



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



SEPTEMBER BULLETIN SPONSOR

OPEN

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, September 8

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida for Met. Herman & AB Nikon & the 911 Observance / Council Meeting / Social

Tuesday, September 10

11:00 AM: Orthodoxy 101 Class

Wednesday, September 11

6:00 PM: Fire House Training

Thursday, September 12

11:00 AM: Book Club

Friday, September 13

6:00 PM: Vespers w/ Litya

Saturday, September 14

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy

6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, September 15

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida / Sisterhood social / Fr. Andrew Leaves for vacation

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

On Sunday September 29, following the Divine Liturgy, there will be a Molebion for all church school students and teachers.

This year Church school will be twice a month. The 1st Sunday of each month there will be normal church school with Elizabeth Willison. The 3rd Sunday of the month I will be teaching basic Orthodoxy to the children.

This new program was presented to me and I gave my blessing and approval .

SISTERHOOD SOCIAL

Sunday, September 15

Following Liturgy on Sunday, September 15, there will be a free will offering for a Chicken Parmesan with Penne Pasta Dinner.

No reservations are necessary but please let Joann or Nancy know if you are planning on attending.

Menu:

Salad
Penne Pasta
Beverages

Chicken Parmesan
Garlic Bread
Jello Dessert

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

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

September 8- Andy Zenko / Enriqueta Litonjua Santa
Maria & Maria Cecilia Dayao

September 22- Albert

September 29- Kenny Ruff

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.

Benefit Concert for St. Theodosius Orthodox Christian Cathedral

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 at 3 pm
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church 6822 Broadview Road
Parma 44134

Presented by: Pan-Orthodox Choir
of the Greater Cleveland Area

1 hour concert open to the public. Free Will donation to go toward the Restoration Fund. Light refreshments and fellowship at conclusion.

\$20 - CD available to purchase.
Professional recording donated by Spider Studios.

15 tracks of familiar hymns and a special interview with Fr. Ján Čižmár, Cathedral Dean.

SCREENING OF THE AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY: SACRED ALASKA A STORY OF ADVENTURE, FAITH, AND SACRIFICE

Director: Simon Scionka Producer: Silas Karbo

Where: St. Nicholas Banquet Center, Mogadore, OH
When: Monday, September 23, 2024, at 7 PM. Concessions will be available for purchase Tickets for the movie may be purchased on Event Brite for:

\$10.38(\$8.00+ \$2.38 processing fees). All proceeds will be given to help the Diocese of Alaska. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sacred-alaska-a-story-of-adventure-faith-and-sacrifice-tickets-9988089033>

PRAYER LIST– Updated 9-4-24

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Sue Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Matushka Helen Psinka / Mary Jane Puskas / Carol Ruff / Sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Emilia Yannitto / Marion Zwinski

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

FAMILY & FRIENDS: David (Willison) / Ellen (Clark) / Frank Batura (Fr.) / Trudy Ellmore (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabo) / Karen (Gemmel) / Katie (Garrity) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Paula Kennedy / 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.) / 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) / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Zoland Zile / Brenna & her unborn baby (Fr.) / Kasey & her unborn child (Gemmel)

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.

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary / Commemorated on September 8

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that

for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastsdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in *Con't pg 5*

SEPTEMBER Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: OPEN

Wine: In memory of my wife Laurissa Rusnak– Given by husband Sub-deacon Vladimir / In memory of Steve & Eileen Elash; Stephan Elash; Eileen Elash & Tim Nolder and all the members of the Elash & Graban Families– Given by Cindy Ferrick

Incense: In memory of my wife Laurissa Rusnak– Given by husband Sub-deacon Vladimir / For the health of Alexandra & Eliana Rogers on their upcoming b-day’s and all the members of the Elash & Graban families– Given by Cindy Ferrick

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In honor of Dc. David on his birthday– Given by Mr. & Mrs. George Kolesar, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Zelinski, Mr. & Mrs. Nick Vansuch and Linda Livosky / In memory of Geogr & Mary Vasile & George Vasile– Given by Jim & Elaine Johnston / For my parents George & Mary Rusnak– Given by Sub-deacon Vladimir

Altar Candles: In honor of Nancy & Ron Tusinac & Mary & Andrew on the occasion of their Anniversary’s- Given by Nancy. Tusinac

