



# 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 13**

9:35 AM: Hours

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

### **Wednesday, October 16**

6:30 PM: Public Meeting City of Campbell

### **Thursday, October 17**

11:00 AM: Book Club

### **Saturday, October 19**

2:00 PM: Pick-up BBQ Chicken Dinner

6:00 PM: Great Vespers / Confessions

### **Sunday, October 20**

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social

## **2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (Epistle)**

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

## **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

## **Dean of Cleveland Deanery Honored for 30 Years of Service to the Church**

On Saturday, October 5, and Sunday, October 6, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest made an archpastoral visit to St. Nicholas Church, Mogadore, OH.

Serving with Archbishop Daniel were Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Archpriest Nicholas Wyslutsky, Rector and Dean of Cleveland, and Protodeacon Samuel Slimak. During the Little Entrance, Protodeacon Samuel was awarded the kamilavka.

At the conclusion of the service, Fr. Nicholas received a Synodal Gramota on the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Gloria Molenaar, Bill and Virginia Kuyon received Diocesan Gramotas for their dedicated love and service to the Church.

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## **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.

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### **Orthodox Church in America’s 2025 Desk Calendar Now Available**

The 2025 Desk Calendar of the Orthodox Church in America is currently in print and is now available in PDF format.

As usual, all clergy, active and retired, and clergy widows, will receive a complimentary copy in the mail in the coming three weeks. Additional copies may be requested for a \$20.00 donation per unit to offset the costs of printing and shipping. To order, please contact us via email at [yearbook@oca.org](mailto:yearbook@oca.org).

The calendar includes ample space for daily notations and memos and a directory of OCA ministries, departments, boards, commissions, diocesan chanceries, and seminaries. Key liturgical commemorations and significant historical dates for the year are also noted.

The Desk Calendar does not include diocesan and national events such as diocesan assemblies, seminary commencement dates, Holy Synod, and Metropolitan Council meetings. These dates are indicated on the Web Calendar of our website’s homepage.

This year’s calendar theme is “Gathered Together By Christ,” which is also the theme of the upcoming 21st All-American Council, which will take place in Phoenix, AZ, from July 14-18, 2025.

The cover features pictures from previous councils but also historical photos of Saint Tikhon of Moscow whose 100th anniversary of his repose will be celebrated in 2025, as well as photos of Matushka Olga of Alaska whose canonization is expected to take place also next year.

The quotes found in the 2025 Desk Calendar are from Saint Tikhon of Moscow: Instructions & Teachings for the American Orthodox Faithful (1898-1907), STM Press, 2016.

## PRAYER LIST– Updated 10-09-24

**PARISHIONERS:** Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Sherrie 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:** AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Emil Hutyan / AP Vladimir Demshuk / Fr. Michael Rustic / Fr. Edward / Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family & parish

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Frank Batura (Fr.) / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Karen Debiec / Donna Chiarelli / Trudy Ellmore (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabo) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Paula Kennedy / 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.) / Joanna Shepelevich / Julia Shirilla / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Zoland Zile / Brian (Shirilla) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Ellen (Clark) / Ellen (Kessler) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Karen (Gemmel) / Karen (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Katie (Garrity) / Paul (Kolesar) / Paula (Voytilla) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Richard (Tusinac) /

**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

### First Orthodox Christian Deaf Association Conference to be Held in Dallas, TX

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, Archbishop of Dallas and the South, the Orthodox Christian Deaf Association has announced its first of an annual conference to be held in Dallas, TX at St Seraphim Orthodox Cathedral from January 17 - 19, 2025. The topic is "Faith in Silence" and is for Orthodox Deaf, hard of hearing, and all those, clergy and laity, who want to help make the Orthodox faith more accessible to the deaf community.

For those who are Orthodox Deaf and hard of hearing, some scholarship funds will be available to help offset the cost of attending the conference. To register for this event, please click here [OCDA 2025 Conference Registration](#) and complete the form.

