



# The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



September Bulletin Sponsor

OPEN

## Liturgical & Events Schedule

### Sunday, September 7

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

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida His Beatitude  
Met. Herman

11:30 AM: Vespers for Feast Day of Birth of the  
Theotokos with Litia / Social by 'O' Club

### Monday, September 8

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy for Feast

### Wednesday September 10

6:00 PM: Fire Training Meeting

### Saturday, September 13

5:15-5:45 PM: by appointment

6:00 PM: Vespers with Litia for Exaltation of the  
Cross

### Sunday, September 14

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

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /  
Social- Open now / Choir Rehearsal

*(Only wine & oil are permitted on this day. No meat  
or dairy)*

## 1 Corinthians 16:13-24 (Sunday Epistle)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## Matthew 21:33-42 (Sunday Gospel)

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

## Galatians 6:11-18 (Epistle, Sunday Before Exaltation)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

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

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

[padrebartek@gmail.com](mailto: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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mrs. Pauline Fesz**  
488 Harmony Lane  
Campbell, OH 44405

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

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

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

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

### SEPTEMBER Reader Schedule

September 7– Robert Willison  
September 14– George Horodnic  
September 21– Jacob Hyrb  
September 28– Dn. David

### SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

September 7– O Club Social  
September 14– OPEN for now  
September 21– Sisterhood  
September 28– Council free –will offering Dinner

### SEPTEMBER CHARITY-*Support for our Seminarians (SOS)*

The Diocesan SOS charity was started many years ago. All donations help our own Diocesan Seminarians who will be determined by Archbishop Daniel

### 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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## SEPTEMBER Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

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**Bulletin: OPEN**

**Wine: OPEN**

**Incense: OPEN**

**Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: OPEN**

**Altar Candles: OPEN**

**Tetrapod Candles:** In memory of my mother's, Helene Flaherty, anniversary of Repose— Given by Layne Demkosky

**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:** In honor of my Husband Ron's 80th birthday— Given by Nancy Tusinac

**St. John the Baptist Candles:** In honor of my wedding anniversary— Given by Nancy Tusinac

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

**CROSS VENERATION FLOWERS- \$125 OPEN**

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<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	<b>Flowers</b> - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time— <i>Updated</i>
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	
*Tetrapod Candles		

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### Martyr Sozon of Cilicia Commemorated on September 7

Saint Sozon lived in the late III century. He was from Lykaonia in Cilicia, and originally his name was Tarasios. When he became a Christian, he was baptized and received the name Sozon. A shepherd by profession, he tried to imitate the meekness of the sheep, at which he marveled. "I am ashamed," he said, "that I am inferior to sheep."

He studied the Holy Scriptures attentively, and he also guided Christ's rational sheep to good pastures. One day, while watering his flock at a spring, Sozon fell asleep under an oak tree, where he had a vision which foretold his impending martyrdom for Christ. He was also informed that the spring would become a source of blessing and of healing for many, since it would be sanctified by God's grace. When he awakened, he entrusted his flock to another shepherd and journeyed to Pompeiopolis in Cilicia. Seeing what impiety there was in that city, his heart was profoundly grieved.

Entering one of the temples of the idolaters, he beheld a golden statue representing a pagan "god." Then, with great courage, he broke off the statue's right hand with his shepherd's crook and smashed it into tiny pieces, which he distributed to the poor. This caused a great uproar in the city. Maximian, the governor of Cilicia, became very angry, and a search was made to find the culprit. Many innocent people were arrested and tortured in an attempt to force a confession

from them.

When Saint Sozon heard about this, he could not permit others to suffer for something he had done. Therefore, he presented himself before the governor and responded to his threats in a calm manner, saying that the statue was not doing anyone much good inside the temple, and so he used the gold for the benefit of the poor.

Maximian asked the Saint how he dared to dishonor their "god" in such a way. Sozon replied, "I did this so that you might know that your 'god' is powerless. When I struck off his hand, he did not protest or make any attempt to stop me, nor did he cry out with pain. How could he? Your idol is deaf and dumb and without breath. It cannot see, hear, speak, or defend itself. If your 'god' was real, I would not have been permitted to break it."

