



# The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



## JULY BULLETIN SPONSOR

*In memory of Joanie Puharich Kovach – Given by Michael Kovach & Robert Puharich Families*

### **Liturgical & Events Schedule**

#### **Sunday, July 14**

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /

Social by Kovach Family / Council Meeting

Noon-10 PM: Campbell Summer Fest (Huge fireworks @ close of event) .

#### **Sunday, July 21**

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Blessing of Vehicles / Social

NOTE: There will be no Vespers On Saturday July 20th

Elizabeth greets her with the words: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Luke 1:42-43); and

WHEREAS our Lord Jesus Christ entrusted His Church to the maternal care of His own Mother when, upon the Cross, He spoke to His Beloved Disciple and Apostle John, saying: “Behold your Mother!” (John 19:27); and

WHEREAS the Holy Church has always sought the prayers and intercessions of the Mother of its Lord, honored Her as “Blessed Among Women,” and venerated her in the Holy Icons; and **Con’t Pg 9**

### **Archpastoral Decree Proclaiming the Celebration of the Appearance of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God as a Vigil-Rank Feast to be Observed at all Cathedrals, Churches, Chapels, Monasteries and Missions of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest**

O people, let us hasten to the Virgin Theotokos and Queen, giving thanks to Christ our God, And looking upon her miraculous image with contrition, let us fall down and cry out to her: O Mary, our Sovereign Lady, who visits this land in the miraculous appearance of thy precious image, save all the Christians in peace and prosperity, showing us as heirs of the heavenly life. For to thee do we cry out with faith: Rejoice, O Virgin, the salvation of the world! (Kontakion, Tone 8)

WHEREAS in the Gospel of Saint Luke, we read of the visitation of the Virgin Mary to her kinswoman Elizabeth immediately after the Annunciation, where

### **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

### **JULY Special Monthly Charity**

St. Herman’s Seminary

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

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

[padrebartek@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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### His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon celebrates Feast of Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God

On June 25 - 26, 2024, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the celebration of the feast of the Wonderworking Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. This year’s observance of the feast was of particular importance as 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the original Tikhvin Icon being returned from the Cathedral to Holy Dormition Monastery, Tikhvin, Russia.

This feast was of importance to the Orthodox Church in America due to the relationship that the local church has with the icon and overseeing the transfer of the icon back to the Russian Orthodox Church 20 years ago. His

Beatitude presided at the divine services for his event, along with other hierarchs and clergy from the Orthodox Church in America.

On Tuesday afternoon, His Beatitude was greeted at the airport by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest where the Archbishop welcomed the metropolitan to the Midwest Diocese.

Later that evening, His Beatitude arrived at the Cathedral and was greeted by Archbishop Daniel and Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean. His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate, His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West, His Grace Bishop Benedict of Hartford and New England, His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland, His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth, **Con’t Next Pg**

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## 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:** 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 (Gommel) / 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 / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / 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.

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### *Tikhvin Icon Con't from previous Pg*

were also in attendance.

The responses were sung by the Chicago Deanery Male Choir under the direction of Philip Sokolov. Following the Vigil, Archbishop Daniel welcomed the diocese and guests to the Cathedral. Everyone was then invited to the cathedral hall to enjoy refreshments that were prepared by the Cathedral community.

The following day, the Feast of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, His Beatitude presided at the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with His Beatitude were Archbishop Daniel, Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco, Bishop Benedict of Hartford, Bishop Andrei of Cleveland, and Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth. Serving with the hierarchs were clergy from throughout the Diocese and Chicagoland.

At the conclusion of the Primatial Liturgy, Archbishop Daniel offered a few words greeting the Metropolitan and his brother bishops. He also offered thanks to the clergy, choir, and the faithful for their participation in the services. Following the greeting the hierarchs gathered before the Chicago-Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God and began the Moleben to the Theotokos. After the beginning prayers, the hierarchs, clergy, and faithful began a mile long procession with the icon. Processing through the streets of Chicago to the ringing of the Cathedral bells, clergy carried the holy icon on their shoulders and sang hymns to the Mother

of God, with the faithful following.

