



The Forerunner

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek - Rector



Liturgical and Events Schedule

Sunday, February 12

9:35 AM: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy /
Social & Silent Bake Auction by Sisterhood

Tuesday, February 14

10:00 AM: Deanery Meeting in Canton

Saturday, February 18

3:45 PM: Confessions

4:00 PM: Great Vespers followed by confessions

Sunday, February 19

9:35 AM: Hours / Divine Liturgy / Pot-Luck
Meat Social (Last day to eat Meat)

LENTEN MORNING PRAYERS

Won't you join me?

During the 40-day Lenten Fast, I have a custom of going to church every morning and reading a combination of morning prayers, Lenten hours and the Lenten Matins of the day. This is my personal prayer rule. This is not any particular service. I just read the prayers aloud. It takes about 60-90 minutes. If anyone would be interested, please consider joining me, for any amount of time you have available, even if only 30 minutes. I will begin 10:00 AM, Monday, February 27.

Fr. Andrew

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Commemorated on February 12

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

SPONSORSHIPS FOR FEBRUARY

WINE: In memory of Steve & Eileen Elash; for Eileen Nolder & Stephan Elash; or all members of the Graban and Elash families—given by Cindy Ferrick.

INCENSE: For the Health of the Graban & Elash families—given by Cindy Ferrick.

ALTAR CANDLES: In memory of brother, Danny's birthday—given by Melanie Yannitto

PLEASE KEEP OUR 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
6210 Catawba Drive
Canfield, OH 44406

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

Mrs. Mary Jane Puskas
Maplecrest Nursing Home
400 Sexton St
Struthers, OH 44471

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

Matushka Helen Psinka
1040 State St / Rm 1015
Concordia Villa St Joseph
Baden, PA 15005

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

Mrs. Pauline Fesz
488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

Mrs. Marion Zwinski
526 Hyatt Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

A FATHER'S LOVE

St. Symeon the New Theologian compares the teachings of Jesus to a treasure chest of jewels, diamonds, rubies and other precious stones which, when opened, gleams with rays of light. One of the most brilliant jewels in this treasure chest is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. It has been said that if we had lost all of the teachings of Jesus and had in our possession only thii the parable is the father. s single parable, we would still know the heart of Jesus's message.

Why did the son want to leave his father's house? Why did the father let him go so easily and give him a substantial portion of the property that he knew would be wasted? Why couldn't the older brother share in the father's joy when his younger brother returned alive and well? There is so much to think about here!

The Parable of the Prodigal Son concentrates on a runaway who comes to his senses and returns home. The central and most attractive figure in the parable is the father. The son returns home not because of selfless love or because of a courageous decision to make things right, but because of a personal need. But the love of the father for both of his sons, difficult as they are for different reasons, shines through a parable. He loves his sons unconditionally with a love that seeks not his own. He loves each son because each is his son, a part of him, not just in a physical but also in a personal and spiritual way. If he were to lose the one, he would lose part of himself. If the other were to stay angry and resentful, the father would be unhappy.

In his love the Father reaches out to do everything in his power for their benefit without violating their personal freedom. There is nothing the sons could do that would make him stop loving them.

What an image we have here of God's love for each of us! Jesus wants to teach us that God is love and His burning concern. His supreme joy, is to have us live near Him as His sons and daughters. Read Luke 15:11-32.

PRAYER LIST– Updated 2-9-23

PARISHIONERS: Eli (Arvan) / Audrey Chengelis / George (Horodnic) / Irene (Horodnic) / Victoria Elash / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Paula Kennedy / Sue (Kennedy) / George (Kolesar) / Barbara (Kolesar) / Mary Jane Puskas / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Matushka Carol Steffaro / Marion Zwinski

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Archbishop Benjamin / Bishop Matthias / Fr. David Lis / Fr. Emil Hutnyan / James Basala (Fr.) / Dominic (Centofanti) / Ellen (Clark) / Alexa & infant Stamati (Donofrio) / Katie (Garrity) / Claudia (Gemmel) / Kathy Jacob (Fr.) / Ellen (Kessler) / Eleanor Marie (Kidder) / Paul (Kolesar) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Kim Konik / Lauren & infant Connor David (Koval) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Walter Litzie (Fr.) / Mea (Mahan) / Mary (Mahan) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Karen Muzyka (Fr.) / Matushka Raissa (Nicoloff) / Ksenia and her unborn child (Petrochko) / Matushka Helen (Psinka) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Kristianna & infant Mary Louise (Robinson) / William Romanchak (Fr.) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Richard (Tusinac) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Paula (Voytilla) / Drew (Willison) / Emilia (Yannitto) / Zoland Zile, (Fr.)

