



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405



JULY Bulletin Sponsor

In memory of Uncle Steve Sveda- Given by Barbara Kolesar / In loving memory of Joanie Puharich Kovach & Robert Paul Puharich- Given by Mike Kovach & Diane Puharich Families

Liturgical & Events Schedule **3 WEEK EDITION**

Sunday, July 6

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /
Social by 'O' Club

Sunday, July 13

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy by Mitred AP John Adamcio / Panachida in loving memory of Joan Puharich & Robert Puharich. May their memory be eternal. / Social by Mike Kovach and Diane Puharich Families

Sunday, July 20

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy by Mitred AP John Adamcio / SOCIAL IS OPEN

Sunday, July 27

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy by Mitred AP John Adamcio / Panachida for my dad Walter & the Basile family / social by council

Sunday, August 3rd

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / social by O Club

**NOTE: The Dormition Fast begins on August 1.
No Vespers on Saturday's during July**

FATHER ANDREW AWAY

Father Andrew will be going to Phoenix, AZ for the AAC following the Divine Liturgy today. Nancy will be joining me in Phoenix later in the week. I will be taking 2 weeks vacation (1 wk before and 1 wk after the Council). I will be returning on Monday, July 28th. Any emergency please contact Father Deacon David. During this time there will be no Saturday night Vespers until August 2nd. Thank you !

JUNE FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$16,071.58
Income	\$13,693.70
TOTAL	-\$2,377.88
Weekly Tithe	\$12,344.70
Weekly Candles	\$689.00
Bulletin	\$50.00
Altar Candles	\$50.00
Monthly Flowers	\$50.00
Tetrapod Candles	\$50.00
Protection Candles	\$30.00
St. Hermans Candles	\$180.00
Charcoal donation	\$105.00
Parish Hall Rental	\$100.00
Decorated Candles	\$25.00
Easter Sign	\$20.00
Monthly Charity: Rescue Mission	\$681.00



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

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

Mrs. Mary Fredericks
648 Dumont Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Pauline Fesz
488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

George Horodnic, Sr.
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

Ann Cvercko
2769 Donna Dr.
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

Call for Nominations to Metropolitan Council and Pension Board

As the 21st All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America approaches, the Nominating Committee is renewing its call for nominations to the Metropolitan Council and the Pension Board. These play essential roles in the governance, stewardship, and long-term sustainability of the Orthodox Church in America.

The 21st All-American Council, to be held July 14–18, 2025, in Phoenix, AZ, will include elections to fill the following positions:

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)

Both the Metropolitan Council and Pension Board meet regularly and provide oversight over the Church's administration and pension obligations. The Orthodox Church in America is looking for individuals with integrity, relevant experience, and a commitment to the Church. Clergy and laity with experience in administration, law, finance, investment management, or other relevant disciplines are especially encouraged to consider nomination.

The Nominating Committee encourages each diocese, deanery, and parish to consider whether they know someone who might be well-suited to serve in this capacity. Self-nominations are welcome, provided the appropriate consent and episcopal blessing are obtained.

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 will only be accepted when submitted with the completed nomination form and may be submitted no later than Tuesday, July 15, at 5:00 PM.

A preliminary list of candidates, along with brief biographies, will be posted on OCA.org on Monday, July 7, with an updated list published on Wednesday, July 16. The election will occur on Thursday, July 17, at Plenary Session V.

Nominees for the Metropolitan Council must be registered delegates to the All-American Council. For the Pension Board, however, nominees do not need to be delegates.

