



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



JUNE BULLETIN SPONSOR

In memory of my father Harry Sveda ~ Given by Barbara Kolesar

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, June 23

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social followed by kneeling prayers

Tuesday, June 25

11:00 AM: Orthodoxy 101 Class (Last one until Sept)

Wednesday, June 26

6:00 PM: Fire House Meeting

Thursday, June 27

11:00 AM: Book Club (Last one until Sept)

Friday, June 28

6:00 PM: Great Vespers for feast of St. Peter & Paul

Saturday, June 29

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM: Bible Study (Last one until Sept)

6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, June 30

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social

Fr. Andrew leaves on vacation July 1st.

because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

2024 - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Tusinac (President)

Phone- 724-456-7366

Melenie Rusnak (Vice-President)

Phone- 330-398-3700

Cindy Ferrick (Treasurer)

Phone 330-531-1119

Joann Sirilla (Financial Secretary)

Phone 330-881-6775

Nadine Sabo (Secretary)

Phone 330 533-5600

Sub-deacon Dr. Donald Tamulouis (Council)

Phone 330-774-8860

Natalia Simko (Council) (Cemetery issues)

Phone- 330-980-3033

Linda Livosky (Council) (Kitchen issues)

Phone- 330-402-6573

Maintenance Issues:

Michael Simko - 330-565-0084

Michael Centofanti - 330-544-3518

Acts 2:1-11 (Epistle)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused,

JUNE Special Monthly Charity

St. Theodosius Collection

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

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

padrebartek@gmail.com

PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS– UPDATED 5-8-24

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

John 7:37-52, 8:12 (Gospel)

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” Then the Pharisees answered them, “Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.” Nikodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?” They answered and said to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.” Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

PRAYER LIST– Updated 6-20-24

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Donna Chiarelli / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Anthony Jesko, Jr. / Paula Kennedy / Sue Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Matushka Helen Psinka / Mary Jane Puskas / Carol Ruff / Kenny Ruff / Sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak / Joanna Shepelevich / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Emilia Yannitto / Andy Zenko / Marion Zwinski

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: Archbishop Benjamin / Archbishop Nathaniel / AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Emil Hutyan / AP Vladimir Demshuk / Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family & parish

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Chrissy (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Dominic (Centofanti) / Ellen (Clark) / Genna & her un-born baby (Koval) / Melinda Dubiec (Fr.) / Trudy Ellmore (Fr.) / John Galpin (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabo) / Karen (Gemmel) / Katie (Garrity) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Ellen (Kessler) / Paul (Kolesar) / Karen (Vansuch) / 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) / Teri Petroff (Fr.) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / William Romanchak (Fr.) / 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) / Ron Zenko / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Brenna & her unborn baby (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 & Metropolitan Arseny imprisoned / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

OCA Representative at NCC and CJM Meetings

Between May 15 and May 19, 2024 Protodeacon Sergei Kapral represented the Orthodox Church in America at both the National Council of Churches (NCC) Governing Board and the Creation Justice Ministries (CJM) Spring Board meetings in Washington, D.C.

NCC Governing Board Meeting

The NCC Governing Board Meeting, themed “Navigating the Boundaries of Church and State,” took place from May 15-17 at the Kellogg Conference Hotel on the Gallaudet University campus. Governing Board Members, Ecumenical Officers, and guests celebrated the installation of Elizabeth A. Eaton as NCC Governing Board Chair.

Other notable highlights included a luncheon and book signing by author Jim Wallis, a film screening of “A Case for Love,” featuring Archbishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church and several presentations.

The Governing Board discussed updates to the constitution and bylaws, NCC policies, reports on the ongoing work of the 4 Tables, and upcoming events, including upcoming gatherings in Nashville and next year’s 75th anniversary. Pdn. Sergei remains on the finance committee and volunteered for the 75th anniversary committee, which will address planned events. One such event will be the installation of Archbishop

Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese as the next NCC Governing Board Chair.