The procession ended at St. George Cathedral, where everyone entered to finish the Moleben. At the conclusion of the service Fr. Alexander greeted those gathered and offered a brief reflection on the importance of this icon and its history to Chicago, and the personal relationship that so many people shared with the original icon for the fifty years that it was in America. He gave the Garklavs family as a notable example, who served as guardians of the icon.

The faithful came to venerate the icon as those gathered continued to pray and offer hymns to the Mother of God. After the veneration of the icon, everyone was hosted in the main hall of St. George Cathedral for a festive banquet.

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### **New Diocesan Chancellor Appointed**

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest has announced the appointment of a new Chancellor. On July 1st, Archpriest Herman Kincaid will be appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of the Midwest.

The Chancellor of the Diocese is the first priest of the diocese and serves as main administrator assisting the Archbishop's office.

## JULY Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

**Bulletin:** In memory of Joanie Puharich Kovach– Given by Michael Kovach & Robert Puharich Families

**Wine:** In honor of our mother & Baba, Julia Simko on her 90th B-day– Given by Cheryl & Bill Dubos & Family

**Incense:** In memory of Steve Sveda– Given by Mr. & Mrs. George Kolesar

**Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:** In honor of our mother & Baba Julia Simko– Given by Cheryl & Bill Dubos & Family vercko

**Altar Candles:** In memory of Ruth Libertin– Given by Reader Nicholas & Monica Vansuch / In honor of Reader Nicholas & Monica Vansuch’s wedding anniversary– Given by Reader Nicholas & Monica Vansuch / In memory of Andrew Cvercko on the 7th anniversary of repose on July 3rd– Given by Ann Cvercko

**Tetrapod Candles:** In memory of Robert Kennedy’s 30th anniversary of repose on July 10th & Eugene Kennedy on July 3rd– Given by Debiec & Kennedy Families

**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 my family & friends– Given by AP Andrew Bartek

**Protection Icon Candles:** In memory of AP John Psinka– Given by AP Andrew Bartek

**St. John the Baptist Candles:** In honor of George Kolesar on his 87th B-day- Given by Barbara Kolesar

**Flowers:** In memory of my father, Robert Fredericks, on his 94th B-day– Given by Sherrie Fredericks

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

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - <i>JULY</i>	2023	2024
<b>1st week</b>		
Vespers	No Record	7
Divine Liturgy	No Record	62 / 38
<b>2nd Week</b>		
Vespers	32 (picnic)	7
Divine Liturgy	57 / 40	65 / 43
<b>3rd Week</b>		
Ascension Vespers	10	17
Ascension Liturgy	15	18
Saturday Vespers	7	6
D. L. (Fathers Day)	70 / 47	54 / 43
<b>4th Week</b>		
Vespers (Pentecost)	10	5
Divine Liturgy	72 / 50	54 / 43
Kneeling Vespers	72	21
<b>5th Week</b>		
Vespers Peter/Paul	No Record	7
Liturgy	No Record	12
Saturday Vespers	No Record	5
Divine Liturgy	No Record	72 / 53

FINAL JUNE FINANCIALS	
Expenses	\$22,391.73
Income	\$16,182.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$6,209.73</b>
Weekly Tithe	\$14,200
Weekly Candles	\$597
Weekly Flowers	\$100
St. Panteleimon Candles	\$30
St. Hermans Candles	\$180
Altar Candles	\$150
Icon Screen / Eternal Light	\$100
Wine	\$50
Bulletin	\$50
Unneeded Gifts	\$745
Protection Candles	\$30
Pascha offering	\$50
Misc Donation	\$60
Monthly Charity: St. Vladimir’s Camp	\$2,168

