



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 22

9:35 AM: Hours

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

Monday, June 23

6:00 PM: Vespers for Nativity of St John

Tuesday, June 24

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, June 25

6:00 PM: Fire House Meeting

Saturday, June 26

6:00 PM: Vespers for Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul

Sunday, June 27

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Strawberry Festival

Washington state targets priests, confidentiality of confession with discriminatory law

ADF attorneys file suit on behalf of the Orthodox Church in America and Orthodox Churches, priests over state law that violates constitutional rights

On behalf of Orthodox Churches and priests, Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys, with co-counsel Eric Kniffin and George Ahrend, filed a federal lawsuit on June 16, 2025 to challenge a Washington state law that targets priests by criminalizing their religious obligation to keep confessions confidential. “The First Amendment guarantees that governments cannot single out religious believers for worse treatment,” said ADF Senior Counsel and Vice President of Appellate Advocacy John Bursch. “Washington is targeting priests by compelling them to break the sacred confidentiality of confession while protecting other confidential communications, like those between attorneys and their clients. That’s rank religious discrimination. We are urging the court to swiftly restore this constitutionally protected freedom of churches and priests in Washington state.”

The Orthodox Church in America prayerfully decided to join this action with the support of His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West, whose Diocese includes eight parishes in Washington State upon review by the Standing Synod of Bishops, chaired by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, and the Metropolitan Council.

Orthodox Churches teach that priests have a strict religious duty to maintain the absolute confidentiality of what is disclosed in the sacrament of confession. The purpose of this confidentiality is to protect the penitent and foster a sense of safety and trust, allowing individuals to approach God for forgiveness without fear. Violating this mandatory religious obligation is a canonical crime and a grave sin, with severe consequences for the offending priest, including removal from the priesthood. Washington’s new law also harms members of Orthodox Churches. By piercing the sacramental confidentiality, the law deters believers from confessing certain sins—or even from going to confession at all—and so prevents them from mending their relationship with God. **Con’t Next Pg**

JUNE FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$7,318.19
Income	\$9,360.70
TOTAL	\$2,04251
Weekly Tithe	\$8,470.70
Weekly Candles	\$410.00
Bulletin	\$50.00
Altar Candles	\$50.00
Monthly Flowers	\$50.00
Tetrapod Candles	\$50.00
Protection Candles	\$30.00
Charcoal donation	\$105.00
Parish Hall Rental	\$100.00
Decorated Candles	\$25.00
Easter Sign	\$20.00
Monthly Charity: Rescue Mission	\$460.00

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

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padrebartek@gmail.com

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

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

Mrs. Mary Fredericks
648 Dumont Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

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

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

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

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

Washington State Con't from previous Pg

Every state, including Washington, honors the clergy-penitent privilege, and the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that the privilege has long been part of common law tradition. Also, like every other state, Washington has a mandatory reporter law that imposes a legal duty on certain persons to file a report with the government when they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect. And like nearly every other state, Washington's mandatory reporter law has recognized a clergy-penitent privilege that protects the confidentiality of confession—until now.

In May, Washington passed a law that makes it a crime for priests to fulfill their religious obligation to uphold the confidentiality of confession. That law puts clergy—and only clergy—to an untenable choice: They must obey Washington law and violate their sacred obligation to maintain the confidentiality of confession, or else uphold their religious vow and face criminal penalties.

While the state's law maintains confidentiality privileges for attorneys and clients; peer supporters; sexual assault advocates; and alcohol and drug recovery sponsors, it does not afford the same privileges to priests, uniquely targeting them for punishment. A single violation can carry up to 364 days in jail, a \$5,000 fine, and civil liability. As the lawsuit explains, the Orthodox Churches and priests do not object to alerting authorities when they have genuine concerns about children based on information learned outside the narrow

confidentiality of sacramental confession. Indeed, the protection of children is of paramount importance. It is the express goal of the entire Church to provide a safe and healthy environment for all of the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America. The Church laments the sin of sexual misconduct, and will not tolerate sexual misconduct by its clergy or any layperson. Clergy are already required to make such reports under their own bishops' policies for information learned outside of the narrow confines of sacramental confession. The Churches and priests only request preservation of the longstanding clergy-penitent privilege, as the constitution requires.

ADF attorneys filed the lawsuit, *Orthodox Church in America v. Ferguson*, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

Alliance Defending Freedom is an alliance-building, non-profit legal organization committed to protecting religious freedom, free speech, parental rights, and the sanctity of life.

Media inquiries should be forwarded to media@ADFlegal.org.

