# The Weekly Forerunner

**St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church**
301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405

**JULY Bulletin Sponsor–**
**In memory of Steve Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar**

## *Liturgical & Events Schedule*

**Sunday, July 26**
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida / As of July 19th No one has sign-up for social
9:30 AM: Broadview Heights Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated with Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Daniel, Bishop Gerasim for the FOCA Convention

**Saturday, August 1**
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Vespers

**Sunday, August 2**
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida / Social

## Repose of Saint Jacob Netsvetov, Enlightener of the Peoples of Alaska Commemorated on July 26

Father Jacob (Netsvetov) of Alaska was born of pious parents in 1802 on Atka Island, Alaska. His father, Yegor Vasil'evich Netsvetov was a Russian from Tobolsk. His mother, Maria Alekseevna, was an Aleut from Atka island. Yegor and Maria had four children who survived infancy; Jacob was the first born, followed by Osip (Joseph), Elena, and Antony. Yegor and Maria were devoted to their children and, though of meager means, did all they could to provide them with the education which would help them in this life as well as in the life to come. Osip and Antony were eventually able to study at the Saint Petersburg Naval Academy in Russia, becoming a naval officer and a shipbuilder, respectively. Their sister, Elena, married a successful and respected clerk for the Russian-American Company. But Jacob yearned for a different kind of success, a success that the world might consider failure for "the righteous live forever, their reward is with the Lord" (Wis. Sol. 5:15). And so, when the family moved to Irkutsk in 1823, Jacob enrolled in the Irkutsk Theological Seminary and placed all his hope in Christ by seeking first the Kingdom of God (Mt. 6:33).

Jacob was tonsured as a Subdeacon on October 1, 1825. He married a Russian woman (perhaps also a Creole) named Anna Simeonovna, and in 1826 graduated from the Seminary with certificates in history and theology. On October 31, 1826, he was ordained to the Holy Diaconate and assigned to serve the altar of the Holy Trinity-Saint Peter Church in Irkutsk. Two years later, on March 4, 1828, Archbishop Michael, who had earlier ordained Father John Veniaminov (Saint Innocent), elevated the godly deacon Jacob to the Holy Priesthood. This, however, was no ordinary ordination. As if he were a new Patrick, hearing the mystical call of his distant flock, Father Jacob yearned to return to his native Alaska. And the all-good God, who "satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry soul with goodness" (Ps.107:9) heard the prayer of his servant.

Archbishop Michael provided Father Jacob with two antimensia: one for the new Church which would be dedicated to the glory of God in honor of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker in Atka, and one to be used for missionary activity. On May 1, 1828 a molieben for travelers was served, and Father Jacob, his father, Yegor, (now tonsured as reader for the Atka Church), and his matushka, Anna, set out for Alaska.

Who can tell of the perils and trials associated with such a journey? Travel in those days was never easy, either overland or over the waves of the sea. Nevertheless, aided by prayer and confidence in God's providence, the Netsvetov family arrived safely in Atka over a year later, on June 15, 1829. The new assignment for the newly-ordained Father Jacob would also prove to be quite a challenge. The Atka "parish" comprised a territory stretching for nearly 2,000 miles and included Amchitka, Attu, Copper, Bering and Kurile Islands. But this did not deter the godly young priest, for when he was clothed in the garments of the Priesthood, he was found to be "clad with zeal as a cloak' (Is. 59:17), and so he threw himself wholly into his sacred ministry. His deep love for God and for his flock was evident in everything that he did. Both in Atka and in the distant villages and settlements which he visited, Father Jacob offered himself as a "living sacrifice" (Rom 12:1). Having "no worry about his life" (Mt. 6:25 ff), the holy one endured manifold tortures of cold, wet, wind, illness, hunger and exhaustion, for to him life was Christ (Phil 1:21). Showing himself as a ***Con't Next Pg***

## AUGUST Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

**Bulletin**:
**Wine:**
**Incense**:
**Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:**
**Altar Candles**:
**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.– Given by Anonymous
**St. Panteleimon Icon Candles:**
**Protection Icon Candles:**
**St. John the Baptist Candles**:
**Monthly Flowers:**

| $50 per month | $30 per month | $25 per month |
|---|---|---|
| *Wine | *St. Herman candles | Incense |
| *Bulletin | *St. Panteleimon Icon candles | Flowers– |
| *Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light | *Protection Icon candles | |
| *Altar Candles | *St. John the Baptist candles | |
| *Tetrapod Candles | | |

***St Jacob continued from previous pg***

"rule of faith," his example brought his people to a deep commitment to their own salvation. Being fully bilingual and bicultural, Father Jacob was uniquely blessed by God to care for the souls of his fellow Alaskans.

