The Weekly Forerunner

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

FEBRUARY Bulletin Sponsor-OPEN

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, February 22
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social followed by Forgiveness Vespers (approx. around 12:15-12:30)

Monday, February 23– CLEAN MONDAY
6:00 PM: Canon of St Andrew w/ Compline (followed by Confessions)

Tuesday, February 24– CLEAN TUESDAY
6:00 PM: Canon of St. Andrew w/ Compline (followed by Confessions)

Wednesday, February 25– CLEAN WEDNESDAY
6:00 PM: Canon of St. Andrew w/ Compline (followed by Confessions)

Thursday, February 26– CLEAN THURSDAY
6:00 PM: Canon of St Andrew w/ Compline (followed by Confessions)

Friday, February 27– CLEAN FRIDAY
5:00-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by lite Lenten meal and a short Lenten film

Saturday, February 28– CLEAN SATURDAY
3:15-3:45 PM: Confession by app't
4:00 PM: Vespers Followed by confessions by app't)

Sunday, March 1– SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by App't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy w/ Procession of ICONS outside weather permitting / Social
5:00 PM: Pan-Orthodox Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers w/ Procession of Icons / Social @ Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church in Campbell

Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise Commemorated on February 22

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendents became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

Matthew 6:14-21 (Gospel)

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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
9802 Market Street / Room 132
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-UPDATED
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

FEBRUARY FINANCIALS

Expenses	$10,226.83
Income	$12,768.70
TOTAL	**$2,541.87**
Weekly Tithe	$11,360.79
Weekly Candles	$416.00
Eternal Light Candles	$100.00
Bulletin	$50.00
Altar Candles	$50.00
Coffee Hour donations	$19.00
Unneeded Gifts	$20.00
Superbowl Donations	$78.00
Monthly Flowers	$25.00
Fr. Andrew's Pension	$650.00
Monthly Charity: Deanery	$357.00

FEBRUARY MARCH READER

Reader Schedule
February 22– Natalia Simko
March 1– Jacob Hryb
March 8– Sub-Deacon Dr. Donald
March15– Reader Matthew Vansuch
March 22– Reader Nicholas Vansuch
March 29– Robert Willison

Social
February 22– Sisterhood Social
March 1– O Club
March 8- Council
March 15– OPEN
March 22– Sisterhood
March 29– OPEN
NOTE: If you would like to sponsor an open Social please see Nancy or Father.

MARCH- NO CHARITY COLLETION

Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

MARCH Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: In memory of my Father's George, 100th b-day– Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek
Wine: OPEN
Incense: **OPEN**
Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of my mother Olga L. Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar
Altar Candles: In memory of my ordaining bishop, Metropolitan Nicholas– Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek
Tetrapod Candles: **OPEN**
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: In memory of my family & friends– Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek
Protection Icon Candles: OPEN
St. John the Baptist Candles: **OPEN**
Monthly Flowers: OPEN

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

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- Fr. James Gleason
13- Dc. James Hryb
14- Mat Ann Lardas
15- Martha Centofanti
16- 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
28- George J Rusnak

Anniversary

1-2020- His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland
9-69 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
8- Cindy Ferrick
28-Maureen Koval

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *JANUARY*	2025	2026
1st Week Publican		
Vespers	No Vespers	9
Lit. / Communion Meeting of Lord– Vespers Meeting of the Lord– Lit. Theophany Liturgy	40 / 28 7 50 / 34 (it was a Sunday)	30 / 23 22 7 / 6
2nd Week– Prodigal		
Vespers	5	13
Lit. / Communion	38 / 22	33 / 20
3rd Week– Meatfare		
Vespers	10	10
Liturgy / Communion	49 / 33	54 / 31
4th Week– Cheesefare		
Vespers	8	
Lit / Communion Forgiveness Vespers Clean Monday Clean Tuesday Clean Wednesday Clean Thursday Pre-Sanctified	50 / 30 43 26 16 27 21 31 / 17	
5th Week		
	No Record	No Record

FASTING FOR PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY & FASTING IN GENERAL

Fasting in general is meant to enhance our relationship with God. **It is not meant to harm us**. Much of what we eat is bad for our bodies and overall health. Fasting o cleanses the body and soul.

