



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



FEBRUARY Bulletin Sponsor- OPEN

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, February 16

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /
Choir Rehearsal / Social by Sisterhood

4 - 7 PM: Calling Hours for George Kolesar @ Hig-
gind Funeral Home in Poland

Monday, February 17

10-11AM: Calling hours at Church

11:00 AM: Funeral Service Followed by mercy meal

Wednesday, February 19

6:30 PM: City Council Meeting

Saturday, February 22

6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, February 23

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Choir Rehearsal / Pot-
luck social organized by Council (see Nancy T)

MONTHLY CHARITY FOR 2025

January: *OCMC*: \$900 + \$300 from the church
Total \$1,200

February: *CA Fire Relief*:

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

March 9 – Aleksandra & Olivia Ter & all those who
lost their lives in the Washington, DC & Philadelphia
plane crashes

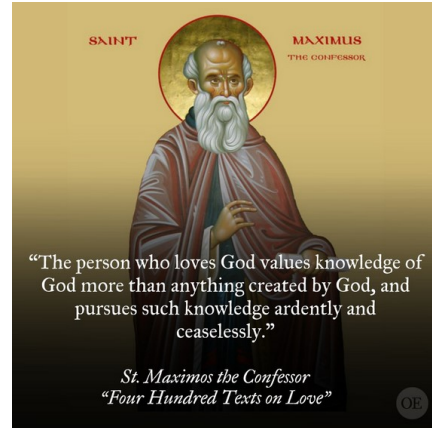
February 2025 Reader Schedule

February 16: Deacon David Gemmel (Prodigal Son)

February 23: Natalia Simko (Meatfare Sunday)

FEBRUARY CHARITY

Wild fires in CA to Greek Cathedral
in Los Angeles



The Role of An Orthodox Parish Today

The key task set before each parish, each family, every individual Orthodox Christian, is this: to confess that you are an indivisible part of the Church of Christ and direct your entire personal, family and parish life on the basis of that confession, focusing your spiritual strength and consecration in the parish church.

True parish life grows organically from within, from the Altar, the Throne, the Eucharist. Strictly speaking, the entire church establishment, its “organizational” aspect, is based around the community gathering for the Eucharist. As Fr. Alexander Schmemmann notes, that is precisely how the first generation of Christians understood community life:

“Only the Sacraments made this organization of Christians something more than a simple human institution with its directors and subordinates, authority and obedience. Instead this was a living organism imbued with the Holy Spirit. All human “service”, all human interrelations become in it a manifestation of that same Spirit, a service to Christ Himself among His brethren.”^[2]

<https://orthochristian.com/163302.html>

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

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

padrebartek@gmail.com

PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Send a "Thinking of You" card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please

His Grace Bishop Nikodhim Participates at the Funeral of His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

On January, 29, His Grace Bishop Nikodhim of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese traveled to Albania to represent His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and the Orthodox Church in America at the funeral services of His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Albania. Accompanying him were the Archpriest Mark Doku, Chancellor of the Albanian Archdiocese, and lay representatives Matthew Sotir, Vice-Chair of the Archdiocesan Council, and trustee Lou Foundos.

The funeral brought together clergy and faithful from across Albania, as well as church leaders, civic officials, and interfaith representatives from around the world. In an atmosphere of both mourning and hope in Christ's resurrection, they gathered to honor the extraordinary ministry of Archbishop Anastasios, whose leadership and missionary vision revitalized the Orthodox Church in Albania after decades of persecution.

Following the funeral services, His Grace and the delegation remained in Albania to strengthen ties with the local Church there. On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, His Grace and Fr. Mark concelebrated with members of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in Albania at the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Tirana.

New OCA Group Life Program Available

Insurance Systems Group, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio, is pleased to announce a new Group Life Insurance Program for clergy and church employees of The Orthodox Church in America. This program was first presented to the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod in October and November 2024.

This new Group Life Insurance Program is designed to offer affordable guaranteed issue life insurance solutions with no medical exams up to a maximum death benefit of \$150,000. This means all Orthodox clergy (bishops, priests, and deacons) and lay employees (working at least 20 hours/week) of OCA churches are eligible to secure financial protection for their families without the traditional hoops of paramedical exams.

As a reminder, the 12th All-American Council passed a resolution that requires all OCA parishes to provide at least \$50,000 of term life insurance benefits to their priests. The Group Life Insurance Program is one option that parishes can utilize to meet or exceed this requirement.

More information can be found on national oca website or by contacting Kevin McMaster at kmcmaster@inssys.com.

