origins of the Russian mission to North America, and how their proclamation of the Gospel has given us a newly canonized saint, Saint Olga, the first female saint of our continent.

Activities include a visit to the OdySea Aquarium — the largest aquarium in the Southwestern United States — and an afternoon at the resort's water park, named one of the Travel Channel's Top 10 Water Parks. On Thursday, the youth will have an opportunity to share a special brunch with the Holy Synod of Bishops.

Many of our youth come from small parishes with just a few other young people. But when they come to the All-American Council, they see firsthand the strength and vibrancy of the Orthodox Church in America! This can be a life-changing experience. We've experienced it within our own family and we want your family to experience it as well. For more information about the program, please contact Fr. Jason Foster and Matushka Ashley Foster at Shreveportjf8@gmail.com.

Support the AAC 2025 Program – Donate via Amazon!

We're gearing up for the AAC 2025 Program and could use your help! If you'd like to support, please consider donating an item from our Amazon wish list. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference and helps us provide the best experience for everyone involved.

Donate Items to Help the Youth Program

AAC 2025 Youth Schedule
July 14 – 18

Sunday

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM Youth Registration & Material Pickup

8:00 PM – Youth Compline

Monday

5:30 PM – Welcome

5:45 PM – Oasis Water Park

8:15 PM – Educational & Music Session

10:15 PM – Parent Pick-up

Con't next Pg

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

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

padrebartek@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Mat. Pauline Gemmel / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Reader Nicola Nicoloff / Matushka Helen Psinka / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Melanie Yannitto

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyan / Fr. Deacon James Hryb / 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.) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Paul (Kolesar) / 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.

Youth Program AAC Con't from previous pg

Tuesday

8:30 AM – Staff Arrive
9:00 AM – Morning Prayer, Education Session 1
10:00 AM – Music Session
10:45 AM – Education Session 2
11:45 AM – Afternoon Activity: OdySea Aquarium
5:15 PM – Parent pick-up
8:00 PM – Youth Compline
8:30 PM – 10:00 PM Teen Crash Rooms

Wednesday

8:30 AM – Staff Arrive
9:00 AM – Morning Prayer, Education Session 1
10:00 AM – Music Session
10:45 AM – Education Session 2
11:45 AM – Bouncy Rentals
5:00 PM – Parent Pick-up
8:00 PM – Teen Crash Room

Thursday

7:30 AM – Hierarchical Liturgy
11:30 AM – Holy Synod Brunch with Youth
12:45 PM – Presentation Practice / Water Park
7:00 PM – Youth Presentation at Banquet
7:45 PM – Youth Banquet, Movie, Swim at Water Park
9:45 PM – Parent Pick-up

Friday

8:30 AM – Staff Arrive
9:00 AM – Morning Prayer
9:30 AM – Concluding Activities
11:30 AM – Parent Pickup

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America to Hold Convention Concurrent with 21st All-American Council

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will hold its 98th Annual Convention in Phoenix from Tuesday evening, July 15, through Thursday, July 17. As an official organization of the Orthodox Church in America, the Fellowship continues its practice of holding its annual convention in conjunction with the triennial All-American Council. “Our convention is condensed so that we may be fully immersed in the workings of the Church and witness the capstone [celebration to] the canonization of St. Matushka Olga,” says Basil Kochan, FOCA National President. “We are humbled to be a part of such a monumental celebration of the Orthodox Church in America. We are pleased to invite everyone attending the 21st All American Council to participate in our Tuesday evening welcome session in which we will host a screening of Sacred Alaska and hold a panel discussion on the canonization of our most recent North American Saint.”

Aiming to complement the liturgical celebration of our righteous mother Olga on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, Tuesday evening’s program will explore the background and process leading up to this blessed event in the life of the Church. “Not everyone has had the opportunity to view the movie, let alone hear from some of our church leaders closest to the investigation into the canonization speak about the entire process,” says Mr. Kochan. “Our hope is to share more [about] the glorification of a contemporary saint from a truly grassroots level.”

The screening of the movie and panel discussion will take place on Tuesday evening from 8:00 - 10:00 PM. A reception sponsored by the FOCA will follow to conclude the evening.

