The Forerunner

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek - Rector

Liturgical and Events Schedule

Sunday, February 26
9:30 AM: (Note Time)
9:50 AM: Catechumen Service
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / 40-day Panachida for Alex Zenko / Special Social followed by Forgiveness Vespers
6:00 PM: Start of the Great Fast

Monday, February 27
10:00 AM: Morning Lenten Prayer / Confessions
5:30 PM: Confessions
6:00 PM: Canon of St Andrew with Compline / Confessions followed by lite Lenten meal

Tuesday, February 28
10:00 AM: Morning Lenten Prayers / Confessions
5:30 PM: Confessions
6:00 PM: Canon of St Andrew with Compline / Confessions followed by lite Lenten meal

Wednesday, March 1
10:00 AM: Morning Lenten Prayers / Confessions
5:30 PM: Confessions
6:00 PM: Canon of St Andrew with Compline / Confessions followed by a lite Lenten meal

Thursday, March 2
10:00 AM: Morning Lenten Prayers / Confessions
5:30 PM: Confessions
6:00 PM: Canon of St Andrew with Compline / Confessions followed by a lite Lenten meal

Friday, March 3
10:00 AM: Morning Lenten Prayers / Confessions
5:30 PM: Confessions
6:00 PM: Liturgy of pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a lite Lenten meal (Please fast from noon on)

Sunday, March 5
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / 40-Day Bishop Tikhon / Procession of Icons / Lenten Social
5:00 PM: Orthodoxy Vespers @ St John the Forerunner (Greek Church) Boardman.

PRAYER OF ST EPHRAIM

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. *(Prostration)*

But give rather the spirit of Chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. *(Prostration)*

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. *(Prostration)*

O God, cleanse me, a sinner. *(12 time with deep bow after each)*

Then, read the entire prayer again with only one prostration at the end. Note: If you can not do a prostration due to a medical condition, a deep bow is fine.

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, February 26 Alex Zenko
Sunday, March 5: His Grace Bishop Tikhon
Sunday, March 19: Archpriest Daniel Rentel

301 Struthers-Liberty Rd., Campbell, Ohio 44405
https://www.stjohnthebaptist-campbell.org/
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padrebartek@gmail.com

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

Joan Cross
18 Fruitland Drive
New Castle, PA 16105

WEEKLY FINANCIALS FOR FEBRUARY

Expenses: 3rd week of Feb:	**$2,851.74**
Income: 3rd week of Feb:	**$2,716.50**
TOTAL:	**-$135.24**
Weekly Offering:	$2,420
Assessment:	$100
Weekly Candles:	$96.50
Wine & Incense	$50.00
Monthly Candles	$50.00
OTHER INCOME:	
Easter Flowers	$25
Advent Social	$10
Deanery Donation	$ 5

MONTHLY FINANCIALS FOR FEBRUARY

Expenses:	$10,714.74
Income:	$ 8,361.50
TOTAL:	**-$ 2,353.24**

As Great and Holy Lent approaches, retreats and educational lectures are being prepared by various communities and groups throughout the country. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest will be the main speaker at the on-line presentation.

From: Holy Assumption Monastery, Calistoga, CA

Title: CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: The Cross in the Christian Life

Date and Time:
Saturday, March 11, 2023
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Pacific Time)

Presented by:
His Eminence, Archbishop DANIEL (Brum)
Archbishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest,Chicago, IL

Location: Please Join Us Online!
Zoom • Facebook • Website • Call-in
(For more information go to our Diocesan Website.

PRAYER LIST– Updated 2-22-23

PARISHIONERS: Eli (Arvan**) /** Audrey Chengelis / George (Horodnic) / Irene (Horodnic) / Victoria Elash / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Paula Kennedy / Sue (Kennedy) / George (Kolesar) / Kim (Konik) / Barbara (Kolesar) / Mary Jane Puskas / Kenny (Ruff) / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Matushka Carol Steffaro / Marion Zwinski / Erica & her unborn baby

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.) / Laureen & 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) still being held captive / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

Archbishop Daniel Concludes Visit to Michigan Community

The Archbishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest made his first pastoral visit to St Mark Church, Rochester Hills, MI this past weekend, February 18 & 19.

Meeting with Archpriest John Baker, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel was given a tour of the church, was informed of the history of the community and learned of the vision for building upon the good work laid before Fr John's arrival in 2021. His Eminence visited "The Atrium" for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, which is part of the vision implemented this past year for the education of the youngest of the parish children.

Before holding a talk on Saturday before Vespers, His Eminence was able to meet with several catechumens of the parish, learning of their particular journeys to the Orthodox Christian Church while they in turn were able to ask questions of His Eminence.

Before Vespers His Eminence spoke on the Role of the Bishop within the Church and also shared his own story which led to him becoming the Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest. Following Vespers, His Eminence attended an informal gathering for food and fellowship where he was able to spend time with the youth of the parish.

The culmination of the visit to the parish was on Sunday for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy where the faithful were able to gather around their Archpastor for the first time. A banquet in honor of His Eminence took place in the parish hall following the conclusion of the Liturgy.