## Reposed List for JULY

- 1- Veronica Graban (1998) ©
- 1- Ann Zastany Crowi (2019) ©
- 1- Mike Smyrnios (1960) ©
- 2- Vasil Fecik (1921) ©
- 3- Andrew Cvercko (2017) ©
- 3- John Kaschak (1920) ©
- 4- Alice Sutko (2020)
- 4- Helen Arvan Kusmanov (2013) ©
- 4- Anna Gozur (1957) ©
- 5- George Hostal (2001) ©
- 5- George Vavlas (1945) ©
- 5- Andrew Harvischak (1951) ©
- 6- Steve Sveda (1928) ©
- 6- Nick Galouzis (1961) ©
- 7- Luba Raseta (1929) ©
- 8- Marian Shepelevich (2020)
- 9- Mary Zanos (1926) ©
- 10- Anna Roman (1926) ©
- 10- Robert Kennedy (1994) ©
- 10- Pete George (1939) ©
- 10- Nick Despetarich (1959) ©
- 12- Anna Berdy (1980) ©
- 12- Ruth Libertin (2008) ©
- 12- John Bolescak (1926) ©
- 13- Marilyn Fasiline (1972) ©
- 13- John Borsic (1987) ©
- 13- Andrew Holubauich (1930) ©
- 14- Edward Gorol (1961) ©
- 15- Catherine Harvischak (1977) ©
- 15- Floyd Dweesy (1985) ©
- 15- Mary Sykola (2005) ©
- 16- Mary Macala (1971) ©
- 16- Julian Marsteler (1920) ©
- 17- Mary Bartek (1984)
- 17- Eleanor Graban (1986) ©
- 17- Elizabeth Zelena (1991) ©
- 18- Steve Paroh (1979) ©
- 18- Still Born Cmur (1923) ©
- 19- Helen Bohish (1988) ©
- 19- Helen Livosky (2015) ©
- 19- Mary Balak (1925) ©
- 19- Mike Olsavsky (1931) ©
- 19- Margaret Bilehik (1955) ©
- 19- Walter Litzie (2023)
- 20- Joseph Sirilla, Sr (1979) ©
- 20- Fr. Dc. John Youhas (2012)
- 20- Anna Zavada Bartek (1924)
- 20- Nicholas Papas (1949) ©
- 20- Maria Karas (1956) ©
- 21- Anna Tsagros (1929) ©
- 22- Elizabeth Zilena (1985) ©
- 22- Mary Kennedy (2000) ©
- 22- Stephen Kalafut (1956) ©
- 22- William Petrosky (2020) ©
- 23- George Patzakis (1961) ©
- 25- Walter Lee Wilfong (2007) ©
- 25- John Konik (2009) ©
- 26- Faith Simko (2016) ©
- 26- John Poulas (1925) ©
- 26- Catherine Pavlos (1949) ©
- 26- Charles Xenakis (1960) ©
- 27- Ignatius Sosnowchik (1973) ©
- 27- Frank Zwinski (2013) ©
- 27- Christ Samjos (1930) ©
- 27- Panagiotis Sarris (1953) ©
- 28- Stella Graban Kurtiak (2013) ©
- 28- A.P. John Psinka (1996)
- 29- MaryAnn Such (1972) ©
- 30- Anna Krut (1924) ©
- 30- Sophia Oshelski (1959) ©

***Thank you to all who helped with the  
beginning of Church  
basement organizing.***

***You are very much appreciated!***

**UPDATED**

Cindy F  
Nancy T  
Sherrie F  
Steve S  
Michael S  
David K  
Beth L  
David D  
Tracy Z  
Lydia A  
Eli A  
Nick V  
Monica V  
Linda L



**Michael Centofanti – Sorry Michael**

### **Romans 5:1-10 (Epistle)**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

## Diocese of the Midwest Celebrates the Tikhvin Icon – 20th Anniversary of the Return of the Icon

The feast of the Wonderworking Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God was celebrated this past Tuesday, June 25 and Wednesday, June 26 with great splendor in this Diocese of the Midwest. The services took place at the historic Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, and gathered Orthodox hierarchs, clergy, and faithful from all over the country. This year's observance of the feast was of particular importance as 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the original Tikhvin Icon being returned from the Cathedral to Holy Dormition Monastery, Tikhvin, Russia.

