



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



AUGUST Bulletin Sponsor

In memory of Aunt Mary Sveda- Given by Barbara Kolesar

In honor of Michele Basile & Millie Wilfong – Given by Basile family

Liturgical & Events Schedule TWO WEEK EDITION

Sunday, August 24

9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by Appointment

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /
Breakfast social by Council

Wednesday, August 27

6:00 PM: Fire House training & meeting

Thursday, August 28

5:30 PM: Confessions by appointment

6:00 PM: Vespers w/ Litia for our Patronal Feast

Friday, August 29– STRICT FAST DAY

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy for our Patronal Feast Day

Saturday, August 30

5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by appointment

6:00 PM: Vespers

6:30 PM: Confessions

Sunday, August 31

9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by appointment

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social by Church

Monday, September 1– Labor Day

Church New Liturgical Year

Wednesday, September 3

7:30 PM: City Council Meeting

Saturday, September 6

3:00-5:45 PM: Monthly Confessions by Appt. (New)

6:00 PM: Confessions followed by Confessions

Sunday, September 7

9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by Appt.

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Vespers for Feast Day of
Birth of the Theotokos w/ Litia / Social by 'O' Club

1 Corinthians 9:2-12 (Epistle, Sunday 24)

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

AUGUST CHARITY

Orthodox School in
Warren



HOLY TRINITY
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY AND PRESCHOOL

SEPTEMBER CHARITY

Diocesan support for our Seminarians (SOS). This charity was started many years ago by the Diocese and it helps our own Seminarians to be determined by AP Daniel

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

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

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

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

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER Reader Schedule

August 24– Reader Matthew Vansuch
August 31– Reader Nick Vansuch
September 7– Robert Willison
September 14– George Horodnic
September 21– Jacob Hyrb
September 28– Dn. David

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

August 24– Pancake and Sausage breakfast
August 31 – Social by council
September 7– O Club Social
September 14– OPEN for now
September 21– Sisterhood
September 28– Council free –will offering Dinner

PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Matushka Helen Psinka / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko

CLERGY: AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyan / Fr. Peter / 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.) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Ginny McCay (Fredericks) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Matt Turner (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac) / Genna Koval & her unborn baby

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.

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padrebartek@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: OPEN

Wine: OPEN

Incense: OPEN

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: OPEN

Altar Candles: OPEN

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

Monthly Flowers: to resume October due to how the Exaltation of the Cross falls this year

CROSS VENERATION FLOWERS- \$125

<u>\$50 per month</u>	<u>\$30 per month</u>	<u>\$25 per month</u>
*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— <i>Updated</i>
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	
*Tetrapod Candles		

Matthew 18:23-35 (Gospel, Sunday August 24)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Hieromartyr Eutyches, disciple of Saint John the Theologian /Commemorated on August 24

The Hieromartyr Eutyches, a disciple of the holy Apostles John the Theologian and Paul, lived from the first century into the beginning of the second century, and was from the Palestinian city of Sebastea.

Although Saint Eutyches is not one of the 70 Apostles, he is called an Apostle because of his labors with the older Apostles, by whom he was made bishop. After hearing about Christ the Savior, Saint Eutyches first became a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian. Later he met the Apostle Paul, and preached together with him on the early journeys.

Saint Eutyches underwent many sufferings: they starved him with hunger, beat him with iron rods, they threw him into the fire, and then to be devoured by wild beasts. Once, a lion was let loose upon the saint, which astonished everyone because it praised the Creator with a human voice. The hieromartyr Eutyches completed his labors in his native city, where he was beheaded with a sword at the beginning of the second century.

Official Minutes and Reports of the 21st All-American Council Now Available

The official minutes and reports of the 21st All-American Council, held in Phoenix, AZ, July 14-18, 2025, are now available.

In accordance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, which requires the distribution of official Council minutes within 60 days of its adjournment, the Secretariat and Holy Synod have completed their review and approval process. You can download this information from National OCA website.

