



The Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405
OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



SEPTEMBER BULLETIN SPONSOR

Audrey Chengelis

Weekly Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, September 24

- 9:35 AM: Hours
- 10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy
- 11:30 AM: Blessing of Campbell's First responders & vehicle's & Social
- 11:45 AM: Complementary lunch in church hall

Monday, September 25

- 6:00 pm PM: Orthodoxy 101 Class

Wednesday, September 27

- 6:00 PM: Fire Station Meeting

Thursday, September 28

- 11:00 AM: Book Club

Saturday, September 30

- 4:00 PM: Bible Study
- 6:00 PM: Great Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, October 1

- 9:35 AM: Hours
- 10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida for Laurissa Rusnak / Social by Rusnak Family
- Fr. Andrew & Dr. Donald leave for Diocesan Assembly in Chicago until Wednesday night

September / October Social Schedule

- Sunday, September 24 – Social for First Responders
- Sunday, October 1 – Melanie Rusnak
- Sunday, October 8 – Council
- Sunday, October 15 – Sisterhood
- Sunday, October 22 – Altar Society
- Sunday, October 29 – Open

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

\$1000

7th Annual Dinner & Raffle Benefit
Saturday, October 14, 2023
Located at
St. Michael's Byzantine Church Hall
463 Robinson Rd. • Campbell, Ohio

Cocktail Hour
Appetizers
Beer & Wine
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Dinner
By Chef Linda
6 p.m.

- COCKTAIL HOUR, 2 DINNERS, 1 RAFFLE TICKET - \$100.00
- COCKTAIL HOUR, DINNER, RAFFLE TICKET - \$70.00
- Cash Drawings • Grand Prize \$1000 • 3 Side Board Drawings
• Lottery Tree • 50/50 Raffle

TICKET DEADLINE IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Make Check out to: St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
Contact Church Council Member or Crystal: 330-507-3156

Advent Gift Card Tree

Donations of scratch-offs or gift cards for the Advent Social's Christmas Tree are being sought.

If you would like to donate, please bring to Barb Kolesar or Cindy Ferrick.

40 Day Remembrance

- September 24 - His Eminence Metropolitan Daniel of Tokyo / Thomas Kristian
- October 8 – Karen Muzyka
- October 15 - Bruce

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.

Annual “Church Musician Sunday” to be held Sunday, October 1

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has designated the Sunday on or following the commemoration of Saint Romanus the Melodist (October 1) as “Church Musician Sunday.” This yearly designation will take place this year on Sunday, October 1, 2023. Church Musician Sunday highlights the essential role of liturgical music in Orthodox Christian worship and the important role of church musicians in the life of the Church.

Parishes are encouraged to recognize those who serve in the various roles involved in Church music: choir directors, singers, chanters, readers, composers, arrangers, and bell-ringers, through a public acknowledgment following the Divine Liturgy. Additionally, parishioners and parish leaders are strongly encouraged to consider the many essential responsibilities of those who lead the musical responses during the Divine services including the offering of appropriate remuneration for choir directors. The Department of Liturgical Music offers numerous resources to support the role of liturgical music through providing texts, rubrics, music, classes, and workshops. The majority of resources are offered free of charge.

You can support the ongoing projects of the Departments of the OCA by considering a gift to the Stewards of the OCA. Your financial support is crucial to the success of these endeavors!

For questions about the work of the Departments, contact Father Thomas Soroka at tsoroka@oca.org.

SIGN-UP / VOLUNTEERS FOR SOCIALS

It has been customary that the “O” Club, Sisterhood, & council sponsor the coffee socials.

We are asking for individuals or families to please sponsor a social on a rotating basis. With enough volunteers, the rotation of sponsors could be once a quarter. Even though the above groups take a particular Sunday, getting a break would be nice.

Bagels, donuts and coffee is perfectly fine. A simple meal is perfectly fine.

Please see Fr. Andrew so he can put you on a schedule.

As of right now on any given month:

First Sunday	“O” Club
Second Sunday	Council
Third Sunday	Sisterhood
Fourth Sunday	Open
Fifth Sunday	Open (when applicable)

PRAYER LIST– Updated 9-13-23

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / George Horodnic / Irene Horodnic / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Paula Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Mary Jane Puskas / Kenny Ruff / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Marion Zwinski / Mary and her unborn child

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Archbishop Benjamin / Bishop Matthias / Fr. James Gleason (Fr.) / sub-deacon Wylie Meath (Fr) / Bret (Zelinsky) / Dominic (Centofanti) / Ellen (Clark) / Katie (Garrity) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Ellen (Kessler) / Eleanor Marie (Kidder) / Paul (Kolesar) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Mea (Mahan) / Mary (Mahan) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raissa (Nicoloff) / Eugene (Pallai) / Ksenia and her unborn child (Petrochko) / Matushka Helen (Psinka) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Kristianna & infant Mary Louise (Robinson) / William Romanchak (Fr.) / Roxanne (Yannitto) / Julia (Shirilla) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Richard (Tusinac) / Brian (Shirilla) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Paula (Voytilla) / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Sarah and her newborn Zoe / Drew (Willison) / Emilia Yannitto / Zoland Zile, (Fr.)