On Friday evening and Saturday, Pdn. Sergei attended Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD), continuing the NCC theme regarding American religious nationalism, amongst other workshops and events.

Creation Justice Ministries (CJM) Meeting

As the CJM treasurer, Pdn. Sergei presented and led the discussion of the financial report. The meeting recognized 11 new representatives from existing and new churches, bringing the total to over 25 national communions and denominations represented on the board. Updates were given on environmental activities, proposed themes for Earth Day, and CJM programs. Significant resources are being devoted to theological and pastoral training on care for creation, speaking engagements, workshops, youth camping retreats on ocean issues, and an international ocean conference in Greece.

During the second day of the CJM meeting, Pdn. Sergei was re-elected as treasurer. The board discussed the tentative theme for Earth Day and the session of creation, starting on September 1, the Orthodox day of prayer for creation. The board also decided to proceed with establishing their own 501(c)(3) status, transitioning from their current fiscal services contract with the Washington UCC offices.

JUNE Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

- Bulletin:** In memory of my father Harry Sveda - Given by Barbara Kolesar
- Wine:** In memory of my brother Stephan Elash, In memory of Steve & Eileen Elash and Tim & Eileen Nolder and all members of the Elash and Graban families - Given by Cindy Ferrick
- Incense:** For the health of all the members of the Elash & Graban Families - Given by Cindy Ferrick
- Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:** In memory of my mother Helen Korechko on her occasion of her 98th birthday - Given Joann Sirilla
- Altar Candles:** In honor of our grandson Alex & daughter Sarah on the occasion of their birthdays - Given by Reader Nicholas & Monica Vansuch
- Tetrapod Candles:** In honor of my mother's (Sue Kennedy) birthday – Given by Paula & Gene Kennedy
- 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:** In memory of Protopresbyter Stephen Shutack, Protopresbyter John, Fr. Charles & Nun Eleanor – Given by Fr. Andrew Bartek
- Protection Icon Candles:** For the Health of Kenneth & Carol Ruff on the Occasion of their 58th Wedding Anniversary – Given by the family
- St. John the Baptist Candles:** In memory of my Aunt Betty Lisko - Given by Barbara Kolesar
- Flowers:** In memory of my family & friends - Given by Fr. Andrew Bartek

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

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - <i>JUNE</i>	2023	2024
1st week		
Vespers	No Record	7
Divine Liturgy	No Record	62 / 38
2nd week		
Vespers	32 (picnic)	7
Divine Liturgy	57 / 40	65 / 43
3rd week		
Ascension Vesper	10	17
Ascension Liturgy	15	18
Vespers	7	6
D.L. (Fathers Day)	70 / 47	52 / 35
4th week		
Vespers (Pentecost)	10	
D. L. (Pentecost)	72 / 50	
5th week		
Vespers	8	
D.L	70 / 44	

JUNE FINANCIALS	
Expenses	\$13,007.02
Income	\$9,466.00
TOTAL	-\$3,541.02
Weekly Tithe	\$8,422
Weekly Candles	\$364
Altar Candles	\$50
Wine	\$50
Bulletin	\$50
Unneeded Gifts	\$450
Protection Candles	\$30
Pascha offering	\$50
Misc Donation	\$60
Monthly Charity: St. Vladimir's Camp	\$1,027

2nd Annual Picnic
Saturday, August 17

Plans for our 2nd Annual Picnic are underway. Donations of side dishes will be needed. Fire responders & their vehicles will be blessed.
 Watch for further info.

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|---|-----------------------------------|
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| 1- Anna Voytilla Timpko (2011) © | 16- Dora Kravec (1924) © |
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Holy Pentecost / Commemorated on June 23

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom. **Con't Next Pg**

Valuable Historical Resource now Available Online

The Russian American Orthodox Messenger, an official periodical of the Church in America, from the mid-1890s to the early 1970s has now been digitized and is freely accessible online for viewing and download.