August Celebrations

Birthday

- 1 Heidi Kuzemchak
- 4 Meiriam Dardovski / Sonja Harvischak
- 5 Linda Livosky
- 7 William Sabo
- 9 Elaine Basala
- 12 Layne Demkosky / Reader Nick Vansuch / Ethan Donofrio / Sue Tamulonis
- 13 Frank Batura, Jr. / Ed Kusinski
- 14 Eli Arvan / Katie (Zelinsky)
- 15 Anthony Cavaliere
- 16 Anthony Jesko, Jr.
- 17 Lauren Koval
- 27 Michael Centofanti
- 29 Archbishop Michael / Gary Thompson Sr
- 31 Sharon LaVallee / Melanie Rusnak

Anniversary

- 7 Stephen & Karen Simko (02) / Dennis & Pamela Tubic
- 10 Fr. John's Ordination (68)
- 18 Nicola & Shelly Nicoloff (96) / Philip & Trudy Ellmore
- 21 Fr. Gregory & Matushka Xenia Burner / Dc. David & Mat. Gemmel (88)
- 27 Fr. Michael & Presbyteria Jessica Ellis
- 28 Fr. Eli Bremer Priestly ordination / Joe & Georgiana Lukehart
- 29 Zoland & Claudia Zile
- 30 Fr. Peter & Pani Bernadette Zarynow

Names Day

- 15 Sonja Harvischak / Sophia Jesko
- 23 AB Irene of Ottawa & the Archdiocese of Canada
- 26 Natalia Simko
- 30 AB Alexander of Dallas, the South & Bulgarian Diocese

AUGUST FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$8,951.38
Income	\$7,440.00
TOTAL	-\$1,511.38
Weekly Tithe	\$6,454.70
Weekly Candles	\$671.00
Tetrapod Candles	\$50.00
Icon Screen / Eternal Light Candles	\$30.00
Incense	\$25.00
Protection Candles	\$30.00
Unneeded Gifts	\$30.00
Coffee Social	\$50.00
Donation to church (sold Lawn mower)	\$100.00
Monthly Charity: Holy Trinity School	\$388.00

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - AUGUST	2024	2025
1st Week		
Vespers	4	13
Liturgy	54 / 36	59 / 39
Transfiguration- Liturgy	Monastery	18 / 15
2nd Week		
Vespers	8	7
Liturgy	68 / 48	47 / 30
Dormition Vespers	17	7
Dormition Liturgy	19	19 / 14
3rd Week		
Vespers	9	12
Liturgy	68 / 37	54 / 31
4th Week		
Vespers	4	
Liturgy	38 / 31	
Beheading Vespers	11	
Beheading Liturgy	18 / 14	
5th Week		
Vespers	No 5th week	
Divine Liturgy	No 5th Week	

CONFESSION CHANGES— Updated

Effective beginning next week Confession will be heard :

- ◆ Saturday evenings between 5:15 & 5:45 PM by appointment
- ◆ Saturday after Vespers no appointment needed
- ◆ Sunday mornings between 9:15 & 9:45 AM by appointment

Please come prepared with specific sins you have. Please look over the guidelines that were pasted out last year. Please read the pre-confession prayers.

Further information will be forthcoming. Any questions please see Father Andrew.

Garlic for Sale

Today August 24, Michael Centofanti & Steven Simko will be selling garlic for charity at the social.



