



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



FEBRUARY BULLETIN SPONSOR

In memory of my grand-mother Justina Popodich– Given By V.R. Andrew Bartek

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, February 11

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social / Council Meeting (old & new Council members)

Monday, February 12

10:00 AM: Meeting followed by Home Blessings

Tuesday, February 13

10:00 AM: Deanery meeting @ St. Michael's in Broad-view Heights

Wednesday, February 14

Home Blessings

6:00 PM: Fire House Meeting

Thursday, February 15

11:00 AM: Book Club

Saturday, February 17

4:00 PM: Bible Study

6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, February 18– Zacchaeus Sunday

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida / Social

FEBRUARY SOCIALS

February, 11 Council

February, 18 Sisterhood

February, 25 B-day / Anniversary Celebration

ORTHODOXY 101 CLASS CANCELED THIS WEEK

Due to the Deanery meeting, there will be no class this week. See you next week. Thank You.

FATHER ANDREW'S ANNUAL MEETING ADDRESS

Dearly beloved,

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

I would like to begin with the words of St. Paul speaking to the Colossians that we heard today,

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

This is exactly what a Christian community should be - showing kindness, meekness, longsuffering & bearing with each other & forgiving each other. Not just the people we like, but everyone we encounter in life. If anyone has a complaint, St. Paul tells the Colossians, & us, even as Christ forgave you, so we must do also. One can't be called a Christian if we can't do that, says St. Paul. He goes on saying, “above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

We had a great 2023 here at St. John's. We:

Started an Orthodoxy 101 Class & Book Club & Bible Study

Had 4 Baptism's & 1 Chrismation

Had a wedding

Held our first Church picnic

Con't Pg 3

PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS– UPDATED 1-18-24

Send a “Thinking of You” card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please contact Fr. Andrew.

FEBRUARY FINANCIALS

Expenses \$4,529.26
 Income..... \$2,343.00
TOTAL.....(\$2,186.26)

Weekly Tithe \$2,259
 Weekly Candles \$84

Monthly Charity Income

OCMC..... \$253



MONTHLY CHARITIES FOR 2024

- February Rescue Mission (Local)
- March St. Basil’s workers (Local)
- April St. Tikhon’s Seminary (National Church)
- May St. Vladimir’s Camp (Diocesan/ Deanery)
- June St. Herman’s Seminary (National Church)
- July Community Kitchen (Local)
- August Ellwood City (Monastery) (National Church)
- September Support our Seminarian’s (SOS) (Diocesan)
- October St. Vladimir’s Seminary (National Church)
- November Zoe for Life (National / Cleveland / Local)
- December St. Herman’s House (National / Local / Cleveland)

PRAYER LIST– Updated 2-7-24

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Donna Chiarelli / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Anthony Jesko, Jr. / Paula Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Ronald (Thomas) Moore / Mary Jane Puskas / Kenny Ruff / Joanna Shepelevich / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Marion Zwinski

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: Archbishop Benjamin / Archbishop Alexander / Archbishop Melchizedek / Bishop Matthias / Fr. James Gleason (Fr.) / Fr. Michael Rustic (Fr.) / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath (Fr)

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Chrissy (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Dominic (Centofanti) / Ellen (Clark) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Katie (Garrity) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Ellen (Kessler) / Eleanor Marie / Paul (Kolesar) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Jonathan Leso (Fr.) / Mea (Mahan) / Mary (Mahan) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raissa (Nicoloff) / Eugene (Pallai) / Ksenia and her unborn child (Petrochko) / Teri Petroff (Fr.) / Matushka Helen (Psinka) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Kristianna & infant Mary Louise (Robinson) / William Romanchak (Fr.) / Roxanne Yannito) / Julia Shirilla / Katherine (Steffaro) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Richard (Tusinac) / Brian (Shirilla) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Paula (Voytilla) / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Drew (Willison) / Emilia Yannitto / Charlette Zenko / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / 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.