This feast was of significant important to the Orthodox Church in America due to the relationship that the local church has with the icon and overseeing the transfer of the icon back to the Russian Orthodox Church 20 years ago. This importance was highlighted by the presence of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, leading the divine services for his event, along with other hierarchs from the Orthodox Church in America.

On Tuesday afternoon, His Beatitude was greeted at the airport by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest. The Archbishop welcomed the metropolitan to the Midwest Diocese and the two hierarchs shared a cordial conversation about the festivities of the event.

Later that evening, His Beatitude arrived at the Cathedral and was greeting by Archbishop Daniel and Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean. Upon entering the Cathedral, the Metropolitan was greeted by the ringing of bells, the singing of the choir, and the clergy and faithful who were awaiting their primate. His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate, His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West, His Grace Bishop Benedict of Hartford and New England, His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland, His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth, were in attendance.

The responses were sung by the Chicago Deanery Male Choir under the direction of Reader Philip Sokolov. The choir is made up of voices from around the diocese who joined local voices to produce one of their largest choirs yet. The director and his choir partook in special preparation for the significant event producing an outcome that was lauded by worships at the end of the service.

Following the Vigil, Archbishop Daniel welcomed the diocese and guests to the Cathedral. Everyone was then invited to the cathedral hall to enjoy refreshments that were prepared by the Cathedral community.

The following day, the Feast of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, a large celebration was held in honor

of the Theotokos. The Metropolitan was greeted and vested for the Divine Liturgy and concelebrated with Archbishop Daniel of Chicago, Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco, Bishop Benedict of Hartford, Bishop Andrei of Cleveland, and Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth. Serving with the hierarchs were clergy from throughout the Diocese and Chicagoland.

The St. Romanos Choir, lead by Reader Peter Jermihov, offered the responses in a most spiritual, solemn, and inspiring way. The choir sang with great depth and control using a mix of various chants leading those gathered in prayer. Reader Peter directed the choir 20 years ago when the original icon was returned to Russia, giving him a special connection and inspiration for the service.

His Beatitude offer the homily after the reading of the gospel reminding everyone, "Because Christ's kingdom belongs to the future age, it cannot be touched by the ravages of time. Likewise, the protection of the Mother of God is omnipresent and invincible. Love is stronger than death, and her love for her children cannot be overcome by mortality."

At the conclusion of the Primatial Liturgy, Archbishop Daniel offered a few words greeting the Metropolitan and his brother bishops. He also offered thanks to the clergy, choir, and the faithful for their participation in the services. Following the greeting the hierarchs gathered before the Chicago-Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God and began the Moleben to the Theotokos. After the beginning prayers, the hierarchs, clergy, and faithful began a mile long procession with the icon. Processing through the streets of Chicago to the ringing of the Cathedral bells, clergy lifted the holy icon on their shoulders and sang hymns to the Mother of God. The faithful followed the Queen of Heaven and also sang hymns, rejoicing in the day.

The procession ended at St. George Cathedral, where everyone entered to finish the Moleben. The full cathedral offered their final prayers. At the conclusion of the service Fr. Alexander greeted those gathered and offered a brief reflection on the importance of this icon and its history to Chicago, and the personal relationship that so many people shared with the original icon for the fifty years that it was in America. This especially includes the Garklavs family, who were the guardians of the icon.

The faithful came to venerate the icon as those gathered continued to pray and offer hymns to the Mother of God. After the veneration of the icon, everyone was hosted in the main hall of St. George Cathedral for a festive banquet.