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 / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

Luke 5:1-11 (Gospel)

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (Epistle)

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

October Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin: In memory of Robert on the occasion of our 68th anniversary- Given by Sue Kennedy

Wine: In memory of Laurissa Rusnak – Given by Sub-deacon Vladimir

Incense: In memory of Laurissa Rusnak – Given by Sub-deacon Vladimir

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of George and Mary Vasile and George Vasile– Given by James & Elaine Johnston

Altar Candles: In memory of Andrew & Anna Cvercko - Given by Anne Cvercko / In honor of Monica Vansuch on the occasion of her birthday – Given by Reader Nick Vansuch

Tetrapod Candles: In memory of my father Frank Flaherty– Given by Layne Demkosky

St. Herman Candles: Taken

St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: In honor of Karen Debiec on the occasion of her 63rd birthday– Given by Sue Kennedy

Protection Icon Candles: In memory of my mom Helen Flaherty– Given by Layne Demkosky

St. John the Baptist Candles: AVAILABLE

Incense: In Memory of Laurissa Rusnak – Given by Sub-deacon Vladimir

Flowers: For health of all members of the Altar Society; In memory of the ladies from the Altar Society – Given by Ladies Altar Society

<u>\$50 per month</u>	<u>\$30 per month</u>	<u>\$25 per month</u>
Wine	St. Herman candles	Incense
Bulletin	St. Panteleimon Icon	
Iconostasis Candles	candles	<u>Flowers</u> - \$75
& Eternal Light	Protection Icon	
Altar Candles	candles	
Tetrapod Candles	St. John the Baptist	
	candles	

Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Nikodhim as Bishop of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese

On Saturday, September 16, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and other hierarchs of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America gathered at Saint George Cathedral in Boston, MA, along with clergy and faithful of the Albanian Archdiocese and across the Orthodox Church in America, for the ordination to the Holy Episcopate of Bishop-elect Nikodhim (Preston), as Bishop of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese. The Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America elected Archimandrite Nikodhim as Bishop-elect of Boston at their regular Spring Session on April 25, 2023.

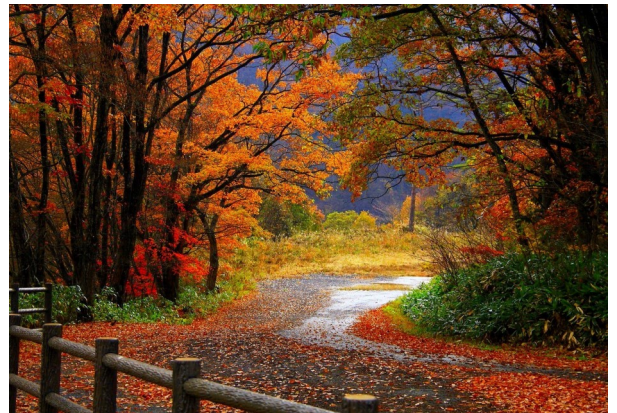
On Friday evening, His Beatitude led the hierarchs in a Service of Thanksgiving and the Nomination and Proclamation of a Bishop. Before the service began, Priest Mark Doku, Chancellor of the Albanian Archdiocese, read the official announcement of election. Following the service, a festive banquet was held to mark the conclusion of the Albanian Archdiocese Assembly, which had been held at St. George Cathedral on Thursday and Friday.

On the morning of September 16, concelebrating the Primatial Divine Liturgy presided by Metropolitan Tikhon were His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West, His Eminence Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, His Eminence Archbishop Irénée of Ottawa and the Archdiocese of Canada, His Eminence Archbishop Michael of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest, along with numerous priests and deacons, among whom Archpriest Andrew Jarmus, Chancellor of the Bulgarian Diocese who represented His Eminence Archbishop Alexander. His Grace Bishop John of Worcester was also present on Friday night.

