



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



October Bulletin Sponsor

OPEN

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, October 6

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social / 1st Day of Church School

Monday– Wednesday (Diocesan Assembly in Mogadore)

Wednesday, October 9

6:00 PM: Fire Training

Thursday, October 10

11:00 AM: Book Club

Saturday, October 12

6:00 PM: Great Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, October 13

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panchida / Social / Council Meeting

Luke 7:11-16 (Gospel)

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

2024 - COUNCIL MEMBERS

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His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Issues Call for Prayer for Middle East

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has issued the following call for prayer:

“On this day, in many of our churches, we celebrate the protecting veil of the most holy Mother of God. In light of the widening conflict in the Middle East, this commemoration of the merciful Protection of the Theotokos could not be timelier. I ask all our clergy and faithful to pray for peace in the region and in the world; for restraint and wisdom on the part of leaders; for healing and recovery for victims of violence; and for reconciliation, forgiveness, and love on the part of all. Our Lord Jesus Christ is himself the Peace of God, and this Peace came into the world through the most holy Theotokos. Let us pray to our most pure Lady with fervent supplications that the world might receive, through her, the peace from above.”

Clergy and faithful are encouraged to support International Orthodox Christian Charities in their emergency support work in the region.

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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 9-25-24

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

Mrs. Mary Fredericks

648 Dumont Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

Mrs. Audrey Chengelis
c/o Assumption Village
9802 Market Street / Room 132
North Lima, OH 44452

Mrs. Julia Simko
c/ o Inn At Poland Way
6501 Poland Way / Rm 122
Poland OH, 44514

Sub-Deacon Vladimir Rusnak

208 Ash Court
Campbell, OH 4405

Emilia Yannitto
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Baden, PA 15005

Mrs. Dorothy Shirilla

8362 Van Dr.
Poland, OH 44514

Mrs. Pauline Fesz
488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

Mrs. Marion Zwinski
9190 Springfield Rd / Apt 17c
Poland, OH 44514-3196

Joan Cross
97 Butler Street / Apt 1-rear
Brooklyn , NY 11201

Irene & Al Mazanek
1285 Fairfax-Manor Dr
Carmel, IN 46032

Helen Colaluca
2513 Manor Ave
Poland, OH 44514-1541

George Horodnic, Sr.
c/o The Inn at Walker Mill
8060 South Ave., Rm. 216
Boardmen, OH 44512

Sue Kennedy
593 Hyatt Ave
Campbell, OH 44405-1479

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1875 Mallard Ln.
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7825 First St. SE
Warren, OH 44438-1430

Carol Ruff
2207 Birch Trail Blvd
Austintown, OH 44515-4910

Geogr Kolesar
4030 Cascade Dr.
Youngstown, OH 44511-3538

OCA's Annual Church Musician Sunday to be held October 6

The Sunday on or following the commemoration of St. Romanus the Melodist (October 1) has been designated by Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America as a date to honor the essential role of liturgical music in the life of the Orthodox Church. This year, “Church Musician Sunday” will fall next Sunday on October 6, 2024.

Parishes are asked to publicly recognize in announcements and bulletins those in their communities who serve in musical ministries: choir directors, singers, chanters, readers, composers, arrangers, bell-ringers, hymnologists, translators, and hymnographers.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has released the following letter for the event:

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

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

On this third annual Church Musician Sunday, we once again honor our Church’s singers, choir directors, composers, arrangers, chanters, readers, bell-ringers, hymnologists, translators, hymnographers, and all who help our parishes and their congregations to make a “joyful noise to the Lord” (Ps. 99:1).

Despite a proliferation of musical resources—printed music books, online scores, web-based tutorials and distance trainings, new on-site programs at our institutions—in many places, our parishes and missions are struggling musically. Qualified choir directors are often difficult to find; ensembles are routinely short on voices; and, both outside our choirs and within them, there is an increasing unfamiliarity with the basics of Orthodox church singing.