Insurance Systems Group, Inc. (orthodoxinsurance.com) is a premier Orthodox insurance broker in the U.S. and the creator of the OCA Group Affiliated Program (GAP) for OCA churches across the country. Insurance Systems will be exhibiting at the 21st All American Council with more information on both Group programs

PRAYER LIST– Updated 1-29

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Sherrie Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / George Kolesar / Heidi Kuzemchak / Barbara Kolesar / Matushka Helen Psinka / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Melanie Yannitto / Marion Zwinski

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: AB Alexander from Dallas / AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyman / Fr. Deacon James Hryb / Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family & parish

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Paul Demkosky (Fr.) / Trudy Ellmore / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / James Malchisky (Fr.) / Mea Mahan / Mary Mahan / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Teri Petroff (Fr.) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Diane Ruff / Julia Shirilla / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Brian (Shirilla) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Ellen (Clark) / Ellen (Kessler) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Joseph (Vansuch) / 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.

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - February	2024	2025
1st Week		
Feast Vespers for 3 Hierarchs	No record	6 14
Feast Liturgy for 3 Hierarchs		
Feast for Meeting Vespers	6	7
Liturgy for Meeting	10	50 / 34
2nd Week		
Vespers	9	No Vespers
Liturgy	60 / 46	40 / 28
3rd Week		
Vespers	8	
Liturgy	54 / 34	
Vespers	7	
Liturgy	70 / 47	
5th week		

FEBRUARY Celebrations

Birthday

- 2 Dorothy Shirilla
- 3 Sonia Tsvetkoff / David Dionisio
- 4 Nathaniel Bremer
- 5 Zoland Zile
- 6 Alex Zarynow / Karen Simko
- 10 Mat. Pauline Gemmel / Fr. Eli Bremer
- 11 Lidija Arvan / Marcy Kubancsek / Cindy Ferrick
- 12 Marion Zwinski / AP James Gleason
- 13 Dr. James Hryb
- 14 Matushka Ann Lardas
- 15 Martha Centofanti
- 1 Carol Ruff / Jo Ann Kalantzis / Deena Vansuch
- 17 Nadine Sabo
- 19 Shelly Nicoloff / Vitaly Muzyka
- 20 Julianna Kusinski
- 22 Joey Clark
- 24 Marc Elash
- 25 Sandra Bufalini / Robert Willison
- 26 Andy Basile / Pani Bernadette Zarynow / Basil Glovinsky
- 28 George Rusnak

Anniversary

- 1–2020 His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland
- 9-1969 AP John Steffaro (Priestly ordination)
- 13 John & Maureen Koval
- 14-2004 The Most Blessed Tikhon—Consecration as Bishop
- 28 Michael & Natalia Simko

Names Day

- | | | |
|--------------------|----|---------------|
| 6 Dorothy Shirilla | 10 | Cindy Ferrick |
| 8 Cindy Ferrick | 28 | Maureen Koval |

MARCH Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: OPEN

Wine:

Incense:

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of George Kolesar– Given by Joann Sirilla & Stacy & Vince Donofrio

Altar Candles: OPEN

Tetrapod Candles:

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

St. Panteleimon Icon Candles:

Protection Icon Candles: OPEN

St. John the Baptist Candles: OPEN

Flowers: In memory of sub-deacon John Zelina– OPEN

<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		

Luke 15:11-32 (Gospel)

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Epistle)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