Before the liturgy, Bishop-elect Nikodhim offered his statement of faith, proclaiming the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, and offered a detailed explanation of the Church's Trinitarian and Christological doctrines in the presence of Metropolitan Tikhon and the assembled hierarchs, clergy, and faithful. He pledged his commitment to uphold the Church's canons and the teachings of the Holy Fathers and to preserve unity with his brother bishops. During the singing of the Trisagion at the Divine Liturgy, Bishop-elect Nikodhim was led to the altar by Archpriest Alexander Rentel, OCA Chancellor, and Priest Mark Doku, Albanian Archdiocese Chancellor. **Con't Pg 7**

REPOSED LIST FOR SEPTEMBER

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



September Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

1-Dennis Konik
 3-Lynn Basala
 4-Deborah Zelinsky
 6-Dc. David Gemmel
 7-Michael Simko
 8-Joshua Rusnak
 9-Kim Konik
 11-Brian Lucas, Joann Sirilla
 13- Ed Graban
 14-Debbie Perman, Chris Baxter, Sub-deacon Donald Tamulonis
 17-Barbara Kolesar
 18-Ron Tusinac, V.R Archpriest David Lis
 23-Gregory Simko

22-Pani Bethany Mihaly
 25-Michael Litzie, Stella Graban
 26-Jim Basala
 27-Tracy Zenko

ANNIVERSARIES

3-Frank & Crystal Batura
 5-Ron & Nancy Tusinac
 7-Steven & Karen Simko
 9-Mary Margaret & Andrew James (Tusinac)
 9-Michael & Martha Centofanti
 13-Sam & Angie Dardovski
 13- Fr. Peter Zarynow (Priestly Anny)
 17- Dc James & Matushka Hryb
 28-1990- Retired Bishop Lazar of Ottawa

NAMES DAY

30- AB Michael of NY & NJ

ON GOING FINANCIALS FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER Liturgical Attendance			
Day	Vespers	Divine Liturgy	Communicants
Tues. Aug 29		9	
Sunday, Sep 3		81	48
Sat., Sep 7	6		
Sun., Sep 8		10	
Sat., Sep 9	7		
Sun., Sep 10		70	42
Wed., Sep 13	10		
Thur., Sep 14		25	
Sat., Sep 16	16		
Sun., Sep 17		60	36

Expenses..... \$11,168.73
 Income..... \$10,116.00
TOTAL..... -\$1,052.73

Weekly Tithe..... \$5,377
 Assessment..... \$ 95
 Weekly Candles..... \$ 415
 Wine..... \$ 100
 Incense..... \$ 25
 Protection Icon..... \$ 30
 Decorated Candles..... \$ 20
 Unneeded Gifts..... \$ 25

OTHER INCOME:
 Deanery Donation..... \$154
 Seminary Donation..... \$484
 Garlic Sales to Basil Workers..... \$182

Archbishop of Chicago Celebrates the Cross at St. Vladimir's Seminary

On September 13 and 14, the great feast of the Exultation of the Life Giving Cross, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest celebrated the feast at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers New York.

The All Night Vigil was served on the Wednesday evening with Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Seminary Dean, faculty and student clergy serving with the Archbishop. At the Great Doxology, the cross was processed to the center of the chapel and the Rite of Exultation was performed.

On Thursday, Divine Liturgy was celebrated and Midwest seminarian, Jared Ries was ordained to the holy diaconate.

The Archbishop's visit to the seminary is in conjunction with the diocesan appeal, "Support Our Seminarians" during the month of September. The diocese currently has 11 seminarians studying to serve the Midwest upon graduation.

New bishop con't from pg 4

In his homily, Metropolitan Tikhon emphasized our calling to do nothing but the will of God the Father as Christ did. He called on all to always be filled with God's activity, offering ourselves and our whole life to Christ, so that we too may be little Christs. He noted that, in doing this, we will indeed find eternal joy.

After the Divine Liturgy, the hierarchs and clergy assembled on the ambo where Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed the gathered bishops and addressed the newly-ordained bishop. Metropolitan Tikhon congratulated Bishop Nikodhim on behalf of the Orthodox Church in America, and welcomed him to the Holy Synod of Bishops. He reminded His Grace that he is not alone and that he must rely on the prayers of his brother bishops and those who have gone before him. Lastly, His Beatitude urged Bishop Nikodhim to entrust himself to the most holy Theotokos. Read Metropolitan Tikhon's full address here . Metropolitan Tikhon then presented the pastoral staff to Bishop Nikodhim who ascended his throne and blessed the clergy and faithful.

Protomartyr and Equal of the Apostles Thekla / Commemorated on September 24

The Holy Protomartyr and Equal of the Apostles Thekla was born in the city of Iconium. She was the daughter of rich and illustrious parents, and she was distinguished by extraordinary beauty. At eighteen years of age they betrothed her to an eminent youth. But after she heard the preaching of the holy Apostle Paul about the Savior, Saint Thekla with all her heart came to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and she steadfastly resolved not to enter into marriage, but rather to devote all her life to preaching the Gospel.