Any nominations or further questions should be sent to: nominations.21aac@oca.org

The current 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

JULY Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: In memory of Uncle Steve Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar

Wine: In memory of my father sub-deacon John Zelina—Given by Maureen Koval

Incense: OPEN

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 / in memory of my dad Walter on the occasion of his 18th year of repose on 7-25th– Given by Michelle Basile

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: In memory of my father sub-deacon John Zelina– Given by Maureen Koval

\$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*

AUGUST Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: In memory of Aunt Mary Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar

Wine: OPEN

Incense: OPEN

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In honor of my sister Raissa’s birthday on August 13th.– Given by Tashie Simko

Altar Candles: In memory of Michael & Ethel Dudzik- Given by Michael & Lynn Polewan

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: For the health of my husband Gary Thompson on the occasion of his birthday– Given by Patty Thompson

St. John the Baptist Candles: For the health of my husband Gary Thompson on the occasion of his birthday– Given by Patty Thompson

\$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*

JULY 2025 Reader Schedule

July 6– Reader Nick Vansuch
 July 13– Robert Willison
 July 20– George Horodnic
 July 27– Jacob Hyrb
 August 3– Deacon David Gemmel

SOCIALS FOR JULY

July 6– O Club
 July 13- by Mike Kovach and Diane Puharich Families
 July 20– OPEN
 July 27– Council
 August 3– O Club

JULY CHARITY
 St. Vladimir’s Seminary

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

August 3– Helen Colaluca

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

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

padrebartek@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / 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.

Romans 15:1-7 (Epistle, July 27th)

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Romans 10:1-10 (Epistle, July 13th)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 6:18-23 (Epistle, July 6th)

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 9:27-35 (Gospel, July 27th)

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

July Reposed List

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Veronica Graban (1998) ©, Ann Zastany Crowi (2019) ©, Mike Smyrnios (1960) ©</p> <p>2 Vasil Fecik (1921) ©</p> <p>3 Andrew Cvercko (2017) ©, John Kaschak (1920) ©, Jenny Rudiak</p> <p>4 Alice Sutko (2020), Helen Arvan Kusmanov (2013) ©, Anna Gozur (1957) ©</p> <p>5 George Hostal (2001) ©, George Vavlas (1945) ©, Andrew Harvischak (1951) ©</p> <p>6 Steve Sveda (1928) ©, Nick Galouzis (1961) ©</p> <p>7 Luba Raseta (1929) ©</p> <p>8 Marian Shepelevich (2020)</p> <p>9 Mary Zanos (1926) ©</p> <p>10 Anna Roman (1926) ©, Robert Kennedy (1994) ©, Pete George (1939) ©, Nick Despetarich (1959) ©</p> <p>11 Ruth Libertin (2008) ©</p> <p>12 Anna Berdy (1980) ©, John Bolescak (1926) ©</p> <p>13 Marilyn Fasiline (1972) ©, John Borsic (1987) ©, Andrew Holubauich (1930) ©</p> <p>14 Edward Gorol (1961) ©</p> <p>15 Catherine Harvischak (1977) ©, Floyd Dweesy (1985) ©, Mary Sykola (2005) ©, Betty Ewenish (2024)</p> <p>16 Mary Macala (1971) ©, Julian Marsteler (1920) ©</p> <p>17 Mary Bartek (1984), Eleanor Graban (1986) ©, Elizabeth Zelena (1991) ©</p> | <p>18 Steve Paroh (1979) ©, Still Born Cmur (1923) ©</p> <p>19 Helen Bohish (1988) ©, Helen Livosky (2015) ©, Mary Balak (1925) ©, Mike Olsavsky (1931) ©, Margaret Bilehik (1955) ©, Walter Litzie (2023)</p> <p>20 Joseph Sirilla, Sr (1979) ©, Fr. Dc. John Youhas (2012), Anna Zavada Bartek (1924), Nicholas Papas (1949) ©, Maria Karas (1956) ©</p> <p>21 Anna Tsagros (1929) ©, Maria Michaels (2024)</p> <p>22 Elizabeth Zilena (1985) ©, Mary Kennedy (2000) ©, Stephen Kalafut (1956) ©, William Petrosky (2020) ©, George Vansuch (1996) ©</p> <p>23 George Patzakis (1961) ©</p> <p>25 Walter Lee Wilfong (2007) ©, John Konik (2009) ©</p> <p>26 Faith Simko (2016) ©, John Poulas (1925) ©, Catherine Pavlos (1949) ©, Charles Xenakis (1960) ©</p> <p>27 Ignatius Sosnowchik (1973) ©, Frank Zwinski (2013) ©, Christ Samjos (1930) ©, Panagiotis Sarris (1953) ©, William Romanchek, Jr (2024)</p> <p>28 Stella Graban Kurtiak (2013) ©, A.P. John Psinka (1996)</p> <p>29 MaryAnn Such (1972) ©, Andy Zenko (2024) ©</p> <p>30 Anna Krut (1924) ©, Sophia Oshelski (1959) ©</p> |
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Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon / Commemorated on July 27

The Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon was born in the city of Nicomedia into the family of the illustrious pagan Eustorgius, and he was named Pantoleon. His mother Saint Eouboula (March 30) was a Christian. She wanted to raise her son in the Christian Faith, but she died when the future martyr was just a young child. His father sent Pantoleon to a pagan school, after which the young man studied medicine at Nicomedia under the renowned physician Euphrosynus. Pantoleon came to the attention of the emperor Maximian (284-305), who wished to appoint him as royal physician when he finished his schooling.

The hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates, survivors of the massacre of 20,000 Christians in 303

(December 28), were living secretly in Nicomedia at that time. Saint Hermolaus saw Pantoleon time and again when he came to the house where they were hiding. Once, the priest invited the youth to the house and spoke about the Christian Faith. After this Pantoleon visited Saint Hermolaus every day. *Con't pg 9*

Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah / Commemorated on July 20

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: *Con't pg 8*

July Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Julia Simko
- 3 Eugene Kennedy
- 4 Stephen Holly / Georgiana Lukehart
- 5 Pani Stacey Mihaly
- 6 Terri Petroff
- 11 Joan Cross
- 12 Pauline Fesz / Justin Stokley / Joe Stokely / Ann Kristian
- 14 Nicole Marianni
- 15 His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
- 17 Jonah Bremer / Kathleen Jesko
- 19 David Konik / Adam Rusnak / Diane Marie Ruff
- 20 Alison LaValle
- 23 Mat. Helen Psinka
- 30 Mat. Christine Hryb / Maureen Koval / Gabreille Kalantzis / Ann Bufalini

Anniversary

- 3 Bob & Elizabeth Willison (94)
- 6 Ron & Mary Luthern (69)
- 8 Nick & Monica Vansuch (72)
- 13 Marcus & Marcia Kubancsek (03)
- 19 Thomas & Deborah Zelinsky (81)
- 24 Frank & Lori Batura
- 25 Andy & Michelle Basile (92)
- 27 Dennis & Kim Konik / Ken & Lynn Krause
- 30 James & Sandra Bufalini

Names Day

- 10 His Grace Nikodhim of Boston & the Albanian Archdiocese
- 17 Tony Jesko, Jr. / Tony Jesko, Sr.
- 20 Eli Arvan / Lynn Polewan
- 24 Matushka Christine Hryb / Elaine Johnston
- 26 Jacob Hryb
- 31 AB Benjamin of San Francisco & the West

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	9
Liturgy	54 / 43 (Pentecost)	50 / 36
Kneeling Prayers	21	31
Nativity Of St John		
Vespers	No Record	9
Nativity Liturgy	No Record	7 / 6
Peter & Paul Ves	7	8
Peter & Paul Lit.	12	44 / 33
5th Week		
Vespers	5	8
Divine Liturgy	72 / 53	44 / 33

Venerable Sisoës the Great / Commemorated on July 6

Saint Sisoës the Great (+ 429) was a solitary monk, pursuing asceticism in the Egyptian desert in a cave sanctified by the prayerful labors of his predecessor, Saint Anthony the Great (January 17). For his sixty years of labor in the desert, Saint Sisoës attained to sublime spiritual purity and he was granted the gift of wonderworking, so that by his prayers he once restored a dead child back to life.