### 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

October 27– Mary Jane Puskas

### OCTOBER CHARITY

#### **UPDATED**

Hurricane Relief

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## OCTOBER Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

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### **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 / In memory of my parents George & Mary Rusnak– Given by sub-deacon Vladimir

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

**Tetrapod Candles:** In honor of Karen Debiec 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

**Flowers:** In memory of my sisters Mary Jane Puskas, Nadine Pallai, Ann Sanders– Given by Sub-deacon Vladimir

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<u>\$50 per month</u>	<u>\$30 per month</u>	<u>\$25 per month</u>
*Wine	*St. Herman candles	Incense
*Bulletin	*St. Panteleimon Icon candles	
*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light	*Protection Icon candles	<b>Flowers</b> - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time– <i>Updated</i>
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	
*Tetrapod Candles		

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### **PCC and Diocesan Chancellors and Treasurers Have Joint Meeting in Preparation for Upcoming AAC**

On the evening of October 2, 2024, the Pre-Conciliar Commission (PCC) and Diocesan Chancellors and Treasurers held a joint meeting via teleconference to discuss items surrounding the upcoming 21st All-American Council, July 14-18, in Phoenix, AZ. The session was led by Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, and included presentations on budget assessments, updates on the canonization of Matushka Olga, and the AAC youth program.

Mr. Andrew Smith, Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, presented a proposed method for collecting AAC assessments and outlined a draft budget developed in collaboration with Pdn. Peter Ilchuk, Council Manager, and Priest Jason and Mka Ashley Foster, Council Youth Coordinators. This budget aims to enable a full and enjoyable council while remaining sensitive to financial constraints.

The PCC unanimously approved the draft budget. A tentative date of March 1, 2025, has been set for diocesan assessments to be submitted.

The group was offered an update on upcoming events surrounding the canonization of Matushka Olga, including the uncovering of her relics, with concrete dates to be announced following the consideration and approval of the Holy Synod in November.

Fr. Alexander emphasized the importance of the AAC as a moment for reflection and discernment within the life of the Church. He reminded the Chancellors to engage with His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon's call to reflection, while using the study guide provided, and asked them to encourage all parishes to participate and submit their own reflections to [grandinvitation@oca.org](mailto:grandinvitation@oca.org).

After the PCC had been dismissed, the Diocesan Chancellors and Treasurers remained to review a number of additional items.

The meeting also included updates from Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America, regarding a new life insurance program for the employees of the OCA, aimed at providing coverage on a voluntary basis. More information will be shared after the upcoming Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod Fall Sessions.

He also offered an update on the Financial Health Initiative from the Office of Pastoral Life. This initiative is supported by a substantial grant from the Lily Foundation and looks to address clergy financial challenges.

Looking forward, Fr. Alexander suggested an additional meeting for diocesan chancellors in the new year and urged them to consider candidates with relevant professional experience for upcoming openings in the Metropolitan Council.

The Metropolitan Council meets for its regular Fall 2024 Session in October.

## October's Reposed List- Updated 10-9

- 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) ©  
3- George Robert Vasile (2019) ©  
4- Louis Boldish (1960) ©  
4- Michael Tevonyoh (1987) ©  
4- John Hanuscin (1920) ©  
6- Helen Korechko (2021) ©  
6- Kaliopé 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) ©  
10- Mary Vasile (1995) ©  
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) ©  
16- Frank Flaherty (1999)  
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 Volk Dunchak (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)

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### Metropolitan Council Offers Prayers for Those in the Path of Hurricane Milton

The Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America, meeting today in its Regular Fall 2024 Session under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

The Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America resolved to express its concern for the communities of the Orthodox Church in America and for all the people of Florida threatened by Hurricane Milton, and to assure them of its prayer to Christ, "whom wind and sea obey" (Lk. 8:25), that he would graciously have mercy on those in the path of the hurricane and preserve life and property from the rage of this storm.