AUGUST Reposed List

- Joseph Uhrin (1973) ©
Sophie Kotanchik (1964)
1- Peter Vansuch (1971) ©
2- Dr. Zervas (1931) ©
4- Rose Bartek (1984) / Nicholas Kioussis (1956) © / Mary Kovach (1963) ©
5- Elias Lisko (1925) ©
6- Julia Sirilla (1992) © / George Libertain (2019) © / Mike Kropinak (1959) ©
7- Helen Kropinak (1991) © / George Rusnak, Jr (2021) © / Mike Gerakios (1937) ©
8- Stella Gebbia (1998) © / Christina Krajnak (1920) ©
9- Anna Marie Tennis (1973) ©
10- Olga Zelina Kucheruk (2013) ©
11- Carl D. Essex (2014) / George Tobak, Sr (1972) © / John Kropinak (1926) ©
12- Fr. Stephen Jula (2014) / Michael Pacak (1978) © / John Kristian (1956) ©
13- Daria Voytilla (2019) © / Elia Milovanovich (1933) © / John Holecko (1939) ©
14- Bobby Almasche (2022) / Kaliopo Koulianos (1950) ©
15- Archpriest John Matusiak (2019) / Eugene Sanders (2014) © / Alice Stalian (1920) © / John Georgeadis (1941) © / Thomas Kristian (2023) ©
16- Shawn Larriccia (2022) / Anna Livosky (1984) © / Joseph Fedorchoh (1987) © / Justin Pubos (1989) © / Anna Mikita (1999) © / Margaret Kalas (1920) ©
17- Helene Flaherty (2015) / Mary Pikos (1943) © / Jack Vallas (1944) ©
18- Mary Duritza (1984) © / Anna Cverko (1982) © / George Madich (1920) ©
19- Fr. George Dyak (1995) / Steve Hanuscin (1920) © / Harry Kidon (1925) ©
20- John Kaschak (1976) ©
21- Fr. Paul Herbert (2016) / Sophie Boldish (1967) ©
22- Fr. Peter Molchany (1990) / Mary Rusnak (1991) © / George Roseta (1922) © / Basil Sarokos (1930) © / Kostas Zombobi (1930) © / Joseph Raschak (1930) © / Mary Karcotis (1943) © / Infant John Emil Graban (1956) © / Kenny Ruff (2024) ©
23- Helen Gerakios (1925) ©
24- Rosica Rago (1922) © / Felogia Fradzeskus (1924) ©
25- Steve Kalas (1938) ©
26- Michael Hally (1991) © / George Tabus (2000) ©
27- John Vrabel (1972) © / Christopher Forgac (1976) © / Mike Lawrence (1961) ©
28- Matthew Lariccia Sr (1992) / John Simko (1969) © / Simeon Kaliscak (1921) © / Harry Sosnovchik (1925) © / George Despetarich (1956) © / Karen Muzyka (2023)
29- Anna Vrabel (1972) © / Pani Gizella Mihaly (1975) / Joseph Vansuch (1964) ©
30- Mike Pihunias (1948) ©
31- Mike Lawrence (1930) © / George Vasilos (1930) ©

Church New Year / Commemorated on September 1

The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the Indiction. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose." It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on September 1.

According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2, the Savior proclaimed, "The spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..." This scene is depicted in a Vatican manuscript (Vatican, Biblioteca. Cod. Gr. 1613, p.1).

Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September.

Forefeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God Commemorated on September 7

The first lesson at Great Vespers (Genesis 28:10-17) describes Jacob's dream of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, and the angels ascending and descending upon it. The second lesson (Ezekiel 43:27-44:4) speaks of the gate of the sanctuary which faces east. God enters through this gate, which is shut so that no one else can enter by it. The third reading (Proverbs 9:1-11) talks about the house that Wisdom has built.

These readings are interpreted as prefiguring the Mother of God.

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary Community Travels to Bless Gravesites

At the grave of Fr. Georges Florovsky Aug. 11, 2025: (left of grave) the family of Anthony Kasmer (including wife, Ann, and son, Christopher), Fr. Raymond Martin Browne (St. Mark Church, Newtown, PA), and Seminary Dean Dr. Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie; (right of grave), Fr. Alexander Rentel, Fr. Volodymyr Chaikivskyi and son (St. Vladimir Church, Trenton, NJ), Zachariah Mandell, and Paula Koerte (daughter of Fr. Paul Shafran, the Seminary's oldest living alumnus).

In recent weeks members of the St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary community traveled to the gravesites of two luminaries in the history of the Seminary and the Orthodox Church in America (OCA)—Frs. Georges Florovsky and John Meyendorff—to pray for the souls of the departed.

On August 11, a group led by Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Dn. Harrison Basil Russin, Dr. Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, and Zachariah Mandell visited St. Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Cemetery near Trenton, NJ. While there Fr. Alexander led memorial prayers at the graves of former dean Archpriest Georges (+Aug. 11, 1979) and Matushka Xenia Florovsky (+Nov. 5, 1977), as well as the grave of longtime Seminary trustee Anthony Kasmer (+Oct. 11, 2020). The group also visited nearby Rova Farms Cemetery to pray for departed alumnus Archpriest Daniel Skvir (+March 23, 2025). A couple weeks earlier, in July, members of the Seminary community, led also by Fr. Alexander, conducted a memorial service at the graves of Protopresbyter John (+July 22, 1992) and Mka. Marie (+Nov. 24, 2024) Meyendorff.