This reminds us that, even though we devote this Sunday to honoring musical “specialists,” in fact, church music is the responsibility of the entire Orthodox Christian community. “Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has he been glorified,” the holy prophet and God-seer Moses exhorts us. “Bless the Lord, O children of men; let Israel bless the Lord,” sang the Three Holy Children, calling us to join them in praise. The Psalmist, too, commands us: “Praise the Lord, for a psalm is good” (Ps. 146:1); “Sing unto the Lord a new song, his praise in the church of the saints” (Ps. 150:1).

In the same way that we share responsibility for our temples’ visual beauty, making sure that they are clean, **Con’t Pg 4**

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PRAYER LIST– Updated 10-01-24

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 / 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: Donna Chiarelli / 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 / Joanna Shepelevich / Brenna & her newborn baby Jameson Joseph (Fr.) / Kasey & her newborn 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.



October Celebrations

Birthday

- 1 Trudy Ellmore
- 2 Tina Litzie / Nathaniel Willison
- 3 Ethan Chendorain
- 5 Maya Kubancsek / Karen Debiec
- 6 Michelle Horodnic
- 7 Gabriella Hryb / Sophia Jesko
- 8 Monica Vansuch
- 9 Kelly Ann Ferrick
- 13 Colin Henry Felker / Shelia Jesko
- 14 Fr. Andrew Groom
- 16 Fr George Lardas / Mary Ruth Mico
- 17 Tim Glovinsky
- 18 Nicole Batura
- 25 Sam Dardovsky
- 31 Fr. Peter Zarynow

Anniversary

- 1-2009 AB Irene of Canada / Joseph & Mary Ruth Mico / Gary & Patty Thompson
Fr. Matthew & Pani Eleni Stagon
- 3 Fr. Matt Stagon Priestly ordination
- 7 Fr. Eli & Mat. Larissa Bremer
- 9 David & Terrie Konik
- 14 Michael & Lynn Polewan
- 19 Archpriest John & Mat. Cynthia Zidinak
- 31 Paul & Layne Demkosky

Names Day

- 9 The Most Blessed Tikhon

2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (Epistle)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Archbishop Daniel Celebrates Second Year of Enthronement as Midwest Hierarchy

The clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest congratulate Archbishop Daniel on the occasion of his enthronement anniversary. May God grant His Eminence many years.

OCTOBER 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

Incense: In memory of my wife Laurissa Rusnak– Given by husband Sub-deacon Vladimir

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of my brother George Robert Vasile– Given by Teri Vasile

Altar Candles: In memory of Andrew & Anna Cvercko- Given by Anne Cvercko

Tetrapod Candles: In honor of Karen Bebiec on the occasion of her b-day & in memory of Robert Kennedy on the occasion of his wedding anniversary– Given by Sue Kennedy.

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

St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: OPEN

Protection Icon Candles: OPEN

St. John the Baptist Candles: In health of my wife Monica on the occasion of her b-day– Given by Reader Nick Vansuch

<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		

Music Sunday con't from pg 2

neat, radiantly adorned with holy images, so do we share responsibility for the beauty of our church music. St. Tikhon of Moscow once reminded his flock that, when we truly wish to honor someone's deeds, we must do so with more than kind feelings: rather, we must do as that person did, as that person would wish us to do. "If you love me, keep my commandments," says the Lord (Jn. 14:15).

Therefore, today, in order to honor our church musicians, let us—all of us—redouble our own commitment to our community's life of sacred song and worship. Can we join the choir? Can we use an online tutorial from the Department of Liturgical Music to hone our skills? Can we encourage our children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, or nephews to sing? Do we support compensation for our choir directors and funding for choir activities? Has our community supplied itself with honorable Orthodox liturgical bells, and have we encouraged bell-ringers to learn how to use them? Do we sing at home—"Our Father," "O heavenly King," "Christ is risen," the troparia for the great feasts? And this is but a short list of suggestions concerning what we, each of us, could do to support an abundance of musical vocations and the flourishing of sacred music in the Church.

Let me conclude then with this challenge: as we celebrate this Church Musician Sunday, I encourage each parish or mission community, each family, and each individual to find one new way to support our common life of music and worship in the year to come. Sacred song is a major part of our Church's holy Tradition, one of the most important expressions of our timeless Orthodox faith, and it is up to all of us to preserve and propagate ecclesiastical music for the edification and salvation of generations to come.