THE TIME HAS COME

Cheesefare Sunday is the last day on which the eating of dairy and eggs products is allowed. The next day, Pure or Clean Monday, Great Lent begins, a period of fasting from meat, fish, dairy, and egg products. The time of the Great Lent has Come!

Another Loss Control Bonus for the OCA Group Program

In 2006, the Orthodox Church in America partnered with Insurance Systems Group, Inc., to establish the OCA Group Affiliation Program (GAP). Underwritten through GuideOne Insurance Co., the GAP Program offers benefits not found elsewhere, including excess property protection for catastrophic losses and potential to earn loss control bonus (premium return) when the Group is profitable.The Herzak's – Michael (Mickey) and his two sons Mike Jr. and Dan – of Insurance Systems Group, Inc., have recently recently delivered a check in the amount of $37,186.00 to His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon from a special Loss Control Benefit within the OCA's Group Affiliated Program, which signifies group profitability.This is the sixth time a Loss Control bonus has been earned and now totals $200,017 since its inception. As done in the past, the funds will be distributed back to member parishes relative to premiums paid annually.

Insurance Systems Group explained, "This voluntary program was established in 2006 to assist the OCA by offering special insurance benefits to participating OCA parishes, institutions, and organizations… the GAP Rewards, a Loss Control Bonus for reduced claims within the group, is the cherry on top. When participating churches work to prevent and reduce claims, they can earn this bonus."

The GAP also includes coverage enhancements that gives 25% more property coverage subject to a $1,000,000.00 maximum at no additional charge, unique coverage for iconography, Sexual Misconduct Liability, Directors and Officers (trustees) Liability, Religious Expressions Liability, and more.Insurance Systems Group also said "While Orthodoxy remains consistent, society and laws change regularly. We want to be on top of those changes to ensure our Orthodox churches are protected."

GuideOne Insurance of West Des Moines, IA, is the one of the largest writers of churches and related institutions in the country.

Insurance Systems Group, Inc. is a broker of property and casualty insurance to Orthodox churches of all jurisdictions in the U.S. The Herzak's are unique in that they are Orthodox Christians who understand both the distinctive attributes of Orthodox churches and the coverage ramifications of insurance.

Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise Commemorated on February 26

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendents became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Matthew 6:14-21 (Gospel)

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

ORIGINS OF THE LENTEN FAST

In the earliest days of Christianity, only two days of fasting were designated prior to Pascha (Friday and Saturday). Later the entire week of the Lord's coming to Jerusalem, His arrest, trial, and passion was set aside for fasting. By the fourth century the period of fasting had been extended an additional forty days in imitation of Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness before His temptation. (Matthew 4:1-2)

Strict fasting in the ancient Christian tradition meant eating no food at all during the day, or it meant eating sparingly of either dry foods or boiled vegetables and grains. Strict fasting is possible today in monasteries, in agricultural settings, and for some individuals living in modern society. **Of course fasting regulations do not apply to people who are ill, in hospitals, to expectant mothers, to small children or to others following special diets under a doctor's care.**

CHOOSING A FASTING DISCIPLINE

All Orthodox Christians should fast. But each person and each family must prayerfully choose and commit themselves to a fasting discipline that is suitable to their circumstances and that they can keep. Some choose to fast strictly (no meat or dairy products) throughout Lent. Many choose to fast strictly only during the first week of Lent and during Holy Week. Others choose to fast from meat throughout Lent but from meat, fish, and dairy products only on Wednesdays and Fridays. Still others follow other forms of fasting disciplines. Children usually fast with moderation and care in order to receive the necessary nutrients for their growing bodies. As far as ideas for Lenten foods, a number of cookbooks are now available providing many suggestions for a balanced and healthy diet. These books are helpful guidelines. But they are not meant to undo the whole spirit of fasting by causing us to be constantly preoccupied with "delicious Lenten meals!" Fasting entails not only the ***quality*** of foods but also the ***quantity*** of consumption. ***Con't next Page***

"A Fasting Discipline" con't from previous page

The key words should be moderation and simplicity of meals.

Some hymns of Cheesefare Sunday call us to begin Great Lent as athletes begin a race. The race is the present life. The prize is the Kingdom of God. Athletes begin a race not with downcast but with eager spirits; not with gloomy but with radiant faces. Here are some examples:

The time has come! The spiritual contest begins! The victory over demonic powers is at hand! Let us put on the armor of self-control and clothe ourselves in the glory of the angels, that we may attain boldness before God.

The arena of the virtues has been opened. Let all who wish to strive for the prize now enter, girding themselves with the discipline of fasting...taking up the armor of the Cross...having faith as an invincible rampart, prayer as a breastplate, and almsgiving as a helmet.

Matin Hymns, Cheesefare Sunday

Let us set out with joy upon the season of the fast, preparing ourselves for spiritual combat. Let us purify our souls and cleanse ourselves for spiritual combat. Let us purify our souls and cleanse our bodies. As we fast from food, let us also fast from every evil passion, rejoicing in the virtues of the Spirit. Let us persevere with love and so be deemed worthy to venerate the passion of Christ our God and with great spiritual gladness to behold His holy resurrection.