When Maximian heard these words, he ordered that Saint Sozon be tortured without mercy. He was suspended and his body was raked with iron claws. Then iron boots were nailed to the soles of his feet, and he was paraded through the city. Throughout his torments, he never ceased to glorify the Savior Christ. Once again he was suspended from a tree and beaten with iron rods, so that his body was mangled and his bones were broken. Amid such torture, the Saint surrendered his soul to God in the year 304.

Seeing that he was dead, the soldiers took him down from the tree and built a large fire to burn his body so that the Christians would not be able to claim it and venerate it. Suddenly, there was thunder and lightning, rain and hail, which put out the fire. The pagans fled in fear, and the holy relics were not damaged. The faithful came at midnight, when it was very dark. They were troubled because they could not find the relics, but a light from Heaven shone upon Christ's holy martyr to guide them. Gathering the Saint's relics, the Christians gave them an honorable burial. **Con't Next Pg**

## September Celebrations

### Birthday

- 1 Dennis Konik
- 3 Lynn Basala
- 4 Deborah Zelinsky
- 6 Dc. David Gemmel
- 7 Michael Simko
- 8 Joshua Rusnak
- 9 Kim Konik
- 11 Fr. John Beskid / Joann Sirilla
- 14 Debbie Perman / Sub-deacon Donald Tamulonis / Chris Baxter
- 17 Barbara Kolesar
- 18 Ron Tusinac / AP David Lis
- 21 Mary Luthern
- 22 Pani Bethany Mihaly
- 23 Gregory Simko
- 27 Tracy Zenko / Jim Johnston



### Anniversary

- 3 Frank & Crystal Batura
- 5 Ron & Nancy Tusinac
- 7 Steven & Karen Simko
- 9 Michael & Martha Centofanti
- 13 Sam & Angie Dardovski / Fr. Peter Zarynow
- 14 Sub-deaconate ordination of Dr. Donald Tamulonis
- 16 Beth & Tom Hull
- 17 Dc James & Mat. Christine
- 28-1990 Retired Bishop Lazar of Ottawa

### Names Day

- 8 Mary Fredericks / Mary Luthern / Mary Ruth Mico
- 17 Sonia Tsvetkoff / Nadine Sabol
- 30 AB Michael of NY & NY & NJ

## FINAL AUGUST FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$17,829.09
Income	\$11,311.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$6,517.36</b>
Weekly Tithe	\$9,326.70
Weekly Candles	\$1,006.00
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
Pancake / Sausage breakfast	\$511.21
Council Dinner	\$153.52
Monthly Charity: Holy Trinity School	\$578.00

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - AUGUST	2024	2025
<b>1st Week</b>		
Vespers	4	13
Liturgy	54 / 36	59 / 39
Transfiguration- Liturgy	Monastery	18 / 15
<b>2nd Week</b>		
Vespers	8	7
Liturgy	68 / 48	47 / 30
Dormition Vespers	17	7
Dormition Liturgy	19	19 / 14
<b>3rd Week</b>		
Vespers	9	12
Liturgy	68 / 37	54 / 31
<b>4th Week</b>		
Vespers	4	5
Liturgy	38 / 31	46 / 32
Beheading Vespers	11	9
Beheading Liturgy	18 / 14	15 / 6
<b>5th Week</b>		
Vespers	No 5th week	6
Divine Liturgy	No 5th Week	59 / 33

### 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.

### *Martyr Sozon con't from previous pg*

Many miracles took place at the tomb, and also at the spring where the Saint had his vision under the oak tree. Later, a church was built by the spring, and was dedicated to Saint Sozon. In that holy place praise was offered to the one true God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to Whom be glory throughout all the ages. Amen.