## Diocesan Assembly Congratulates Metropolitan Tikhon on his Name Day

On October 9, the feast of St. Tikhon of Moscow, Enlightener of North America, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest and the 63rd Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest congratulated their primate, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon on the occasion of his name day.

A gentle manner adorned you, you showed kindness and compassion to those who repented, you were firm and unbending in confessing the Orthodox Faith and zealous in loving the Lord.

O Holy Hierarch of Christ and Confessor Tikhon, pray for us that we may not be separated from the love of God, which is of Christ Jesus, our King and Lord. (Kontakion, Tone 2)

Your Beatitude, our Most Blessed Lord and Father,

We, the clergy and assembled delegates of the 63rd Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest, gathered in prayer at Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church in Mogadore, Ohio, in the presence of our Most Holy Mother of God venerated in Her Chicago-Tikhvin Icon, cordially greet you with the celebration of the Glorification of Saint Tikhon, Apostle to America – your esteemed heavenly patron.

Beloved Vladika, the peace and stability which we continue to experience now, in the twelfth year of your leadership of the Orthodox Church in America, stems directly from your faithful emulation of the spiritual qualities of this holy hierarch and confessor. We are sincerely grateful for your archpastoral love, efforts and dedication, which are truly inspirational.

Your Beatitude, please accept our congratulations on the celebration of your Namesday. By the prayers of the Most Holy Mother of God and the Holy Hierarch and Confessor Saint Tikhon, may Our Merciful Lord and Good Shepherd continue to grant you the health, strength and wisdom to lead us, your rational flock, to His Heavenly Kingdom.

With gratitude and love in Christ,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

And the Clergy and Delegates of the 63rd Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest

## Relics of St. John of Chicago to be Presented at Holy Trinity Cathedral

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, has announced the upcoming celebration of the Hieromartyr John of Chicago, October 30 and October 31. This is the annual celebration of the saint who labored throughout the diocese for over a decade, and even more

specifically, built what would become the Diocesan Cathedral of Chicago and the Midwest, Holy Trinity Cathedral.

This year's observance takes on significant meaning because for the first time, the relics of St. John of Chicago will be presented for veneration and enshrined in the Cathedral he built. Priest Alexander Koranda, the Dean of the historic Cathedral reflected, "this is an incredible moment for our Cathedral and Orthodox Christians throughout Chicago as it is the first time that St. John's holy remains will return to Chicago and permanently be available for veneration." The local saint is revered by Orthodox Christians in Chicago, and throughout America for his tireless work, and for building the first Orthodox church in Chicago.

After the martyrdom of St. John in October of 1917, the precise day in which the Funeral Services for the Burial of a Priest were served is unclear, however it is clear that this occurred in the St. Catherine Cathedral in Tsarskoye Selo, where the saint was assigned. After the funeral services, the body of Fr. John Kochurov was interred below St. Catherine Cathedral.

In the 1930s, the cathedral was destroyed and was not rebuilt until 2006 and consecrated in 2010. In 2006, during the excavation of the foundation of the cathedral which had been blown up by the Bolsheviks, the relics of the Holy Martyr John Kochurov were believed to be acquired. Anthropological studies were to be carried out at the Institute of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences with the assistance of forensic experts from the Central Internal Affairs Directorate in Saint Petersburg and the region. According to the Dean of Tsarskoye Selo district, the rector of Saint Sophia Sobor, Archpriest Gennady Zverev, "when the cathedral exploded, the skull of Saint John was fragmented into several parts."

A portion of the relics were promised to His Eminence Archbishop Job (Osacky) at the canonization of St. John in 1994 if they were discovered. On a pilgrimage to Tikhvin, Russia in 2016, His Eminence Archbishop Paul (Gassios) and his delegation, visited St. Catherine Cathedral and inquired about the relics of the Chicago saint to bring to the Cathedral. At that time the relics were not being distributed as they were still being verified that the remains were indeed St. John's.