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FEBRUARY Reposed List

- 1- Jane Sablak (2004) ©
- 1- John Jay Truhan (2004) ©
- 1- Helen Gozur (2006) ©
- 1- Thomas Livosky (1951) ©
- 3- Ann Sature (2012)
- 3- Nicholas Tsaknis (1952) ©
- 3- Mary Lisko (1953) ©
- 3- Mike Alesafis (1960) ©
- 4- Michael Livosky (2003) ©
- 5- Mike Alesafis (1960) ©
- 6- Bessie Poullos (1961) ©
- 7- Rossetas Kallis (1958) ©
- 8- Joseph Durshaw (1972) ©
- 8- Andrew Libertin (1985) ©
- 8- Anna Graban (1937) ©
- 8- Steve Hamanzi (1946) ©
- 8- Maxim Berezoussky (1964) ©
- 9- George Cross (2020) ©
- 10- George Bobosh (1984) ©
- 10- Steve Elash (1998) ©
- 10- T. Rago (1924) © (no name)
- 10- Helen Holubanich (1924) ©
- 10- Steve Stavridis (1935) ©
- 12- V. Rev. Nicholas Vansuch (1987) ©
- 12- John Holibonich (2004) ©
- 12- Theodore Kalos (1932) ©
- 13- Bishop Varlaam (2020)
- 13- Vera Kristian (1980) ©
- 14- Emmanuel Balale (1956) ©
- 14- Bertha Ginnis (1961) ©
- 14- John Macala (1963) ©
- 14- Nicholas Angelides (1963) ©
- 15- Justina Popodich (grandmother)
- 15- George Billik (1998) ©
- 15- John Timkovich (2004) ©
- 15- Thelmia Psaras (1930) ©
- 15- Alfteria Jaetanis (1930) ©
- 15- Anna Sirilla (1955) ©
- 15- Mary Shirilla (1962) ©
- 16- Albert Bartek (1952)
- 16- Paul Cole (1997) ©
- 16- John Stamatinas (1946) ©
- 16- Infant Klimis (1 hr old) (1956) ©
- 16- Ann Leschinsky (1956) ©
- 17- Metropolitan Orestes (1977)
- 17- Myron Bilchik (1982) ©
- 17- Emmanuel Balale (1956) ©
- 17- Robert Fischer (1995) ©
- 18- Virginia Nosik (2004) ©
- 18- George Caleris (1957) ©
- 18- Paul Petruschak (2024)
- 19- Elizabeth Antas (1921) ©
- 19- George Berezovsky (1922) ©
- 19- Michael Voyis (1949) ©
- 19- Ann Allshouse (1984) ©
- 20- Daniel Shirilla (1992) ©
- 21- Fr. Michael Shuster (2020)
- 22- Fr. Andrew Hutnyan (2004)
- 22- Manuel Smyrmios (1944) ©
- 22- Carol Ann Feltovich (2016) ©
- 22- Sub-deacon Wylie Meath (2024)
- 23- Rose Dobrovolski (1995) ©
- 24- Nicholas Andrew Shirilla (2012) ©
- 24- Still born Volchko (1924) ©
- 24- Eva Wolfe (1925) ©
- 24- Elizabeth Cvercko (1929) ©
- 25- Vasil Heib (1920) ©
- 25- John Kotuka (1960) ©
- 25- Veronica Shirilla (1995) ©
- 25- Charlette Zenko (2024)
- 27- Steve Basala (1985)
- 27- Mike Kazonis (1950) ©
- 28- Mike Babiak (1922) ©
- 29- Milan Miller Batalo (1920) ©

Sunday of the Prodigal Son / Commemorated on February 16

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

Department Directors hold First Meeting

The newly appointed directors of the various departments and ministries of the Diocese of the Midwest met for the first time on February 4 and February 5. Meetings were held under the chairmanship of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest at the Chancery offices in Chicago, IL.

Two days of meetings brought together the newly formed departments of the Diocese, that were approved by the Diocesan Assembly as a part of the Strategic Plan. The departments include: the Department of Christian Education, led by Priest Daniel Greeson, the Department of Christian Service & Humanitarian Aid, led by Archpriest Christopher Rowe, the Department of Clergy Health & Family Life, led by Priest Jacob Van Sickle, Department of Communications, led by Priest Alexander Koranda, and Department of Liturgical Practice, led by Priest Esteban Vázquez. Also participating in the discussions were Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, Secretary, and Subdeacon Dimitir Pletz, Treasurer.

Numerous topics were discussed and goals were set for each department to meet in the coming months. The first conversations were reported as very fruitful by the Archbishop, noting that these departments help provide the diocese with a clear direction and a way to better utilize the vast talent of the clergy and faithful of the diocese.

The department chairs will look to meet regularly with the Chancellor to provide updates on ministry work and progress. More information on event and ways to get involved will be forthcoming.

2024 - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Tusinac (President)
Phone- 724-456-7366
Cindy Ferrick (Treasurer)
Phone 330-531-1119
Joann Sirilla (Financial Secretary)
Phone 330-881-6775
Sub-deacon Dr. Donald Tamulouis (Council)
Phone 330-774-8860
Natalia Simko (Council) (Cemetery issues)
Phone- 330-980-3033

Maintenance Issues:

Michael Simko - 330-565-0084
Michael Centofanti - 330-544-3518

FEBRUARY FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$10,977.79
Income	\$15,799.44
TOTAL	\$4,821.65

(IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

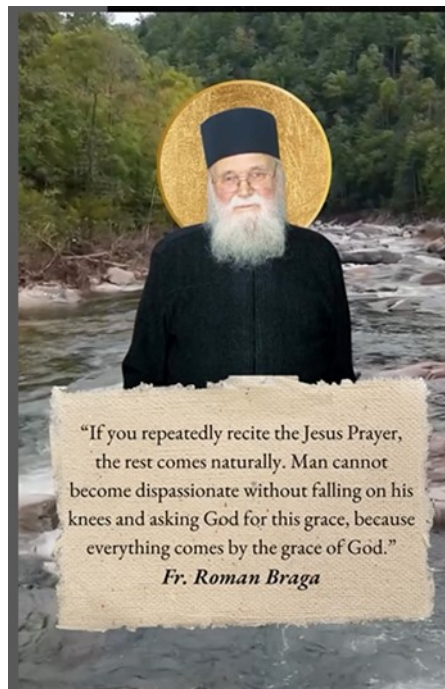
- ◆ *Due to the Kolachi income, we are in the black .*
- ◆ *Without that income, we would be in the red by \$1,678.35.*
- ◆ *We were in the red for over \$10,000 in January. This fundraising income is a blessing.)*

Weekly Tithe	\$8,507.70
Weekly Candles	\$168.00
Tetrapod Candles	\$30.00
Unneeded Gifts	\$10.00
Christmas Card	\$20.00
Cemetery Reimbursement	\$563.74
Kolachi	\$6,500.00

Monthly Charity Collection: CA Fire Relief	\$350
Additional Monthly Charity from January	\$380

Total for January - \$900 + \$300 from church for a total of \$1,200.

Thank You!



Earlier Deadline for Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting College Scholarship Applications

The Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting offers scholarships for college-bound Scouts, but this year, they have a new, earlier deadline for their scholarship applications: March 15, 2025.

The EOCS was founded by SCOBA, the precursor to the Assembly of Bishops, and has been offering scholarships for almost 40 years! Over the years, we have had many winners from the OCA, including Jason Pilcher this past year, and Matushka Jennifer Sawchak is on our Scholarship Committee! We want to keep the applicant flow coming, and we would like to make sure that everyone has a chance to apply.

Description

The Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting offers two \$1,000 scholarships each year. We select applicants who strongly demonstrate love of God and their Orthodox Christian Faith, as shown by their involvement and achievements in church, scouting, school, and community, and through a descriptive, short, written statement. Awards are contingent upon acceptance to an accredited 4-year college or university. Applications are due March 15. See their Scholarship page and online application for full details!

Eligibility

Senior in high school

Communicant of an Orthodox Christian jurisdiction recognized by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA

Registered active member of an EOCS-recognized program: Scouting America (Scouts BSA, Exploring, Sea Scouting, Venturing), Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire, Trail Life USA, and American Heritage Girls

Earned the highest award of their Scouting program (e.g., Eagle, Gold, etc.)

Recipient of the EOCS Alpha Omega Award

Please visit their website at: www.eocs.org/ scholarship for more information. For any questions, contact Dr. M. Kotsonis, mekotsonis@gmail.com.



Since then, I try to wear my cassock all the time. In our times, I think this is even a confession of faith. After all, sometimes you get ridicule and sideways glances. But if the time comes when you no longer see Orthodox priests on the street, that will mean things are very bad for us... Is this what Christ God chose us for?

How a Priest's Cassock Saved a Girl from Suicide A Real-life Story by Archpriest Peter Guryanov

Archpriest Peter Guryanov is the rector of the Church of the Queen of All Icon of the Mother of God in Dimitrovgrad, Ulyanovsk Province, Russia. He also serves as head of the Information and Publishing Department of the Melekes Diocese, Chairman of the Diocesan Commission on Family, Protection of Motherhood and Childhood, and member of the Dimitrovgrad city Cultural Council.

I'm often asked why I almost always wear my cassock everywhere—to the store, the market, the metro, on the bus, and just out on the street. Sometimes I even get this question from my fellow priests, with an ironic smile. To tell you the truth, even my wife sometimes throws in her two cents, if we're going to the store with the children, asking if it's worth drawing attention to ourselves by our appearance.



So why do I spend most of my time in clothes that match my rank?

This story is to blame: About three years ago, a young woman came to me for Confession in tears. She repented of wanting to commit suicide. There was a period in her life that could be called hell. This hell was in her mind, and therefore, all around her. There wasn't a single drop of light, not a glimmer. It seemed like God had left her. I would say she was in severe despondency.

Then on that very day when she had finally decided to kill herself and had come to the pharmacy to get medicine that would help her commit this insanity, I was in line at the pharmacy in front of her. I was standing there in my cassock. Of course, I don't remember this.

When she saw a priest, something stirred in her heart and she began to doubt that this was the right thing to do. She bought the drugs, but after staying awake all night, she chose to live.

Do you see? Simply the image of a priest in "combat gear" can change the way someone is thinking. And if I had been in regular clothes that day...? It's scary to even

Archpriest Peter Guryanov
Translation by Jesse Dominick
Foma.ru 2/11/2025