## SEPTEMBER Reposed List

- Tony Ginarakis (1938) ©  
 Michael Pikos (1962) ©  
 1- His Eminence Bishop Nikon (2019) / George Diakogannes (1930) © / Michael Feltovich (1988) ©  
 2- Manuel Melas (1936) © / Vasili Mastrovasilis (1950) ©  
 4- Nicholas Vaytilla (1982) © / Helen Sarisky (1945) ©  
 5- Archpriest Anastasy Richter (2021) / Nicholas Babinec (1920) © / John Hauscin (1924) © / Andrew Pretko (1953) © / Katherine Mistovich (1963) ©  
 6- His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman (2022) / Andrew Shirilla (1956) ©  
 7- Barbara Jackubek Barnyak (2013) ©  
 8- Steve Kolas (1980) ©  
 9- Steve Graban (1994) © / John Kalas (1923) ©  
 10- Eudoxia Alisofis (1933) ©  
 11- George Magdos (1940) © / Infant Kaulianas (1957) © / John Kavouklis (1959) ©  
 13- Ann Vavlas (1947) © / Bertha Mastraselis (1960) © / Irene Xenakis (1965) ©  
 14- John Roman (1943) © / Mary Leschinsky (1959) ©  
 15- Steve Bartek (1962) (Grandfather) / Terri Lariccia (2021) / Mike Kotousis (1935) © / Mary Jane Puskas (2024) ©  
 16- Billy Deaton (2022) / Steve Timkovich, Sr (1980) © / Vladimir Yavorskiy (2001) © / Theodore Kiddon (2002) © / Synthia Skoufatos (1928) ©
- 17- John Pacak (2004) © / Victoria Mraz (2004) © / Katherine Despalorich (1961) ©  
 18- Stephen Sature (2004) / Bob Whitham Sr (2020) / Dimitri Velichkoff (1927) © / Michael Leschinsky (1959) ©  
 19- George Bolina, Sr (1981) © / Mary Shirilla (1987) © / Mary Stewart (2016) © / John Yurchak (1926) © / Andrew Graban (1942) © / Andrew Shirilla (1956) ©  
 20- Mary Patellis (1925) ©  
 21- Olga Bilas KIddon (2014) © / Nettie Kucheruk (2007) © / Steve Furin (1965) ©  
 22- Sophie Taboh (1979) © / John Davis (2009) © / Anthony Tranarakes (1949) ©  
 24- Martha Shevetz (1983) © / Anna Semon (1987) © / William Thomas (2010) ©  
 25- Michael Vansuch (1982) © / George Taloban Malahralko (1977) © / Steven Sirilla (1987) © / Helen Graban (2009) ©  
 27- Michael Holobanich (1969) © / Helen Libertyn (1976) © / John Cvercko (2000) © / Nicholas Strineka (1931) © / Anthonias Michailas (1961) ©  
 28- Helen Drotar (1971) © / John Matic (1922) ©  
 29- Julia Rich Holibonich (2016) © / Barbara Sveda (1961) © / Stephen Feltovich, Sr. (1968) ©  
 30- Bishop John Martin (1984) / Tommy Leonchik (2020) / Laurissa Rusnak Sirilla (2022) © / Vasilis Klimas (1949) ©

### John 3:13-17 (Gospel, Sunday Before Exaltation)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

### CRATES & BASKET'S RAFFLE & SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER EVENT ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Pre-admission tickets \$3 / Admission at the door \$5. Door prizes to be drawn. Drawings for the baskets to begin @ 3pm. Food orders to be available for dine in or take out.

As you may know we will be experiencing nearly a \$20,000 drop in income beginning this year due in part not having income from our reverse raffle & Kolachi events which ended last year.

To help off set some of the deficit we will be having this event. In order to make this a success we must pull together as a church family and invite your family & friends. Please consider donating a basket for raffle. Also, if you can solicit from your local businesses in your communities for donations.

Some foods to be sold include: holupki, pirogi, kolbasi & sauerkraut, halushki & more. There will also be a la carte & desserts & beverages.

Please see Nancy or any council person if you can help in anyway. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Father Ander & Church Council

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## Statement of Apology of His Eminence Archbishop Alexei of Sitka and Alaska

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has received the following statement from His Eminence Archbishop Alexei concerning recent events that took place within the Diocese of Alaska.

