



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 15

9:35 AM: Hours

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

Wednesday, June 18

Last City Council Meeting until September

Saturday, June 21

6:00 PM: Great Vespers

Sunday, June 22

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /
Social / Council Meeting

APOSTLES FAST BEGINS

Tomorrow the Apostles Fast begins for 2 weeks Please
plan to go to confession over the summer months.

SOCIALS FOR JUNE

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

June 22 – Council

June 29 – Sisterhood Strawberry Festival

JUNE FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$4,926.14
Income	\$6,619.70
TOTAL	\$1,693.56

Weekly Tithe	\$6,032.70
Weekly Candles	\$292.00
Bulletin	\$50.00
Altar Candles	\$50.00
Monthly Flowers	\$50.00
Parish Hall Rental	\$100.00
Decorated Candles	\$25.00
Easter Sign	\$20.00
Monthly Charity: Rescue Mission	\$295.00

Archpastoral Message of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel on the Great Feast of Pentecost

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Venerable
Monastics, and
Beloved Faithful of the Diocese of Chicago and the
Midwest

Dear Ones in Christ,

We celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the coming of
the Spirit, the appointed day of the promise, the fulfill-
ment of hope. How majestic and great is the mystery!
—from Vespers of the Feast

I greet you with joy and gladness as we gather
throughout our Diocese to celebrate the outpouring of
the Holy Spirit, the manifestation of the Holy Trinity,
and the beginning of the Church's divine mission. This
Feast of Pentecost is also personal for each one of us
as we remember that, just as the Holy Spirit was
poured out upon the disciples and apostles at the first
Pentecost, we, too, have received the Seal of the Gift
of the Holy Spirit.

This gift of the Holy Spirit is promised in the Holy
Scriptures. In the Book of the Prophet Joel, we read
the words "I will pour out my Spirit upon all peo-
ple" (Joel 2:8). The Lord Jesus repeats that promise in
the Gospel of John: Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It
is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go
away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart,
I will send Him to you... However, when He, the Spir-
it of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;
for He will not speak on His own authority, but what-
ever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you
things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of
what is Mine and declare it to you (cf. John 16:7-14).

These promises were fulfilled on the day of Pentecost,
when the Holy Spirit descended with power upon the
Apostles who then inaugurated the mission of the
Church in the world. Jesus Himself had prepared the
Eleven for this mission, appearing to them on many
occasions after his Resurrection (Acts 1:3). Prior to
His Ascension into Heaven, He ordered them not to
depart from Jerusalem, **Con't Pg 2**

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

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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

AB ADDRESS CON'T FROM PG 1

but to wait for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4-5); that is, he asked them to stay together to prepare themselves to receive the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. And so they gathered in prayer with Mary in the Upper Room, awaiting the fulfillment of the promise (Acts 1:14). To stay together in prayerful unity was a condition laid down by Jesus for the disciples and apostles to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The basis of their unity was their persistent prayer. In this example of prayer we are offered a significant lesson for every Christian community, every family, every parish, and every monastery. The basis for our unity and oneness of mind is our common prayer. Our ability to walk in the Spirit, to live the Christian life, and to proclaim the Gospel is founded and built upon our life of prayer, both personal and communal.

However, sometimes we have the impression that our lives as Orthodox Christians and our effectiveness in preaching the Gospel depends primarily on careful programming and its subsequent intellectual and practical implementation. The Lord certainly asks for our collaboration in such initiatives; He asks us to use our planning abilities, our intellectual and real-world talents, in service to the Gospel. But before any of our efforts, His initiative is necessary: the Holy Spirit—Who leads, guides, and inspires us—is the true protagonist of the Church, the One Who plays the chief role in leading and guiding us. Like the Apostles, we need to pray and wait for the Lord to guide and inspire us before we go into the world to preach the Saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

today we acknowledge that our human pride and arrogance always create divisions, build walls of indifference, hate, and violence. Following in the path of the divisions created by the building of the tower of Babel, humanity still lives fragmented. The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, heals our hearts and makes us capable of understanding the languages and lives of all. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Love, re-establishes the conduit of true communication, which is love itself. Recalling Babel and its disunity and the unity created by the Gift of the Holy Spirit, today we sing:

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

We celebrate today because the promised Comforter, the Spirit of the Father, has been given to us, indeed, poured out upon us. The Spirit of Truth will enable us to understand that Christ's work is a work of love: love of the One Who gave Himself, love of the Father Who has given Him. This is the mystery of Pentecost: the Holy Spirit illuminates the human spirit and transforms it, calling us all to unity.

Today, the Church, gathered in prayer with Mary the Ever-Virgin Birthgiver of God, implores and entreats: O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things; Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

With love in the All-Holy Spirit, +DANIEL

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: 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
-

\$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*
-

Mother's Day: Inspiration for Father's Day

The "Mother's Day" we celebrate today has its origins in the peace-and-reconciliation campaigns of the post-Civil War era. During the 1860s, at the urging of activist Ann Reeves Jarvis, one divided West Virginia town celebrated "Mother's Work Days" that brought together the mothers of Confederate and Union soldiers.

Did you know? There are more than 70 million fathers in the United States.

However, Mother's Day did not become a commercial holiday until 1908, when—inspired by Jarvis's daughter, Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her own mother by making Mother's Day a national holiday—the John Wanamaker department store in Philadelphia sponsored a service dedicated to mothers in its auditorium.

Thanks in large part to this association with retailers, who saw great potential for profit in the holiday, Mother's Day caught on right away. In 1909, 45 states observed the day, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution that made the second Sunday in May a holiday in honor of "that tender, gentle army, the mothers of America."

JUNE 2025 Reader Schedule

- June 15 – Natalie Simko
- June 22 – Sub-deacon Donald Tamulonis
- June 29 – Reader Matthew Vansuch

Origins of Father's Day

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm—perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June .

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.

Synaxis of All Saints Commemorated on June 15

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

Saint Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (Philokalia [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the Octoechos, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

Saint Nikódēmos of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to Saint Peter's five categories. The list of Saint Nikódēmos is found in his book *The Fourteen Epistles of Saint Paul* (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles,

Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. Saint Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the *Con't Next Pg*

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- Eleotherios 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) ©

All Saints con't from previous pg

monastic life is a light for all men” (LADDER, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living “in the world.” Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of Saint Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

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

**DEANERY CELEBRATION OF
THE FEAST OF THE MOTHER OF
GOD TIKHVIN SOVEREIGN LA-
DY, QUEEN, AND
PROTETRESS OF THE DIOCESE
OF CHCAGO 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

JUNE CHARITY
Rescue Mission

**His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Presides
Over the 2025 Commencement Exercises of
St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Semi-
nary and St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological
Seminary**

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (SVOTS) and St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary (STOTS) have concluded their respective 2025 commencement exercises. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at both events, offering words of encouragement and his archpastoral blessings to the graduating students, their families, and the seminary communities.

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

On Saturday, May 17, the St. Vladimir's Seminary community gathered for its 85th commencement exercises, beginning with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the Three Hierarchs Chapel, presided over by His Beatitude. During the service, seminarian Deacon Daniel York was ordained to the Holy Priesthood.

The commencement ceremony followed in the Metropolitan Philip Auditorium, where His Beatitude officially opened the commencement exercises. Welcoming remarks were then offered by Interim President and Academic Dean Dr. Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie. The commencement address was delivered by the Archpriest Dr. Paul Nadim Tarazi, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, a scholar and prolific author who taught at the seminary for nearly four decades. Ms. Jaime Rall delivered the salutatory address, and the valedictory address was given by the Deacon Matthew Wiley.