"It is our honor to remember these faithful servants of the Church," said Fr. Alexander. "Each had their unique gifts that they offered to the Seminary and the Orthodox Church."

The Seminary keeps updated the list of departed hierarchs, leaders, faculty, and alumni along with others whose names have been sent to be remembered at the altar. To submit names of departed loved ones or any other prayer requests to St. Vladimir's Seminary, you may email chapel@svots.edu at any time.

May the memories of the departed whose names have been entrusted to St. Vladimir's Seminary, as well as all the faithful departed who have fallen asleep, be eternal!

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.

The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Mother of God / Commemorated on August 31

The Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos in a church of Constantinople's Chalco-prateia district took place during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger. Before this the holy relic, entrusted to the Apostle Thomas by the Mother of God Herself, was kept by pious Christians at Jerusalem after Her Dormition. During the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise (886-911), his wife Zoe was afflicted with an unclean spirit, and he prayed that God would heal her.

The empress had a vision that she would be healed of her infirmity if the Belt of the Mother of God were placed upon her. The emperor then asked the Patriarch to open the coffer. The Patriarch removed the seal and opened the coffer in which the relic was kept, and the Belt of the Mother of God appeared completely whole and undamaged by time. The Patriarch placed the Belt on the sick empress, and immediately she was freed from her infirmity. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, then they placed the venerable Belt back into the coffer and resealed it.

In commemoration of the miraculous occurrence and the twofold Placing of the venerable Belt, the Feast of the Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos was established. Parts of the holy Belt are in the Vatopedi monastery on Mt. Athos, in Trier monastery, and in Georgia.

Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Vasily as Bishop of San Francisco and the West

The episcopal ordination of Archimandrite Vasily (Permiakov) as Bishop of San Francisco and the West took place at Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral in San Francisco, CA, on Saturday, August 16, 2025. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the hierarchical Divine Liturgy and ordination rites. Hierarchs of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, representatives from other Churches, along with many clergy, faithful, and guests, gathered for the joyful event. *Con't Pg 8*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Epistle, Sunday August 31)

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Matthew 19:16-26 (Gospel, Sunday August 31)

Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Archbishop Daniel partakes in Episcopal Consecration of the Bishop of San Francisco and the West

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest partook in the episcopal consecration of Archimandrite Vasily (Permiakov) as Bishop of San Francisco and the West on Saturday, August 16, 2025. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the hierarchical Divine Liturgy and ordination rites. Hierarchs of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, representatives from other Churches, along with many clergy, faithful, and guests, gathered for the event.

The Holy Synod of Bishops had elected Archimandrite Vasily as Bishop of San Francisco and the West during a special session convened at the 21st All-American Council on July 16, 2025, following his nomination by the Diocese of the West.

His Eminence on Thursday, August 14, and made a pilgrimage to venerate the relic of St. John of San Francisco. The next day, the Archbishop attended the Divine Liturgy at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA for their patronal feast.

On Friday evening, August 15, the Rite of Nomination and Proclamation were served, followed by Great Vespers.

The following morning, Saturday, August 16, His Beatitude presided at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Celebrating with His Beatitude were His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh, His Eminence Archbishop Michael of New York, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin, His Grace Bishop James of Sonora, representing His Eminence Archbishop Kyrill of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, and His Grace Bishop Gerasim.

Before the Liturgy, Bishop-elect Vasily offered his statement of faith, proclaimed the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, and offered an explanation of the Church’s Trinitarian and Christological doctrine before the assembled hierarchs, clergy, and faithful.

During the singing of the Trisagion, Bishop-elect Vasily was consecrated as a bishop. Later in the Liturgy, Subdeacon Serge Liberovsky was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by Bishop Vasily as his first episcopal act.

At the dismissal of the Liturgy, His Beatitude congratulated His Grace on behalf of the hierarchs, clergy, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America and welcomed him as the newest member of the Holy Synod of Bishops. Following the Divine Liturgy, a banquet honoring His Grace was held at a local restaurant.