Annual Address Con't from Pg 1

We Held a successful Advent Social

The Easter & Christmas sale was successful

The rectory was renovated

A new church basement floor was installed

Expenses were over \$30,000 lower than expected (due in part by changes made with the candles & lower rectory expenses since I am a single person)

Our income was a little more than \$10,000 higher than expected

Over 70% of homes were blessed

Choir sang for the Campbell tree Lighting. This was the first time the city had a choir sing

I became the first ever Chaplain to the Campbell Fire Department

We are becoming more active in the community

Increased number of men serving in the altar.

A great year indeed. Glory to God!

Yet, there is much to be done. Isn't that true for all of us? There's always more work to be done in our homes, or at work. And there is always more to work on in our relationship with God and His Church. This is exactly what the work of an active

church does.

This year I'd like us to consider the following:

Arriving at church on time. I know for many this is difficult for a variety of reasons. However, the Church teaches that arriving after the Epistle is read, excludes one from approaching the Chalice. Why? Because we are not properly spiritually prepared to receive the Holy Mysteries.

There are times when a person should not be walking into the Church. They are during the Epistle, the Gospel & the Sermon and they are just three of many. One should wait at the back of the church until they are finished and then come in to light candles, venerate icons, and be seated. Why? It is good church etiquette. Secondly, it is distracting to the priest and reader and those who are focused on prayer. There are signs in place indicating to please not enter during those times.

Coming to Confession more than once or twice a year. By only coming once or twice a year we make this sacrament an obligation and not a prayerful relationship with God that it is intended to be. It is a time of unburdening one self to God of things that trouble us and be absolved by Him.

I'd like some of us to pray and think more about our stewardship to the church and our tithing. Again, this is part of our relationship with God. This is why we had a Molebien the first Sunday of the year, **Con't Pg 6**

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

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

padrebartek@gmail.com

February Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin: In memory of my grand-mother Justina Popodich– Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek

Wine: for the health of the Graban, Elash & rogers Family– Given by Cindy Ferrick

Incense: In Memory of Steven & Eileen Elash, Stephan Elash, Eileen & Tim Nolder and all members of the Elash & Graban Families.– Given by Cindy Ferrick

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: *available*

Altar Candles: *available*

Tetrapod Candles: In memory of His Eminence Metropolitan Orestes & my family & friends– Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek

St. Herman Candles: Commemorating all who participate in maintenance of the church, the teachers, singers & those who participate in social events. Praying for everyone to love one another.

St. Panteleimon Icon Candles– For the Health of my Spiritual Father, V.R. James Gleason & Basil Glovinski & all my family & friends- Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek

Protection Icon Candles: *available*

St. John the Baptist Candles: *available*

Flowers: *available*

<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	<u>Flowers</u> - \$50 per week
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	
*Tetrapod Candles		

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - February	2023	2024
1st week		
Feb. 1– Feast Day	22 - Liturgy	6 V vespers 10 Liturgy
Saturday	10 Vespers	8 Vespers
Sunday	73 / 43 Communicants	63 / 43 Communicants
2nd week		
Saturday	11 Vespers	
Sunday	71 / 41 communicants	
3rd week		
Saturday	14 Vespers	
Sunday	76 / 46 communicants	
4th week		
Saturday	10 Vespers	
Sunday	58 / 46 Communicants	

Visit of the Mother of God Tikhvin Sovereign Lady, Queen Icon & Protectress of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest

Thursday, February 22
(6:30pm-8:30pm)

St. Nicholas Church
755 Cleveland Ave
Mogadore, OH

6:30 pm Akathist to Tikhvin Icon followed by Reception

Friday, September 23 (9 am-noon)

St Theodosius Cathedral
733 Starkweather Ave
Cleveland, OH

9:00 am Divine Liturgy followed by Moleiben

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Beginning this month (February) the cost of flowers will be \$50 per week. Please make note.

So when you purchase flowers it will be for the week, not the month. Thank You !