His Beatitude adds the following clarification:

*“The encounter to which His Eminence Archbishop Alexei refers in his statement of apology was undertaken on his own initiative and was not authorized by the Holy Synod. The canonical tradition insists that a bishop do nothing without the knowledge of the metropolitan; this meeting was arranged without my knowledge. His Eminence has taken responsibility for his actions, and I wish to affirm that they do not represent the official position of the Orthodox Church in America with respect to external relations. From the very beginning, the Orthodox Church in America has been among the first Orthodox Churches to clearly and repeatedly condemn the aggression against Ukraine, which has caused the loss of countless lives, untold suffering, and the displacement of millions. We have consistently raised our voices against violence, prayed for peace in our liturgical services, and provided support for those displaced by the war. In all of my public statements, including during my primatial visit to Ukraine last year, I have expressed the prayerful support of the Orthodox Church in America for His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufry, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and the entire Ukrainian people. Together with my brother hierarchs on the Holy Synod, I renew my fervent appeal for the immediate cessation of hostilities and for peace to prevail, so that reconciliation and healing may begin for all who have been afflicted by this tragic war.”*

I wish to express my sincere apology to those who have experienced pain, suffering, or confusion because of my actions in recent days. I am deeply sorry for the scandal that I have caused. My actions in no way indicate a change in the position of the Orthodox Church in America and our support for those suffering as expressed in Synodal documents (Statement on Ukraine and Statement on war in Ukraine).

As Bishop of Sitka and Alaska, I serve as a member of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. As such, I adhere to the guidance and pastoral counsel of the Holy Synod concerning this tragic war, and I seek to lead the faithful of Alaska in prayer and works of mercy for all who suffer. The Diocese of Alaska is one of the dioceses of the Orthodox Church in America, an autocephalous Church whose mission extends from the Arctic Circle to Central America and embraces many peoples, cultures, and languages.

Last week, I greeted President Vladimir Putin during the summit in Anchorage in a peaceful spirit of hospitality after three days of diocesan wide prayer for peace.

Since then, I have heard from many who viewed that moment as a missed opportunity for a rebuke or demand for peace amid ongoing conflict and suffering. Again, I repeat, to all who experienced my actions as a cause of sorrow or confusion, I sincerely ask your forgiveness.

I accept full responsibility for the confusion and pain my actions caused. Our Church continually calls the faithful to prayer, to concrete works of mercy, and to the pursuit of peace and reconciliation for all who suffer. In Alaska we have sought to bear witness to this by dedicating days of prayer, invoking the intercessions of the saints who labored in this land, that peace may be restored swiftly and mercy shown to all.

I ask forgiveness of all whom my actions have wounded or troubled, especially those who have lost loved ones. May Christ, the Prince of Peace, swiftly end the bloodshed, comfort the bereaved, return the displaced, and reconcile hearts in truth and love.

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### The Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year 2025 By Metropolitan Tikhon

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

Joyous feast and happy New Year!

As we mark the beginning of a new Church year, it is fitting to reflect on the Church’s sojourn in time, in the realm of temporality, change, becoming. In the Scriptures, the holy king Solomon seems to take a dim view of this existence, with its cycles, its comings and goings, its beginnings and ends:

Vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains for ever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south, and goes round to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. (Eccles. 1:2–7)

In the New Testament, the holy apostle Paul sounds perhaps even more pessimistic: “The days are evil” (Eph. 5:16). But this grave statement is couched in hope. “Walk as wise, redeem the time,” the apostle commands us (Eph. 5:15–16). Indeed, temporal existence, with its fleeting joys, many sorrows, and termination in death, is but vanity apart from the hope that we have in Christ. But in Christ, all of time is open to redemption, to sanctification.