Saint Thekla's mother was opposed to her daughter's plans and insisted that she marry her betrothed. Saint Thekla's fiancé also complained to the prefect of the city about the Apostle Paul, accusing him of turning his bride against him. The prefect locked up Saint Paul in prison.

During the night Saint Thekla secretly ran away from her house, and she bribed the prison guards, giving them all her gold ornaments, and so made her way into the prison to the prisoner. For three days she sat at the feet of the Apostle Paul, listening to his fatherly precepts. Thekla's disappearance was discovered, and servants were sent out everywhere looking for her. Finally, they found her in the prison and brought her home by force.

At his trial Saint Paul was sentenced to banishment from the city. Again they urged Saint Thekla to

consent to the marriage, but she would not change her mind. Neither the tears of her mother, nor her wrath, nor the threats of the prefect could separate Saint Thekla from her love for the Heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Her mother in a insane rage demanded from the judges a death sentence against her unyielding daughter, and Saint Thekla was sentenced to be burned. Without flinching, the holy martyr went into the fire and made the Sign of the Cross over herself. At this moment the Savior appeared to her, blessing her present deed, and inexpressible joy filled her holy soul.

The flames of the fire shot up high, but the martyr was surrounded by a light and the flames did not touch her. Thunder boomed, and a strong down-pour of rain and hail extinguished the fire. The torturers scattered in fear. Saint Thekla, kept safe by the Lord, left the city and with the help of a certain Christian youth, searched for the Apostle Paul. The holy apostle and his companions, among whom was Saint Barnabas, were hidden in a cave not far from the city, praying fervently, that the Lord would strengthen Saint Thekla in her sufferings.

After this, Saint Thekla went with them preaching the Gospel in Antioch. In this city she was pursued by a certain dignitary named Alexander, who was captivated by her beauty. Saint Thekla refused his offer of marriage, and so she was condemned to death for being a Christian. Twice they set loose hungry wild animals upon her, but they would not touch the holy virgin. Instead, they lay down meekly and licked her feet.

The Providence of God preserved the holy martyr unharmed through all her torments. Finally, they tied her to two oxen and began to chase her with red-hot rods, but the strong cords broke asunder like cobwebs, and the oxen ran off, leaving Saint Thekla unharmed. The people began shouting, "Great is the God of the Christians!" The prefect himself became terrified, realizing that the holy martyr was being kept safe by the Almighty God, Whom she served. He then gave orders to set free the servant of God Thekla.

With the blessing of the Apostle Paul, Saint Thekla then settled in a desolate region of Isaurian Seleucia and dwelt there for many years, constantly preaching the Word of God and healing the sick through her prayer. Saint Thekla converted many pagans to Christ, and the Church appropriately names her as "Equal-to-the-Apostles." Even a pagan priest, trying to assault her purity and punished for his impudence, **Con't next Pg**

Protomartyr Thekla con't from previous pg

was brought by her to holy Baptism. More than once the Enemy of the race of man tried to destroy Saint Thekla through people blinded by sin, but the power of God always preserved this faithful servant of Christ.

When Saint Thekla was already a ninety-year-old woman, pagan sorcerers became incensed at her for treating the sick for free. They were unable to comprehend that the saint was healing the sick by the power of the grace of Christ, and they presumed that the virgin-goddess Artemis was her special helper. Envious of Saint Thekla, they sent their followers to defile her. When they came near her, Saint Thekla cried out for help to Christ the Savior, and a rock split open and hid the holy virgin, the bride of Christ. Thus did Saint Thekla offer up her holy soul to the Lord.

The holy Church glorifies the Protomartyr Thekla as “the glory of women and guide for the suffering, opening up the way through every torment.” From of old many churches were dedicated to her, one of which was built at Constantinople by the holy Equal of the Apostles Constantine (May 21). The Protomartyr Thekla, a prayerful intercessor for ascetics, is also invoked during the tonsure of women into monasticism.

Archbishop Highlights Recent Ordinations and Support of Seminarians

The Diocese of the Midwest continues to highlight the importance of vocations, and specifically, supporting their diocesan seminarians. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest recently sent correspondence to his seminarians highlighting the efforts of the diocese, but also reflected on the recent ordinations that have taken place.

“[T]he Diocese of the Midwest is highlighting our seminary students throughout the month of September, including praying special petitions for you in the Divine Services. This “Support Our Seminarians Month” also includes raising funds from across the Diocese to assist you with the financial aspect of your seminary studies. Additionally, of course, this draws attention not only to you, our seminarians, but also to the need for priestly vocations in general.”