On Sunday, August 17, His Grace celebrated his first hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA and was also attend by the Archbishop.

Episcopal Ordination con't from pg 6

The Holy Synod of Bishops had elected Archimandrite Vasily as Bishop of San Francisco and the West during a special session convened at the 21st All-American Council on July 16, 2025, following his nomination by the Diocese of the West.

His Beatitude and Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, arrived in the Bay Area on Thursday, August 14, along with Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk, where His Beatitude served the All-Night Vigil at St. Seraphim of Sarov Cathedral in Santa Rosa. The next morning, His Beatitude presided at the Divine Liturgy at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga for their patronal feast day. Celebrating with His Beatitude was His Grace Gerasim, Bishop of Fort Worth. The monastic community extended a warm invitation to hierarchs, clergy, and other pilgrims for the event. That afternoon, His Beatitude and Fr. Alessandro departed for San Francisco and the ordination events.

The celebration began on Friday evening, August 15, with the Rite of Nomination and Proclamation, where Fr. Alessandro read the official election announcement and Bishop-elect Vasily offered his words of acceptance, followed by the Service of Thanksgiving. The service was followed by Great Vespers, served by the Bishop-elect, and a reception in the cathedral hall.

The following morning, Saturday, August 16, His Beatitude presided at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with His Beatitude were His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh, His Eminence Archbishop Michael of New York, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago, His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin, His Grace Bishop James of Sonora, representing His Eminence Archbishop Kyrill of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, and His Grace Bishop Gerasim.

Before the Liturgy, Bishop-elect Vasily offered his statement of faith, proclaimed the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, and offered an explanation of the Church's Trinitarian and Christological doctrine before His Beatitude and the assembled hierarchs, clergy, and faithful.

During the singing of the Trisagion, Bishop-elect Vasily was led to the altar by Fr. Alessandro and Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, Chancellor of the Diocese of the West, for the ordination. The newly-ordained hierarch was then vested and offered his first episcopal blessing to the faithful.

His Beatitude gave the homily at the Liturgy, where he reminded the faithful that the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is "not primarily celebrating her physical death, or even her physical resurrection, however befitting and glorious that bodily rising may be. Rather the accent in the hymnography for the feast is

on the Theotokos's abiding intercession and undying, unyielding care for all of us, her children adopted through the Cross of Christ." His Beatitude offered words of comfort that we are always able to approach the Theotokos in prayer, and since "now that she has passed beyond this world, she is available to everyone, everywhere, at all times. Whenever we venerate her icon, address her in prayer, or praise her in song, she is present to us."

Read the full text of His Beatitude's Homily on the National OCA website.

During the Liturgy, Subdeacon Serge Liberovsky was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by Bishop Vasily as his first episcopal act.

At the dismissal of the Liturgy, His Beatitude congratulated His Grace on behalf of the hierarchs, clergy, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America and welcomed him as the newest member of the Holy Synod of Bishops.

Calling to mind the feast of the holy icon of Christ Not-Made-By-Hands, His Beatitude exhorted Bishop Vasily to likewise be an icon of Christ: "Not an icon of wood and paint, but a living icon. As an overseer and archpastor of the Church, the bishop must be the first to show forth Christ in his words and actions, through his entire way of life."

Read the full text of His Beatitude's Exhortation on National oca website.

His Beatitude then presented His Grace with the pastoral staff. The new Bishop of San Francisco then ascended his cathedra to bless the assembled clergy and faithful as the choir sang Ton Despotin.

His Beatitude also congratulated Dn. Serge and welcomed the following guests who were in attendance: His Excellency, Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, His Grace Bishop James of Sonora, Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis), Archiepiscopal Vicar for Toledo and the Midwest, Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, and Hieromonk Basil (Gavrilovic), representing His Grace Bishop Maxim of the Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and a delegation from St. Vladimir's Seminary where Bishop Vasily recently served as professor.

Following the Divine Liturgy, a banquet honoring His Grace was held at a local restaurant. Guests at the banquet included His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea.

On Sunday, August 17, His Grace celebrated his first hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral, followed by a luncheon in the parish hall.

The faithful of the Orthodox Church in America wish His Grace Bishop Vasily many blessed years of archpastoral service! *Eis polla eti, despota!*