Extremely strict with himself, Abba Sisoës was very merciful and compassionate to others, and he received everyone with love. To those who visited him, the saint first of all always taught humility. When one of the monks asked how he might attain to a constant remembrance of God, Saint Sisoës remarked, "That is no great thing, my son, but it is a great thing to regard yourself as inferior to everyone else. This leads to the acquisition of humility." Asked by the monks whether one year is sufficient for repentance if a brother sins, Abba Sisoës said, "I trust in the mercy of God that if such a man repents with all his heart, then God will accept his repentance in three days." When Saint Sisoës lay upon his deathbed, the disciples surrounding the Elder saw that his face shone like the sun. They asked the dying man what he saw. Abba Sisoës replied that he saw Saint Anthony, the prophets, and the apostles. His face increased in brightness, and he spoke with someone. The monks asked, "With whom are you speaking, Father?" He said that angels had come for his soul, and he was entreating them to give him a little more time for repentance. The monks said, "You have no need for repentance, Father." Saint Sisoës said with great humility, "I do not think that I have even begun to repent." After these words the face of the holy abba shone so brightly that the brethren were not able to look upon him. Saint Sisoës told them that he saw the Lord Himself. Then there was a flash like lightning, and a fragrant odor, and Abba Sisoës departed to the Heavenly Kingdom.

New Icon of All Saints of North America to Debut at 21st All-American Council

At the upcoming 21st All-American Council, taking place July 14–18, 2025, in Phoenix, AZ, a new official icon of All Saints of North America will debut for the veneration of the faithful.

In January 2024, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon issued a call for proposals for a new icon of All Saints of North America. In response, His Beatitude's Office received a number of proposals from iconographers around the world. After giving each entry due consideration, His Beatitude decided to commission the new icon from master iconographer Anton Daineko, instructor at the Icon School of St. Tikhon's Art Institute in South Canaan, PA. The icon was completed earlier this year and has been since housed at the Chancery offices in Springfield, VA.

The icon includes all the saints of North America listed in the Diptychs of the Orthodox Church in America as well as the newly-canonized righteous Olga of Kwethluk. In accord with His Beatitude's initial call for proposals, at the center of the icon, Our Lord Jesus Christ is enthroned with his Mother and his Forerunner on either side of him in a posture of deësis.

As is traditional in icons depicting the synaxis of the saints of a particular locality, a major local temple appears in the background of the icon. For this element of the composition, His Beatitude asked Mr. Daineko to depict the Church of the Ascension on Unalaska, AK, a temple originally built by the hands of Saint Innocent himself.

His Beatitude will bless the new icon at the Council, and it will be available for the veneration of the faithful throughout the event. It is expected that the icon will then be returned to Virginia until the next All-American Council.

Matthew 8:5-13 (Gospel, 6th)

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Matthew 9:1-8 (Gospel, 20th)

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Matthew 8:28-9:1 (Gospel, 13th)

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Romans 12:6-14 (Epistle, July 20th)

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

St Elijah con't from pg 5

“When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.” The name Elijah (the Lord’s strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1). The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards

evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: “Truly, the Lord is God!” Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave. The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in “a gentle breeze” (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah’s mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit. According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30). Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism Saint Olga (July 11) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in her native region, at the village of Vibuta. In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

On July 20, 1741, the Feast Day of the Holy Prophet Elijah, an unnamed Hieromonk served the first Divine Liturgy in Alaskan waters while aboard the ship Saint Peter, commanded by Captain-Commander Vitus Bering, at 58 degrees 14 minutes northern latitude, and 141 degrees western longitude.

Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon Con't 5

One day the saint found a dead child on the street. He had been bitten by a great snake, which was still beside the child's body. Pantoleon began to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to revive the dead child and to destroy the venomous reptile. He firmly resolved that if his prayer were fulfilled, he would become a follower of Christ and receive Baptism. The child rose up alive, and the snake died before Pantoleon's eyes.

After this miracle, Pantoleon was baptized by Saint Hermolaus with the name Panteleimon (meaning "all-merciful"). Speaking with Eustorgius, Saint Panteleimon prepared him to accept Christianity. When the father saw how his son healed a blind man by invoking Jesus Christ, he then believed in Christ and was baptized by Saint Hermolaus together with the man whose sight was restored.