To all our Church's singers, choir directors, composers, arrangers, chanters, readers, bell-ringers, hymnologists, translators, hymnographers, and to all who support the liturgical and musical life of our holy Church: my primatial blessing and many years!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Please also remember the Department of Liturgical Music, which offers many resources to enable the work of those who serve in the musical ministries of our parishes. Please consider supporting this work by giving to the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America. Most projects from the Departments are offered free of charge and your financial support enables these resources to continue.

October's Reposed List

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Michael Kropenoh (1987) ©
 2- His Grace Bishop Antoun (2017)
 2- Mary Evanoff (1970) ©
 2- George Graban (2004) ©
 2- Anna Kristian (1932) ©
 3- Mary Libertin (1986) ©
 3- George Kalas (1994) ©
 3- Mary Novak (1994) ©
 3- Anthony Shepelevich (2004) ©
 4- Louis Boldish (1960) ©
 4- Michael Tevonyoh (1987) ©
 4- John Hanuscin (1920) ©
 6- Helen KOrechko (2021) ©
 6- Kaliope Ellinos (1941) ©
 8- Still Born Rosko (1923) © Twins
 8- Still Born Rosko (1923) © Twins
 8- Matthew Shirilla (1939) ©
 9- Barbara Matzye (1971) ©
 9- Walter Wilfong (2012) ©
 11- Helen Zelina (1982) ©
 11- Paul Zeleniuk (1924) ©
 11- Olga Roman (1926) ©
 12- Eli Tsvetanoff (1953) ©
 13- Mary Basala (2006)
 13- John Kristian (1994) ©
 13- Mary Vodilko (1998) ©
 13- N. Musolin (1923) ©
 14- John Livosky (1985) ©
 14- Larry Sozur (1998) ©
 14- Joseph Jackubek (2022) ©
 14- Mary Papac (1928) ©
 14- Veronica Kristian (1936) ©
 14- Anna Ivancho (1939) ©
 14- Anna Midlik (1943) ©
 14- Dan Vansuch (1965) ©
 14- Margaret Zappia (2006) ©
 14- Ramiro Albarran (2023)
 15- Helen Feltovich (1919) ©
 15- Dorothy Kirtos (1994) ©
 15- Peter Nickoloff (1970) ©
 15- Anna Simko (1929) ©
 15- George Petro (1959) ©
 16- Frank Flaherty (1999)</p> | <p>16- Ronald Tucci (2013) ©
 16- Nicholas Hamamzis (1959) ©
 17- Mary Kalas (1939) ©
 17- Nicholas Ellinos (1953) ©
 17- Mary Milner (1967) ©
 17- Sophie Sobey (2002) ©
 18- Joseph Sirilla ((2012) ©
 18- Helen Macala (1958) ©
 19- Christopher John White (1973) ©
 19- Rochelle McIntire (1993) ©
 19- Archpriest Sergei Garklavs (2015)
 19- Gori Pietropolo (Trudy's dad) (2017)
 19- His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius (2020)
 19- Mary Holovatiuk (1933) ©
 20- Helen Lebo (1988) ©
 20- Mary Ann Dunchak Volk (2018) ©
 20- Magdalene Carantonis (1940) ©
 21- Regina Lomme (2021)
 21- Helen Bura (2006) ©
 21- Andy Cvercko (1960) ©
 22- Thelma Jean Cialella (2021) ©
 22- Helen Gerakios (1924) ©
 22- John Patzakes (1945) ©
 24- Arnold Bickley (1977) ©
 24- Infant Lyras (1950) ©
 24- Martha Voytilla (1960) ©
 24- John Matzye (1964) ©
 24- Mike Despatorich (1965) ©
 25- Serge Mihaly Jr (2019)
 25- John Rosko (1920) ©
 25- Victor Zelina (1963) ©
 26- Emil Gozur (2006) ©
 26- Irene Gozur (2006) ©
 27- Eva Zurau (1982) ©
 27- Richard Guerrieri (2005) ©
 28- Kathryn Puharich (2005) ©
 28- Christallou Demetrios (1942) ©
 28- Steve Koties (1953) ©
 30- Joseph Malchisky (1993)
 30- Harold Zastany (2017) ©
 31- Margaret Basala (2002)
 31- Still born Zlatkoff (1937) ©</p> |
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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.