Among the guests in attendance were His Eminence Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey, His Grace Bishop Nikodhim of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese, His Grace Bishop Benedict of Hartford and New England, His Grace Metropolitan Thomas Mar Ivanios of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Diocese of South-West America, His Grace Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan of the Armenian Church's Eastern Diocese of America, St. Vladimir's Seminary Alumnus and Board of Trustees Executive Chair the Archimandrite Jeremy Davis, Archiepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest, representing His Eminence Metropolitan Saba of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary the Rev. Mardiros Chevian, and four guests in honor of graduating seminarian from Uganda, Deacon Richard Okello: former trustee John Milosevic and his wife, Janet; Founder of Lift Up Uganda Sue Nelson, and Susan Harbiger.

In addition to the conferral of degrees, the St. Macrina Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to Dr. Michael Legaspi by Student Council President Ms. Laura Ionescu, and a citation was read in honor of Protodeacon Peter Danilchick. The Class of 2025, comprising 26 graduates across the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Theology programs, also presented a specially commissioned icon of Christ the Sower as their class gift. The St. Vladimir's Seminary Chorale, under the direction of Zachariah Mandell, **Con't Next Pg**

Seminary graduation con't from previous Pg

sung an original setting of “Gladsome Light” composed by salutorian Jaime Rall, and the “Koinonikon of Pascha” by Tikey Zes.

Before the conclusion of the exercises, His Beatitude delivered closing remarks, exhorting the graduates to serve as faithful guides in a world marked by confusion and absurdity. He said, “You have been given the tools, the wisdom, the knowledge, and the formation to plunge into this labyrinth of the absurd – not to be swallowed up, but to emerge as guides for the lost and the despairing.” The commencement ceremony concluded with the singing of “Shine, Shine, O New Jerusalem” and the troparion of Pascha. A reception was held after the commencement.

St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary

Activities for the 83rd Commencement exercises at St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary began Friday, May 23, with a procession to the “Cook Property” adjacent to campus and the ceremonial groundbreaking for future married student housing. His Beatitude, His Eminence Archbishop Michael, and Board Chairman David Jarrett blessed the site and broke ground together, marking the start of this long-anticipated project. That evening, Archpriest Constantine Nasr delivered the commencement address in the Archangel Michael Convocation Hall and gifted each graduate a copy of his book, *The Resource Book for Orthodox Evangelism*. A reception followed.

On Saturday, May 24, the seminary gathered for its Commencement exercises. Valedictorian Priest Paisios Hamann offered the address where he called his classmates to live lives marked by holiness, even in the face of worldly ridicule, and gave heartfelt thanks to his wife, Matushka Anna.

Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge, President of the Alumni Association, presented the Alumnus of the Year Award to Archpriest Patrick Burns in recognition of his decade of leadership and service to the seminary.

The Father Alexander Atty Service Award was presented to Ginger Smith (Dining Services) and Timothy Scheitlin (Housekeeping) for their exemplary contributions to the life of the seminary. His Beatitude and His Eminence then conferred ten Master of Divinity degrees, with four graduates – Priest Dave Thompson, Thomas Coon, Mathew Varughese, and Ashich Mohan – recognized with honors for their senior projects.

St. Herman’s Orthodox Theological Seminary

On Sunday, May 11th, 2025 Saint Herman’s Orthodox Theological Seminary also held its commencement exercises, with His Eminence Archbishop Alexei presiding. His Eminence celebrated the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at All Saints of Alaska Chapel in Kodiak, AK where he elevated Priest Michael Nicolai to the dignity of Archpriest and awarded Priest George

Nicholai the Nabedrinnek. Seminarian Matfei Peterson was also tonsured a reader. Following the service, graduation and commencement exercises were held at the KANA Marketplace, where His Eminence addressed the graduates to continue with lifelong service rooted in learning, humility, courage, and missionary zeal. Each graduate received a copy of *The Law of God* by Serafim Slobodskoy.

The Spring Class of 2025 includes Deacon Feodor Timpko (Pastoral Studies Certificate), Deacon Innokenty Heckert (Diploma of Orthodox Theology), Mr. Andrew Mesack (Reader Certificate), Mr. Peter Sunday (Diploma of Orthodox Theology), Mr. John Amik (Reader Certificate), and Mr. Vasily Nicholai (Reader Certificate).