### 40 DAY REMBRANCE

July 21– Suzanne / Ronald (Thomas) Moore)  
August 11– Dan O'Brien

## Celebrations in July

### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Julia Smiko
- 11 Joan Cross
- 12 Pauline Fesz
- 15 His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
- 17 Jonah Bremer, Kathleen Jesko
- 19 David Konik
- 23 Mat. Helen Psinka
- 30 Mat. Christine Hryb, Maureen Koval

### ANNIVERSARY

- 3 Bob & Elizabeth Willison
- 8 Nick & Monica Vansuch
- 12 Thomas & Balaci Kristian
- 13 Marcus & Marcia Kubancsek
- 19 Thomas & Deborah Zelinsky
- 24 Frank & Lori Batura
- 25 Andy & Michelle Basile
- 27 Dennis & Kim Konik, Ken & Lynn Krause
- 28 30 James & Sandra Bufalini

### NAMES DAY

- 31- AB Benjamin of San Francisco

### St. Tikhon's Monastery announces new faculty for their Music Residency Program

The St. Tikhon's Music Program welcomes Fr. Caleb Lewis (DMus) as the new director of music, and Dr. Tabitha Lewis, both as faculty members for the 2024-2025 music residency year. The St. Tikhon's music program is continuing to offer specialized teaching and personalized mentoring of Orthodox musicians, and encourages musicians to submit an application to the program by July 15th, to begin studies this coming September.

Music students at St. Tikhon's delve into learning and honing their skills in: conducting, composing and arranging, liturgics, choral and vocal techniques, as well as studying sacred music history and spirituality, while living at the monastery for 9 months. Residents get to experience the fruits of their studies in real time, working with choirs, singing and conducting in the monastic rhythm of daily divine services. For more information visit:

<https://stikhonsmusicprogram.com>

<https://stikhonsmusicprogram.com/faculty>

“St. Tikhon's Music Residency Program is a unique

program, the likes of which has not existed prior to this in the experience of the Orthodox Church in North America.

“It is headed by an outstanding team of highly trained church musicians – including Fr. Caleb Lewis (Doctor of Music) and his wife, Tabitha (Doctor of Music), and Paul and Anastasia Kappanadze (Master of Music and Master in Music Teaching) – who have been helping to teach the online courses in conducting and music theory offered by the Department of Liturgical Music.

“The time and effort invested into the St. Tikhon's Music Residency Program is certain to pay rich dividends on the parish level for many years to come.” - Dr. Vladimir Morosan

The faithful and parishes of the Orthodox Church in America are urged to intentionally pray for vocations and to support the seminaries, students, faculty, and their families. It is also vital to commit to financially support the three OCA seminaries as they continue the necessary work of providing exceptional education and spiritual formation for the future leaders of the Orthodox Church.

Parishes are reminded of the resolution approved at the 16th All-American Council in Seattle, which calls for parishes of the Orthodox Church in America to allocate 1% of their budget towards the support of these seminaries.

If you want to know more about supporting our seminaries, their work, or learn more about vocation and theological formation, seminary contact information is available on National OCA Website..

### Sermon of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon at Liturgy for the 20th Anniversary of the Return of the Tikhvin Icon

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We are fortunate that the Mother of God, in her great love for us, has given us so many feast days on which to celebrate her grace, her protection, her role in our salvation, and her motherly love. We celebrate the events of her life, her conception and nativity, entrance into the temple and annunciation, her meeting in the temple and her dormition. We also celebrate her protection with its own special feast. More than this, the entire year's calendar is adorned with celebrations of her holy images, so that rarely do a few weeks pass without a feast day dedicated to the Theotokos. For us in the Orthodox Church in America, certainly one of the most special and beloved of these sacred icons celebrated each year is her Tikhvin icon.

