

# 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 TWO WEEK EDITION

Sunday, September 15

9:35 AM: Hours

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

Sunday, September 22

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social

Tuesday, September 24

Noon: Deanery Meeting in Columbus

Wednesday, September 25

6:00 PM: Fire Training

Thursday, September 26

11:00 AM: Book Club

Saturday, September 28

6:00 PM: Great Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, September 29

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social

#### **DONATIONS NEEDED**

We're asking for donations to help offset the cost of the supplies for the Drive-Through Rib & Chicken Dinner. Your generosity would be most appreciated.

#### FATHER ON VACATION

While Fr. Andrew is on vacation, please contact Fr. Dn David for any emergency. He will contact me, if necessary.

Fr. John Zidinak will be here Sunday, September 22.

#### **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

# Matthew 19:16-26 (Sunday Gospel)

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal, 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself." "The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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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.

# The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross / Commemorated on September 14

The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulchre of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the

Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint *Con't Next Pg* 

## PRAYER LIST- Updated 9-11-24

**PARISHIONERS:** Achiles 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.

#### Exaltation Con't from previous page

Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found.

Christians came in a huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363).

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church, she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khozróēs II attacked Constantinople defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633). *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 Georgr & 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 / For the Health of Horodnic Family—Given By George Horodnic Jr.

**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

\$50 per month	\$30 per month	\$25 per month
*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- Updated
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	·
*Tetrapod Candles	·	

# His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Makes Archpastoral Visit to St Cyprian Church in Midlothian, VA

On Friday, August 30, and Saturday, 31, 2024, at the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Alexander of Dallas, the South and the Bulgarian Archdiocese, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon made an archpastoral visit to St. Cyprian of Carthage Church in Midlothian, VA, to preside at their 50th Anniversary celebrations.

On Friday evening, Archpriest David Arnold, Rector, celebrated Great Vespers and welcomed His Beatitude to the community at the conclusion of the service. Following Vespers, a reception was held at Ss. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Richmond, VA.

On Saturday morning, His Beatitude presided at the celebration of the hierarchical Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Cyprian. Concelebrating with His Beatitude were Archpriest David Arnold along with

numerous attached and visiting clergy. In his homily, His Beatitude spoke about the unity of the Orthodox Church as witnessed to by St. Cyprian, and that this unity must be something we strive for. He remarked that, "though unity is proper to the Church, part of its origin and present and final destiny, this does not mean that unity in this life is somehow automatic, any more than abiding in the Church during this life is automatic. We can fall away from unity, and we can fall away from the Church. We recall those words of St. Cyprian, that in this life we have "begun to be sons of God." Simply to be sons of God is something proper to the next world, to the life to come."

Following the Divine Liturgy, the clergy and faithful went in procession to the parish cemetery where a Lity for the Departed was served at the grave of Archpriest George Detrana, founder of the parish whose 20th anniversary of repose is remembered this year. After the singing of Memory Eternal for all departed members of the parish, the clergy and faithful processed back to the church where greetings and words of encouragement were offered by Fr. David and His Beatitude. A festive luncheon followed, where the 20th anniversary of Fr. David's ordination to the holy priesthood was also celebrated.

# Reposed List for SEPTEMBER

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 KIddon (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) ©

#### Exaltation con't from pg 3

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who defeated Khozróēs and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-giving Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakleios, wearing a crown and his royal purple garments carried the Cross of Christ. The Emperor was accompanied by Patriarch Zachariah. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the Emperor stopped suddenly and was unable to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained to the Emperor that an Angel of the Lord was blocking his way. Herakleios was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Herakleios donned plain clothes, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church. In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."

# HOLY TRINTY ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH 118TH ANNIVERSARY INVITATION

Fr. Andrew & faithful of St. John the Baptist,

Christ is in our midst!

We joyously announce a special event in the life of our parish, Holy Trinity. With the intercessions of of the Mother of God and the blessing of our ruling Hierarch, Archbishop Nathaniel, (OCA) we will be adding a new Patronal Feast to our Church—-"Protection of the Mother of God," celebrated on October 1 according to our calendar.

Typically, we commemorate the Anniversary of our church on the first Sunday of October. This year marks the 118th anniversary of our Parish. To add solemnity to this celebration we have chosen to associate the Feast of the Mother of God with our anniversary, allowing us to rejoice in the services of the church dedicated to the Mother of God, in addition to the traditional festal anniversary dinner.

WE warmly invite your church to join us in these events, scheduled for Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5th. Your presence would bring great joy to us and to our community.

His Grace Bishop Andrei, Auxilary Bishop of the Romanian Episcopate will be the main celebrant for the two days services. He will bless the Patronal Icon of the Protection of the Mother of God specially painted for this occasion and includes a depiction of the Holy Trinity Church.