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.)

MISCELLANEOUS: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Diocese of Aleppo) / Archbishop John (Archdiocese of Aleppo) / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

NOTE ABOUT PRAYER LIST

- * The above names are those I have received thus far. As I receive more information, it will be updated.
- * Only people who are currently ill will be put on the list. As their situation improves, please let me know so I may remove them.
- * If you want to simply pray for someone on a regular basis, please give me their names and I will remember them in the weekly Proskedia. The bulletin prayer list is only for people who are currently ill. Your name will be put in () following the person's name submitted for prayer. Please pray for those listed daily.

Thank you for your understanding of this information.

HOME BLESSINGS

Home blessings will continue until Friday February 24. Everyone has been contacted at least once and some three times. If you would like your home blessed, and get a chance to meet with me, please call the rectory or my cell phone. Home blessings will continue after Pascha if needed. We are on pace to bless 80% of all the households.

God Bless! *Fr. Andrew*

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, March 5: His Grace Bishop Tikhon
Sunday, March 19: Archpriest Daniel Rentel

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Would you like to sponsor candles or any liturgical item for the month in memory or honor of someone? Individuals will be remembered them during the Great Entrance throughout the month. Please speak with Fr. Andrew.

LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE

Wednesday, February 1: 22 attended Divine Liturgy for Feast of the Meeting of the Lord
Saturday, February 4: 10 people attended
Sunday, February 5: 73 attended Liturgy / 43 Communicants

Luke 15:11-32 (Gospel)

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet

you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Epistle)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.



**Two sounds that will tell
you the health of a
church:
Singing men
Crying babies**

**Youth Virtual Choir Concert 2023
Diocese of the Midwest, OCA**

Join us in celebrating the Feast of Feast by recording the youth of your parish singing a Paschal Troparion!

What: Virtual Concert of youth from across the Diocese of the Midwest, OCA

When: Concert will be aired on Pascha - details will be shared soon

Who: Any combination of youth singing one arrangement of the Paschal Troparion.

Please note that ANY combination of youth choir will do!

~ small or large ~ young children or teenagers
~ in harmony or unison ~

This is an opportunity for our children to celebrate the Risen Lord and for the faithful of our diocese to rejoice in their celebration!
St. Andrew of Crete Music Ministry

If interested in participating, please complete a quick survey. Instructions will be sent to the youth choir director upon completion of the survey.

All video submissions are due by March 31.

Questions? Email michellejannakos@gmail.com

NOTE: The Flyer is on bulletin Board downstairs

Abstinence is for everyone, not just for monks. Husbands and wives for whom marriage means only the satisfaction of bodily passions will not be justified. They will answer before God for not having been abstinent. Of course, as the Apostle says, they are not to abstain from each other for a long time, lest the devil deceive them, but they should abstain according to mutual consent (cf. I Cor. 7:1-6). Married people should abstain from corporeal relations during fasts and on great Feast days.

+ Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica,

**Paschal Concert Being Organized by
DOM Music Ministry**

The St. Andrew of Crete Music Ministry of the Diocese of the Midwest is organizing a youth choir concert for Pascha featuring a variety of Paschal Tropars from children across the diocese.

A Google Form for those interested in participating [Youth Choir Virtual Concert 2023] has been made available for communities. Once the survey is completed, directions as to how to submit a video and where to send it will be sent out.

A Youtube Video will be released on Pascha containing all of the submissions.



Sisterhood

Silent Bake Auction

Sunday, Feb 12th

**During Soup Luncheon*

Do you have a very special signature creation you would like to donate? We would love to receive it for the auction.

In order to assure a variety of fresh baked goods please contact

Nancy Tusinac
(724) 456-7366

*The Sisterhood will be having a soup luncheon, with 3 varieties of soup, during the Bake Auction. Please come and be our guests as you ponder your baked goods choices.

