



# The Weekly Forerunner



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

**JUNE Bulletin Sponsor**

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

## Liturgical & Events Schedule

### Sunday, June 8

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Kneeling Prayers /  
Social by 'O' Club

### Wednesday June 11

6:00 PM: Fire House Meeting

### Thursday, June 12

6:00 PM: Inter-Orthodox Meeting @ Greek Church  
in Boardman

### Saturday, June 14

6:00PM: Vespers

### Sunday, June 15

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida for Fa-  
thers / Father's Day social by the Ladies

## SOCIALS FOR JUNE

June 8 – 'O' Club

June 15 – Father's Day (by women of the church)

June 22 – Council

June 29 – Sisterhood Strawberry Festival

## MAY FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$2,411.70
Income	\$4,052.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,641.00</b>
Weekly Tithe	\$3,861.70
Weekly Candles	\$141.00
Bulletin	\$50.00
Monthly Charity: Rescue Mission	\$204.00

## Holy Pentecost / Commemorated on June 8

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

### THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation:

"Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope, The mystery which is as great as it is precious."

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

"The Holy Spirit provides all, Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood, Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians, He brings together the whole council of the Church."

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God "would pour **Con't Page 4**

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## 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

**Ann Cvercko**  
2769 Donna Dr.  
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

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

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

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

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

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

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### Deacon Mark Sauskojus

Deacon Mark Alan Sauskojus, 70, fell asleep in the Lord at home in the presence of his family in Green Bay, WI, on Sunday, May 25, 2025.

Deacon Mark was born in Glasgow, MT, on October 17, 1954, to Karl and Elizabeth (Gebennus) Sauskojus. He was raised on the family farm near Peerless in northeast Montana, where he enjoyed being his dad's right-hand man, helping drive the tractor, mend fences, and, for a few years, raising cattle. He attended a one-room schoolhouse through 8th grade and graduated from Lustre Christian Bible Academy with a class of 11 in 1972. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering from Montana State University Bozeman, graduating in 1976. From 1976 to 1977, he served on staff with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, working with chapters at MSU Bozeman and Western Montana State University in Dillon.

On July 24, 1977, Deacon Mark began his career with International Harvester at the Hinsdale Engineering Center in Hinsdale, IL, as a test engineer for prototype 4-wheel drive and 4-wheel assist tractors. He retired in 2018 after 41 years with International Harvester, Tenneco, Case, CNH, and finally CNH Industrial. During his career, he worked at the Hinsdale Engineering Center, Arizona Proving Grounds in Phoenix and Sacaton, the Racine Test Center, and later returned to CNH Industrial at the same facility where he began.

After moving to Bolingbrook, IL, to begin work at International Harvester, Deacon Mark met the family

of Bill Bridenstine of St. Charles, IL, whose parents, Mom and Pop Bridenstine, were instrumental in founding InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in Montana and hosted the meetings in Dillon. Through them, he met his wife, Penny. They were married on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 1978, at Riverwoods Christian Center in St. Charles.

Deacon Mark and Penny enjoyed camping, traveling, visiting the farm in Montana, and spending time with family and friends at their timeshare in New Smyrna Beach. Most of all, Deacon Mark loved being with his family and attending the activities of his children and grandchildren whenever he had the opportunity.

On June 28, 2015, he was ordained a deacon by His Eminence Archbishop Paul (Gassios). He served as a deacon at St. Peter and St. Paul Orthodox Church in Burr Ridge, IL, until 2023. After moving to Green Bay that same year, he served at St. Matthew Orthodox Church until his health no longer permitted. Serving in the various church services was where he felt most fulfilled.

Deacon Mark is survived by his wife and best friend, Penny; their children, Roderick, Jeannette (Todd) Schubkegel, and Karl (Charity); and six grandchildren: Saskia Burke, Mark James, Ella and Abigail Sauskojus, and Gavin and Ethan Schubkegel. He is also survived by his parents, Karl and Elizabeth Sauskojus; his siblings, Dave (Kathy), Nancy (Terry) Schott, and Joanne (Jim) Tubman; as well as an aunt, many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Deacon Mark may be made to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), St. Matthew Orthodox Church in Green Bay, or St. Peter and St. Paul Orthodox Church in Burr Ridge, IL.