The original Tikhvin icon, kept **Con't Next Pg**

### ***Metropolitan Tikhon's Sermon con't from previous pg***

in Chicago for so many years before being returned home two decades ago, was exceptionally well-traveled. Painted, according to holy Tradition, by the Apostle and Evangelist Luke, she went from Jerusalem to Constantinople in the fifth century. Taking up residence in the Queen of Cities, she dwelt in the Church at Blachernae for nearly a millennium. However, miraculously, in the late 1300s, she began to appear at different locations near Novgorod the Great before settling in Tikhvin.

These extensive travels of the original Tikhvin Icon serve to remind us of two realities: that the Mother of God is with us, no matter where we are in the world; and that the Mother of God is with us, no matter where we find ourselves in historical time.

In Alexander Blok's poem "The Twelve," the figure of Our Lord appears at the end, clad in white, just out of reach of the ragtag revolutionary mob:

With gentle step, above the storm, In the scattered, pearl-like snow, Crowned with a wreath of roses white, Ahead of them—goes Jesus Christ.

In a similar way, the Tikhvin Icon seems to have always kept one step ahead of history's disasters and tumults, escaping the Muslim conquest of the Holy Land, the fall of Constantinople, and the predations of the Soviets.

Because Christ's kingdom belongs to the future age, it cannot be touched by the ravages of time. Likewise, the protection of the Mother of God is omnipresent and invincible. Love is stronger than death, and her love for her children cannot be overcome by mortality.

No matter the circumstances in which we find ourselves, she is watching over us. She prays for our bodily needs, certainly, but her protection is ultimately oriented towards the one thing needful: salvation and eternal joy in her Son Jesus Christ.

God is with us, as the prophet proclaims, and he is with us through his Incarnation: he is with us through his Mother.

Though the kingdom of Christ is not subject to history, to time, to death, it is nevertheless revealed amid the changes of this mortal world. And so the Theotokos also reveals herself to us in many times and places, in many holy icons, and in so doing she always points us toward her Son.

The Tikhvin icon belongs to a class of icons called *Ho-degetria*, "She Who Shows the Way." As we can see, she is gesturing with her hand toward her Son, pointing us away from the perishing world and its follies and towards the Eternal One, whom she cradles in her arm.

Therefore, as we celebrate the Tikhvin icon, the apostolic masterpiece, the inheritance of Byzantium, the treasure of Russia, the joy the Chicago, we are called to encounter, not an historical artifact, but eternity in the moment, God in the present, salvation in the now.

No matter where or when we find ourselves, no matter our troubles, no matter our grief, no matter our pain, our sorrow, our sighing—no matter what, God is with us, coming to us through his Mother, she who is the gate facing east, the gate of the dawn.

And so today, now, in this place, at this pilgrimage, we turn to our most holy and most pure Lady with our prayer:

Most holy Theotokos, loving mother of us wayward and erring people, through thy Tikhvin icon shine upon us with the light of Christ.

Mother of Immanuel, Mother of the God-man, make the scales of earthly cares to fall away from our eyes. Grant us to perceive, amidst things fallen and perishing, the gladness and hope of eternity.

O Mother of the Light, never let us forget that we have seen the true Light, which the darkness of this passing world cannot overcome.

O most holy Lady, help us so that, with senses purified, we might behold, even in this age, the glory of the kingdom that has no end: the kingdom of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of his Father and his all-holy Spirit, to whom are due all dominion and adoration, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Most holy Theotokos, save us!

### **His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Visits St. Tikhon's Camp**

On Thursday, July 4, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon traveled to St.

Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary to visit St. Tikhon's Camp of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. This year, the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania also welcomed approximately thirty campers from the Archdiocese of Washington.