**FATHER ADREW'S ADDRESS AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING ON
FEBRUARY 5, 2023**

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

I just want everyone to know that when I give an annual address to a parish I take my responsibility very serious. I try to give the best snapshot picture I can of where a parish is on a yearly basis. It is important for everyone to know what is going on. I want to start off by saying how very excited I am to be assigned here as your new rector. I was assigned here on December 1, 2022, to allow myself to get moved in and get somewhat organized before The Nativity of Christ and His Baptism. As you all know that did not occur. I did not move into the rectory until January 5, 2023, the Eve of Theophany. The renovations took much longer than expected. But that is ok because the rectory looks brand new. I want to say thank you to all of you who prayed and worked so hard to prepare the rectory for moving in. So many of you worked for over a month or two cleaning and renovating the house. You all worked very hard. But I must give a special thanks to Michael Simko and Mike Centofanti who were basically at the house 5-6 days a week if not 7 doing something. They saved the church over \$25,000 or more. They did a fantastic job, and you will all have a chance to see it in the spring after Pascha where there will be an open house and picnic that will be sponsored by me.

Your warm welcome has been overwhelming. I am very grateful for it. It is hard to imagine this is my 10th weekend here already. I have contacted all 80 homes and I have at this time over 40 scheduled to be blessed. That is 50%+. Another 9 to call me back to schedule. If the 9 call me back that would be just over 60%. I'm still waiting on the other 30 which I just contacted this past week. I'm enjoying spending time getting to know each and everyone of you. So, moving in on the eve of Theophany I hit the ground running and it has been a whirlwind. Trying to open boxes, organize the rectory bless homes, visit the

shut-ins, it has been so very busy and exhausting but I'm having a blast. Thank you all who are allowing not just me but God into your homes and lives. We are going to have a wonderful 12 years together.

Eventually I will be meeting with all the organizations to get to know what you do and what you would like to see done here at St. John's. We are all going to work together all of us for the glory of God and I believe we are going to have a good time doing it.

Just like with any new rector or bishop changes occur. I told you all that I will not try to change anything for a year. I will try to keep that promise. However, if some people want to see some things done differently, and if we have a consensus, we may change those things. Just like the Vigil of Christmas Eve when we changed the time to 2:00pm. I was told we had a record number of parishioners here for that Vigil. Thank God. Over time I will learn your little "t" traditions here at Campbell. However, what I have experienced so far is exactly what I grew up with in my home parish of St. John the Baptist in Bridgeport, CT. So, I'm loving it.

I want to point out of how impressed I am with all the hard work that I see everyone doing here at the parish. From socials to cleaning of the rectory you all should be proud, not in a sinful way, but proud of your work ethic. But just like in any parish it is only a few of the same people that do all the work. If you don't currently work at any function contact the chairman of that function and ask if there is something you can do. It will be very edifying for you helping in the work of the church and it will help out someone else by having another two hands. It could be something as easy as scooping something. We will work with you based on your abilities and time constraints. This is all done for the glory of God.

I'm a little surprised that more boys are not serving in the altar on a regular basis and that not many children are not coming to church on a regular basis. We all need to work on this. ***Con't Next Page***

Father's Address con't from previous Pg

I need to be the front runner, but parents, grandparents and godparents and guardians all need to help in this area. If we all work together, we can make this change happen. One is never too old to serve. One church I had a 90 yr. old man who said he was serving in the altar since he was 7 and never stopped.

I have been so spiritually edified since I have begun serving here. The singing is remarkable. I know you are all grateful and blessed to have such talent here. Please don't take this for granted. Many churches do not sound like this. The choir is the second most important thing in the church after the priest of course because the singing can either enhance the worship of prayer or destroy it. I want to thank Dr. Nicoloff and the choir immensely. You all certainly enhance the prayer life here. And now we have a new choir director in training, Nathaniel Willison, who will be just as brilliant as Dr. Nicoloff. No pressure Nathaniel. A saint once said when you sing you pray twice. I think here we are praying thrice.

To the parish council, thank you for all the love you've shown to me in this transition. Anything I needed; they were there. It's kind of ironic—even though this transition was not smooth it was very smooth. Thank you for that.

So, what are some things we have to look forward to in the coming days and weeks?

This year we will be having a lite Lenten meal following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies. Just like you have had in the past. I called Joann Sirilla to ask her thoughts about the possibility of having a lite Lenten meal each evening after the Canon of St. Andrew during the first week of lent. Perhaps that would entice more people to attend? It's hard when people are working and get home between 5 and 5:30 and need to decide to stay home and eat or come to church for a Lenten service. Well, Joann, called me back and said the ladies were excited to do so! They were so gracious. Thank you and God Bless!