REPOSED LIST FOR FEBRUARY

- 1- Jane Sablak (2004) ©
- 1- John Jay Truhan (2004) ©
- 1- Helen Gozur (2006) ©
- 1- Thomas Livosky (1951) ©
- 3- Ann Sature (2012)
- 3- Nicholas Tsaknis (1952) ©
- 3- Mary Lisko (1953) ©
- 3- Mike Alesafis (1960) ©
- 4- Michael Livosky (2003) ©
- 5- Mike Alesafis (1960) ©
- 6- Bessie Poulos (1961) ©
- 7- Rossetas Kallis (1958) ©
- 8- Joseph Durshaw (1972) ©
- 8- Andrew Libertin (1985) ©
- 8- Anna Graban (1937) ©
- 8- Steve Hamanzi (1946) ©
- 8- Maxim Berezoussky (1964) ©
- 9- George Cross (2020) ©
- 10- George Bobosh (1984) ©
- 10- Steve Elash (1998) ©
- 10- T. Rago (1924) © (no name)
- 10- Helen Holubanich (1924) ©
- 10- Steve Stavridis (1935) ©
- 12- V. Rev. Nicholas Vansuch (1987) ©
- 12- John Holibonich (2004) ©
- 12- Theodore Kalos (1932) ©
- 13- Bishop Varlaam (2020)
- 13- Vera Kristian (1980) ©
- 14- Emmanuel Balale (1956) ©
- 14- Bertha Ginnis (1961) ©
- 14- John Macala (1963) ©
- 14- Nicholas Angelides (1963) ©
- 15- Justina Popodich
- 15- George Billik (1998) ©
- 15- John Timkovich (2004) ©
- 15- Thelma Psaras (1930) ©
- 15- Alfteria Jaetanis (1930) ©
- 15- Anna Sirilla (1955) ©
- 15- Mary Shirilla (1962) ©
- 16- Albert Bartek (1952)
- 16- Paul Cole (1997) ©
- 16- John Stamatinas (1946) ©
- 16- Infant Klimis (1 hr old) (1956) ©
- 16- Ann Leschinsky (1956) ©
- 17- Metropolitan Orestes (1977)
- 17- Myron Bilchik (1982) ©
- 17- Emmanuel Balale (1956) ©
- 17- Robert Fischer (1995) ©
- 18- Virginia Nosik (2004) ©
- 18- George Caleris (1957) ©
- 19- Elizabeth Antas (1921) ©
- 19- George Berezovsky (1922) ©
- 19- Michael Voyis (1949) ©
- 19- Ann Allshouse (1984) ©
- 20- Daniel Shirilla (1992) ©
- 21- Fr. Michael Shuster (2020)
- 22- Fr. Andrew Hutnyan (2004)
- 22- Manuel Smyrmios (1944) ©
- 22- Carol Ann Feltovich (2016) ©
- 23- Rose Dobrovolski (1995) ©
- 24- Nicholas Andrew Shirilla (2012) ©
- 24- Still born Volchko (1924) ©
- 24- Eva Wolfe (1925) ©
- 24- Elizabeth Cvercko (1929) ©
- 25- Vasil Heib (1920) ©
- 25- John Kotuka (1960) ©
- 25- Veronica Shirilla (1995) ©
- 27- Steve Basala (1985)
- 27- Mike Kazonis (1950) ©
- 28- Mike Babiak (1922) ©
- 29- Milan Miller Batalo (1920) ©

SISTERHOOD SILENT PIE AUCTION, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

During Coffee hour this year we are auctioning only pies. Do you have a VERY SPECIAL SIGNATURE PIE you would like to donate? We would love to receive it for the auction.

In order to assure a variety of fresh baked pies please see Nancy Tusinac after church or call her at 724-456-7366.

*We are so very appreciative at how supported our silent bake auctions have been over the years, both with your baked donations and your participation in the auction. As we do each year we would like to remind you that we can accept only homemade baked items for our auction. Thank you!



Annual address con't from Pg 3

to thank God for all our blessings and to offer back to Him a small portion of the abundance He has given to us. It is our pledge, a promise, a contract of sorts, of our gratefulness with the Lord.

I encourage you all to be more active in our church and faith because, again, it leads to a better relationship with our Lord. By learning, changing and becoming holier, we grow closer to our Lord & God. We improve ourselves. Yes, it's hard to do something differently that the way we were brought up. But to say "that's not how we do it here" is to handcuff God's working and I know that is not what we mean and want.

We are only a small part of a much larger and greater spectrum of life. We do not exist without the Deanery, the Diocese and the National Church.