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

October 27– Mary Jane Puskas



OCTOBER CHARITY

St. Vladimir's Seminary

Assembly of Bishops XIII Concludes; Hierarchs Pray for Victims of Hurricane "Helene," Peace in the Middle East & Ukraine

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America met for their 13th meeting from September 28 – October 1, 2024. The Atlanta Inter-Parish Association graciously hosted the 29 Hierarchs with customary southern hospitality.

The Members of the Assembly expressed sorrow for the absence of their Brother Hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church and sincerely encouraged their return to participate in future Assemblies.

On Saturday, September 28, the Executive Committee met to affirm the agenda and conduct regular business. Later that evening, St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church hosted a Vespers Service followed by a fellowship meal. Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chair of the Assembly, thanked Fr. Gabriel Tannous, parish priest of St. Elias, by presenting him with a silver icon of "Christ the Vine" for hosting a memorable event.

September 29 began with Divine Liturgy at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation. The Executive Committee – Archbishop Elpidophoros, Bishop Thomas, Bishop Irinej, Metropolitan Nicolae, Bishop Saba, Metropolitan Tikhon, Metropolitan Gregory, and Archbishop Michael – concelebrated. Bishop Thomas offered the sermon. At the conclusion of the service, Archbishop Elpidophoros thanked members of the Cathedral community – Fr. Paul Kaplanis, Fr. Christos Mars, and Ginnie Roglin – for organizing and hosting the 2024 Assembly of Bishops meeting. Dr. Gayle Woloschak received one of the first honors from the Assembly of Bishops for her dedication to Orthodox Christian unity in the United States of America. Following the Divine Liturgy, the Cathedral community hosted a southern-style brunch in its hall.

On September 30, the opening session began with standard business items including the roll call, approval of the agenda, approval of the 2023 minutes, opening address by the Chair, reports from the Secretary and Treasurer, respectively Metropolitan Gregory and Archbishop Michael, the adoption of the 2025 budget, and the reelection of the Secretary and Treasurer. In his opening remarks, the Chair stated that "the unity we seek as Orthodox Christians is defined by what we confess at every Divine Liturgy: 'One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church'." Following the opening remarks, Eric Namee received one of the first honors from the Assembly of Bishops for his dedication to Orthodox Christian Unity in the United States of America.

After the morning business session, the Agencies of the Assembly – International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), Orthodox Volunteer Corps (OVC), Orthodox Christian Fellowship

(OCF), and Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministries (OYM) – presented updates on their respective ministries. After lunch, Fr. Nicholas Anton, Sangeetha Thomas, and Spyridoula Fotinis reported on the Assembly's direct ministries: Mental Health Ministries, Inter-Parish Associations, Accessibility Ministry, and the mobile app.

In its final session of the day, the Assembly discussed and approved Guidelines for Clergy Transfers – as proposed by the Committee for Clergy Matters – and reviewed the work of the Committee for Liturgy. The members were also updated on the work of other Committees, including the progress of the Parish Directory, and appointed Metropolitan Constantine as the new Episcopal Liaison to OCPM.

Following a Service for the Blessing of the Water on October 1, the presidents, rectors, and deans of the various Orthodox Christian theological schools and seminaries across the country presented on "Clerical Formation and Contemporary Challenges." They discussed mission versus chaplaincy, envisioning the skills necessary for the next twenty years, ethnic proficiency versus inculturation, converts, second vocation seminarians, seminarian marriages and families, distance/hybrid programs, building a practicum for Master of Divinity students, and chronology of vocational discernment. Their presentation was followed by an open and honest dialogue with the Hierarchs about the future of clerical formation in the country. The Hierarchs expressed interest in seeing a syllabus for a theological course that would be embraced across all our schools and seminaries.

During their deliberations, the Hierarchs called to mind and lamented the immense loss of life and vast devastation in the wake of Hurricane "Helene," whose aftermath from heavy rains and unprecedented floods leaves behind a crisis of disastrous proportions from Florida's Gulf Coast to Virginia's Appalachian Mountains, and especially the State of North Carolina. IOCC is coordinating deployment in response with the Hierarchy and local parishes for short- and long-term recovery efforts for those impacted. The Assembly encourages the faithful to support IOCC's efforts.