If you have never come to the Canon of St Andrew, I strongly encourage you to do so. The first week of the fast is the most beautiful week of the Great Fast. When you hear every night the different Scripture verses as the lights are dimmed and when we are bowing and prostrating it brings chills to you. I can't think of a better way to start the Great Fast.

We are hoping to have 2 catechumens starting on Forgiveness Sunday. We have people starting to come back. In June there will be a picnic and a Fall Festival in September and many other things that will be happening throughout the year. All for the glory of God.

I'd like to offer some encouragement with the following item:

One of the biggest things I have noticed so far that we need to work on is coming to church on time. What happens when we are late for work? Or if we are late for school? What would you think if a football or baseball player showed up late for a game or late for the Super Bowl?

Would they be permitted to play? We would want to be there early to get our seats and watch the pre-game show or get our food and drinks. Right!

The Divine Liturgy, the worship of our Lord and Savior is far more important. Hours begin around 9:35 and Liturgy at 10. It's not that early. We should arrive at the Holy banquet on time. We should get here early to properly venerate all the precious Icons and to light our candles and sit in the pews to either listen to the hours or say our pre-communion prayers. And we should avoid being a distraction to other people praying while we are coming in late. It is a tradition that if we don't arrive before the reading of the Epistle and Gospel, we should not approach the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This is for our protection; it is not a punishment. It is because we would not simply be prepared to receive. It is the Divine Body and Blood of Christ. If we are not prayerfully prepared, we should not receive unworthily, for our soul's sake. If anyone wants to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me. **Con't Next Pg**

Father address con't from previous Pg

So, this is what we need to work on and pray about. And there is always something to work on. No one is perfect. We only strive to be better every day of our lives. We do this for the Glory of God. Always! But there is a lot of love and enthusiasm in this parish now and this parish can do great things in the future. I'm very happy to be part of that. I just want to say once more how grateful I am of being here and meeting all of you during the house blessings. So, thank you and God Bless you all.

THE JOY OF REPENTANCE

We read the Parable of the Prodigal Son during the pre-Lenten period because one of its central themes is repentance. Through the example of the Prodigal, as well as the Compassionate love of the Father, the Church seeks to inspire and guide us to true repentance, to the sacrament of Holy Confession and to a new life in Christ. Great Lent is not simply a period of external practices such as strict fasting from foods but it is above **all an opportunity for prayer, inward reflection, confession of sins, conversion of the heart, and renewal of the mind**—that's what *metanoia* ("about face" / "Change of mind") means.

In the teachings of Jesus repentance is connected not with gloom but with joy. When the Prodigal Son returned to his father's house he provided an occasion for great rejoicing. His father, who was all the while waiting for him, ran out to greet him, embraced him, kissed him, and immediately called for a resounding celebration. "Hurray! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet...get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast!" said the father (Lk. 15:22-23). When the older brother approached the house in the evening he heard dancing and music from within. This offended

Him. What was the reason for all the rejoicing? The father's words express it most eloquently: "My son was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found" (Lk. 15:24).

Our relationship with God is like that. When we are away from Him, He yearns for our return and waits for us. When we return to Him, we give Him great joy. WE do not usually associate joy with repentance. We find it painful to admit our sins, faults, and wrongdoings. But we should know that to God repentance is a great moment of joy because it marks the return of a son or daughter to the loving and waiting Father. Repentance is not a religious duty to be fulfilled for the sake of God. Repentance is for us. It is the recognition of our unworthiness, the sincere confession of sins, and the complete trust in His grace: "Father, I have sinned against You. I am no longer fit to be called your son" (Lk. 15:21). For His part, the Father, is not interested in dealing with us in stern fashion, much less in humiliating us, but rather only in receiving us, embracing us, kissing us, and rejoicing with us. All of heaven rejoices for the return of a lost son or daughter. Read Luke 15:4-10 (Taken from A Year of the Lord (Liturgical Bible studies) Vol. 3 Triodion & Lent)

WEEKLY FINANCIALS FOR FEBRUARY

Expenses: 1st week of Feb: \$5,645.10
Income: 1st week of Feb: \$3,852.50
TOTAL: -\$1,792.60

Weekly Offering: \$3,235.00
Assessment: \$320.00
Weekly Candles: \$97.50
Wine & Incense: \$50.00
Rectory Restoration: \$150.00

OTHER INCOME:

Fall Social By Tracy Zenko \$10.00
Charity donation \$165.00