This past summer, for the 20th anniversary of the return of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel traveled with a delegation to Tikhvin, Russia, and during that celebration had the opportunity to speak with His Eminence Metropolitan Varsonofy of St. Petersburg and Ladoga, who gave a blessing for a portion of the relics to be taken back to the Cathedral in Chicago. The delegation was received at St. Catherine's and took the opportunity to pray and venerated the relics of St. John. A portion of the relics were given to Archbishop Daniel for the Cathedral at that time. **Con't pg 8**

## Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council / Commemorated on October 13

Today the Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council under the holy Patriarch Tarasius (February 25).

The Synod of 787, the second to meet at Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine VI.

The Council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype (the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because “no man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18).

In Greek practice, the holy God-bearing Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council are commemorated on October 11 (if it is a Sunday), or on the Sunday which follows October 11. According to the Slavic menaion, however, if the eleventh falls on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, the service is moved to the preceding Sunday.

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - <i>OCTOBER</i>	2023	2024
<b>1st Week</b>		
Vespers	Was in Sept.	No Vespers
Liturgy	76 / 45	65 / 44
<b>2nd Week</b>		
Vespers	9	
Liturgy	61 / 42	
<b>3rd Week</b>		
Vespers	5	
Liturgy	57 / 36	
<b>4th Week</b>		
Vespers	No Vespers	
Liturgy	58 / 36	
<b>5th week</b>		
Vespers	8	
Liturgy	70 / 43	

### Luke 8:5-15 (Gospel)

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

### OCTOBER FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$3,896.43
Income	<u>\$5,332.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+1,435.57</b>

Weekly Tithe	\$5,034
Weekly Candles	\$93
Icon Screen / Eternal Light	\$100
Unneeded Gifts	\$25
Rubric Book Reimbursement	\$80

Monthly Charity Collection: (Hurricane Relief) \$398

## **Relics con't from pg 6**

“We know and can even feel the presence of St. John here at the Cathedral, but having him physically present, and having his bones – the bones that he offered in martyrdom to Christ – will leave a profound effect on those who pray at this holy temple,” added Fr. Alexander.

There will also be a unique opportunity for those gathered to donate to the permanent reliquary that will be placed before the icon of St. John in the Cathedral. “We wanted to wait to acquire the reliquary so that people had a chance to support this special and one time project. Opportunities like this do not come often and it gives people the chance to engage in this moment in history and offer something back to God and His saints.”

The Cathedral invites clergy and faithful to attend the feast of St. John of Chicago starting with Vigil at 6:00 p.m. on October 30. At this service, the relics will be processed to the center of the Cathedral for veneration. The Hierarchical Liturgy will be served the following day on October 31, at 9:30 a.m.

## **Address of the Most Reverend DANIEL Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest to the Annual Diocesan Assembly Saint Nicholas Church, Mogadore, Ohio October 7, 2024 – Saints Sergius and Bacchus of Syria**

Beloved Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of our God-protected Diocese, Delegates, Guests, and Observers:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

It is with great gratitude to the Triune God that I greet you and welcome you to the 2024 annual Diocesan Assembly, convoked in this Temple dedicated to our Father Among the Saints Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker, “a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and a teacher of temperance.” We seek his heavenly intercession during our time together. We have also just prayed the Akathist to the Mother of God venerated in her Tikhvin Icon. She is the heavenly protectress, sovereign Lady and Queen of our Diocese, of the Flock of Her Son in this corner of the sheepfold. And, coming before her in prayer, we offer our thanks for the motherly guidance and protection she extends to all of our parish communities, to our families and loved ones, and indeed, to each and every one of us. May She continue to guide, guard, and protect us all!

In his first epistle, the Holy Apostle Peter writes to the early Christian community living in Asia Minor. He refers to his audience as “the chosen pilgrims of the diaspora.” Meaning those away from their native lands and, even more significantly, interpreted by the Church to mean all of us who sojourn on earth in this “vallis lacrimarum,” this “valley of tears.” He speaks to us who are

“away from the Lord” as Saint Paul says, in this earthly exile.