I am working towards being a better communicator. Please help me with that. Please Complete the conversation circle by responding to my messages and emails when it is appropriate.

Please remember the OCA Statute which says that everything done within the church is with the blessing and approval of the rector. This is not my rule. I encourage each of you to please contact me before doing or sending things out. When there is something happening and messages are sent out, they should go with with the wording "With the blessing of Father..." so people know I have seen and blessed it. Again, not my rule but we need to follow it.

As we move forward into 2024, let's remember - change is growth. Let's work to not be afraid of change. I know it can be scary because it's the unknown, or we've never done it that way before, or whatever. But if we try, just try to work on some of the things I mentioned, then together we will become better Christians, have a better relationship with God and become family to one another. That is what our journey is on earth.

Now I want to remind you of the Gospel lesson of today. St Matthew states:

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had

received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them. His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

There are so many things in this Gospel passage. To be the Church and do what the Lord wants us to do often requires money. This is why our personal tithe to the church is important. We need to make sure we can do what the Lord directs us to do. In a minute we will see what is planned for 2024. But we can't stop we must continue to do the work of the church for not only us and the Diocese but to the local community and the world. I know times are hard but some of us can certainly do better. If one truly has a hardship all you must do is see me.

We all have talents. What do we do with them is important as we just heard in the Gospel lesson. What do they say the 80 / 20 rule 20% of the people do 80% of the work. That can change but that is reality. Its about the talents. The Lord said for the ones who have more, more will be expected. This is a blessing. We need to start to look at and think about this. Everything is a blessing that happens to us in life.

What is coming up in 2024:

We now have a monthly charity that we will be collecting for. Whatever is collected in the basket, an additional \$250 will be added. That is about 1.7% of the budget. **Con't pg 10**

FEBRUARY Celebrations

Anniversaries

- 3- Sonia Tsvetkoff
- 4- Nathaniel Bremer
- 5- Zoland Zile
- 6- Alex Zarynow
- 7- Dorothy Shirilla
- 9- Thomas Moore
- 10- Mat. Pauline Gemmel / Fr. Eli Bremer
- 11- Lidija Arvan / Marcia Kubancsek
- 12- Marion Zwinski / V.R. James Gleason
- 13- Dc. James Hryb
- 14- Mat Ann Lardas
- 16- Carol Ruff / Deena Vansuch
- 18- Thomas Kristian
- 19- Shelly Nicoloff / Vitaly Muzyka
- 20- Julianna Kusinski
- 22- Joey Rusnak
- 25- Sandra Bufalini / Robert Willison
- 26- Andy Basile / Pani Bernedette Zarynow
- 26- Basil Glovinsky

- 1-2020- His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland
- 9- AP John Steffaro (Priestly ordination)
- 13- John & Maureen Koval
- 14-2004- The Most Blessed Tikhon Consecration as Bishop



Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste / Commemorated on February 11

The Hieromartyr Blaise (Blasius), Bishop of Sebaste, was known for his righteous and devout life. Unanimously chosen by the people, he was consecrated Bishop of Sebaste. This occurred during the reign of the Roman emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Licinius (307-324), fierce persecutors of Christians. Saint Blaise encouraged his flock, visited the imprisoned, and gave support to the martyrs.

Many hid themselves from the persecutors by going off to desolate and solitary places. Saint Blaise also hid himself away on Mount Argeos, where he lived in a cave. Wild beasts came up to him and meekly waited until the saint finished his prayer and blessed them. The saint also healed sick animals by laying his hands upon them.

The refuge of the saint was discovered by servants of the governor Agrilaus, who had come to capture wild beasts to loose on the Christian martyrs. The servants reported to their master that Christians were hiding on the mountain, and he gave orders to arrest them. But those sent out found there only the Bishop of Sebaste. Glorifying God Who had summoned him to this exploit, Saint Blaise followed the soldiers.

Along the way the saint healed the sick and worked other miracles. Thus, a destitute widow complained to him of her misfortune. A wolf had carried off a small pig, her only possession. The bishop smiled and said to her, "Do not weep, your pig will be returned to you..." To the astonishment of everyone, the wolf came running back and returned his prey unharmed.