Tetrapod Candles: In honor of Dc. David on his birthday– Given by Mr. & Mrs. George Kolesar, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Zelinski, Mr. & Mrs. Nick Vansuch and Linda Livosky / In memory of my brothers George and Joseph– Given by sub-deacon Vladimir / For the Health of my sister Mary Jane Puskas– Given by sub-deacon– Vladimir

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 father Michael J Vansuch Given by Reader Nicholas and Monica Vansuch

Protection Icon Candles: In memory of my mom Helene Flaherty of her anniversary of repose- Given by Maria Demkosky

St. John the Baptist Candles: In honor of Dc. David on his birthday– Given by Mr. & Mrs. George Kolesar, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Zelinski, Mr. & Mrs. Nick Vansuch and Linda Livosky

Flowers: In memory of my sisters Ann Sanders and Nadine Pallai– Given by brother Sub-deacon Vladimir

<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		

John 3:13-17 (Gospel, Sunday Before Exaltation)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Celebrations in September	Birthday
	1 Dennis Konik
	3 Lynn Basala
	4 Deborah Zelinsky
	6 Dc. David Gemmel
	9 Kim Konik
	11 Fr. John Beskid, Joann Sirilla
	14 Debbie Perman, Chris Baxter, Sub-deacon Donald Tamulonis
	17 Dc. James & Mat. Christine Hryb
	18 Ron Tusinac, AP David Lis
22 Pani Bethany Mihaly	
27 Tracy Zenko	
	Anniversary
3 Frank & Crystal Batura	
5 Ron & Nancy Tusinac	
7 Steven & Karen Simko	
13 Sam & Angie Dardovski, Fr. Peter Zarynow	
28-1990 Retired Bishop Lazar of Ottawa	
	Names Day
30 AB Michael of NY & NJ	

- Tony Ginarakis (1938) ©
 Michael Pikos (1962) ©
- 1- His Eminence Bishop Nikon (2019)
 - 1- George Diakogannes (1930) ©
 - 1- Michael Feltovich (1988) ©
 - 2- Manuel Melas (1936) ©
 - 2- Vasili Mastrovasilis (1950) ©
 - 4- Nicholas Vaytilla (1982) ©
 - 4- Helen Sarisky (1945) ©
 - 5- Archpriest Anastasy Richter (2021)
 - 5- Nicholas Babinec (1920) ©
 - 5- John Hauscin (1924) ©
 - 5- Andrew Pretko (1953) ©
 - 5- Katherine Mistovich (1963) ©
 - 6- His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman (2022)
 - 6- Andrew Shirilla (1956) ©
 - 7- Barbara Jackubek Barnyak (2013) ©
 - 8- Steve Kolas (1980) ©
 - 9- Steve Graban (1994) ©
 - 9- John Kalas (1923) ©
 - 10- Eudoxia Alisofis (1933) ©
 - 11- George Magdos (1940) ©
 - 11- Infant Kaulianas (1957) ©
 - 11- John Kavouklis (1959) ©
 - 13- Ann Vavlas (1947) ©
 - 13- Bertha Mastraselis (1960) ©
 - 13- Irene Xenakis (1965) ©
 - 14- John Roman (1943) ©
 - 14- Mary Leschinsky (1959) ©
 - 15- Steve Bartek (1962)
 - 15- Terri Lariccia (2021)
 - 15- Mike Kotousis (1935) ©
 - 16- Billy Deaton (2022)
 - 16- Steve Timkovich, Sr (1980) ©
 - 16- Vladimir Yavorskiy (2001) ©
 - 16- Theodore Kiddon (2002) ©
 - 16- Synthia Skoufatos (1928) ©
 - 17- John Pacak (2004) ©
 - 17- Victoria Mraz (2004) ©
 - 17- Katherine Desplaarich (1961) ©
 - 18- Stephen Sature (2004)
 - 18- Bob Whitham Sr (2020)
 - 18- Dimitri Velichkoff (1927) ©
 - 18- Michael Leschinsky (1959) ©
 - 19- George Bolina, Sr (1981) ©
 - 19- Mary Shirilla (1987) ©
 - 19- Mary Stewart (2016) ©
 - 19- John Yurchak (1926) ©
 - 19- Andrew Graban (1942) ©
 - 19- Andrew Shirilla (1956) ©
 - 20- Mary Patellis (1925) ©
 - 21- Olga Bilas Klddon (2014) ©
 - 21- Nettie Kucheruk (2007) ©
 - 21- Steve Furin (1965) ©
 - 22- Sophie Taboh (1979) ©
 - 22- John Davis (2009) ©
 - 22- Anthony Tranarakes (1949) ©
 - 24- Martha Shevetz (1983) ©
 - 24- Anna Semon (1987) ©
 - 24- William Thomas (2010) ©
 - 25- Michael Vansuch (1982) ©
 - 25- George Taloban Malahralko (1977) ©
 - 25- Steven Sirilla (1987) ©
 - 25- Helen Graban (2009) ©
 - 27- Michael Holobanich (1969) ©
 - 27- Helen Libertyn (1976) ©
 - 27- John Cvercko (2000) ©
 - 27- Nicholas Strineka (1931) ©
 - 27- Anthonias Michailas (1961) ©
 - 28- Helen Drotar (1971) ©
 - 28- John Matic (1922) ©
 - 29- Julia Rich Holibonich (2016) ©
 - 29- Barbara Sveda (1961) ©
 - 29- Stephen Feltovich, Sr. (1968) ©
 - 30- Bishop John Martin (1984)
 - 30- Tommy Leonchik (2020)
 - 30- Laurissa Rusnak Sirilla (2022) ©
 - 30- Vasilis Klimas (1949) ©