The Apostle Peter writes: “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

These words speak beautifully to us as the One Church of Christ gathered into one body, one holy nation, and called into one community of faith. These words speak to us and can be applied to us, in this place and throughout this week as we gather expressing, revealing, manifesting the Church as it sojourns in the Diocese of the Midwest, in these twelve states of the Midwest.

Of course, Saint Peter’s words and the imagery he uses are reminiscent of the Old Testament language used to describe Israel. And we, gathered here today and even more visibly on Wednesday as we gather for the Divine Liturgy, are a full expression of the New Israel, making its way to its true homeland which is the Kingdom of Heaven—just as God’s Chosen People, the Hebrews, sojourned for 40 years as they made their way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. Saint Paul reminds us of our own sojourning through this world in his epistle to the Philippians as he writes: “...our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20).

During their desert wanderings, the people of Israel were of their way to a set destination: the Promised Land. Although the people had a sense of focus and destination, normal, daily life continued. It was not one long, endless, joyous procession across the Red Sea and then through the desert for forty years. People suffered the desert heat by day and the cold of the desert nights. They lived, died, married, suffered, hungered and thirsted, fought, struggled, mourned and rejoiced, worshipped, doubted and hoped for forty years. Their daily lives and daily human experiences were part of their journey.

AND SO, as we continue our earthly sojourn through these days and time, we, the Church, continue our life and our divinely entrusted mission of bearing witness to the Good News of freedom and of eternal life in the Kingdom that has been revealed to us and is yet to come.

Having served as your bishop, shepherd, and servant for over two years now, I continue to feel greatly blessed to have been called to serve and lead this Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America in its continuing sojourn, this adventure in which the ongoing and ceaseless work of the Gospel is so evident and so vibrantly lived and celebrated.

### **Diocesan Updates:**

I would like now to take a moment to reflect upon the past year in our Diocese, which means **Con't next pg**

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reflecting upon all of you and all of our faithful who gather in worship and mission throughout this far-flung corner of the Lord's Vineyard. During this past year, our local church received many blessings from on high, suffered losses, experienced gains, and has been faced with new challenges. Throughout this ongoing sojourn, our Diocese has remained faithful and true to the Faith handed down through the Ages. We have celebrated the presence of Christ among us. We have lived and proclaimed the Gospel, and have ministered to those who are already a part of this family we call Church as well as to the many who have come to us asking the deeper questions of faith and life that can only be found in the fullness of Faith that is Holy Orthodoxy.

The increase in blessings that we have seen, especially in this past year, is a beautiful and certain sign that the Lord is blessing us, calling us, and inspiring us, to move forward and to face new challenges and new opportunities in proclaiming the fullness of the Apostolic Faith.

### **Highlights and Notable Evens of the Past Year**

#### **Parish Visitations:**

As you have often heard me say, visiting our parish communities is the highlight and the most rewarding and uplifting part of the archpastoral ministry. In the past two years I have been able to visit well over two thirds of our communities and look forward to closing that gap within the next few months.

To gather in prayer and fellowship with the clergy of the diocese and with the faithful within the local parish families is a true blessing. I am happy to note that, for the most part, our parishes are seeing an increase in growth, indeed this is a significant aspect of life in our Diocese—something for which we are grateful and something which we should not take for granted. Responding with hospitality, love, the certainty of our faith and the beautify of the Divine Services is key in the ongoing work of evangelization- and this should and does take place primarily on the parish level, in your communities, in your parish churches.

Parish visits are often planned to coincide with special parish anniversaries, including the following which were observed in the past year: Saint Michael the Archangel, St Louis, 115 years; Protection of the Holy Virgin, Royalton, IL, 115 years; Saint Demetrius, Jackson, MI, 55 years; Saint Nicholas, Mentor, 50 years; Saint Luke, Palos Hills, 40 years. And during my visit to Saint Nicholas Mission, Pella, IA, for its 20th anniversary, I was able to visit the newly purchased and first permanent building of the parish community. I want to also mention that several of our parishes are in the position of having to plan for larger temples and bigger spaces in which to gather. Some are literally "bursting at the seams."