Agrilaus, greeting the bishop with words of deceit, called him a companion of the gods. The saint answered the greeting, but he called the gods devils. Then they beat him and led him off to prison.

On the next day, they subjected the saint to tortures again. When they led him back to the prison, seven women followed behind and gathered up the drops of blood. They arrested them and tried to compel them to worship the idols. The women pretended to consent to this and said that first they needed to wash the idols in the waters of a lake. They took the idols and threw them in a very deep part of the lake, and after this the Christians were fiercely tortured. The saints stoically endured the torments, strengthened by the grace of God, their bodies were transformed and became white as snow. One of the women had two young sons, who implored their mother to help them attain the Kingdom of Heaven, and she entrusted them to the care of Saint Blaise. The seven holy women were beheaded.

Saint Blaise was again brought before Agrilaus, and again he unflinchingly confessed his faith in Christ. The governor ordered that the martyr be thrown into a lake. The saint, going down to the water, signed himself with the Sign of the Cross, and he walked on it as though on dry land.

Addressing the pagans standing about on shore, he challenged them to come to him while

Con't next Pg

MICHAEL HERZAK TO BE HONORED

Saturday, March 9 His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, His Eminence Archbishop Michael and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, along with the St. Tikhon's Mission Choir and reflections from Alumni and students, will be honoring Michael Herzak at:

Woodside Event Center at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church

5025 East Mill Road, Broadview Heights

5:00 pm: Hierarchal Vespers

6:00 pm: Cocktail Reception

7:00 pm: Dinner and Celebration

Please register by February 25th @

www.allthegood.stots.edu

Price: \$85 a piece

Help us Multiply the Good!

God has done much good at St. Tikhon's, from married student housing to full enrollment. Help us multiply the good, while also celebrating and honoring the impact of our outgoing Board Chair, Michael Herzak, who has played a pivotal role in so much of this Good! Please make a prayerful gift that will honor Mickey and support St. Tikhon's in the years to come. All gifts of \$500 or more will be publicly recognized.

\$35,000– helps to cover the full cost for one student to attend the Seminary.

\$20,000– provides tuition for two Seminarians.

\$15,000– provides for annual maintenance and upkeep for Seminary facilities including married student housing.

\$10,000– provides tuition for one seminarian

\$5,000– provides for annual maintenance and upkeep for the seminary.

Multiply your impact by becoming a Seminary Sustainer and your recurring monthly gift will help the seminary in an on-going way.

\$3,000 = \$250 per month

\$1,200 = \$100 per month

\$600 = \$ 50 per month

Gifts of any amount are impactful!

ALTAR SOCIETY MEMBERS

Annual Dues

Maureen Koval is now collecting \$20 for the annual dues. Thank you for your cooperation and all you do.

Hieromartyr Blaise con't from previous pg

calling on the help of their gods. Sixty-eight men of the governor's retinue entered the water, and immediately drowned. The saint, however, heeding the angel who had appeared to him, returned to shore.

Agrilus was in a rage over losing his finest servants, and he gave orders to behead Saint Blaise, and the two sons of the woman martyr entrusted to him. Before his death, the martyr prayed for the whole world, and especially for those honoring his memory. This occurred in about the year 316.

The relics of the Hieromartyr Blaise were brought to the West during the time of the Crusades, and portions of the relics are preserved in many of the lands of Europe [and his memory traditionally honored there on February 3].

We pray to Saint Blaise for the health of domestic animals, and for protection from wild beasts.

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (Epistle)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 15:21-28 (Gospel)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH INVITES YOU TO THE



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

305 Struthers-Liberty Rd. | Campbell, OH 44405

Saturday, March 9

Lunch & Program at 12:30 PM
Pan-Orthodox Vespers at 2:30 PM

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FREE WILL OFFERING ENCOURAGED

(Proceeds will benefit OCMC ministries around the world.)