When he arrived in Atka, the Church of Saint Nicholas had not yet been built. So, with his own hands Father Jacob constructed a large tent (Acts 18:3) in which he conducted the services. For Father Jacob the services of the Church were life: life for his people and life for himself. It was in the worship of God that he found both strength and joy. Later he would transport this tent with him on his missionary journeys, and like Moses in the wilderness, the grace of God was found wherever this tent was taken (Num 4:1 ff; 10:17 ff).

When his first six months had ended (end of 1829), Father Jacob recorded that he had baptized 16, chrismated 442, married 53 couples, and buried 8.

Once the church was constructed, Father Jacob turned his attention to the building of a school in which the children would learn to read and write both Russian and Unangan Aleut. The Russian American Company provided some of the support initially, with the students providing the remainder. This continued until 1841, when it was reorganized as a parish school and ties with the company ceased. Father Jacob proved to be a talented educator and translator whose students became distinguished Aleut leaders in the next generation.

Father Netsvetov led an active physical and intellectual life, hunting and gathering for his own subsistence needs, preparing specimens of fish and marine animals for the natural history museums of Moscow and Saint Petersburg, corresponding with Saint Innocent (Veniaminov) on matters of linguistics and translations. He labored over the creation of an adequate alphabet for the Unangan-Aleut language, and the translation of the Holy Scriptures and other appropriate literature into that language. Saint Innocent praised the young pastor for his holiness of life, his teaching, and for continuing this work of translating which he, himself, had begun earlier among the native peoples. After fifteen years of service, Father Jacob was awarded the Nabedrennik, Kamilavka, and Gold Cross. Later, he would be made Archpriest and receive the Order of Saint Anna.

These ecclesiastical awards do not tell of the personal sufferings of this warrior for Christ. In March of 1836, his precious wife, Anna, died of cancer; his home burned to the ground in July of 1836; and his dear father, Yegor, died of an undetermined illness in 1837. Who can utter the depth of sorrow felt by this God-pleaser? Yet he lifted up his voice with that ancient sufferer and cried, "shall we indeed accept good from God and shall we not accept adversity? In all this he did not sin with his lips" (Job 2:10). In his journal Father Jacob attributed all to "the Will of Him whose Providence and Will are inscrutable and whose actions toward men are incomprehensible." He patiently endured hardships and sufferings like the Holy Apostle Paul. He saw in these misfortunes not a Victory by the hater of men's souls (i.e. the devil) but a call from God to even greater spiritual struggles. With this in mind, Father Jacob petitioned his ruling bishop to return to Irkutsk in order to enter the monastic life. A year later, word reached him that permission was granted contingent upon the arrival of a replacement. None ever came.

Instead, Bishop Innocent soon came to Atka and asked Father Jacob to accompany him on a voyage by ship to Kamchatka. Who can know the heavenly discourse enjoyed by these two lovers of Christ as ***Con't Next Pg***