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## JUNE Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

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**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: OPEN**

**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: OPEN**

**Protection Icon Candles: OPEN**

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

**Flowers:** For the Health of AP Andrew & parishioners of St. John's- Given by Carol Ruff

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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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## Schedule for the Canonization of Righteous Olga of Kwethluk

The services celebrating the canonization of Matushka Olga Michael of Kwethluk, AK, will take place June 19 -22, 2025, in Kwethluk and Anchorage, AK. In November 2023, Matushka Olga was numbered among the saints by act of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, making her the first North American woman and the first Yup'ik person to be glorified as a saint in the Orthodox Church.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon will preside over the canonization services, concelebrating with other hierarchs and clergy of the Orthodox Church in America as well as delegations from other jurisdictions.

The canonization proper will take place in Matushka Olga's home village of Kwethluk, AK, with a schedule as follows:

Thursday, June 19, 2025

4:00 PM: Primate All-Night Vigil with the Rite of Canonization (Glorification)

Friday, June 20, 2025

9:00 AM – Primate Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM – Kwethluk Grand Banquet

The celebration of St. Olga's canonization will continue that weekend in Anchorage, Alaska:

Saturday, June 21, 2025

5:00 PM – Primate All-Night Vigil in Honor of Righteous Olga

Sunday, June 22, 2025

9:00 AM – Primate Divine Liturgy

2:00 PM – Grand Banquet at the Marriott Hotel in Downtown Anchorage

Finally, as a capstone to the canonization celebration, at the 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ, there will be an All-Night Vigil and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at which St. Olga's hymns will once again be sung:

July 16, 2025

6:00 PM – All-Night Vigil in Honor of St. Olga

July 17, 2025

7:30 AM – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Please note that, due to overwhelming interest, registration for the glorification events in Kwethluk and Anchorage has been closed. The faithful are encouraged to participate with their prayers and by attending any local commemorations in their parishes. Please see the website of the Orthodox Church in America and the website of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska for further updates.

Righteous mother Olga, pray to God for us!

## MAY 2025 Reader Schedule

June 8 – Deacon David

June 15 – Natalie Simko

June 22 – Sub-deacon Donald Tamulonis

June 29 – Reader Matthew Vansuch

## 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.) / 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) / 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.

### *Pentecost con't from page 1*

out His Spirit upon all flesh.” This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...,” the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose “descent” upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit “coming and abiding in us.”

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for “verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world.” In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles’ preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God’s Kingdom.

### **THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST**

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is “added” to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn “summing up” of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festal Entrance, this joy reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon: “Who is so great a God as our God?”

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fulness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter “the ordinary time” of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called “after Pentecost”—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church “never grows old, but is always young.” It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—“the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity,” and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope. Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974)