The Church is not just passing the time in this world; the Church is tasked with redeeming the time by carrying forward Christ’s saving work in every place and every age. In particular, we, the members of the Orthodox Church in America, Have the unique calling to preach the Gospel and proclaim the Holy Orthodox faith **Con’t pg 10**

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**ARCHPASTORAL MISSIVE OF THE  
MOST REVEREND DANIEL  
ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND  
THE MIDWEST ON THE  
BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR – THE INDICTION**

Beloved Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Faithful of the God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest:

I greet each one of you with joy as we enter a new liturgical year. For many, this day goes unnoticed or overlooked. For others, it provides the opportunity to turn the page of their church calendars and begin to focus, again, on the great mystery of our salvation—that mystery which was revealed in human history, in real life and real time—and continues to be revealed even in our own day. This great mystery is clearly expressed and celebrated in the ebb and flow and rhythm of the Orthodox Church’s liturgical cycle, a cycle which begins anew today.

On this first day of the Church New Year, we hear from the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Luke. This Gospel passage recalls not the beginning of any particular year or cycle or sequence. However, it transports us to a specific moment in the very beginning of the Lord’s public ministry.

In this Gospel passage, we are told that the Lord returns to His hometown, the small village of Nazareth, where he was known as the son of Mary and Joseph, the carpenter. He goes to the synagogue, as is the Jewish tradition, to be part of the minyan, the group of ten adult men required for prayer to take place. When it is time for the reading from the Scriptures, the Lord is given the scroll and begins to read from the Book of Isaiah:

“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 heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. Then He closed the book and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:16-21).

Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing... These prophetic words from Isaiah were acknowledged as being fulfilled then and there in the person, words, and deeds of Jesus of Nazareth. But that fulfillment, or realization of Isaiah’s prophecy was not to end or conclude in that tiny place of worship in that backwater town of Nazareth. Indeed, these prophetic words of the Prophet Isaiah have achieved an even greater significance. That prophecy spoke then and speaks now of the ongoing work of salvation in Christ. The prophecy continues to be fulfilled—and will continue to be fulfilled—until the Lord returns at the end of time.

The good news and message of today’s annual observance reminds us that our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ continues to heal, to proclaim liberty, to restore sight to the blind, to free those who are held captive, and to announce that this is the year of the Lord. And how does he do this? He accomplishes his ongoing salvific mission through His Church, through each one of us.

I ask each one of you to use this day as a day of prayerful reflection. I invite you, as individuals and as parish communities, to ponder and reflect upon your role in the ongoing work of Christ and of His Gospel. Take this grace-filled opportunity of the new liturgical year to renew your own commitment to preach the Gospel, to heal our world that is filled with the brokenhearted, to announce freedom to those who are bound by the illusions and delusion of the world and those who are seeking the freedom and peace that can only come from Christ. By your words and deeds, announce that now is the time, this is the acceptable year of the Lord. Let us go into the world, announcing that through Christ, Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.

I ask the Lord to continue to bless and strengthen you. May His Most Pure Mother, our Sovereign Lady and Theotokos, honored in her Tikhvin Icon, continue to protect and guard you, your families, and all your loved ones.

With love in the Risen Lord,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

**BACK DOORS TO BE LOCKED AT THE  
BEGINNING OF LITURGY**

Due to the rise in church violence, some parishioners are concerned. The Council has decided that at the start of Liturgy all doors, except for the front doors, will be locked. We will be discussing further actions to take in the near future. We will keep everyone advised of this situation.

If you are working in the church, please do not keep doors unlocked, especially if you’re working alone. We must stay focused on our surroundings, and think what is the safest action to take. Thank you.

Fr. Andrew & Church Council

## **The 21st All American Council – July 14-18, 2025**

### **Memories and Reflections by Archbishop Daniel**

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest,

A little over a week ago, I returned to Chicago from the 21st All American Council (AAC) which was held in Phoenix, Arizona, July 14-18. I would like to share with you a few chosen reflections on this AAC, but want to begin by expressing my gratitude to Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and Council Manager who, with the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, did yet another wonderful job in this role by overseeing and supervising all the many details of arranging for this triennial Church-wide gathering and its many complicated aspects. Thank you, as well, to those who assisted him in making all the behind-the-scenes arrangements for yet another successful Council, in keeping with the past traditions and practices of the Orthodox Church in America.