Upon arrival, His Beatitude was welcomed by His Eminence Archbishop Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, clergy, and camp director Mr. Dan Peck. His Beatitude spent the remainder of the day visiting with youth and speaking to classes. With the permission of Archimandrite Sergius (Bowyer), the wonderworking icon of St. Anna was brought from St. Theodosius Chapel to the pavilion for evening prayers so youth could venerate and pray before it. After evening prayers, His Beatitude joined campers in watching a fireworks display for Independence Day put on by Archimandrite Sergius and the monastic brotherhood. ***Con't Pg 10***



### *Archpastoral Decree con't from pg 1*

WHEREAS the Icon of the Mother of God, the One Who Shows the Way, of TIKHVIN has been venerated by the faithful throughout the centuries of its recorded history, first in Jerusalem, then in Constantinople, Tikhvin, Riga, the war-torn counties of Europe, Chicago and the Midwest; and

WHEREAS in July 2004, being kept for over five decades in America, the Icon was returned to its Shrine within the Monastery of the Holy Dormition in Tikhvin, Russia; and

WHEREAS an Icon of the Mother of God of Tikhvin, made as a true copy and then blessed upon the original in the Tikhvin Monastery Church, was presented to Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Diocese of the Midwest by His Grace Bishop Mstislav of Tikhvin in 2015, during the Archpastoral Ministry of the ever-memorable Archbishop Paul; and

WHEREAS this Icon has been enshrined within the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, the Mother Church and Diocesan Cathedral of the Diocese of the Midwest, resulting in an increasing knowledge and veneration to the Mother of God invoked in Her Tikhvin Icon; and

WHEREAS the Mother of God of TIKHVIN was proclaimed, on the fourth day of October in the year of Our Lord 2023, to be honored and venerated as the Sovereign Lady, Queen, and Protectress of the Clergy and Faithful of this God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest; and

WHEREAS the God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest continues to be blessed through the presence of the Chicago-Tikhvin Icon and has invited the diocesan Clergy and Faithful, and others, to prayerfully turn to the Most Pure Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, seeking her prayers and protection, asking her help in times of need and glorifying the All-Holy Trinity and recalling Her own words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47); and

WHEREAS the Holy Church continues to turn to the Most Holy Mother of God, invoked in Her wonder-working and miraculous Icon, as a source of heavenly blessing and graces; and

WHEREAS this love and devotion to the Mother of God of TIKHVIN is to be cultivated and promoted throughout the Diocese of the Midwest, in its parish and mission communities, and in the hearts of all the Faithful People of God:

I HEREBY PROCLAIM that on the twenty-sixth day of every month of June, the celebration of the APPEARANCE OF THE TIKHVIN ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, is to be observed at all Cathedrals, Churches, Chapels, Monasteries, and Missions of the God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the

Midwest, as a VIGIL-RANK FEAST.

Given on this twenty-sixth day of June in the Year of Our Lord 2024, in the presence of His Beatitude, the esteemed Metropolitan Tikhon, and my brother Hierarchs, the Clergy and Faithful gathered in prayerful assembly in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Chicago, Illinois.

May our Most Holy, Most Pure, Most Blessed and Glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, our Mother and Queen, invoked in her Holy Icon of TIKHVIN, ever intercede for us before the Throne of Her Son, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom be the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

### **Archbishop Daniel leads Services for Chief Apostles**

On June 29th His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest celebrated the patronal feast day of Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church in Burr Ridge, Illinois. His Eminence led the Divine Liturgy and was joined by Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Rector, Archpriest Daniel Doss, Archpriest Mykola Bodnarchuk, Priest Alexander Koranda, Priest Esteban Vazquez, Priest Jacob Van Sickle, Priest Daniel Greeson, Priest John Segvich, Priest Joseph Whitaker, Protodeacon Robert Northrup, Deacon John Kornafel, Deacon Paul Garklavs, Deacon Laurence Dugoni, and Deacon David Kenny. Before the Little Entrance, Deacon David Kenny was awarded the double oration.