MAY Reposed List

- 1- Melaine Michaels (2019)
- 2- Anton Stanoff (1974) ©
- 2- Stephen Kalas (1952) ©
- 3- Naume Evanoff (1984) ©
- 3- Frank Carandonis (1955) ©
- 4- Mary Fischer (2007) ©
- 4- Mary Graban (1963) ©
- 6- Bishop Innocent (2002)
- 6- Joseph Leschinsky (1983) ©
- 6- Robert Puskas (2014) ©
- 6- M. Krut (1923) © (no name)
- 7- Anna Holowatyk (1977) ©
- 7- Samuel Zelina (1994) ©
- 7- Emilian Graban (2016) ©
- 8- John Bilas (2015) ©
- 8- Mary Fesz (2002) ©
- 8- Still Born Lazich (1923) ©
- 8- Satilarius Tsagaris (1949) ©
- 8- Infant Diamantes (1957) ©
- 9- Stanley Gozur (1960) ©
- 10- Olga Sveda (2008) ©
- 10- Tom Mahinis (1931) ©
- 10- Joseph Slatsky (1943) ©
- 10- John Boldish (1970) ©
- 11- George KInnich (1975) ©
- 11- Sub-deacon Maurice Garman (2011) ©
- 11- Steve Kraynak (1950) ©
- 11- Helen Kirtos (1953) ©
- 12- Stephen Timikovich (1977) ©
- 12- Elaine Whitham (2012)
- 12- Proto. George Hutnyan (2020)
- 12- Mary Knight (2011) ©
- 12- Albert Lisko (1925) ©
- 13- Sevasti Papantonokis (1928) ©
- 14- Stanley Lis (2019)
- 14- Nicholas Zoppia (1984) ©
- 14- William Petroff (2000) ©
- 14- E. Mastoridis (1922) ©
- 14- Steve Lisko (1928) ©
- 14- Greg Puskas (2023)
- 15- Fr. Michael Rosco (2013)
- 15- George Krupchak (1952) ©
- 15- Michael Shevetz (1962) ©
- 16- Simon Vojtilla (1920) ©
- 16- Anna Petro (1949) ©
- 16- Charles Tsagares (1959) ©
- 18- Vasil Vilich (1926) ©
- 19- Betty Billy (2020)
- 19- Mary Kiddin (1993) ©
- 19- Still born John Caleris (1928) ©
- 19- Sava Talaban (1945) ©
- 20- Helen Bickley (1974) ©
- 20- Michael Leschinsky (1982) ©
- 20- Anna Laricharoff (1964) ©
- 21- Harry Levonyak (2205) ©
- 21- Katherine Slatsky (1961) ©
- 23- Mary Nosik (1978) ©
- 23- Kenneth Libertyn (1998) ©
- 23- Dimitri Livoniak (1940) ©
- 24- Damian Leskovatz (1925) ©
- 25- Michael Liba (1940) ©
- 25- Michael Volchko (1944) ©
- 26- Vasili Kovach (1945) ©
- 28- Catherine Harvischak (2009) ©
- 29- Milka Cukovich (1932) ©
- 29- Nicholas Haralampbis (1961) ©
- 30- Anna Toth (1997) ©
- 30- George Andras (1999) ©

St. Tikhon Choir to Perform Concert at Memorial Day Pilgrimage

As part of this year's 121st Memorial Day Pilgrimage, St. Tikhon's Monastery presents the St. Tikhon Choir in concert under the direction of Fr. Caleb Lewis, Sunday May 25 at 1:30pm. This concert performance commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the repose of St. Tikhon of Moscow and his contribution to St. Tikhon's Monastery as the beloved founder. Concert repertoire includes pieces of music spanning the 100 years since St. Tikhon's repose, including contemporary pieces by composers from the St. Tikhon's community. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful music performance! Tickets are \$25 for Regular Admission / \$20 for Students.

Resolution Procedures for the 21st AAC

In accordance with Article III, Section 5.b of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the Preconciliar Commission has established a Resolutions Committee in preparation for the upcoming 21st All-American Council.

The Committee, chaired by Archpriest Timothy Sawchak, is prepared to receive proposed resolutions for consideration starting today.

When a proposed resolution is received, the Resolutions Committee may, if necessary, discuss possible editorial changes with the submitting body or consolidate multiple resolutions into a single text if they are essentially identical. If the Committee determines that a resolution clearly falls outside the competence of the All-American Council—whether due to canonical considerations or conflict with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America—it will notify the submitting body accordingly or refer the matter to the Holy Synod. In such cases, the Committee, in consultation with the Holy Synod and the submitting body, will explore alternative ways to bring the underlying concerns of the resolution to the attention of the All-American Council. See National OCA website for complete way to submit resolution.