The Messenger (or Vestnik, as it was commonly known in Russian), published largely in Russian, was established as the first official periodical of the Diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in 1896. It served as the primary vehicle for informing the diocesan clergy and faithful on events in the life of the diocese and official documents from the chancery and was also closely monitored by hierarchs, clergy, synodal and government officials in pre-revolutionary Russia to obtain news of the Church's missionary diocese in America.

While the journal was primarily in Russian, it was during its early decades published bilingually at some points or key articles and documents appeared in English in later issues. From 1902 to 1910, a separate English language supplement to the Messenger, whose content was geared to presenting Orthodoxy to those of other faiths, differed completely from the Russian language Vestnik.

The first two editors of the Messenger were particularly notable. The first from 1896 was Father (now Saint) Alexander Hotovitzky, who remained as the editor of the Messenger and dean of Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York until he left America in 1914. In 1937, he was martyred for the Faith in the Soviet Union. His successor as editor from 1914 to 1930 was Father Leonid Turkevich (who would later become Metropolitan Leonty). Both of these priests were highly educated, prolific writers, who were leaders of the diocese involved in every aspect of its life and able to eloquently convey the spirit and vision of the Church's life in writing, even in poetry. Other notable authors whose writings appeared on the pages of the journal in its early years included St. Tikhon, Enlightener of North America; St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn; St. Alexis Toth, Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in America; St. John Kochurov as well as many others. Throughout its history, the Messenger chronicled important Church events and significant issues in the life of the Church. Thus, for example, the history of the All-American Sobors is extensively documented in the pages of the Messenger. It also contained much information on individual parishes and clergy.

The Messenger was published from 1896 until 1973, with two significant hiatuses, from 1919 to 1921 and from 1931 to 1935. Both interruptions were due to the Church's dire financial straits. The first break resulted from the administrative and economic

turmoil caused by the aftermath of the Revolution in Russia and the second from the Great Depression. With the inauguration of THE ORTHODOX CHURCH newspaper in 1965 as the official English-language periodical of the Orthodox Church in America, and the need for a Russian language publication significantly decreased, production of the Messenger was discontinued in 1973.

Research in the issues of the Messenger of its first quarter of a century is facilitated by an index of contents in the last issue of any given year. Another research tool pertaining specifically to Alaskan material in the Messenger is the sizable volume titled "Alaska names and places in the Russian Orthodox American Messenger (1896-1973): an index and annotated bibliography" compiled by noted Alaskan historian Barbara S. Smith and published in the 1980s.

This new project to make the Messenger widely accessible in digital form was a joint effort of the Orthodox Church in America and St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Patriarchal Cathedral in New York in collaboration with the New York Public Library. Online access is provided by HathiTrust, which is dedicated to preserving in digitized format the largest compendium of knowledge allowable by copyright law.

This nearly complete digital version of the Messenger is a watershed for anyone researching the history of Orthodoxy in North America. Efforts will be undertaken to complete digitization of the few missing years using the printed Messenger collections in the OCA Archives and the libraries of the OCA Seminaries.

This project honors upcoming significant historical anniversaries in 2025 – the centennial of the repose of Saint Patriarch Tikhon, Enlightener of North America, the 55th anniversary of the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America and the 60th anniversary of the repose of Metropolitan Leonty. St. Tikhon's archpastoral tenure in America and the granting of OCA autocephaly were major topics documented on the pages of the Messenger at the beginning and end of its history, while Metropolitan Leonty's nearly six-decade ministry in America that included years as editor of the Messenger spanned nearly the entire life of the Messenger.

Pentecost con't from previous Pg

THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST

The all-night Vigil service begins with a solemn invitation:

“Let us celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, The appointed day of promise, and the fulfillment of hope, The mystery which is as great as it is precious.”