I am also particularly grateful to our diocesan clergy and parish lay leaders who contributed their time and talents to the AAC in various capacities as well as to the work of our annual Diocesan Assembly, held on the Monday afternoon before the AAC was convened. Thanks also to those from the Diocesan Chancery, who helped to prepare us for a positive and productive Diocesan Assembly.

The week or so that I have been back in Chicago has also been quite busy and has provided more good news for our beloved Diocese of the Midwest. This includes our third annual Seminarians Retreat, held at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago. Thank you to Father Alexander Koranda for making the necessary arrangements and to all who assisted with this annual event. And thanks to the fourteen of our sixteen diocesan seminarians who were able to travel to Chicago. We are grateful to the Lord of the Harvest who is calling more of his disciples to dedicate themselves to pursuing theological education and pastoral formation so that, God willing, they may one day be called to the ordained ministry.

Last Friday, July 25, I traveled to Milwaukee to meet with those who are participating in the Saint Macrina Institute Diaconal Formation Program.

#### **Reflections on the 64th Diocesan Assembly –**

It has become the practice of many dioceses, including our own, for the diocesan assembly which takes place in the same year as the AAC to be held in conjunction with it. This is a fiscally responsible approach which includes some financial savings for the dioceses and the parishes and well for those who participate. The

statutory purpose of all diocesan councils is basically administrative, i.e. diocesan councils fulfill the needs of the diocese as it has within its competency the election of members of the diocesan council, diocesan auditors, diocesan representatives to the Metropolitan Council of the OCA, and the review and approval of the annual diocesan budget. Also significant were the reports offered by the Deans of our deaneries and by the directors of our six diocesan departments. The business aspect of this year's Diocesan Assembly provided a clear understanding of where the DOM stands in terms of its financial assets and a clear understanding of how these assets are being utilized within the Diocese for the support of its work and ministries. With all of you, I give thanks to the Lord for His many blessings upon the Diocese. The Lord has richly blessed our diocese with many human and financial resources. Let us continue to utilize these gifts for His glory!

#### **The 21st All American Council**

The highlight of the All-American Council and, indeed, of any church gathering, is the prayer which is shared by the participants. This is most fully experienced in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, of which there were three at this year's AAC. On the evening of Monday, July 14, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the moleben for the "Opening of a Sacred Council." His Beatitude, surrounded by the members of the Holy Synod and other bishops of our Church, led us in prayer, invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit and asking that the Lord guide us in our time together. His Beatitude then gave his official welcoming presentation to the gathered assembly.

On Tuesday morning, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated by some of the stavropegial clergy, i.e., clergy who are directly under the omophor of the Metropolitan and serve in various roles throughout the Church. These include priests and deacons who minister as seminary officers, teachers, and chancery staff.

Following the Liturgy, the bishops were invited to breakfast with the clergy wives who were present for the AAC. This post-Liturgy time of fellowship is a usual custom at all AAC's. However, this year it took on special significance because of the recent glorification of Saint Olga, herself a priest's wife. Recalling Matushka Olga's service to the Lord as the wife of a clergyman, our meal and fellowship allowed us to recognize the service of clergy wives throughout the OCA on many different levels. I recall here that the clergy wives of the OCA have generously provided the funds for the construction of Saint Olga's reliquary, soon to be built in Kwethluk, AK.

The AAC plenary sessions, attended by clergy and lay delegates, observers, and special guests, have as their purpose what I have briefly outlined above for our diocesan assemblies, i.e. the plenary sessions do the administrative "work" of the OCA, according to the competencies provided in the OCA Statute. **Con't next pg**

### **Reflections by AB Daniel Con't from previous pg**

Please refer to the OCA website for more information about what took place during these six plenary sessions (oca.org).