Con't on Pg 8

APRIL / May Celebrations

Birthday

- 27 Michael Polewan, Jr—April
- 3 Marcus Kubancsek / Fr. Matthew Stagon /
Juliana Gemmel / Jordan Tsvetkoff
- 4 Isabella Willison
- 5 Joseph Schutt
- 6 Michael Polewan
- 8 Nancy (Anastasia) Tusinac
- 9 Patricia Thompson
- 12 Marco Kubancsek
- 14 Stephen Simko / Mary Gemmel
- 17 Brian Turner
- 19 Paula Kennedy
- 20 Philip Ellmore
- 22 Rachel Konik
- 24 Avzi Dardovski
- 27 Jennifer (Tsvetkoff)
- 28 Audrey Chengelis
- 29 Carol Krochta
- 30 Joseph Mico / Stacy Donofrio

Anniversary

- 1-2004 AB Benjamin of San Francisco & the
West / Al & Irene Mazanik (54)
- 2 Fr. Andrew's Priestly Ordination
- 5-2012 AB Alexander of Dallas & the South &
the Bulgarian Diocese
- 6 Eli & Lidija Arvan (70) / Gregory &
Linda Simko
- 8-2010 AB Michael of NY & NY & NJ
- 11 Reader George & Michele Horodnic, Jr
(96)
- 18 Mark & Lorraine Livosky (02)
- 28-2005 AB Alejo of Mexico City & Mexico
- 29 Reader Matthew & Deena Vansuch
(05) / Jim & Elaine Johnston (71)

Names Day

- 30 Dc James Hryb / Sub-deacon Donald
Sunday after Pascha - Thomas Zelinsky— April
- 4 Monica Vansuch
- 7 Alexis Jesko / Ron Luthern
- 20 Lidija Arvan
- 21 Helen Colaluca

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 is-
sues). 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.

Conducting Lessons con't from pg 2

the Registration Form and schedule an inter-
view with Dr. Jermihov at their earliest conven-
ience.

The cost for an 8-week block of lessons is \$600,
with additional 4-week blocks available at \$300 per
block.

Dr. Peter Jermihov is a life-long church musician,
who has served as a choir director, chanter, teacher,
composer and arranger, in a number of parishes in
various jurisdictions, including the OCA, ROCOR,
the Moscow Patriarchate, and the Greek Orthodox
Archdiocese. His mission as a **Con't Next Pg**

Proposed Statute Amendments for the 21st All-American Council

According to Article XVII of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, "The Statute may be amended by a regular All-American Council or an extraordinary All-American Council called for that purpose. An amendment can be proposed by the Holy Synod, the Metropolitan Council, Diocesan Assemblies, Diocesan Councils, Deaneries, Parish Assemblies, Parish Councils, Monasteries, and Seminaries. A proposed amendment must be submitted to the Commission on Canons and Statute at least ninety (90) days prior to the date set for the convening of an All-American Council. The Commission on Canons and Statute shall consider proposed amendments and may either approve, consolidate, or return proposed amendments. Final drafts of proposed amendments, together with recommendations of the Commission on Canons and Statute, shall be disseminated at least sixty (60) days prior to the date set for the convening of the All-American Council. An amendment of the Statute requires a two-thirds majority of the delegates of an All-American Council present and voting. Upon adoption, amendments take effect immediately upon final adjournment of the All-American Council unless otherwise indicated in the amendment itself."

The 21st All-American Council will consider two statute amendments. The first is proposed by the Metropolitan Council, and the second by the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the South.

The first statute amendment aims at providing clarity and standardization to the terms of office for Diocesan Representatives serving on the Metropolitan Council. The proposed amendment, along with its rationale, can be seen on the National OCA website.

The second statute amendment proposes adding professional qualifications for Pension Board members and replacing the popular vote with a collaborative vetting process between the Pension Board and the Metropolitan Council. The most qualified candidates will be endorsed by the Council and then ratified by the All-American Council. It also updates language to allow participation in either the current Pension Plan or any future official OCA retirement plan. The full amendate is available on the National OCA website.

Delegates to the 21st All-American Council are encouraged to carefully review the texts of the two amendments that will be considered at the second and fourth plenary sessions.

Resolution Procedure con't from pg 6

While resolutions can be made during a plenary session, in order to facilitate the work of the Committee, the Preconciliar Commission strongly encourages resolutions to be submitted before the beginning of the Council.

The relevant resolution submissions should be sent via email to resolutions.21aac@oca.org or via mail to the Resolutions Committee, 21st All-American Council, c/o Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America, PO Box 31409, Alexandria, VA 22310.

The members of the Resolution Committee are:

Archpriest Timothy Sawchak, Diocese of the Midwest
CHAIR

Archpriest John Hopko, Diocese of New England

Archpriest Victor Gorodenchuk, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Anna Miller, Archdiocese of Canada

Sophia Sokolov, Diocese of the West

James Class, Archdiocese of Washington

Gust Mecera, Diocese of the South

Conducting lessons con't from previous pg

Church musician is to bring beauty and professional competence to Divine Worship.