## 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 contact Fr. Andrew.

**Mrs. Mary Fredericks**
648 Dumont Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

**Matushka Helen Psinka**
c/o Concordia Villa St. Joseph
1030 W State Street / Room 1B49
Baden, Pa, 15005

**Mrs. Dorothy Shirilla**
8362 Van Dr.
Poland, OH 44514

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

**Mildred Wilfong**
153 Runnemede Dr
Boardman, OH 44512

**Mrs. Audrey Chengelis**
c/o Assumption Village
9800Market Street / Room 1402
North Lima, OH 44452

**Emilia Yannitto**
8017 Salinas Tr.
Boardman, OH 44512-5402

**Mrs. Pauline Fesz**
488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

**George Horodnic, Sr.**
c/o Briarfield Manor
461 South Canfield-Niles Rd / Room 101
Austintown, OH 44515

**Mrs. Julia Simko**
c/o Woodlands @ Hampton Woods
1525 E Western Reserve Rd /
Room 1101
Poland, OH 44514

**Carol Ruff**
2207 Birch Trail Blvd
Youngstown, OH 44515-4910

**Sue Kennedy**
593 Hyatt Ave
Campbell, OH 44405-1479

**Ann Cvercko**
1875 Mallard Land
North Lima, OH 44452

***St. Jacob con't from previous pg***

they traveled over the waves? This, however, is clear, the holy archpastor was able to accomplish three things in Father Netsvetov. Firstly, he applied the healing salve of the Spirit with words of comfort; secondly, he dissuaded Father Jacob from entering the monastery; and thirdly, he revealed to the godly priest the true plan of the Savior for his life, that he 'might preach (Christ) among the Gentiles" (Gal. 1: 16) deep in the Alaskan interior. Father Jacob continued to serve his far-flung flock of the Atka parish until December 30, 1844. A new zeal had taken hold of him, and it was then that Saint Innocent appointed him to head the new Kvikhpak Mission in order to bring the light of Christ to the people of the Yukon. Here, aided by two young Creole assistants, Innokentii Shayashnikov and Konstantin Lukin, together with his young nephew, Vasilii Netsvetov, Father Jacob "settled' in the wilderness of Alaska.

He learned new languages, embraced new peoples and cultures, devised another alphabet, built another church and Orthodox community, and for the next twenty years, until his health and eyesight failed, continued to be an evangelical beacon of the grace of God in southwestern Alaska.

Establishing his headquarters in the Yup'ik Eskimo village of Ikogmiute (today's 'Russian Mission') he traveled to native settlements hundreds of miles up and down Alaska's longest river (the Yukon) as well as the Kuskokwim River region. At the insistence of Indian leaders, he traveled as far as the middle of the Innoko River baptizing hundreds of Indians from various, and often formerly hostile, tribes. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Ps 133:1). He built the first Christian temple in this region, and dedicated it to the feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. Here Father Jacob, in spite of failing health, joyfully celebrated the Church's cycle of services, including all of the services prescribed for Holy Week and Pascha.

Finally, in 1863, the evil One, who "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (I Pet 5:8), sought one last time to get the better of the righteous one. So the devil, the father of lies, (John 8:44), inspired an assistant of Father Jacob to level spurious and slanderous charges against his master. This resulted in a summons to Sitka, issued by Bishop Peter. The godly pastor was quickly cleared of all charges, but due to his ever-worsening health, he remained in Sitka for his final year serving a Tlingit chapel. He died on July 26, 1864 at the age of 60 and was buried on the third day at the entry of the chapel. During his final missionary travels in the Kuskokwim/Yukon delta region, he had baptized 1,320 people—distinguishing himself as the evangelizer of the Yup'ik Eskimo and Athabascan Indian peoples.

This brief history has recounted the basic chronology of the saint's life and labors, but we must not neglect to relate his other deeds, that the light be not "hidden under a bushel" (Mt.5:15). In 1841, Father Jacob encountered a group of women from his flock in ***Con't Next Pg***

## JULY Celebrations

### Birthday

1- Julia Simko
3- Eugene Kennedy
4- Stephen Holly / Georgiana Lukehart
5- Pani Stacey Mihaly
11- Joan Cross
12- Pauline Fesz / Justin Stokley / Joe Stokely / Ann Kristian
14- Nicole Marianni
15- His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
17- Jonah Bremer / Kathleen Jesko
19- David Konik / Adam Rusnak / Diane Marie Ruff
23- Mat. Helen Psinka
30- Mat. Christine Hryb / Maureen Koval / Gabreille Kalantzis / Ann Bufalini

### Anniversary

3- Bob & Elizabeth Willison (94)
6- Ron & Mary Luthern (69)
8- Nick & Monica Vansuch (72)
13- Marcus & Marcia Kubancsek (03)
24- Frank & Lori Batura
25- Andy & Michelle Basile (92)
27- Dennis & Kim Konik / Ken & Lynn Krause
30- James & Sandra Bufalini

### Names Day

10- His Grace Nikodhim of Boston & the Albanian Archdiocese
17- Tony Jesko, Jr. / Tony Jesko, Sr.
20- Eli Arvan / Lynn Polewan
24- Matushka Christine Hryb / Elaine Johnston
26- Jacob Hryb
31- AB Benjamin of San Francisco & the West