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated on three occasions during the AAC, on those mornings of the full day sessions. On Wednesday morning, the Liturgy was celebrated by our OCA Chaplains, for the first time including not only our Military Chaplains but also our Institutional Chaplains. The homily on Wednesday morning was offered by Archpriest Herman Kincaid, our diocesan Chancellor and a Navy Reserve Chaplain. May the Lord bless and protect our military chaplains who serve our military men with love and dedication! And also, all those clergy and lay people who minister to those in hospitals, homes, and healthcare institutions.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the repose of Saint Tikhon, being commemorated throughout 2025, a special session was held to honor him. A presentation was given by Dr Scott Kenworthy, a member of our Christ the Savior-Holy Spirit parish in Cincinnati, and author of the soon-to-be-available book: *The People's Patriarch*. His excellent presentation was followed by a panel discussion which I had the honor to moderate. Members of the panel included our own Archpriest Paul Jannakos as well as Priest John Mikitish and retiring OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovksy.

The greatest highlight of the 21st All American Council was the celebration of the Synodal Liturgy, the Liturgy concelebrated by His Beatitude, members of the Holy Synod and other bishops, and such clergy as Diocesan Chancellors, including our own. The "specialness" of this Synodal Liturgy was that it represented the Orthodox Church in its fullest expression- Primate, Bishops, Clergy, Monastics, and Lay Faithful- gathered at the Holy Altar and giving thanks to God for His many mercies. At this Liturgy, the AAC rejoiced in celebrating the recent canonization of Saint Olga of Alaska. This was a great focus of this Liturgy; a portion of Matushka Olga's holy relics, her icon, and a new icon of All Saints of North America, in which Matushka's image was officially portrayed for the first time – Glorifying the Life and Witness of Saint Olga of Alaska

At every AAC, there is also a parallel youth program. The 190+ youth who were in Phoenix spent time together in fellowship, working on art projects, learning more about the Orthodox Faith and, this year, learning more about our recently glorified Saint Olga. The youth and young adult participants also brunch with His Beatitude and all the bishops. I was happy to be seated with a group of rambunctious eleven-year-olds and their counselor/advisor, Melanie Ringa, former OCA Treasurer. It was great fun to answer their questions and watch their very energetic interactions (As the result of "Let's see how much tabasco sauce we can drink" contest, I ended up with more food on me than in me.)

As with all AAC's, the last evening of the Council was celebrated with a formal banquet. The banquet began with the singing of the three national anthems of the nations in which the OCA is established: Mexico, Canada, and the United States. During the banquet, the AAC youth treated us to a beautiful and lively presentation that combined narration, the singing of liturgical texts, and a meaningful art and performance presentation which reflected the missionary efforts of the OCA, beginning with Alaska and making its way to the Lower 48. Well done, AAC Youth! Basil Kochan, President of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America and member and choir director at Saint Nicholas Church, Mogadore, OH, also presented me with a \$10,000.00 check raised by the FOCA to assist with the restoration of Saint Theodosius Cathedral, Cleveland. Many thanks to the FOCA for this thoughtful gift- and for all you always do to assist the clergy, seminarians, parishes, and missions of our Church.

Friday morning saw the final plenary session of the 21st AAC, the installation of new officers, and a final traveler's blessing for those who would be returning to their homes and parishes.

The outside heat in Phoenix was certainly bearable, especially considering the goodwill, fellowship, and spirit of prayer and celebration that we shared in the air-conditioned buildings of the Council site. We gathered to work for the advancement of the Gospel within the context of good order in the Church. And this purpose was accomplished and fulfilled. Under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, this triennial gathering reflected that ongoing hope and desire throughout the Orthodox Church in America to evangelize all North America. "Behold how good and pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

These are a few of my memories and thoughts concerning the 21st All American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. For more information, photos, and videos, please direct yourself to the OCA's website, oca.org.

## **ST MICHAEL BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH FUNDRAISER TODAY**

3 Tier Chinese Auction & pasta lunch Today Sunday,  
September 7 beginning at noon.

Cost \$10 admission.

Drawings beginning @ 2:15pm.

Pasta dinner dine in or take-out available. Dinners are  
\$12 (pasta, meatballs, salad, bread & dessert)

Hundreds of prizes, themed baskets, gift cards, TV,  
Electronics & everything you want to win.