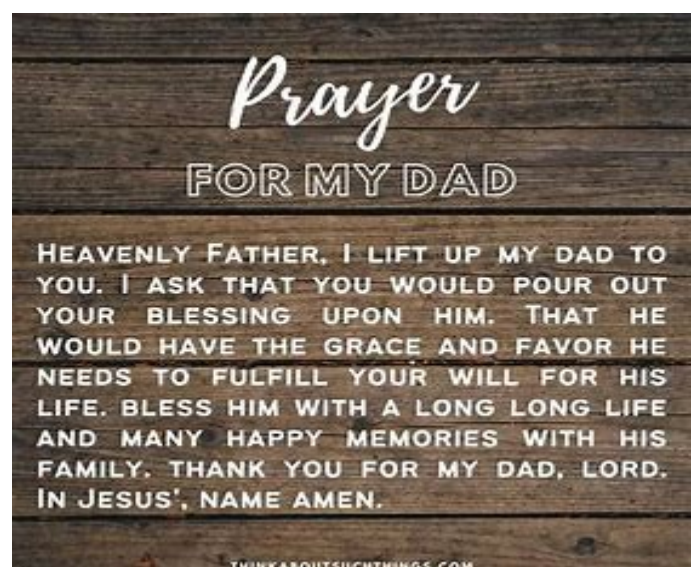
The Orthodox Church in America extends congratulations to the Classes of 2025. May God grant the graduates, faculty, and staff of our seminaries many years!

Additional photos and information may be found at svots.edu, stots.edu, and sthermanseminary.org.

The faithful and parishes of the Orthodox Church in America are urged to intentionally pray for vocations and to support the seminaries, students, faculty, and their families. It is also vital to commit to financially support the three OCA seminaries as they continue the necessary work of providing exceptional education and spiritual formation for the future leaders of the Orthodox Church.

Parishes are reminded of the resolution approved at the 16th All-American Council in Seattle, which calls for parishes of the Orthodox Church in America to allocate 1% of their budget towards the support of these seminaries.

If you want to know more about supporting our seminaries, their work, or learn more about vocation and theological formation, seminary contact information is available on national oca website..



ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - JUNE	2024	2025
1st Week		
Vespers	7	11
Liturgy	62 / 38	47 / 32
2nd Week		
Vespers	7	8
Liturgy	65 / 43	41 / 28 Pentecost
3rd Week		
Vespers	6 (Fathers Day)	
Liturgy	54 43	
Kneeling Prayers	21	
4th Week		
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	
5th Week		
Vespers	5	
Divine Liturgy	72 / 53	

Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (Epistle)

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30 (Gospel)

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundred-fold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Cleveland Cathedral Forges Ahead One Year After Devastating Fire

I hope this message finds you well and that you’ve had a wonderful week. I’m happy to share an update on our church restoration efforts. We have officially begun initial work, which includes mold remediation and A/C system removal. This phase is expected to be completed within 7-10 days, preparing the way for the first of four phases of restoration focused on the roof and domes. This phase is known as DR #1, and you can find the cost and more information here. This document shows the original proposal, as well as the work and cost approved by insurance.

The restoration process is divided into five stages (see below), each of which was discussed in greater detail during our workshop meetings. Last Friday, we discussed DR #4; you can find the meeting agenda here. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

I frequently receive questions about our financial situation and our ability to cover the full cost of the restoration. This is understandable, as you all are deeply invested in this project and eager for our community to return to the cathedral. We are committed to continuing the 130-year legacy of our parish, the oldest Orthodox church in Cleveland and the oldest Orthodox parish in Ohio. We will do everything possible to achieve this goal and keep the legacy of faith of our ancestors.

The current estimated cost of the project is approximately \$15 million. Several factors could still impact the restoration costs. Many other factors must be considered, and careful calculations are essential to ensure the project’s success.