#### **Ordinations:**

To meet the needs of our communities, both now and in the future, we must continue to support our clergy and clergy must continue to support one another and all of us must continue to actively support and encourage vocations to ordained ministry in the Church. I want to note that in the past year, I have celebrated the ordinations of three priests for our Diocese: These new priests are Priest John York, assigned to Holy Trinity Church, Detroit, Priest Phillip Dage, assigned to Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Detroit, and Priest Peter Ries, assigned to Holy Myrrhbearers Church in St Cloud (which was also elevated to the status of a parish this year). I have also celebrated the ordinations of three new deacons: Deacon John Eller, serving at Holy Annunciation, Saint James, MO, Deacon Justin Hickman, serving as deacon and leading the mission of Saint Raphael in Quincy, IL, and Deacon Lazarus Der-Ghazarian, serving at Holy Trinity Church, Detroit.

**Clergy Awards:** In keeping with the tradition of recognizing priests at various points of their priestly service, many of our priestly brothers have received both Diocesan and Synodal Awards during this past year. I often present these awards during parish visits; some have opted for them to be given this week, during our celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday. You can find the list of this year's awards on our diocesan website. However, I do want to make mention of two awards: this year the dignity of wearing the mitre was awarded by the Holy Synod to Archpriest John Zdinak and Archpriest Andrew Morbey. Many years to them and to all those who have received awards in the past twelve months!

#### **Clergy transfers into the Diocese of the Midwest:**

In addition to those already mentioned, since our last Diocesan Assembly we have welcomed several priests from other Dioceses into the presbyterate of the Diocese of the Midwest. These include Father Nikolai Lochmatow, assigned as Dean of Saint George Cathedral, Chicago; Father Daniel Greeson, assigned as Rector of Saints Peter and Paul Church, Burr Ridge, IL, and Father Paul Hodge, new Rector at Holy Trinity Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

#### **Retirements:**

The past year also saw six priests requesting and being granted retirement. These are Archpriest Andrew Clements, Archpriest Richard Flom, Archpriest Paul Albert, Archpriest Lev Kopistiansky, Archpriest Andrew Jaye, and Archpriest Jonathan Proctor. We pray especially for the good health and healing of Father Jonathan as he faces health challenges and we pray that all these priests, who have served the Church for so many years, will enjoy the reward of a happy and healthy retirement and that the Lord Himself will be the recompense for their dedicated service to the Diocese of the Midwest and, indeed, to the entire Church.

#### **Reposed Clergy:**

We also call to remembrance the clergy whom the Lord has called to Himself: His Grace Bishop ***Con't next pg***

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Mathias (5/4); Archpriest Moses Berry (1/12); and Archpriest Alexis Fedec (7/14). I also want to remember my eleven predecessors in the See of Chicago in its various iterations who have labored here and are gone to their rest: Archbishop/Metropolitan Leonty, Bishop Dmitri, Dionysius, Bishop Alexis, Bishop Paul, Archbishop/Metropolitan Theophilus, Archbishop John, Bishop Boris, Archbishop Job, Bishop Mathias, and Archbishop Paul. May their memory be eternal!

### **Seminarians:**

The Diocese of the Midwest currently has eight (8) seminarians studying at Saint Vladimir Seminary (3) and Saint Tikhon Seminary (5). This past summer, our seminarians participated in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Return of the Tikhvin Icon at Holy Trinity Cathedral, participating as pilgrims and also assisting with the work of set-up, cooking, and assisting the many pilgrims who gathered from throughout the Midwest. The annual seminarians retreat followed in which they were able to spend personal time with me and with some of the local clergy, thus strengthening their ties with and commitment to future service in our Diocese.