In the coming of the Spirit, the very essence of the Church is revealed:

“The Holy Spirit provides all, Overflows with prophecy, fulfills the priesthood, Has taught wisdom to illiterates, has revealed fishermen as theologians,
Con't Pg 9

Celebrations in June

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Anthony Jesko, Sr.
- 2 Jake Muscaro / Sue Kennedy
- 5 Peter Adzima / Michael Simko
- 13 Fr. Nick Mihaly, Emily Kusinski, Ajjire Dardovski, Alex Vansuch
- 19 Emily Sarisky
- 22– Donna Chiarelli
- 25 Mat. Carol Steffaro / Ron Zenko
- 28 Vincent Cavaliere

ANNIVERSARY

- 4 Kenny & Carol Ruff
- 21 V.R. Archpriest David Lis
- 25 Fr. Andrew & Pani Yoanna
- 27-2009 AB Melchisedek of Pittsburgh
- 29-2021 His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Forth Worth

NAMES DAY

- 3- Fr. Andrew Bartek (St Kevin)

Church of the Holy Ascension Receives First Archpastoral Visit for Altar Feast

On June 12-13, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest celebrated the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at Holy Ascension Church, Albion Michigan.

The celebrations for the parish's altar feast began Wednesday evening with the greeting of the Archbishop and vigil served by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Archpriest Joshua Frigerio, Rector, Priest Evangelos Pepps, Priest Anthony Saunders Deacon John Wesner, and Deacon Justin Jackson. Following the vigil, His Eminence spoke on the importance of altar feasts as the holy altar is the center of church life, bringing together the body of Christ in true unity. Meetings with the parish council and clergy also took place on Wednesday evening.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was served on Thursday morning by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Archpriest Joshua Frigerio, Hieromonk Raphael (Tadros – ROCOR) Priest Evangelos Pepps, Priest Anthony Saunders, Deacon John Wesner, and Deacon Justin Jackson. His Eminence was joined by the clergy and faithful as he consecrated the parish's cemetery and visited the plot on land on which the parish's new temple is planned to be built. A festal meal was enjoyed at the parish hall on the new plot.

The 11th St. Macrina Conference to be held in August

The Eleventh Annual Saint Macrina Conference of the Diocese of the Midwest will be held at St. Cyril and St. Methodius Church, Milwaukee, WI, August 1-3, 2024.

The keynote speakers, Russell and Alessandra Rolffs, will be speaking on the conference theme — “The End of the World: Diakonia and Catechesis in a Time of Crisis.” Other talks will be given by St. Macrina Faculty, along with Catechetical and Diaconal practicum sessions. Additional diaconal practicum sessions on the 10th with the Chicago Deanery Protodeacons.

The \$125.00 registration fee includes, meals, and all conference materials and instruction. Potential participants should complete the registration form located on Diocesan Website.

Pella, Iowa welcomes their Archbishop

On June 15 and 16 His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest made his first archpastoral visit to Saint Nicholas Mission in Pella, Iowa. His Eminence was greeted on Saturday evening before attending the vespers service after which he visited the planned site for the mission's new temple. After touring the future temple, His Eminence joined the clergy and parish council for dinner.

The Divine Liturgy on Sunday was presided over by Archbishop Daniel, and serving with the Archbishop were Archpriest Bartholomew Wojcik, Rector, and Archpriest Thaddeus Wojcik. Before the Little Entrance Fr. Bartholomew was awarded the jeweled cross. After reading the appointed Gospel reading from Saint John the Theologian, His Eminence spoke on the need to know our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ as He truly is in order to transform our lives. A festal meal was held at choir director Pattie Kline's home after Divine Liturgy where Father Bartholomew's award was celebrated and members of the mission were able to speak personally with His Eminence to whom many offered Father's Day greetings.

Traveling to Mogadore for Primatial Divine Liturgy with His Beatitude, Met. Tikhon

Are you interested in attending Divine Liturgy in Mogadore with His Beatitude, Met. Tikhon?

A 15 passenger van(s) is available.
Cost: approximately \$20-30 per person.



There is a sign-up sheet at the candle desk.

Parish Development Forum Early Registration Discount Ends June 26; Speakers Announced

The Planning Team for the Parish Development Forum announced today that the early registration discount period for the 2024 Parish Development Forum is June 26.