Igumen Leonty (Arrowsmith)

Igumen Leonty (Arrowsmith) fell asleep in the Lord at Saint Tikhon's Monastery on the morning of August 29, 2024.

May Father Leonty's memory be eternal!

Nativity of Mary con't from Pg 3

purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

The Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year 2024

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

Joyous feast and happy New Year!

Thou hast visited the earth and made it drunk; thou hast abundantly enriched it. The river of God is filled with waters; thou hast prepared their sustenance, for thus is the preparation thereof. – Psalm 64:9

The world observes its civil New Year in the midst of the Northern Hemisphere’s winter, in the cold and dark of early January. Indeed, according to the ancient Roman reckoning of time, that period of the year was so bleak that it was practically acalendrical: March was originally the first month of the Roman calendar, and December the tenth and last, with those gloomy days of deep winter, our January and February, lying outside of normal social time.

In the Church, on the other hand, we observe our New Year at the height of harvest, in the season of greatest abundance: “Spring is beautiful, but autumn is plentiful,” to paraphrase a rustic Russian saying. This is reflected in the psalmody that we sing on this feast: “Thou shalt bless the crown of the year with thy goodness, and thy fields shall be filled with fatness” (Ps. 64:11).

“The river of God” – “thy fields.” These sayings remind us that the natural world, with all its bounty and beauty, is the creation of God, and it belongs to him. “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof, the world and all that dwell therein” (Ps. 23:1). Man is placed in this world as its steward, not its ultimate master or owner, and the creation around us is given to us not as a right, but as a gift. Moreover, though we are given temporal dominion over our environment, the natural world, like all things that come from God, finds its truest meaning when it is offered back to God. We are called to be not just steward, but sacrificer, priest, taking what is given and offering it back to the Giver.

In this act of sacrifice—the sacrament, the mystery—we encounter and receive an even greater gift, the Giver himself. Creation, the superfluous work of God’s love, becomes the very means of encounter with God. In the greatest sacrament, the Eucharist, we offer up bread and wine—the bounty of God’s earth, the work of our hands in stewardship—and we receive back the Flesh and Blood of God himself.

Therefore, creation is holy, not because of some intrinsic quality, but because of its origin and its destiny: it comes from God and, when used properly, it is given back to God. Thus, as we celebrate the bounties of the natural world on this ecclesiastical New Year, properly ascribing thanks to God, we are also called to assess our stewardship over the natural world. We must

ensure that we use all the good gifts of this world responsibly and moderately, not exploiting our stewardship or abusing our dominion.