Come and learn about OCMC's missionary efforts around the world. Hear the latest news and happenings from the mission field and how you can answer Christ's call to **"go and make disciples of all nations."**

To register and donate online at:

www.ocmc.org/Youngstown

For questions, please contact:

Fr. Andrew Bartek at padrebartek@gmail.com,
or OCMC Event Coordinator Elaine Drikakis at elained@ocmc.org

Donations can be mailed (payable to OCMC with a note) to: 220 Mason Manatee Way | St. Augustine, FL 32086



In-Person OCMC Presentation by:

Fr. Chris Rowe

OCMC Assistant Director of Development

With a special Zoom presentation by an OCMC Missionary serving in the field.

**SCAN TO
DONATE
TODAY!**



TO REGISTER OR DONATE ONLINE. SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE EVENT WEBSITE.

February 2024: Monthly Charity
Rescue Mission in Youngstown

40 Day Remembrance
Feb. 11– Mother Elizabeth
Feb. 18– AP Moses Berry
Feb. 25: Irene Horodnic

Annual address con't from Pg 6

Every year I would like to see us budget a little bit more until we get to the 10% the Lord asks of us. But we must start somewhere. Again, this is why tithing is important. Can't do the work if the monies are not there. This makes us feel that we are connected to all Orthodox & non-Orthodox people around the world. We are not an island remember that. Our first month was OCMC support a priest project.

We will have an OCMC Event here in the beginning of March to talk about missions.

We will have our first Parish retreat here the last Saturday in March

We will have an Archpastoral visit by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel the weekend before Palm Sunday.

Men, are you willing to put on an apron and prepare a Mother's Day breakfast this year? I think we can do that for the ladies of our parish, don't you!

Ladies, the same goes for you for a Father's day breakfast this year.

Our first annual kick off to summer festival the weekend before (last weekend in June) the 4th of July

The ladies are talking about participating for the first time in the city Campbell's festival weekend at the end of July. This is fantastic!

We will be having our 2nd annual parish picnic in August. Get those grills cleaned up and ready!

I'm sure we will be having our usual Pre-Advent social, Easter & Christmas food sales

Either for Thanksgiving or Christmas I would like us to consider hosting a free, sit-down or take out meal for the community (for the lonely and the poor or anyone you wants to be here). This has been very successful at some of my past parishes. Maybe we can give this a try.

By now, you are all feeling like the wind has been knocked out of you. It seems like there is a lot proposed and going on. I challenge you to think this way instead.... How many lives can we touch with the Love of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Like me you see the turmoil in the world. We can show the Love of God and help ease that turmoil in our small part of the world.

You all have shown so much support. I know everyone's love and support will flow to make this all happen. Let's open our hearts and minds

as we look to the future to help us have a better relationship with God and to be an Orthodox beacon here in this community of Campbell. I'm very confident that the Lord will continue to bless us as we continue this path. Let's open our hearts and minds as we change our thinking process. We will succeed.

Thank You and God bless all of you and all the groups you all work hard and diligently for the Lord.

THE WAY PEOPLE LOOK TO GOD

A woman went to the top of the Empire State Building, one hundred and two stories high. She looked down on the sidewalks, and the people were so far away that they looked like ants. She said, "I imagine this is the way people look to God." There is no doubt that much of the meaninglessness of life can be traced to the fact that people feel they are like ants in the eyes of God—insignificant, forgotten, uncared for, unloved, unnoticed.

But if we wish to know exactly how people look to God we must climb not the Empire State Building but a hill call Golgotha and look at the God-man on the Cross. There in the light of that cross we see how people look to God: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." That is how people look to God!

*(Daily Vitamins for Spiritual Growth Vol 1
Anthony Coniaris)*

THE FATHER'S SPEAK

One of the elders said: "It is not because evil thoughts come to us that we are condemned; but only because we make use of the evil thoughts. It can happen that from these thoughts we suffer shipwreck, but it can also happen that because of them we may be crowned"— A Desert Father

Malice will never drive out malice. But if someone does an evil act to you, you should do good to him, so that by your good work you may destroy his malice— A Desert Father

The devil comes and tempts all the servants of God. Those who are strong in the faith resist him, and he goes away from them, because he cannot find entrance. So he goes then to the empty and, finding an entrance, he goes into them. Thus he accomplishes in them whatever he pleases, and makes them his slaves. The "Shepherd" of Hermas