The 2024 Forum will be held at the Woodside Events Center at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights, OH from 1:00 PM July 9th through noon on July 11. The theme for the 2023 Forum is “Our Parish and the Future: Equipping to Serve in a Secular World”.

“Persons interested in attending the Parish Development Forum are reminded to register early. We have extended the early conference registration deadline by two days to June 26 to give attendees a little extra time to receive the early registration discount. Registrations received by the end of the day June 26 can attend at the discounted rate of \$110 per person. After June 26 registration is \$160 per attendee. To assure an atmosphere of robust discussion, Forum attendance will be limited to 90 persons. Once limits are reached registrations will close. A block of rooms has been reserved at a discounted rate at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South/Independence”

Registration and hotel information can be handled directly from this link.

Forum Speakers Announced

“The 2024 Forum theme, ‘Our Parish and the Future: Equipping to Serve in a Secular World’, was chosen to build on the highly successful 2023 Forum discussions with a specific focus on how secular thought processes and assumptions that inhabit our lives and basic outlook have an important influence on Orthodox persons and parish ministries.” said Archpriest Stephen Frase, clergy co-chair of the Forum.

“Three excellent speakers will combine with facilitated breakout sessions to explore our theme from a variety of perspectives. Father Esteban Vazquez, Midwest Diocese Vice Chancellor, will speak about “Understanding Our Culture: What is Secularism? How does it impact us?” Father Chris Rowe, Development Director for OCMC, will share “Let Us Love One Another: Building a Community in Christ with a Mission”. Dan Buxhoeveden JD, PhD, who while on the faculty of the University of South Carolina developed a Religion and Science Initiative and related Honors courses, will speak on “Materialism, Science, and Reality: Does Science Give us Certainty?”

“In addition the agenda will include a panel: Orthodox Converts Speak: Becoming Part of the Parish Fabric; and facilitated discussions on 1) Understanding Secular Trends: Reshaping Parish Evangelism, Communication and Formation and 2) Healthy Parish

Environment: Active Listening and Dialogue.”

“Each day will end with vespers and Thursday, the final day of the Forum, will begin with Divine Liturgy,” noted Fr. Frase.”

Why Attend?

“We’re often asked ‘Why take the time from my schedule to attend this event?’”, said Mr Kormos. “The answer is three fold. First, the Forum, in its eleventh year has been highly valuable –providing help and hope - to past attendees. Attendance has grown and many 2024 registrants are repeat Forum attendees. They want more.

“Secondly, parishes are facing new tough challenges. In many ways the parish of 1990, 2000 or even 2010 is no more. Many are smaller. Some are larger. Some older and some younger. Parishes exist in a rampantly secular age in a culture that is unfriendly to Churches and Christians. Religion and faith are, more than ever, one option among many. The status quo is not an option.

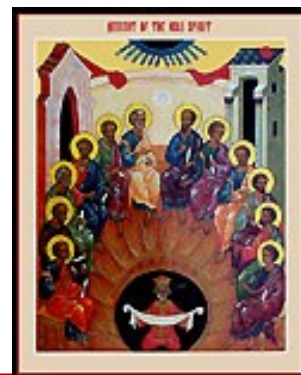
“And third, many Orthodox parishes are seeing a surge of inquirers and new members seeking truth, beauty, meaning, authentic worship and loving fellowship. Integrating the different values and views of new and veteran parishioners into one parish –not two or three – that in unity serves Christ is a challenge. Parishes need to develop new muscles and strengths to BE Christ’s Church for today’s world. Forum participation helps to understand and begin that journey. Clergy and laity interested in building bright future for their parish will find the Parish Development Forum stimulating and valuable.”

The Parish Development Forum, is a clergy/laity conference which explores the challenges facing Orthodox parishes, delivers actionable ideas and good practices valuable to parish leaders and builds mutually supportive relationships among participants. The Forum is co-sponsored by the Orthodox Church in America’s Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania, the Diocese of the Midwest and the Bulgarian Diocese. Past Forums have drawn attendees from most OCA Dioceses as well as the Greek and Antiochian Archdioceses, Ukrainian Orthodox Churches of USA and Canada and ROCOR.