## JUNE Reposed List

- Mary Churinsko ©
- 1- Anna Voytilla Timpko (2011) ©
  - 1- Michael Nosik, Sr. (2015) ©
  - 1- Lambos Trangos (1930) ©
  - 1- Eli Roman (1951) ©
  - 1- Infant La Bruno (1 day old) (1962) ©
  - 3- Irene Leso (2002)
  - 3- George Gozur (1972) ©
  - 3- Vasil Babinec (1920) ©
  - 3- Mary Korchniak (1934) ©
  - 4- Marilyn Kidd (2007) ©
  - 4- Steve Bosak (1933) ©
  - 5- Mildred Paproski (2018)
  - 5- Kathryn Howard (2021)
  - 5- Margaret Urchak (2014) ©
  - 6- Fr. Stephen Shutack (2008)
  - 6- George Konik (2006) ©
  - 7- Martha LaVallee (2005)
  - 7- Eleothenios Pagonis (1923) ©
  - 8- John Toth (2000) ©
  - 9- John Sutko (2020)
  - 9- Elizabeth Gozur (1979) ©
  - 9- Andrew Sarisky (1938) ©
  - 9- Evtimios Tsangaris (1953) ©
  - 10- Joseph Korchinack (1925) ©
  - 10- Mary Furin (1943) ©
  - 11- Catherine O'Shanie (1982) ©
  - 11- Nicholas Nedostup (1933) ©
  - 12- Ann Sanders Rusnak (2017) ©
  - 12- Margaret Timkovich (2002) ©
  - 12- John Dubosh (1947) ©
  - 12- John Holibonic Jr (1964) ©
  - 13- Harry Sveda (1998) ©
  - 13- Edward Graban (2016) ©
  - 14- Fr. Justin Foster (2016)
  - 14- Ronald Thomas Moore- (2024) ©
  - 15- Vera Berzowsky (1984) ©
  - 15- Mary Sykola (2005) ©
  - 15- George Kushma (1962) ©
  - 15- Pearl Petrosky (2005) ©
  - 16- Fr. Michael Prevas (2018)
  - 16- Mary Petrusovich (1920) ©
  - 16- Dora Kravec (1924) ©
  - 16- Baby Mastoridis (1939) ©
  - 16- John Zambetis (1958) ©
  - 17- James Hryb (2017) ©
  - 18- Eleanor Dussling (2020)
  - 18- Vasil Holowatyk (1969) ©
  - 18- Vasili Haudziuk (1942) ©
  - 18- Nicholas Caubouris (1944) ©
  - 18- Steve Dratar (1956) ©
  - 20- Fr. John Yurcisin (2003)
  - 21- Ronald Basala (2016)
  - 22- Nicholas Sveda (1954) ©
  - 22- Mike Psaromatis (1959) ©
  - 23- Nick Pavlos (1960) ©
  - 24- Margaret Stahara (2006) ©
  - 24- Green Still born (1928) ©
  - 24- Evangeline Maravelas (1929) ©
  - 24- Olga Berdie (1963) ©
  - 25- Peter Goban (1975) ©
  - 25- Frank Woychik (1979) ©
  - 25- Stephan Elash, Sr (2022) ©
  - 25- Vasil Kovach (1922) ©
  - 26- John Konik (1969) ©
  - 27- Anna Lebo (1975) ©
  - 27- Anna Simko (1993) ©
  - 27- Mary Cole Simko (2011) ©
  - 27- Sevasti Arfaras (1961) ©
  - 27- Anna Serilio (1993) ©
  - 28- Fr. Charles Kovich (2005)
  - 28- Andrew Leso (2000)
  - 28- Matthew Lajcharoff (1936) ©
  - 28- Peter Pantos (1936) ©
  - 29- John Travers (2001) ©
  - 29- Eugene Simko (2007) ©
  - 29- Susanna Stepancevich (1921) ©
  - 29- Zachary Maximor (1947) ©
  - 29- Catherine Vansuch (1965) ©
  - 29- Mary Helen Feltovich (1987) ©
  - 30- Zoopegy Lambrianos (1960) ©
  - 30- Nomikos Grikilis (1960) ©
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### Acts 2:1-11 (Epistle)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

**JUNE CELEBRATIONS**  
**Birthday**

- 1 Anthony Jesko, Sr.
- 2 Sue Kennedy
- 5 Peter Adzima / Michael Simko / Ryan Konik / Alex Vansuch
- 6 Zach Livosky
- 11 Elaine Johnston
- 13 Fr. Nick Mihaly / Sarah Wilson
- 15 Emily Kusinski / Aijire Dardovski / Alex Vansuch
- 19 Emily Sarisky / Victoria Elash
- 22 Donna Chiarelli
- 24 John Koval III
- 25 Ron Zenko
- 26 John Rusnak
- 28 Vincent Cavaliere

**Anniversary**

- 10 Joey & Mary Ruth Mico
- 14 Sub-deacon Donald & Susan Tamulonis
- 21 V.R. Archpriest Dave Lis priestly ordination 27-2009 AB Melchisedek of Pittsburgh & Western, PA
- 29-2021 His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Forth Worth

**Names Day**

- 3 Archpriest Andrew Bartek
- 4 Martha Centofanti
- 24 Gianna Hryb / Joann Biros
- 27 Joan Cross / Heidi Kuzemchak / Joann Sirilla
- 29 Pauline Fesz / Mat. Pauline Gemmel

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**His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Presides at St. Tikhon's Memorial Day Pilgrimage**

On May 23 -26, 2025, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the 121st annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage began Friday evening with the greeting of the Hawaiian Iveron Icon at the monastery archway. An opening molieben was served before Vespers and Matins in the monastery church, followed by a meal for the arriving pilgrims.