“I celebrated the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross at Saint Vladimir Seminary. During the beautiful

Divine Liturgy of the Feast, I also ordained our newest diocesan deacon, Deacon Peter Ries. Axios! Our Diocese’s newest priest, Father Mark Therrien, ordained to the Holy Priesthood the weekend after our July seminarian retreat in Chicago (Axios!), also concelebrated the Divine Liturgy. I look forward to my visit to Saint Tikhon’s next month, October 22-24.”

As previously announced, in an effort to build awareness of our seminarians’ needs, SOS flyers are available for downloading and distribution in all parishes during the month of September. All donations from parishes as well as individuals — culminating in “SOS Sunday” on September 24 — will be distributed directly to the seminarians to offset the cost of their educational and living expenses.

SAVE THE DATE: DOM to Host International Youth Event Summer 2024

The Diocese of the Midwest, in conjunction with Suprasl: A World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth is excited to announce “Chicago 2024 – An International Orthodox Youth Encounter” to be held in Chicago from June 21-29, 2024. The international event will bring together Orthodox youth from around the world for a week of worship, fellowship and action.

This unique event will take place at historic Holy Trinity Cathedral, in Chicago’s [West Town] neighborhood and will give the participants an opportunity to come together with their Orthodox peers from a diversity of cultures to live the joy of Christ and manifest the unity of the Orthodox Church.

Chicago 2024 – An International Orthodox Youth Encounter will coincide with the feast of the Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God and the 20th anniversary celebration of the return of the Tikhvin Icon to the Monastery of the Dormition in Tikhvin which will include a pilgrimage with a copy of the famous and ancient icon.

Participation in Suprasl 2024 is open to Orthodox Christian youth aged 16*- 30 (*we invite youth aged 16-17 to participate if accompanied by an adult).

Archbishop of Chicago Participates in Consecration of New Bishop of Boston

On Saturday, September 16, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest joined His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and other hierarchs of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America at Saint George Cathedral in Boston, MA, along with clergy and faithful of the Albanian Archdiocese and across the Orthodox Church in America, for the ordination to the Holy Episcopate of Bishop-elect Nikodhim (Preston), as Bishop of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese. The Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America elected Archimandrite Nikodhim as Bishop-elect of Boston at their regular Spring Session on April 25, 2023.

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Before the service began, Priest Mark Doku, Chancellor of the Albanian Archdiocese, read the official announcement of election. Following the service, a festive banquet was held to mark the conclusion of the Albanian Archdiocese Assembly, which had been held at St. George Cathedral on Thursday and Friday.

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Before the liturgy, Bishop-elect Nikodhim offered his statement of faith, proclaiming the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, and offered a detailed explanation of the Church's Trinitarian and Christological doctrines in the presence of Metropolitan Tikhon and the assembled hierarchs, clergy, and faithful. He pledged his commitment to uphold the Church's canons and the

teachings of the Holy Fathers and to preserve unity with his brother bishops.

Archbishop Daniel, along with the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest congratulates the newly consecrated hierarch, Bishop Nikodhim.

The Divine Liturgy Our Father

Following the remembrances of the Divine Liturgy, the people pray to God to allow them to worship “with one mouth and one heart.” They then wish each other “the mercies of our Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ”; and, “having remembered all of the saints,” they sing the litany in which they beg God to receive the eucharistic gifts “upon His holy, heavenly and ideal altar,” and to “send down in return his divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Ending the litany with the prayer for “the unity of the Faith and the Communion of the Holy Spirit,” the faithful commend their lives to Christ asking to be made worthy “with boldness and without condemnation to dare to call upon the Heavenly God as Father and to say: ‘Our Father, Who art in heaven. . . .’”

In the Old Testament the People of God did not dare to address God in prayer with the intimate name of Father. Only in Christ and because of Christ can men have such boldness. Only Christians can properly use the Lord's Prayer that was taught to them by the Son of God. Only those who have died and risen with Christ in baptism, and have received the power to become sons of God by the Holy Spirit in chrismation are enabled to approach the Almighty God Most High as their Father (Jn 1.12; Mt 6.9; Rom 8.14; Gal 4.4).

In the early Church the Lord's Prayer was taught to people only after they had become members of Christ through baptism and chrismation. Just before receiving the gifts of Holy Communion “for remission of sins, for forgiveness of transgressions, for the communion of the Holy Spirit and for the inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven,” the faithful who have become children of God in Christ and the Spirit exercise their gift of divine sonship in the Saviour. They dare pray to God as to their very own Father.