## JULY CHARITY

OFFICE OF PASTORAL CARE

## Social Schedule: JULY / AUGUST

July 26– OPEN
August 2 Kovach Family
August 9– O Club
August 16– Sisterhood
August 23– Council
August 30– Open

## July / August Reader Schedule

July 26—Reader Matthew Vansuch
August 2– Robert Willison
August 9– George Horodnic
August 16– Dc. James Hyrb
August 23– Proto. David Gemmel
August 30– Natalia Simko

| ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *JULY* | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|---|---|
| **1st– All SAints** | | |
| Vespers | 5 | No Vespers |
| Liturgy / Communion | 58 / 30 | 47 / 26 |
| **2nd Week– N. Am. S.** | | |
| Vespers | No Vespers | No Vespers |
| Liturgy / Communion | 59 / 29 | 44 / 28 |
| **3rd Week– 3rd Sunday** | | |
| Vespers | No Vespers | 5 |
| Liturgy / Communion | 38 / 30 | 51 / 31 |
| **4th Week – 4th Sunday** | | |
| Vespers | No Vespers | |
| Liturgy / Communion | 45 / 30 | |
| **5th–** | | |
| No 5th Week in June | | |

***St Jacob con't from previous pg***

Amlia who had fallen victim to certain demonic influences and teachings. Blaming himself for the seduction and fall of his spiritual children by the evil one, he informed the leader among them that he was going to pay them a visit.

Upon arriving, he found one of the women paralyzed, semi-conscious and unable to speak. He ordered that she be removed to another house apart, and on the next day when this was accomplished, he lit the lampada before the icons of the beautiful corner, vested himself in his priestly epitrachilion (stole), sprinkled holy water throughout the room, and began the first prayers of exorcism. He then left.

During the night he was notified that the woman had begun to speak but incoherently. He came immediately to her and performed a second exorcism. This time, she sprang out of her bed and stood next to the saint, joined her prayer to his, and accompanied them with prostrations. When the prayers were finished, Father Jacob again sprinkled her with holy water and gave her the precious cross to kiss. She regained full consciousness, a state of health and true reason—that is, even the false teachings of the evil spirits had no more part in her.

Once in November of 1845, Father Jacob was preaching in the village of Kalskag, where the local chief was also the head shaman. He spoke for all of the villagers and resisted the Word of God forcefully. But the saint, calm and full of the Holy Spirit, continued to sow the seeds of right belief and piety. After many hours, the chief fell silent and finally came to believe. ***Con't Next pg***

## JULY Reposed List / © Parishioner

1- Veronica Graban (1998) © / Ann Zastany Crowi (2019) © / Mike Smyrnios (1960) ©
2- Vasil Fecik (1921) ©
3- Andrew Cvercko (2017) © / John Kaschak (1920) © / Jenny Rudiak
4- Alice Sutko (2020) / Helen Arvan Kusmanov (2013) © / Anna Gozur (1957) ©
5- George Hostal (2001) © / George Vavlas (1945) © / Andrew Harvischak (1951) ©
6- Steve Sveda (1928) © / Nick Galouzis (1961) ©
7- Luba Raseta (1929) ©
8- Marian Shepelevich (2020)
9- Mary Zanios (1926) ©
10- Anna Roman (1926) © / Robert Kennedy (1994) © / Pete George (1939) © / Nick Despetarich (1959) ©
11- Ruth Libertin (2008) ©
12- Anna Berdy (1980) © / John Bolescak (1926) ©
13- Marilyn Fasiline (1972) © / John Borsic (1987) © / Andrew Holubauich (1930) ©
14- Edward Gorol (1961) ©
15- Catherine Harvischak (1977) © / Floyd Dweesy (1985) © / Mary Sykola (2005) © / Betty Ewenish (2024)
16- Mary Macala (1971) © / Julian Marsteler (1920) ©
17- Mary Bartek (1984) / Eleanor Graban (1986) © / Elizabeth Zelena (1991) ©
18- Steve Paroh (1979) © / Still Born Cmur (1923) ©
19- Helen Bohish (1988) © / Helen Livosky (2015) © / Mary Balak (1925) © / Mike Olsavsky (1931) ©
19- Margaret Bilehik (1955) © / Walter Litzie (2023)
20- Joseph Sirilla, Sr (1979) © / Fr. Dc. John Youhas (2012) / Anna Zavada Bartek (1924) / Nicholas Papas (1949) © / Maria Karas (1956) ©
21- Anna Tsagros (1929) © / Maria Michaels (2024)
22- Elizabeth Zilena (1985) © / Stephen Kalafut (1956) © / William Petrosky (2020) © / George Vansuch (1996) ©
23- George Patzakis (1961) ©
25- Walter Lee Wilfong (2007) © / John Konik (2009) ©
26- Faith Simko (2016) © / John Poulas (1925) © / Catherine Pavlos (1949) © / Charles Xenakis (1960) ©
27- Ignatius Sosnowchik (1973) © / Frank Zwinski (2013) © / Christ Samjos (1930) © /
Panagiotis Sarris (1953) © / William Romanchek, Jr (2024)
28- Stella Graban Kurtiak (2013) © / A.P. John Psinka (1996)
29- MaryAnn Such (1972) © / Andy Zenko (2024) ©
30- Anna Krut (1924) © / Sophia Oshelski (1959) ©