Vesper Hymn, Cheesefare Sunday

Read Romans 13:11-14:4

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.

LENTEN MORNING LENTEN 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*

PRAYER

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. We were exiled once, O Lord, from paradise, through disobedient eating from the tree of knowledge; but You, our God and Saviour, have led us back into Your Kingdom, through Your cross and saving passion. By the intercessions of the Theotokos and through the power of the Cross, give us strength to keep the fast in holiness and to worship Your divine resurrection, the Passover of salvation. Amen

Martin Hymn, Cheesefare Sunday

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

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
Saturday, February 11: 11 attended Vespers
Sunday, February 12: 71 attended Liturgy / 41 communicants
Saturday, February 18: 14 attended Vespers
Sunday, February 19: 76 attended Liturgy / 46 Communicants

MARCH SPONSORSHIPS

Altar Candles: In memory of my husband Andrew - given by Ann Cvercko

Iconostas Candles: In honor of Matthew Vansuch on the occasion of his birthday. In memory of ArchPriest Eugene Vansuch. Given by Nick and Monica Vansuch

Wine & Incense: In memory of my father Joseph Korechko - given by Joan Sirilla.

MEDITATION

St Paul speaks to me personally when he says: "you know that the time has come for you to wake up from your sleep" (Romans 13:11). I know that every hour is the hour of decision. Every hour can be an opportunity for new life. But because of my forgetfulness, carelessness, and laziness, not every hour is the hour of decision, not every hour is an opportunity for deeper communion with Christ. Thus the call of Lent resounds with power and promise: Awaken from sleep! Take up the weapons of Christ! Put on newness! The question to my soul is: Are you spiritually alive or asleep? If alive, thank the Lord. If asleep, when do you plan to awaken? If not during Great Lent, then when? May the Lord help me die to my old self that I might live again in the newness of Christ's resurrection.

PARADISE LOST AND REGAINED

How do you feel when you lose something important? What is the most important thing you could lose? According to a saying attributed to St. Anthony the Great "the most grievous loss, the worst calamity and the greatest disaster is for a person not to know God." A person may in a life time achieve many things and rejoice in many delights. Yet of what value are all these if the same person misses personal communion with God and is instead separated from God?

Adam sat before paradise lamenting and weeping over his nakedness: "Woe is me! By evil deceit was I led astray and now I am in exile from Glory. Woe is me!...no more shall I look upon the face of the Lord my God and Maker, for I shall return to the earth from which I was taken." Vesper Hymn, Cheesefare Sunday

Study the following hymn which instructs each of us how to apply the themes of Cheesefare Sunday during the coming Great Lent:

Adam was driven out of paradise because in disobedience he partook of food; but Moses was granted a vision of God because he had cleansed the eyes of his soul by fasting. If, then, we long to dwell again in paradise, let us abstain from all needless food. If we desire to see God, let us like Moses fast forty days. With sincerity let us persevere in prayer and intercession; let us subdue the rebellious instincts of the flesh…O son of God, Lifegiver, in You we set our hope: count us worthy of a place with the angels, by the intercessions of the Mother who bore You, O Christ, of the Apostles and the Martyrs and of all the saints.

Matin Hymn, Cheesefare Sunday

Bring Icons Sunday of Orthodox March 5

Everyone, please bring an Icon to Church from home next week and hold them throughout Liturgy. Weather permitting, we will have a procession around the church at the end of the Liturgy.

GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is a central theme of Cheesefare Sunday which is also known as the Sunday of Forgiveness. "Turn to God, so that He will forgive your sins!" The Apostle Peter cried out to the people at the Temple (Acts 3:19). The Apostle John taught Christians: "If we confess our sins to God, He will keep His promise and do what is right: He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrong-doing (1 John 1:9). St Isaac the Syrian urges each of us: "Arouse yourself and with tears pray to the Savior of the world that He may take away the sin from your heart and disperse the inner darkness, so that you may be deemed worthy to see the light of His grace" (Mystical Treatises). Read 1 John 3:19-24

Many of the hymns of Cheesefare Sunday seek to remind each worshiper of Adam's experience of separation from God and to lead each Christian to true repentance: ***Come, my wretched soul, and weep today over your acts. I weep for my loss, O Savior, and cry to Yoy with faith: Forsake me not, O God of love, but call me back to you***. Matin Hymn, Cheesefare Sunday

With prayers and tears let us seek our Lord and Savior. Putting aside all memories of evil, let us cry aloud: We have sinned against You, Christ our King; save us as the people of Nineveh in days of old, and in Your compassion make us sharers in Your heavenly kingdom. Vesper Hymn, Cheesefare Sunday

The hope of the humble and repentant soul is Christ. "We have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf—-Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And Christ Himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven" (1 John 2:1-2. This hope of forgiveness is expressed by the following hymn in the form of a personal prayer: ***O Christ my Savior, boldly I put my trust in the abundance of Your mercies and in the blood that flowed from Your divine side; for through Your blood You have sanctified the nature of mortals***. Matin Hymn, Cheesefare Sunday