Jermihov holds the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Illinois at Urbana and studied orchestral conducting at the St. Petersburg Conservatory under Ilya Musin. He is founder and artistic director of the Society of Saint Romanos the Melodist, a not-for-profit corporation devoted to the furtherance of Orthodox culture in America. For a more complete description of Dr. Jermihov's career, please visit www.peterjermihov.com or www.societyromanos.org.

"Dr. Jermihov is helping me to develop a more advanced vocabulary of gestures to communicate with my choir. Your choir and parish will appreciate the time you take to learn with Dr. J!"

"Dr. Jermihov explains the core principles of conducting in a very clear and comprehensive way.... Most importantly, Dr. Jermihov is a very passionate teacher who has warm and friendly personality."

"[Studying] conducting with Dr Peter Jermihov,... I have grown both as a musician and as a conductor, gaining knowledge and conducting skills....This would not be possible if it were not for Dr. Jermihov sharing with me his knowledge, experience, and passion for Orthodoxy and Orthodox Church music."



Sunday of the Blind Man Commemorated on May 25

At the end of Chapter 8 in Gospel of Saint John, the Savior was disputing with the Pharisees in the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. He told them, "Your father Abraham was glad that he should see my day; and he saw it and rejoiced" (John 8:56). The Jews said that Jesus was not even fifty years old, so how could He claim to have seen Abraham? The Lord replied, "Before Abraham was, I am." I am, of course, is the name that God revealed to Moses in the Burning Bush. When the Jews picked up stones to throw at Him, He hid Himself and went out of the Temple.

We read in Saint John's Gospel (9:1-38): "As He passed by, he saw a man who was blind from birth." It might appear that Jesus was on His way to something or someone else, but in his Commentary on the Gospel of Saint John, the ever-memorable Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas, quotes from Homily LVI of Saint John Chrysostom: "that on going out of the Temple, He proceeded intentionally to the work, is clear from this: it was He who saw the blind man, and not the blind man who came to Him...."

Christ's disciples asked Him who had sinned, the blind man or his parents that he had been born blind. Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God might be manifested in him" (John 9:3). It was thought that a person who had some affliction must have sinned (or his parents did) to deserve such punishment. In the Book of Exodus (20:5), God said that he would visit "the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation." This, however, applied to the sin of idolatry, if the children emulated their parents' behavior.

The blind man was not born blind just so the miracle could be performed, but seeing the man in such a condition, the Lord decided to use him in a way that would manifest God's glory. He Who is the Light of the world healed the blind man and enlightened him. Giving sight to the blind was one of the signs which would identify the Messiah (Matthew 11:4-6).

The Lord made clay when He spat on the ground, and placed it in the man's empty eye sockets and sent him to the pool of Siloam to wash. Most versions of the Gospels translate the word *επεθηκεν* as "anointed," but it can also mean "to spread on," or "to smear." Siloam means "sent," and in Saint John's Gospel Christ says about forty times that He Himself had been sent by the Father."

This manner of healing reminds us of the way God created man by fashioning him from the dust of the earth. In the Old Testament God created man from the dust of the earth, now Christ, the same God, fashions eyes from the clay and places them in the blind man's empty sockets. Here are some quotes from the Pentecostarion:

At the Oikos of Matins: "He receives physical eyes as well as those of the soul."

In the Verses of the Synaxarion: O Bestower of light. Who are Light coming forth from Light; You gave eyes to the man who was blind from birth, O Word."

In the second exapostilarion: "Along the way, the Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes."

At Monday Vespers (stikheron of the Feast) we sing, "With his whole soul, and mind, and his tongue, the man who in times not long passed had been blind, confessed Him Who had fashioned eyes for him out of spittle and clay..."

Saint Theophylaktos says in his Commentary that "Jesus our Lord fashioned all the members of the blind man's body except for the eyes, which He omitted. By healing them now, he completes the divine act of creating and demonstrates that He is the Creator."

Jesus tests the faith of the blind man by sending him to the Pool of Siloam (which means "sent"). He respects the man's freedom, but asks for his voluntary and free participation in the miracle. The blind man, with faith, obeys God's command. He goes and washes in the pool, and he returns seeing.