I emphasize that this work of stewardship, though it has communal and social dimensions, is first and foremost the work of each human being, each Christian. Each of us is called to offer our environment, our work, our day-to-day, our spaces and places, our time, our very breath, back to God through virtue, generosity, thanksgiving, and prayer. We are, all of us and each of us, called to share our bounty, beautify our domain, and exercise prudent husbandry of the things entrusted to our care.

Thus, as we join in celebration of the New Year, reaping the harvest of the earth’s blessings, I pray that we always partake of nature’s extraordinary abundance with moderation and thanksgiving and generosity to others, properly exercising our role as priest and mediator—in and through Christ, the Great High Priest and true Mediator—offering up to God his own of his own, such that the very hills might be girded with joy and valleys cry aloud with the song of hymns (Ps 64:13).

To our great and everlasting God, who crowns the year with goodness and bounty, who by his power made the ages and yet rules forever, before and after and beyond all seasons and times, who is one in Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: to him be all glory, thanks, and adoration, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year and many blessed years to come,
Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$4,393.52
Income	\$2,683.00
TOTAL	-\$1,710.52
Weekly Tithe	\$2,425
Weekly Candles	\$128
Memorial Candles	\$130
Monthly Charity Collection: (SOS)	\$189

SEPTEMBER Special Monthly Charity

SOD (Support our Seminarians (This money will be sent to AB & he will send to seminarians directly. This money does not go to administration purposes. Directly to students & their families)

1 Corinthians 9:2-12 (Sunday Epistle)

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Matthew 18:23-35 (Sunday Gospel)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Philippians 2:5-11 (Epistle, Theotokos)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

(Gospel, Theotokos)

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Galatians 6:11-18 (Epistle, Sunday Before Exaltation)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - September	2023	2024
1st Week		
Vespers	No record	No Vespers
Divine Liturgy	81 / 48	57 / 47
2nd Week		
Vespers	7	
Divine Liturgy	70 / 42	
3rd Week		
Exaltation Vespers	10	
Exaltation Liturgy	25	
Vespers	No record	
Divine Liturgy	No record	
4th Week		
Vespers	7	
Divine Liturgy	60 / 37	
5th Week		
Vespers	7	
Divine Liturgy	Was in Oct.	

Chicago Tikhvin Icon Flyover: “Rejoice, for the very air was blessed by your passing!”

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the return of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God from Chicago to Tikhvin, a special flight was chartered to take the Chicago Tikhvin Icon over the territory of the Diocese of the Midwest.

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest, Priest Alexander Koranda and Priest Nikolai Lochmatow took the Chicago Tikhvin Icon aboard a plane that traveled over four states of the diocese and Lake Michigan. The flight was sponsored by Pilot Randy West, a parishioner of St. George Cathedral, Chicago, IL.

During the course of the flight the priests sang the Akathist Hymn to the Tikhvin Icon. The text of the service describes the Tikhvin Icon’s miraculous flight blessing the air in which she passed. This flight was chartered to honor the Mother of God and to ask her

DOM Dedicates September to Diocesan Seminarians

In a letter to the clergy and faithful to the diocese, Archbishop Daniel conveyed that this annual appeal brings awareness to those who are called to serve the Church:

“In our beloved and God-protected Diocese of the Midwest, the month of September is dedicated to raising awareness of the specific vocation given to those who have been called to ordained ministry. We now pause and give thanks for those who have already received this call, especially for the priests and deacons serving in our parishes. And we also look to the future, praying that the Lord will send more workers into His harvest, and seeking support for those who are, even now, preparing for ordination to the Holy Priesthood, that is, our own diocesan seminarians.”

In an effort to build awareness of our seminarians’ needs, SOS flyers are available for downloading and distribution in all parishes during the month of September. All donations from parishes as well as individuals — culminating in “SOS Sunday” on September 29 — will be distributed directly to the seminarians to offset the cost of their educational and living expenses.

Regardless of how a parish chooses to raise SOS funds, the result will help ensure that our seminarians and their families will find some measure of “relief” from increasing living and educational expenses.

Individuals are encouraged to donate through their parishes, by mailing a check to the diocese, or online.