The homily was offered by Priest Daniel Greeson, who spoke on the trials which connect the faithful to the First Enthroned Apostles Peter and Paul. At the conclusion of the liturgy, name's day greetings were offered to Archpriest Paul Jannakos in attendance as well as many thanks as he completed his service as Chancellor of the Diocese of the Midwest, while Archpriest Herman Kincaid was thanked for his 15 years of service at St Peter and St. Paul parish as he begins his ministry as the new chancellor of the diocese. Fr. Daniel Greeson was welcomed as the new rector of the parish, and his family was greeted by the gathered faithful. A festal meal and picnic was held on the parish grounds and enjoyed by all.

### **2nd Annual Picnic – UPDATED Saturday, August 17**

Plans for our 2nd Annual Picnic are underway. Please Sign up at candle desk that you are coming by AUGUST 4th so we can plan accordingly. Also, there is a food sign-up sheet at candle desk.

## Matthew 6:22-33 (Gospel)

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

### *Camp con't from pg 8*

On Friday, July 5, His Beatitude participated in various recreational activities throughout the day. In the afternoon, with the blessing of Metropolitan Tikhon, His Eminence Metropolitan Saba of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of America visited St. Tikhon's. After a tour of the monastery and seminary grounds, His Eminence greeted camp participants and visited briefly with His Beatitude. In the evening, Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, camp chaplain, served Daily Vespers in the monastery church. At the conclusion of Vespers, His Beatitude blessed three icons of the Theotokos painted by teens over the course of two summers. After dinner, the campers put on a talent show, showcasing a variety of skills from acrobatics to singing and dancing.

On Saturday, the final day of camp, His Beatitude presided at the hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated at the monastery church. Concelebrating with His Beatitude was Archbishop Mark, Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, and clergy from the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and the Archdiocese of Washington. At the Little Entrance, Archbishop

Mark awarded Fr. Vjekoslav Jovicic the kamilavka. The liturgical responses were sung by a youth choir under the direction of Fr. John Black, and camp youth and counselors served in the sanctuary. At the conclusion of liturgy, Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Mark offered thanks to the camp director, counselors, staff, and campers, and offered words of encouragement before camp officially closed.

## Apostle Aquila of the Seventy / Commemorated on July 14

Saint Aquila, Apostle of the 70: It is possible that he was a disciple of the Apostle Paul, a native of Pontus and a Jew, living in the city of Rome with his wife Priscilla (they are commemorated on February 13 on the Greek Calendar). During the reign of the emperor Claudius (41-54) all the Jews were banished from Rome, so Saint Aquilla and his wife were compelled to leave. They settled in Corinth. A short while later, the holy Apostle Paul arrived there from Athens preaching the Gospel. Having made the acquaintance of Aquila, he began to live at his house and labored together with him, making tents.

Having received Baptism from the Apostle Paul, Aquila and Priscilla became his devoted and zealous disciples. They accompanied the apostle to Ephesus. The Apostle Paul instructed them to continue the preaching of the Gospel at Ephesus, and he himself went to Jerusalem, in order to be present for the feast of Pentecost. At Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla heard the bold preaching of a newcomer from Alexandria, the Jew Apollos. He had been instructed in the fundamentals of the Faith, but knew only the baptism of John the Forerunner. They called him over and explained more precisely about the way of the Lord.

After the death of the emperor Claudius, Jews were permitted to return to Italy, and Aquila and Priscilla then returned to Rome. The Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Romans recalls his faithful disciples, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, who put forth their heads for my soul, whom I do not alone thank, but also all the Church of the Gentiles and the church of their household" (Rom. 16: 3-4). Saint Aquila did not long dwell in Rome: the Apostle Paul made him a bishop in Asia. Saint Aquila zealously labored at preaching the Gospel in Asia, Achaia and Heraklia. He converted pagans to Christ, he confirmed newly-converted Christians in the faith, he established presbyters and destroyed idols. Saint Priscilla constantly assisted him in the apostolic work. Saint Aquila ended his life a martyr: pagans murdered him. According to the Tradition of the Church, Saint Priscilla was killed together with him.