JUNE CHARITY Rescue Mission

SOCIALS FOR JUNE

June 22 – Council
June 29 – Council - Strawberry Festival

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JULY Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin:

Wine:

Incense:

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In honor of my mom Mat. Helen Psinka on the occasion of her 85th B-day–
Given by Tashie Simko

Altar Candles: In memory of my dad the AP John Psinka on his 29th year of repose– Given by Tashie Simko

Tetrapod Candles: In memory of Andrew Cvercko– Given by Anne Cvercko

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

St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: In honor of my son Eugene Kennedy on the occasion of his b-day– Given by Sue Kennedy

Protection Icon Candles: In memory of Marion Zwinski– Given by Anne Cvercko

St. John the Baptist Candles: In memory of my mother Jenny Rudiak– Given by Sue Kennedy

Flowers:

\$50 per month

\$30 per month

\$25 per month

*Wine

*St. Herman candles

Incense

*Bulletin

*St. Panteleimon Icon candles

*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light

*Protection Icon candles

Flowers - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time– *Updated*

*Altar Candles

*St. John the Baptist candles

*Tetrapod Candles

Delegate Handbook and Reports of the Officers Now Available for the 21st All-American Council

The Delegate Handbook for the 21st All-American Council, in Phoenix, AZ is now available for download.

Inside the Handbook, delegates will find an explanation of the All-American Council, delegate instructions, proposed Statute Resolutions, and other useful information.

All delegates attending the Council are asked to carefully review the contents so that they are fully-prepared to participate. Hard copies of the Handbook will not be available at the Council.

Anyone who wants a hard copy must print it themselves ahead of time. It is on the national oca website.

Liturgical Service Texts and Life of the Righteous Olga of Kwethluk Now Available

The official liturgical service texts, music and Life of the Righteous Olga of Kwethluk, approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, is now available to download. Additional music downloads will become available over the coming weeks.

These texts were prepared at the direction of the Holy Synod following their decision to formally begin Matushka Olga's canonization process. The liturgical service and Life will serve as the standard texts for the Orthodox Church in America.

The canonization proper will begin Thursday, June 19th, with a Primatial All-Night Vigil in the village of Kwethluk.

THANK YOU RECEIVED

We wish to express our deep appreciation to you for your generous gift of \$1,060. With heartfelt thanks to you for your goodness and charity we ask Our Lord's Blessings upon you and your loved ones.

Workers of St Basil

Romans 2:10-16 (Epistle)

but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

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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.) / 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.

Archpriest Jason R. Kappanadze

Archpriest Jason R. Kappanadze, 81, fell asleep in the Lord on June 14, 2025, at home with his family in Elmira Heights, NY. He will be dearly missed by his wife of 42 years, Matushka Margaret Kappanadze (née Udics); his children, Nina Dudek, Susanna Tabeling (Peter), and Paul Kappanadze (Anastasia); and his beloved grandchildren, Lydia Dudek and Peter Kappanadze.

He was born on February 28, 1944, in Cleveland, OH, to Anastasia (Fedak) and Roman Kappanadze, and was baptized at Saint Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral. He grew up surrounded by extended family, including his grandfather, Protopresbyter Jason R. Kappanadze, long-time pastor at Saint Theodosius.

Music was always an important part of his life. He was an accomplished pianist and found immense pleasure in making music with others as a band member or accompanist.

He earned a bachelor's degree in speech from the Ohio State University, where he played in the marching band and worked at the radio station. After graduating in 1966, he served as a communications officer in the United States Air Force for four years, rising to the rank of captain. He began a successful communications career as a cameraman in Cleveland, OH, and in advertising and television production in Little Rock, AR, and Atlanta, GA.

While in Atlanta, Father Jason rediscovered his faith at Saint Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church where he "heard the Divine Liturgy in English for the first time." Shortly thereafter he headed to Saint Tikhon's Seminary. He served as choir director in Atlanta and at Saint Basil the Great Orthodox Church in Simpson, PA. As a student, he said, "Over a period of time, I came to the realization that the Church — when I viewed it from the

perspective of where I was, and what I'd been doing — made incredible sense and possessed deep wisdom concerning life in this world and the next. It became my desire — if God so willed it — to learn more and to pass it along to others."

At seminary, his friend, Deacon John Udics, introduced him to his sister Margaret, and the two were wed at Saint Theodosius in 1983. Father Jason was ordained to the priesthood in 1985 by then Bishop Herman and served as pastor at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Pottstown, PA (1985-1987), Saint Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral in Cleveland (1987-1999), and Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Elmira Heights, NY (2000-2017). He loved to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, fondly remembering Father Vladimir Borischevsky's advice to "live in the Liturgy." For Father Jason, the Liturgy was "never long enough."