**Archpastoral Message of
The Most Reverend DANIEL
Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest
for the Annual Seminarian Appeal 2024**

September 1, 2024 – Beginning of the Liturgical Year
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening (1 Samuel 3:10)

Beloved Sons and Daughters in Christ,

When he was young, the prophet Samuel heard the voice of the Lord calling him at night. When he heard the voice of the Lord, calling to him, he supposed that it was Eli, the priest of Shiloh, his mentor. So, he got up from his bed and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am.” Eli told him to return to bed. This happened not just once, but three times. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, ‘Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel **Con’t Next Pg**

AB Daniels letter con't from previous pg

answered, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:8-11).

Samuel's unique encounter with the Lord God was in fact the call he received to serve the Lord as a prophet. It was his vocation. Samuel's prophetic vocation was so unique during this period of history in Israel, that Saint Peter reverently refers to Samuel as the first of the prophets (Acts 3:24). Samuel's prophetic ministry is also notable because it begins at a time when words from the Lord were rare and infrequent. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. (1 Samuel 3:1). Beginning with Samuel, Israel's history comes alive with prophetic revelation. The young man who was called by the Lord became not only a prophet, but also judge a wise leader in Israel, and a servant of God's people.

The call of Samuel was uniquely his, and unique to the role he played in the history of Israel and in God's salvific plan. However, every one of us who follows Christ has also received a special call, a unique vocation. The Lord calls each of us by name (Isaiah 43:1) to serve Him and His Church, in many and various ways. Although we exercise our vocations differently, we all share the same call: to proclaim the Gospel, to participate in Christ's salvific plan, and to serve Christ and His Holy Church..

In our beloved and God-protected Diocese of the Midwest, the month of September is dedicated to raising awareness of the specific vocation given to those who have been called to ordained ministry. We now pause and give thanks for those who have already received this call, especially for the priests and deacons serving in our parishes. And we also look to the future, praying that the Lord will send more workers into His harvest, and seeking support for those who are, even now, preparing for ordination to the Holy Priesthood, that is, our own diocesan seminarians.

I commend to your prayers and ask your sincere support for the men from throughout our Diocese who are currently enrolled in the seminaries of the Orthodox Church in America: Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary and Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. These seminarians come from our own parish communities, they are your sons, brothers, relatives, and friends. They have heard the voice of the Lord Who has called them, each hearing this call in their own particular way. This may have occurred through your personal encouragement, by something you said or did which first inspired them to think about the possibility of serving Christ by offering their lives in service to the Church. And, responding to that call, they are now preparing themselves, through prayer, theological studies, and pastoral service, to take their future place as shepherds, caring for the flock of Christ.

Our diocesan seminarians and their families make many personal sacrifices and face many challenges in order to achieve their goal, a goal that includes serving each one of us. A significant majority of our seminarians are married and have families; their wives and children must sacrifice along with them. Just as each one of us needs the support of our clergy, our fellow parishioners and of our own Orthodox communities, so, too, do the diocesan seminarians need our support so that they may one day stand at the Holy Altar. Your support will allow them to preach the Gospel, celebrate the Holy Mysteries of our Orthodox Faith, be present in our time of need, offer counsel and provide consolation. They need our prayers, as we need theirs. The seminarians and their families also need our financial support.

As we raise awareness for the needs of our seminarians, the Diocese of the Midwest promotes a project known simply as "Support our Seminarians." During this month of September, I invite each parish community and every individual to join me in praying that Our Merciful Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Lord of the Harvest, will grant our Diocese and Church more vocations to the Priesthood. I also ask you to join me in generously contributing to our Seminarians' Fund, thus showing our appreciation and support for these dedicated and faithful workers in the Lord's Own Vineyard.

Invoking the Lord's blessing upon you, your families, and loved ones, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

THANK YOU RECEIVED FROM ST THEODOSIUS

Dear Fr. Andrew & Faithful members of St. John the Baptist,

It is with a heavy heart to have our Cathedral to be affected by this fire and sustain so much damage. Our Cathedral and its history has a strong connection with our parishioners, extended family, our community, and faithful friends near and far.

On behalf of our Parish council and our entire Parish community, we thank you for your generous donations of \$2,600 to our Cathedral.

We greatly appreciate your support and this gesture at this time, and we keep you all in our prayers. We also ask for your continued prayers for our wisdom and strength in this process of restoring our beloved St. Theodosius Orthodox Christian Cathedral.

In Christ,

Priest Jan Cizmir



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