I am grateful for these men and am also grateful to their families and to the parishes throughout the Diocese who have responded to the annual September Support our Seminarians Appeal. As you know, the cost of educating priests for the future is high. We support these men financially by having a line item in our budget and through the generous donations of clergy, faithful, and parishes of the Diocese, especially through the S.O.S. (Support our Seminarians) annual appeal. Thank you for this support. The seminarians often mention to me how grateful they are for the way in which our diocese stands behind them and supports.

Making connections within the Diocese is an especially important part of our seminarians' priestly formation. I encourage parishes to continue to support them in whatever other ways may be possible. And to encourage the young men of your parishes to consider the possibility of serving the Church as a deacon or priest.

### **New Chapels and Parishes:**

Earlier this year, on its Altar Feast, I elevated Holy Myrrhbearers Mission, St. Cloud, MN, to the status of parish. The community has seen wonderful growth, first under the leadership of Father Andrew Jaye, and continues to grow with the priestly service of Father Peter Ries. Additionally, the Saint Macrina the Younger Chapel was established in Waupaca, MI. A new chapel, dedicated to the memory of Saint Maria of Paris was also blessed this past July as part of the blessing and dedication of the newly renovated building of Reconciliation Services in Kansas City, KS.

## **Saint Theodosius Cathedral Fire:**

On Tuesday, May 28, I received the type of phone call that no one wants to receive: Saint Theodosius Cathedral was on fire. Father Jan Czimar, the Dean, and Father John Zdinak, the former Dean, called me as they were on their way to the cathedral, defying speed limits and, when they arrived, they saw firetrucks and fire crews battling the fire that had erupted on the cathedral's roof. Thankfully, no one was injured. Thankfully, though damaged, the temple was not destroyed. Thankfully, the parish community has stood strong, resilient and hope-filled and has been working together and worshipping together and looks forward to the day they will once again worship in the restored cathedral. Thank you to Father Jan and the fine example of leadership he has been providing in this difficult chapter of the cathedral's long and brilliant history. Thank you, as well, to all of you and your communities which have been supportive in so many ways: through financial support and the Twentieth Anniversary of the Return of the Tikhvin Icon:

This past June 26th marked the twentieth anniversary of the return of the Wonderworking Tikhvin from our Diocese, where it was guarded for over fifty years, to the Monastery of the Dormition in the city of Tikhvin, Russia, its home for centuries. To observe this significant anniversary, a special celebration was held at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago. His Beatitude Metropolitan TIKHON led eight additional hierarchs and hundreds of clergy, monastics, and faithful from throughout the Diocese and beyond in praying the Vigil Service and the Divine Liturgy of the Feast. The Liturgy was followed by a procession through the streets of Chicago to Saint George Cathedral where a closing moleben was sung and a festal luncheon was served. It was a highpoint of the year for our Diocese and, having heard from many who were present, also a source of great blessings. I want to note that on that day I also issued an archpastoral decree (ukaz) establishing the feast of the Finding of the Tikhvin Icon as a vigil-rank feast to be celebrated in all the churches, missions, and chapels of the Diocese of the Midwest.

The celebration held in Chicago was brought to fulfillment when, at the invitation of His Grace Bishop Mstislav of Tikhon, I participated in the anniversary celebration held at the Monastery in Tikhvin. To return to the Monastery after having been there when the Icon was transferred there twenty years ago was a great personal blessing. I was accompanied on that pilgrimage by Archpriest Alexander Garklavs, Priest Alexander Koranda, and Reader Justinian Tatooles, my kelenik.

If not already the case, it is my hope that all the parishes and missions of our Diocese will obtain a copy of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God for veneration in our temples and as a reminder that the Diocese has been dedicated to the Mother of God under this special title and as venerated in this Holy Icon. The Chancery staff is available to help facilitate this through the support of your much-appreciated prayers. **NOTE: The rest of the address will be con't in next week's bulletin.**