In his priesthood, Father Jason used his communications skills to teach the Faith to as many people as he could reach with creativity and innovation. While at Saint Tikhon's, he and Matushka Margaret worked on the Tikhonaire yearbook and started Your Diocese Alive magazine for the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, producing each issue from start to finish before computers. He also worked on multimedia productions for the Orthodox Church in America, and could often be seen with a camera or microphone at church councils and other events.

Long before streaming and podcasts, he produced Everyday, a series of audio cassette tapes, for several years in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Each tape included daily installments of scripture, lives of the saints, and lecture series or interviews. With the help of his family, Everyday tapes were shipped all over the country, and even internationally. Everyday made the life of the Church more accessible, helping listeners to make it the first part of their daily routine. **Con't pg 6**

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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) ©

Summary Report Released in Response to Metropolitan Tikhon's Call for Reflection

The Orthodox Church in America has issued a summary report based on the submissions received in response to His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon's Call for Reflections.

A committee consisting of Archpriest Gregory Scratch, Priest Andrew Smith, Priest William Rettig, Dr. Rebecca Luft, and Matushka Sarah Geana was tasked by His Beatitude with reading and analyzing the responses. The group produced a white paper that His Beatitude will use in his preparations for the All-American Council.

A summary report of the white paper's findings is now being made available to the wider church as a tool for reflection ahead of the Council. A copy of the report may be downloaded below.

Clergy and lay delegates to the upcoming Council are urged to review this report, but clergy are also invited to share it with their parish councils and their communities at large.

**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 2025 Reader Schedule

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

AP Jason Con't from pg 4

Father Jason tirelessly encouraged his parishes to invest in youth activities, adult education, and fellowship. He led a full schedule of services, taught classes, organized retreats, dances, picnics, and trips. Father Jason took every opportunity to teach. His preaching balanced the mystical and the practical, and he did not shy away from boldly speaking the truth in love. He loved teaching children and led lively Faith Enrichment classes for seniors and seekers alike.

Father Jason encouraged his parishioners to live the teachings of Christ through outreach and service to their neighbors. In the 1990s, he and his faithful opened the doors of Saint Theodosius to the neighborhood for free Thanksgiving dinners, which were extremely popular events, both for volunteers and attendees. Later, in Elmira Heights, he saw a need for a weekend soup kitchen, so, through parishioners' donations, he bought a small school bus and delighted in driving it to bring people to the parish's Hospitality Spot.

Father Jason served the Church and lived the Faith with joy. He had an engaging personality and did everything with humor. He was a pastor, teacher, counselor, confessor, and friend to many who will miss him.

Services for Father Jason is as follows:

On Monday, June 23, 2025, family and friends are welcome at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 140 Horseheads Blvd., Elmira Heights, NY, for visitation beginning at 4:00-6:00 PM. The Funeral Service for a Priest will begin at 6:00 PM.

On Tuesday, June 24, 2025, there will be visitation from 4:00-6:00 PM followed by a Panikhida (Memorial Service) at 6:00 PM at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 6822 Broadview Rd., Parma, OH.

On Wednesday, June 25, 2025, Divine Liturgy will be served at Holy Trinity, Parma, at 9:00 AM, followed by interment at Saint Theodosius Cemetery, 8200 Biddulph Rd., Brooklyn, OH.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary or to the Saint Theodosius Cathedral fire restoration fund.

May Father Jason's memory be eternal!

Matthew 4:18-23 (Gospel)

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

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)	6
Liturgy	54 / 43	56 / 37
Kneeling Prayers	21	30
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	

Synaxis of the Saints of North America Commemorated on June 22

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetov died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow. **Con't next pg**

North American Saints Con't from previous pg

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

RIGHTEOUS OLGA OF KWETHLUK, WONDERWORKER, MATUSHKA OF ALL ALASKA



Troparion - Tone 4

God has chosen a humble mother from Alaska to be an example for all servants of God.; He has given us Saint Olga as a helper in afflictions and as a guide to leading a life of sacrificial love. Therefore we entreat thee, O Holy Mother Olga: pray that we, thy sinful children may be saved and rejoice with thee in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kontakion - Tone 8

Guided by the heavenly light and touched by Christ's rich mercy, thy loving hands heal the wounds of those hurt in the past. Thy soft voice encourages all to remain faithful to God, for the eternal Lord will give the steadfast a crown of life. O holy Mother Olga, visit us with love and reassure us, that we may accept whatever cross we must bear as chosen by the merciful God and that, through thy prayers, we do the will of God for the salvation of our souls.

Stichera on Lord I Call

Tone One: Most Praiseworthy Martyrs

O righteous mother Olga, though thy relics were yet covered by the frozen earth, thy loving prayers warmed the world. Uncovering thy precious relics and bowing before them in veneration, we entreat thee: Pray always to Christ for those who suffer and sorrow