The calendar of events is as follows:

Friday, October 4th– 6:00 pm Great Vespers with litia for the Feast of Protection of the Mother of God, followed by the Small Paraclesis of the Mother of God.

Saturday, October 5th 9:00am Matins for the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God 10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with the blessing of the Patronal Icon of the Mother of God, followed by the festive dinner dedicated to the 118th Anniversary of our Church. (Cost– Free will offering).

Please join us for this sprcial occasion, to receive the blessings from the Mother of God, imparted to us by our beloved hierarch, His Grace Bishop Andrei.

Rev. Fr. Cezar Cisloiu and the community of the Holy Trinity Church

#### **40 DAY REMEMBRANCE**

September 22– Albert September 29– Kenny Ruff

## Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel, Sunday After)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

## 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Epistle)

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

# Galatians 2:16-20 (Epistle, Sunday After)

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

# THANK YOU RECEIVED FROM ST HERMAN'S THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY & HIS GRACE BISHOP ALEXEI

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$899 to St. Herman's Seminary! We are deeply grateful for your generosity. Your prayer and financial support ensure the continued training of clergy and church workers for the Diocese of Alaska. Every gift helps to ensure that every student attending has all their needs met to become capable servants of the Lord! Every donation helps in part to reach out to the spiritual needs of those who are suffering in the parishes. As you give out of the goodness of your heart remember that Christ teaches that this is a wonderful sacrifice and you would be wonderfully rewarded, as He says to us in Matt. 6:20: "lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

We all should understand that the Seminary is a place that doesn't just produce clergy, but also helps to prepare readers, choir directors, church school teachers, etc. St. Herman Seminary can give tools needed to each student, to reach out and offer help to those who suffer from various forms of addictions, help counsel those who are emotionally struggling. Each seminarian is on the path to prepare and offer church services in various forms as needed from reader services for funeral, to serving as a parish priest to many different locations.

In these trying times we are in need to offer these gifts from God to his children. Every student hears the call of Christ by virtue of their baptism, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.". And as they hear and answer this call, they make the sacrifice to leave their homes and follow the path of Christ. Thank you for your generosity. This gift makes it possible for each student to accomplish the task that God asks of them. For your loving gift, we give you our heartfelt thanks.

With Love in Christ!

The V. Rev. Dr. Father John Dunlop

Dear Friends of St. Herman Seminary,

I am writing to you to thank you for your generosity that is so necessary for the workat our beloved seminary. Through your gifts, the seminary can continue the great labors of St. Innocent and Saint Herman training future priests so that they might go forth with the true light of the Gospel of Christ. The light by which the seminarians read, the food blessed at the means, the prayers offered up in the chapel, and the work they one day do in the villages— you are part of

All this. On behalf of the dean, the faculty, the staff, the seminarians and their families, I thank you and pray that God bless you one hundred-fold.

With God blessing through the prayers of St. Herman,

+Bishop Alexis

Celebrations in Beptember

# 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, Subdeacon Donald Tamulonis
- 17 Dc. James & Mat. Christine Hryb / Barbara Kolesar
- 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
- 9- Andrew & Mary James
- 13 Sam & Angie Dardovski, Fr. Peter Zarynow

28-1990 Retired Bishop Lazar of Ottawa

Names Day

30 AB Michael of NY & NJ

#### THANK YOU RECEIVED

St. John parishioners,

Thanks so much for celebrating my 60th birthday. I appreciate the prayers, candles, cards and donation to the Metroparks.

Love in Christ, Deacon David

# SEPTEMBER Special Monthly Charity

SOS (Support our Seminarians)

(This money will be sent to AB & he will send to seminarians directly. This money does not go to administration purposes but directly to students & their families)

ATTEND- ANCE: A Comparison - September	2023	2024
1st Week		
Vespers	No record	No Vespers
Divine Liturgy	81 / 48	57 / 47
2nd Week		
Vespers	7	9
Divine Liturgy	70 / 42	53 / 37
3rd Week		
Exaltation Vespers Exaltation Liturgy Vespers	10 25 No record	
Divine Liturgy	No record	
4th Week		
Vespers	7	
Divine Liturgy	60 / 37	
5th Week		
Vespers	7	
Divine Liturgy	Liturgy was on Oct 1	

<b>SFPTFMBF</b>	-K FII/	IANC	$1\Delta 1 \leq$

Expenses	\$6,120.64	
Income	\$6,555.00	
TOTAL	+429.36	
W1-1 T'41	<b>\$6.324</b>	
Weekly Tithe	\$6,224	
Weekly Candles	\$201	
Memorial Candles	\$130	
Monthly Charity Collection: (SOS)	\$905	
Monthly Charity Collection: (SOS)		
Note-\$200 was realized by the sales of Garlic & is		
being applied to the Seminarian charity.		