After the death of his father, Saint Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy. He treated all those who turned to him without charge, healing them in the name of Jesus Christ. He visited those held captive in prison. These were usually Christians, and he healed them of their wounds. In a short time, reports of the charitable physician spread throughout the city. Forsaking the other doctors, the inhabitants began to turn only to Saint Panteleimon.

The envious doctors told the emperor that Saint Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. Maximian urged the saint to refute the charge by offering sacrifice to idols. Saint Panteleimon confessed himself a Christian, and suggested that a sick person, for whom the doctors held out no hope, should be brought before the emperor. Then the doctors could invoke their gods, and Panteleimon would pray to his God to heal the man.

A man paralyzed for many years was brought in, and pagan priests who knew the art of medicine invoked their gods without success. Then, before the very eyes of the emperor, the saint healed the paralytic by calling on the name of Jesus Christ. The ferocious Maximian executed the healed man, and gave Saint Panteleimon over to fierce torture.

The Lord appeared to the saint and strengthened him before his sufferings. They suspended the Great Martyr Panteleimon from a tree and scraped him with iron hooks, burned him with fire and then stretched him on the rack, threw him into a cauldron of boiling tar, and cast him into the sea with a stone around his neck. Throughout these tortures the martyr remained unhurt, and denounced the emperor.

At this time the priests Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates were brought before the court of the pagans. All three confessed their faith in the Savior and were beheaded (July 26).

By order of the emperor they brought the Great Martyr

Panteleimon to the circus to be devoured by wild beasts. The animals, however, came up to him and licked his feet. The spectators began to shout, "Great is the God of the Christians!" The enraged Maximian ordered the soldiers to stab with the sword anyone who glorified Christ, and to cut off the head of the Great Martyr Panteleimon.

They led the saint to the place of execution and tied him to an olive tree. While the martyr prayed, one of the soldiers struck him with a sword, but the sword became soft like wax and inflicted no wound. The saint completed his prayer, and a Voice was heard from Heaven, calling the passion-bearer by his new name and summoning him to the heavenly Kingdom.

Hearing the Voice, the soldiers fell down on their knees before the holy martyr and begged forgiveness. They refused to continue with the execution, but Saint Panteleimon told them to fulfill the emperor's command, because otherwise they would have no share with him in the future life. The soldiers tearfully took their leave of the saint with a kiss.

When the saint was beheaded, the olive tree to which the saint was tied became covered with fruit. Many who were present at the execution believed in Christ. The saint's body was thrown into a fire, but remained unharmed, and was buried by Christians. Saint Panteleimon's servants Lawrence, Bassos and Probus witnessed his execution and heard the Voice from Heaven. They recorded the life, the sufferings and death of the saint.

Portions of the holy relics of the Great Martyr Panteleimon were distributed throughout all the Christian world. His venerable head is now located at the Russian monastery of Saint Panteleimon on Mt. Athos.

The veneration of the holy martyr in the Russian Orthodox Church was already known in the twelfth century. Prince Izyaslav (in Baptism, Panteleimon), the son of Saint Mstislav the Great, had an image of Saint Panteleimon on his helmet. Through the intercession of the saint he remained alive during a battle in the year 1151. On the Feast of the Great Martyr Panteleimon, Russian forces won two naval victories over the Swedes (in 1714 near Hanhauze and in 1720 near Grenham).

Saint Panteleimon is venerated in the Orthodox Church as a mighty saint, and the protector of soldiers. This aspect of his veneration is derived from his first name Pantoleon, which means "a lion in everything". His second name, Panteleimon, given him at Baptism, which means "all-merciful", is manifest in the veneration of the martyr as a healer. The connection between these two aspects of the saint is readily apparent in that soldiers, receiving wounds more frequently than others, are more in need of a physician-healer. Christians waging spiritual warfare also have recourse to this saint, asking him to heal their spiritual wounds.

The holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon is invoked in the Mystery of Anointing the Sick, at the Blessing of Water, and in the Prayers for the Sick.