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***St Jacob con't from previous pg***

The villagers, in solidarity with their leader, also joyously expressed their belief in the Triune God and sought Holy Baptism.

Father Jacob was a physician of bodies as well as souls. He often cared for the sick among his flock even to his own detriment. During the winter of 1850-1851 the saint was himself ravaged with illness. Yet he cared for the sick and dispensed medicine to them every day. Father Jacob's preaching often brought together in the Holy Faith tribes who were traditional enemies. One example from his journal reads:

"Beginning in the morning, upon my invitation, all the Kol'chane and Ingalit from the Yukon and the local ones gathered at my place and I preached the word of God, concluding at noon. Everyone listened to the preaching with attention and without discussion or dissent, and in the end they all expressed faith and their wish to accept Holy Baptism, both the Kol'chane and the Ingatit (formerly traditional enemies). I made a count by families and in groups, and then in the afternoon began the baptismal service. First I baptized 50 Kol'chane and Ingalit men, the latter from the Yukon and Innoko. It was already evening when I completed the service. March 21, 1853."

So it was that this apostolic man, this new Job, conducted himself during his earthly course. There are many other deeds and wonders which he performed, many known and many more known only to God. Few missionaries in history have had to endure the hardships which Father Jacob faced, yet he did so with patience and humility. His life of faith and piety are the legacy which he leaves to us, his spiritual children in America, and indeed to all Christians throughout the world.

## 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

August 30– Becky Baxter

## PRAYER LIST

**PARISHIONERS:** Achiles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Matushka Helen Psinka / Nadine Sabo / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Reader Nick Vansuch / Mildred Wilfong

**CLERGY:** Fr. Basil Duesenberry / Fr. Andrew Gall / AP Drew Clements / AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Emil Hutyan / AP Michael Rustic / Fr. Peter Simko / Fr. Theophanes Kamau & family & parishioners at St. Joachim & Anna in Nairobi, Kenya

**FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Mat. Melanie Adamcio / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Erin (Willison) / Thomas Hull, Jr. / Ron Hryb / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Ginny McCay (Fredericks) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Conner (Sabo) Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Matt Turner (Sirilla) / Mary Margaret Tusinac / Emilia Yanitto / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac) / Miranda & her newborn Gwendolyn / Lindsey & her newborn James III

**MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS:** Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Kyle Grabovoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky) / Kenneth (Simko) / Brandon Rader (Middle East)

**MISCELLANEOUS:** The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

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### Matthew 14:14-22 (Gospel)

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

### 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Epistle)

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

### Archbishop Daniel presides over Festal Services at Diocesan Monastery

On Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago adn the Diocese of the Midwest made an Archpastoral visit to St. Paul Monastery, Boscobel, WI, for their patronal feast.

On Saturday, the Archbishop was greeted by the monastic community and the faithful gathered for the festal weekend. Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, served Great Vespers. A meal was held in the trapeza following the service.

On the feast of St. Paul, His Eminence presided over the Divine Liturgy and was assisted by Fr. Herman, Fr. Menas, Superior , and Deacon Justin Hickman. A formal monastic meal was held after in the trapeza. During the visit, His Eminence also met with monastic inquirers and possible candidates for the St. John of Chicago Institute. Over 100 pilgrims gathered for the event. This was the first time in 20 years a hierarch served at the monastery.