On Saturday, His Beatitude Metropolitan presided at the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with him was His Eminence Archbishop Michael of New York. During the Liturgy, John Jovel, a second year seminarian, was ordained to the holy diaconate by His Eminence. Also, His Beatitude elevated Fr. Ignatius Gauvain to the dignity of archpriest and awarded Fr. Mikel Hill the gold cross. The St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir, under the direction of Fr. Caleb Lewis, offered the liturgical responses. That evening, pilgrims gathered again for the All Night Vigil, followed by a meal on the monastery grounds.

The pilgrimage continued on Sunday with a

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Beatitude, during which Tikhon Krueger, a second year seminarian, was ordained to the diaconate. The combined concert choir and mixed monastery choir sang under the direction of Fr. Caleb Lewis. Later that afternoon, a special concert was held in honor of the 100th anniversary of the repose of St. Tikhon of Moscow. During the concert, Anna Arnold was presented with a certificate for completing her one-year residency in the monastery music program. Evening services of Vespers and Matins followed by a meal concluded the day.

The pilgrimage continued on Memorial Day itself, Monday, May 26. His Beatitude presided at the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, concelebrated by His Grace Bishop Matthew of Sourozh, Interim Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA, and His Eminence Archbishop Michael. Bishop Matthew was accompanied by Abbot Nicodemus (Balashnikov), Acting Chancellor of the Patriarchal Parishes, and Fr. Mark Rashkov, Vice-Chancellor. Among the many clergy concelebrating were Archimandrite Sergius (Bowyer), Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery, Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, and Archpriest John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

His Beatitude offered the homily in which he spoke on the unity of our Lord's resurrection with His sufferings. He remarked that Christians must be steadfast because, "the joy of Pascha can never be separated from the reality of the Cross and the Passion. 'Through the Cross joy has come into all the world.' 'Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross.' The Lord bore this Cross to the end, and, now, until the end of the age, all who desire to partake of the joy of the Resurrection must bear their own Cross of discipleship. As he was once persecuted by the Pharisees, as the apostles were once persecuted, so too must we experience persecution in one form or another. 'If the world hates you, it is because it hated me first,' says the Lord."

In honor of the anniversary occasion, His Beatitude wore refurbished vestments originally belonging to St. Tikhon of Moscow, gifted to the Orthodox Church in America by His Eminence Archbishop John Garklavs.

Two choirs, composed of local and visiting singers, sang the Liturgy antiphonally under the direction of Anastasia Kappanadze and Matushka Juliana Woodill. Following the Liturgy, pilgrims enjoyed food and festivities on the monastery grounds, a healing service before the Hawaiian Iveron Icon of the Mother of God, and evening services of Vespers and Matins to conclude the pilgrimage.

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**JUNE CHARITY**  
**Rescue Mission**

## **Call for Nominations: Metropolitan Council and Pension Board Elections at the 21st All-American Council**

At the upcoming 21st All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, to be held in Phoenix, AZ, July 14–18, 2025, delegates will be asked to elect individuals to fill critical leadership roles on the Metropolitan Council and the Pension Board.

The following positions will be open for election:

Metropolitan Council  
3 Clergy Members  
3 Lay Members  
2 Alternates (1 Clergy, 1 Lay)

Pension Board  
2 Clergy Members  
2 Lay Members  
2 Alternates (1 Clergy, 1 Lay)

Nominations are now being accepted by the Nominating Committee. Nominations may also be submitted in person at the Council, no later than Tuesday, July 15, at 5:00 PM.

The Metropolitan Council and the Pension Board hold essential roles in the governance of the Orthodox Church in America and the oversight of its Pension Plan. As outlined in the Statute, both bodies are entrusted with significant financial, administrative, and fiduciary responsibilities. The Pension Board, in particular, is charged with managing the Church's official retirement plan, which provides long-term financial stability and dignity to clergy and lay employees who have served the Church faithfully.