# His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Visits OCA Seminaries to mark Beginning of Academic Year

In late August and early September, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon made archpastoral visits to St.

Vladimir's Seminary in Yonkers, NY, and St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA, to mark the beginning of the academic year.

On Thursday, August 22, and Friday, August 23, Metropolitan Tikhon visited St. Vladimir's Seminary to participate in new student orientation. On Thursday afternoon, he presided at a molieben to open the school year in the Three Hierarchs Chapel, assisted by Dn. Vitaly Permiakov, chapel administrator. Following the service, His Beatitude offered words of welcome to new students. He also encouraged the students to focus on worship and prayer during their time of study, telling the students "even as you grow in knowledge, you are called even more to grow spiritually through attendance at chapel, cultivating and maintaining a rule of private prayer, and service to the community."

Later in the evening, His Beatitude participated in the year's first meeting of the St. Juliana Society, attended by over 30 women from the seminary community. On Friday, he also participated in various orientation sessions and had the opportunity to meet with students and faculty throughout the day.

On Saturday, September 7, and Sunday, September 8, Metropolitan Tikhon visited St. Tikhon's Seminary to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos with the seminary and monastery communities. On Saturday evening, His Beatitude presided at the All-Night Vigil in the monastery church. The hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the monastery church on Sunday morning. Concelebrating with His Beatitude were Archimandrite Sergius (Bowyer), Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery. Archpriest John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, and monastic and seminary clergy. In his homily, His Beatitude praised the Theotokos as "the temple of the Almighty, the house of God, the Church's 'yes' to our Bridegroom's proposal. ... Let us celebrate her as the cause of the world's redemption, the gateway of God." His Beatitude concluded the homily by encouraging the faithful to imitate the Theotokos in devotion, prayer, purity, single-heartedness, and love of God.

Following the liturgy, His Beatitude addressed new and returning students. He encouraged the students to try and always keep a sense of newness in their seminary careers: "Hours in the classroom, seasons of study, years of service: we can be tempted to let the grind of life sap our strength and make us old, especially in the intense environment of the seminary. ...We must fix the eyes of our hearts on things above, things to come, so that we are always receptive to the grace and gifts of God, every minute of our lives."

After Archimandrite Sergius welcomed the Metropolitan to the monastery, Fr. John Parker spoke briefly of his recent trip to Kenya with two seminarians, and presented a Gospel in both Swahili and English to His Beatitude from His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Nairobi.

# **Greatmartyr Niketas the Goth / Commemorated on September 15**

The Holy Great Martyr Niketas (Niketas) was a Goth (a Germanic tribe). He was born and lived on the banks of the Danube River, suffering for Christ in the year 372. The Christian Faith was already spreading throughout the territory of the Goths at that time. Saint Niketas believed in Christ and was baptized by the Gothic bishop Theophilos, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council. Pagan Goths started to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in a civil war.

After Fritigern, at the head of a Christian army, defeated the pagan Athanaric, the Christian Faith continued to spread among the Goths. The Arian bishop Ulfilas, the successor to Bishop Theophilos, created a Gothic alphabet and translated many spiritual books into the Gothic language, including the Holy Scriptures. Saint Niketas worked tirelessly among his fellow Goths to teach them about Christ. Through his personal example and inspired words, he brought many of them to the Christian Faith.

After his defeat, however, Athanaric managed to regroup his forces. He returned to his own country and regained his former power. Since he remained a pagan, he continued to hate the Christians and persecuted them, seeking revenge for the humiliation he had endured at their hands.

Saint Niketas had to contend against both visible and invisible enemies. In opposing these invisible enemies, he converted many pagans to Christ, and strengthened the faithful for the contest of martyrdom. Filled with zeal for God, the Saint denounced the persecutor Athanaric for his cruelty and impiety, because he subjected the Christians to severe torments.

Saint Niketas prevailed against both of these enemies. He trampled the devil underfoot, and defeated Athanaric in battle. The cruel tormentor was troubled because he was unable to convert Saint Niketas to his own impiety, and so he resolved to capture the Saint and put him to death.

Saint Niketas endured many tortures, and then he was thrown into a fire. Although his body was not burnt by the fire, he surrendered his soul to God, and his relics were illumined by a radiant light. By night, a Christian named Marianus, took the body of Saint Niketas, and buried it in Cilicia. Afterward, it was transferred to Constantinople. Part of the relics of the Great Martyr Niketas were later given to the monastery of Vysokie Dechani in Serbia. Thus Saint Niketas received an unfading crown of glory from Christ on September 15, 372.

We pray to Saint Niketas for the preservation of children from birth defects.



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