Further, the Assembly of Bishops reflected on and decried the escalation of violence that now threatens to embroil Gaza, the West Bank, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and the wider region. On October 7, 2023, Hamas attacked Israel in an act of terror on civilians, amounting to numerous casualties and hostages, some of whom remain in captivity. Israel's response, and the continuing devastation in Gaza, where tens of thousands of innocent civilians have been killed – while the physical and psychological wounding and crippling to upwards of one hundred thousand civilians – are as unconscionable as they are unacceptable. Israel's recent attacks against Hezbollah in Lebanon further hurl the region into a spiral of onslaught and retaliation.

In this light, the Hierarchs prayed for the **Con't next Pg**

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Assembly of Bishops con't from previous pg

safety, especially of the Patriarchates of Antioch and Jerusalem, as well as for a speedy end to conflict, the return of all hostages, and for the rebuilding of Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and the entire region in accordance with the standards of human dignity and international law, as well as a sustainable peace in the Middle East. Violence can never solve violence, and peace should be pursued at all costs.

The Assembly reiterated its “concern and profound sorrow for the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation as well as the ecclesiastical challenges in the country” and continues to pray “for a peaceful resolution to this invasion that upholds the civil and human rights of all Ukrainians ... calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the return of all captives.”[1]

Finally, the meeting ended with the establishment of the dates of Assembly XIV (2025) and XV (2026). The 2025 Assembly will meet September 20-23 in Denver, CO, and the 2026 Assembly will meet October 3-6 in Pittsburgh, PA.

and According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe” (John 20:25).

On the eighth day after the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostle Thomas and showed him His wounds. “My Lord and my God,” the Apostle cried out (John 20:28). “Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles,” says Saint John Chrysostom, “toiled through the grace of God more bravely, more zealously and tirelessly than them all, so that he went preaching over nearly all the earth, not fearing to proclaim the Word of God to savage nations.”

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” In Slavonic, it says, “The Belief of Thomas.” When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr’s death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur [Melipur], the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, in Hungary and on Mt. Athos. The name of the Apostle Thomas is associated with the Arabian (or Arapet) Icon of the Mother of God (September 6).

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - OCTOBER	2023	2024
1st Week		
2nd Week		
3rd Week		
4th Week		
5th week		

**Holy, Glorious Apostle Thomas
Commemorated on October 6**

The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in the Galilean city of Pansada and was a fisherman. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$17,381.48
Income	<u>\$15,571.44</u>
TOTAL	-1,810.04

Weekly Tithe	\$12,972
Weekly Candles	\$665
Memorial Candles	\$130
Wine	\$50
Incense	\$50
Tetrapod Candles	\$50
Icon Screen / Eternal Light	\$50
Special Flowers	\$55
Cemetery Reimbursements	\$1,664.44
Unneeded Gifts	\$25

OTHER INCOME

Shelly donation	\$2,000
Monthly Charity Collection: (SOS)	\$1,201

Mission Center Opens at Detroit Cathedral

On Saturday, September 28, St. Peter and St. Paul Cathedral, Detroit, MI celebrated its Mission Center's Grand Opening. The day began with the Divine Liturgy and an indoor procession due to the inclement weather through the cathedral and into the mission center. Priest Phillip Dage, Cathedral Dean, blessed the Mission Center as the faithful sang in procession behind him the Trisagion hymn in both English and Spanish. A festive meal was hosted afterwards by Orthodox Detroit Outreach (ODO), a local charitable non-profit organization who utilizes the Center. Fr. Phillip gave a brief summary of how ODO serves a Sunday meal to the neighborhood every week and explained how local Orthodox churches have been volunteering to help serve in this Missionary endeavor. All parishes are encouraged to volunteer to be missionaries and help serve those in need here at the Mission Center.

The Mission Center is now equipped with a brand-new commercial kitchen along with a recently expanded dining hall area and a dedicated food and clothing pantry. The repurposed school wing is now dedicated to Missionary activities with the goal of having an Orthodox ethos and Christ at the center of every event it hosts.