Questions and enquiries may be directed to Mr. Kormos at joekormos1@gmail.com. Registration and hotel information can be found on National OCA Website.

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SAVE THE DATE CITY OF CAMPBELL SUMMER FEST 2024

(This is the city's 4th of July celebration)

This year the Summer fest will be on:

Friday, July 12th– 4-10pm

Saturday, July 13– Noon-10pm (with a parade at noon)

Sunday, July 14– Noon to 10pm (with huge fireworks display at the close of the festivities)

There will be:

Chinese Auction 50/ 50 Raffle

Cake wheel Rides

DJ Chico Food

Games & More

There will be live music on Saturday evening, July 13th by the: "Candace Campana"

Pentecost Con't from pg 5

He brings together the whole council of the Church."

In the three readings of the Old Testament (Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 36:24-28) we hear the prophecies concerning the Holy Spirit. We are taught that the entire history of mankind was directed towards the day on which God "would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh." This day has come! All hope, all promises, all expectations have been fulfilled. At the end of the Aposticha hymns, for the first time since Easter, we sing the hymn: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...", the one with which we inaugurate all our services, all prayers, which is, as it were, the life-breath of the Church, and whose coming to us, whose "descent" upon us in this festal Vigil, is indeed the very experience of the Holy Spirit "coming and abiding in us."

Having reached its climax, the Vigil continues as an explosion of joy and light for "verily the light of the Comforter has come and illumined the world." In the Gospel reading (John 20:19-23) the feast is interpreted to us as the feast of the Church, of her divine nature, power and authority. The Lord sends His disciples into the world, as He Himself was sent by His Father. Later, in the antiphons of the Liturgy, we proclaim the universality of the apostles' preaching, the cosmical significance of the feast, the sanctification of the whole world, the true manifestation of God's Kingdom.

THE VESPERS OF PENTECOST

The liturgical peculiarity of Pentecost is a very special Vespers of the day itself. Usually this service follows immediately the Divine Liturgy, is "added" to it as its own fulfillment. The service begins as a solemn "summing up" of the entire celebration, as its liturgical synthesis. We hold flowers in our hands symbolizing the joy of the eternal spring, inaugurated by the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the festive Entrance, this joy

reaches its climax in the singing of the Great Prokeimenon:

"Who is so great a God as our God?"

Then, having reached this climax, we are invited to kneel. This is our first kneeling since Easter. It signifies that after these fifty days of Paschal joy and fullness, of experiencing the Kingdom of God, the Church now is about to begin her pilgrimage through time and history. It is evening again, and the night approaches, during which temptations and failures await us, when, more than anything else, we need Divine help, that presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who has already revealed to us the joyful End, who now will help us in our effort towards fulfillment and salvation.

All this is revealed in the three prayers which the celebrant reads now as we all kneel and listen to him. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance, our increased appeal for forgiveness of sins, the first condition for entering into the Kingdom of God.

In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path in the dark and difficult night of our earthly existence. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

The joy of Easter has been completed and we again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy and the power of the Holy Spirit who has come. We know that God is with us, that in Him is our victory.

Thus is completed the feast of Pentecost and we enter "the ordinary time" of the year. Yet, every Sunday now will be called "after Pentecost"—and this means that it is from the power and light of these fifty days that we shall receive our own power, the Divine help in our daily struggle. At Pentecost we decorate our churches with flowers and green branches—for the Church "never grows old, but is always young." It is an evergreen, ever-living Tree of grace and life, of joy and comfort. For the Holy Spirit—"the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life—comes and abides in us, and cleanses us from all impurity," and fills our life with meaning, love, faith and hope.

Father Alexander Schmemmann (1974)

40 DAY REMBRANCE

July 21– Suzanne / Ronald (Thomas) Moore)