Given the seriousness of these responsibilities, nominees should be individuals of proven integrity, sound judgment, and demonstrated commitment to the life of the Church. For the Metropolitan Council, experience in administration, finance, law, governance, business, or related fields is especially beneficial. With respect to the Pension Board, the Statute explicitly requires that elected members—both clergy and lay—possess relevant professional experience.

These are not honorary roles. They demand dedicated service, collaboration, and leadership for the good of the Church and its faithful.

To help delegates prepare to vote knowledgeably, the Preconciliar Commission strongly encourages nominations to be submitted in advance of the Council. A preliminary list of candidates, along with brief biographies, will be posted on [OCA.org](http://OCA.org) on Monday, July 7, with an updated list published on Wednesday, July 16.

Nominations will only be accepted when submitted with the completed nomination form (attached), which includes a brief biographical and professional summary of the nominee, and the episcopal blessing.

Self-nominations are welcome, but verbal or written consent from each nominee must be received before their name will be added to the slate of candidates.

Statutory Guidelines:

As per Article III, Section 4(g) of the OCA Statute, members of the Metropolitan Council must be elected from among the registered delegates of the All-American Council. However, Section 4(h) does not require the same for nominees to the Pension Board; as such, they are not required to be delegates present at the Council sessions.

The elections for both bodies will take place during Plenary Session V on Thursday, July 17.

All who are considering nomination are strongly encouraged to review the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, especially Articles III and V, to understand the terms, duties, and expectations of these important offices. Prospective candidates are also encouraged to speak with current members of the Metropolitan Council and Pension Board to gain a better understanding of the nature of the work involved.

Nominations and questions may be submitted to:

Nominations and questions may be submitted to: [nominations.21aac@oca.org](mailto:nominations.21aac@oca.org)

The members of the Nominating Committee are:  
Priest David Bozeman, Diocese of the South, CHAIR  
Priest Andrew Nelko, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania  
Ray Steeb, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania  
Lori Kochan, Diocese of the Midwest  
David Lane, Diocese of the West  
Kevin Fritts, Archdiocese of Washington

### **DEANERY CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE MOTHER OF GOD TIKHVIN SOVEREIGN LADY, QUEEN, AND PROTETRESS OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST**

On Wednesday June 25, 2025:  
6:00 pm Vigil

On Thursday, June 26, 2025  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy & Moleiben

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
6822 Broadview Road  
Parma, OH 44134

<b>ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - JUNE</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>1st Week</b>		
Vespers	7	11
Liturgy	62 / 38	47 / 32
<b>2nd Week</b>		
Vespers	7	
Liturgy	65 / 43	
<b>3rd Week</b>		
Vespers	6 (Fathers Day)	
Liturgy	54 43	
Kneeling Prayers	21	
<b>4th Week</b>		
Vespers	5	
Liturgy	54 / 43 (Pentecost)	
Kneeling Prayers	21	
Nativity Of St John		
Vespers	No Record	
Nativity Liturgy	No Record	
Peter & Paul Ves	7	
Peter & Paul Lit.	12	
<b>5th Week</b>		
Vespers	5	
Divine Liturgy	72 / 53	

## THANK YOU FROM SUE KENNEDY

I just want to thank my family and my church family for honoring me on the occasion of my 92nd Birthday this weekend. Thank you & God bless you all,

## 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-** \$567 + 300 from Church = **Total \$867.00**

## John 7:37-52, 8:12 (Gospel)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” Then the Pharisees answered them, “Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.” Nikodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?” They answered and said to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.” Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

## Reports for the 21st All-American Council Now Available

In accordance to Article III, Section 5.i of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the reports of the Departments, Offices, Boards, Institutions, and related Financials are now provided in writing at least thirty days prior to the date set for the convening of the council.

For convenience, these reports are grouped in two separate documents:

Financial Reports

Reports of the Departments, Offices, Boards, and Institutions

Delegates to the 21st All-American Council are encouraged to review and consider these reports before attending the Council next month. Hard copies will NOT be available, and those delegates who wish to have a hard copy on hand are invited to print these documents before traveling to Phoenix.

Only some of these reports will be presented orally at the at the Council.

Please note that the Delegate Handbook and the reports of the Officers will be published over the next 10 days.