Notably present for the Divine Liturgy and Mission Center Grand Opening were, Archpriest Dusan Koprivica, Dean of the Michigan Deanery, Archpriest Paul Albert, Archpriest John Baker, Priest John York, and Deacon Lazarus DerGhazarian.

The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary / Commemorated on October 1

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and

spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe."

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard."

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and "for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation."

At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered more important by the Slavs then by the Greeks.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor also notes the miraculous deliverance followed an all-night Vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blachernae church, but does not mention Saints Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer. These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the Feast of the Protection, seem to postdate Saint Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under (October 2) dating Saint Andrew's death to the year 936.

The year of death might not be quite reliable, or the assertion that he survived to a ripe old age after the vision of his youth, or that his vision involved some later pagan Russian raid which met with the same fate. The suggestion that Saint Andrew was a Slav (or a Scythian according to other sources, such as, **Con't Next Pg**

Protection con't from previous pg

S. V. Bulgakov) is interesting, but not necessarily accurate. The extent of Slavic expansion and repopulation into Greece is the topic of scholarly disputes.

In the Prologue, a Russian book of the twelfth century, a description of the establishment of the special Feast marking this event states, "For when we heard, we realized how wondrous and merciful was the vision... and it transpired that Your holy Protection should not remain without festal celebration, O Ever-Blessed One!"

Therefore, in the festal celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, the Russian Church sings, "With the choirs of the Angels, O Sovereign Lady, with the venerable and glorious prophets, with the First-Ranked Apostles and with the Hieromartyrs and Hierarchs, pray for us sinners, glorifying the Feast of your Protection in the Russian Land." Moreover, it would seem that Saint Andrew, contemplating the miraculous vision was a Slav, was taken captive, and became the slave of the local inhabitant of Constantinople named Theognostus.

Churches in honor of the Protection of the Mother of God began to appear in Russia in the twelfth century. Widely known for its architectural merit is the temple of the Protection at Nerl, which was built in the year 1165 by holy Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky. The efforts of this holy prince also established in the Russian Church the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, about the year 1164.

At Novgorod in the twelfth century there was a monastery of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (the so-called Zverin monastery) In Moscow also under Tsar Ivan the Terrible the cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God was built at the church of the Holy Trinity (known as the church of Saint Basil the Blessed).

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."

Venerable Pelagia the Penitent Commemorated on October 8

Saint Pelagia the Penitent was converted to Christianity by Saint Nonnus, Bishop of Edessa (Saturday of Cheese-fare Week). Before her acceptance of Christianity through Baptism, Pelagia was head of a dance troupe in Palestinian Antioch, living a life of frivolity and prostitution.

One day Pelagia, elegantly dressed, was making her way past a church where Saint Nonnus was preaching a sermon. Believers turned their faces away from the sinner, but the bishop glanced after her. Struck by the outer beauty of Pelagia and having foreseen the spiritual greatness within her, the saint prayed in his cell for a long time to the Lord for the sinner. He told his fellow bishops that the prostitute put them all to shame. He explained that she took great care to adorn her body in order to appear beautiful in the eyes of men. "We... take no thought for the adornment of our wretched souls," he said.

Saint Pelagia with Saint Nonnus

On the following day, when Saint Nonnus was teaching in the church about the dread Last Judgment and its consequences, Pelagia came. The teaching made a tremendous impression upon her. With the fear of God and weeping tears of repentance, she asked the saint for Baptism. Seeing her sincere and full repentance, Bishop Nonnus baptized her.

By night the devil appeared to Pelagia, urging her to return to her former life. The saint prayed, signed herself with the Sign of the Cross, and the devil vanished.

Three days after her baptism, Saint Pelagia gathered up her valuables and took them to Bishop Nonnus. The bishop ordered that they be distributed among the poor saying, "Let this be wisely dispersed, so that these riches gained by sin may become a wealth of righteousness." After this Saint Pelagia journeyed to Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives. She lived there in a cell, disguised as the monk Pelagius, living in ascetic seclusion, and attaining great spiritual gifts. When she died, she was buried in her cell.



*A spiritual father, like a signpost, just
indicates the way.*

You yourself must follow the path.

St. Nikon of Optina



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