405 Robinson Ave. Campbell

**MESSAGE OF ARCHBISHOP  
DANIEL / Concerning the tragic shooting  
at Annunciation Catholic School,  
Minneapolis, MN**

To the Clergy and Faithful of Saint Mary Cathedral,  
Minneapolis

Beloved in Christ,

I have just learned of the tragic shooting which took place at Annunciation Catholic School, Minneapolis, earlier this morning. Like you and with you, I am shocked and grieved.

At this moment, it is reported that two young and innocent souls have lost their lives and more than a dozen others, both children and adults, are being treated for their injuries, some of which are life-threatening.

This heinous attack took place while the students at Annunciation Catholic School were gathered in Church, celebrating the Holy Eucharist with their clergy, teachers, families, and fellow students. One cannot think of a more holy or safer place to be than in church, surrounded by the people who love you. Nor can we think of a more sacred action to be participating in than offering prayers of thanksgiving to Almighty God. And yet, evil itself entered that sacred and holy moment and tragically took two lives and devastated countless others.

Please know that I am with you today as I join you in offering prayers for all the victims. Many in the media are already invoking a quote we have heard too many times before: “sending thoughts and prayers.” However, many are also acknowledging that these words have long ago lost their sincerity or their ability to bring comfort. Yes, we pray, invoking God’s mercy upon the world. However, today as I join you in prayer in the wake of this horrendous tragedy, I also acknowledge that we must do something more than pray. As Christians sent into the world by Christ Himself, let us recognize that Christ sends us to actively work to bring an end to all that is evil so that we, as children of God, may live together in the peace that comes only from Christ.

Lord, have mercy!

With love in Christ,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

*Metro. Tikhon con’t from pg 6*

to all the people of North America, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, background, or any other consideration. We are not given this New Year for the sake of our selfish pleasure; we are given the time of each new year, the time of our whole life, so that we can grow in godliness and share the goodness of God with others.

This is not because the Lord frowns on earthly bounty and earthly pleasures; our faith teaches that God made everything that exists and that he made it very good. But our greatest happiness is found, not in self-indulgence, but in communion with God through the saving work of Jesus Christ: participating in the very life of the Trinity by grace, we encounter pleasures that are not temporal, but eternal; not merely human, but divine.

By means of earthly blessings, which are truly good, we can attain to some knowledge of God, some foretaste of the kingdom to come. But the bounty which crowns this new year is first and foremost the bountiful mercy poured out from the wounded side of the God-man when he hung upon the Cross: this is the river of God, filled with the waters of baptism (Ps. 64:9). By means of this spring of loving-kindness, flowing crimson and rose, he makes the pastures of the wilderness—the pastures where he causes his flocks to lie down—to drip with his life-giving Blood and to flourish with the nourishment of his own life-giving Body (Ps. 22:2; Ps. 64:10–12).

The Church sojourns in time so that, by being united to her, many refugees from this world’s vanity might be reconciled to God the Father through his Only-begotten Son. “Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days,” says the wise Solomon (Eccles. 11:1). Our Lord fulfilled this call to generosity perfectly and ultimately when he gave his own Body as Bread at the time of his Passion. Now, that Bread, scattered upon the mountains, is consumed by many faithful, and it returns to him after many days—all the ages of this mortal world—as the Body of which he is the Head, his beloved Bride, the Church, in accordance with the word spoken to Adam of old: “they become one flesh” (Didache 9; Gen. 2:24).

Thus, as we celebrate this ecclesiastical New Year, I invite each and every member of the Orthodox Church in America to reflect with gratitude on the gracious gift that God has given us: his own divine and co-eternal Son. Reflecting on this gift, we are inspired to recommit ourselves to the mission of the Church in space and time, and specifically to the mission of the Orthodox Church in America in this place and at this time: to bring the unchanging Faith and the Good News hidden from all eternity to all the peoples of 21st century North America, and to do so in humility, with unity of mind and heart, sharing in the single purpose of doing God’s will for the salvation of many.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year and many blessed years to come,  
Sincerely yours in Christ, +Tikhon Archbishop of Washington Metropolitan of All America and Canada