The former blind man's life was not made easier, however. He becomes the object of the Scribes' and Pharisees' evil and hatred, those who believed in God and in the observance of His Law. They themselves were blind, yet they were suspicious of the formerly blind man, imagining that he only pretended to be blind and now was able to see. "They willingly were made blind by the dark letter of the Law, in which Christ, the resplendent Sun shines."¹

They questioned the man who was blind, but when they see the miracle before their eyes, instead of believing, they shut the eyes of their souls. Then the man's parents were questioned. They were afraid to confirm the miracle that happened to their son who was born blind, because they did not want to be expelled from the synagogue. They tried to avoid trouble by concealing the truth. Therefore, they said, "He is of age, ask him!"

We who receive benefits from God every day are ashamed or afraid to confess God because of our lack of trust. We put our own interests above God, knowing that He will understand us! He will understand us, but He will also see our faith and what priorities we have in our lives. Christ will see what "gods" we have put in His place, but He will not cease to remind us that He is the light of the world.

The blind man was healed, not only in the eyes of his body but eventually in his soul as well. He recognizes Jesus as God, and does not hesitate to confess it before the religious rulers with courage that many of us would envy. Faith alone is not enough, we also need to confess our faith in order to become genuine children of God. When we confess Christ before men, **Con't next Pg**

Sunday of the Blind man continued from previous pg

He will confess us before His Father, as the Lord has promised us: "Everyone who shall confess me before men, I also shall confess him before my Father who is in Heaven; and whoever denies me before men I also will deny him before my Father who is in Heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

In addition to the Sunday of the Blind Man, today the Church also commemorates the Icon of the Mother of God "Of the Passion" (see August 13) in remembrance of the miracles which occurred on this day.

In the Moscow church of the Unburnt Bush in the Khamovniki district, there is an Icon which was once in the Palace. The ancient writing is beautiful. The size of the Icon measures 1 arshin 12 vershkov long, and 1 arshin 7 vershkov wide. This Icon is commemorated twice: on September 4, the Feast Day of the Prophet Moses, and also on the Sixth Sunday After Pascha (the Sunday of the Blind Man), because according to Tradition, the Icon was transferred from the Kremlin to the newly-consecrated Khamovniki church on this day.

At Khamovniki is the Novodevichii Convent (founded in 1524) and the Zachatievsky convent (founded in 1584), the rebuilt cathedral of Christ the Savior, the church of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker at Khamovniki and others. More than ten Orthodox churches in Khamovniki were destroyed during the Soviet era. Memorial chapels and memorial signs have now been placed on the site of some of the destroyed temples. Khamovniki is also the working residence of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, and the Publishing Council of the Russian Orthodox Church.

John 9:1-38 (Gospel)

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

Acts 16:16-34 (Epistle)

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Annual Clergy Convocation Focuses on Clergy Health and Wellbeing

The annual Clergy Convocation of the Diocese of the Midwest concluded its three day gathering at the Carmelite Spiritual Retreat Center in Darien, IL. This yearly spiritual retreat brings together priests and deacons from all over the Midwest.

On Monday, May 11, the clergy gathered with His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest to sing the Akathist before the Chicago-Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God. That evening guest speaker, Archpriest Andrew Jarmus, gave the first part of his presentation on clergy health. The talk focused on the polarities of pastoral life.

On Tuesday, presentations were given by Archpriest Stephen Vernak and Archpriest Nicholas Solak about the various ministries that are available for clergy health and development. The afternoon also saw presentations from the newly formed diocesan departments, sharing their vision and upcoming projects. Fr. Andrew gave a second presentation prior to the celebration of Great Vespers.

The retreat concluded with the celebration of Divine Liturgy at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Burr Ridge on Wednesday, May 14. His Eminence presented awards to several of his diocesan clergy, and Fr. Andrew Jarmus offered the sermon. Priest Gregory Ealy directed the clergy choir. Memory eternal was intoned at the end of the liturgy in remembrance of Metropolitan Leonty, former hierarch of the Midwest. This year marks the 60th anniversary of his repose.

The Archbishop offered a final blessing to his clergy at the conclusion of lunch.

A special session will be held with the diocese's recently ordained priests, offering them the chance to receive direction from the Archbishop and to seek counsel for the various challenges they may be facing in their priesthood. This is a part of Diocese of the Midwest's Junior Clergy Day of Formation effort.

Seminarian Ordained to the Diaconate

On Sunday, May 11, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest presided over the Divine Liturgy at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL.

Serving with His Eminence were Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, and Deacon Matthew Kaminsky. The choir was directed by Ms. Olga Garklavs.

After the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, Subdeacon Paul Schlafer was ordained to the Holy Diaconate.

Following the Divine Liturgy, the Archbishop congratulated the family Deacon Paul and his family. Following the service, the Schlafer family left for St. Tikhon's Seminary to finish the spring semester.