The Church prescribes for those who wish to receive the Holy Eucharist, if there is a medical reason (such as diabetes, the need to take food with medication, etc.), that we are permitted to eat a little (like a small piece of toast or a sip of coffee or water).

There is no dispensation for Orthodox Christians like that of the Roman Catholic Church; those who reach a certain age and are not required to fast. The fast is for everyone. Children should start to learn what the fast is and participate in when they reach the age of about 7.

When fasting for the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy please fast from Noon on.

Of course when fasting for Divine Liturgies, we fast from midnight on. This includes chewing gum, drinking water, smoking, etc. The first thing that should go in our bodies is the Body & Blood of Christ-again, unless there is a medical issue.

PRAYER OF ST EMPHRAIN & JESUS PRAYER

PRAYER OF ST EPHRAIM

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. (Prostration)

But give rather the spirit of Chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. (Prostration)

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. (Prostration)

O God, cleanse me, a sinner. (12 time with deep bow after each)

Then, read the entire prayer again with only one prostration at the end. Note: If you can not do a prostration due to a medical condition, a deep bow is fine.

THE JESUS PRAYER

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

NOTE: These two prayers should be incorporated into your daily prayers.

As always before beginning a fasting regiment or prayer life you should contact me to discuss it.

Father Andrew

Beginning of Great Lent 2026– Message from is Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, beloved children in the Lord:

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

First, please be assured of my prayers for you, my flock throughout North America, as we enter into this great and holy season of the Fast. May God grant each of you his aid and support, comfort and blessings, as we all take up our Lenten podvig.

In our present media-mad, ever-online cultural atmosphere, opinion often appears to be our society's highest value, both morally and economically. To hold and express an opinion on all manner of "issues" is cast as the highest form of self-realization. In the meanwhile, the so-called attention economy coddles our biases in order to peddle us all manner of products. Many of you, beloved in the Lord, will know that I have written of this before, but I do so again because the reign of opinion has only become more firmly entrenched, and the spiritual dangers which this situation presents have become only more pervasive.

However, I exhort you to remember, especially during this sacred season of the Holy Forty Days, that, no matter how entrenched or pervasive these realities have become, we find in our Orthodox Christian tradition spiritual medicines, therapies, and inoculations for every temptation, sin, trial, and affliction. Thus, against the background of the technological and social developments and trends that have led us to the present moment, the sacred tradition of Orthodox Christianity appears more distinct perhaps than ever before. In marked contrast to our society's lionization of opinion and constant public self-expression, our faith highlights the spiritual value of dispassion, restraint, sobriety, balance, and discernment.

This is not to deny that our faith may sometimes call us to speak and act. Rather, it is a reminder that our starting point should be, not certainty of our own moral superiority and clarity of judgment, but rather humility and self-examination. As the spiritual classic Unseen Warfare points out, we must be suspicious of any thought of ours, no matter how apparently good it may be on the surface. We do not blindly trust our every notion; rather we submit all our thoughts to a process of discernment, in accordance with St. Paul's exhortation: "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves" (2 Cor. 13:5). ***Con't Pg 6***

FEBRUARY Reposed List

1- Jane Sablak (2004) © / John Jay Truhan (2004) © / Helen Gozur (2006) © / Thomas Livosky (1951) ©
3- Ann Sature (2012) / 3- Nicholas Tsaknis (1952) © / Mary Lisko (1953) © / Mike Alesafis (1960) ©
4- Michael Livosky (2003) ©
6- Bessie Poullos (1961) ©
7- Rossetas Kallis (1958) ©
8- Joseph Durshaw (1972) © / Andrew Libertin (1985) © / Anna Graban (1937) © / Steve Hamanzi (1946) © / Maxim Berezoussky (1964) ©
9- George Cross (2020) © / George Kolesar (2025) ©
10- George Bobosh (1984) © / Steve Elash (1998) © / T. Rago (1924) © (no name) / Helen Holubanich (1924) © / Steve Stavridis (1935) ©
12- V. Rev. Nicholas Vansuch (1987) © / John Holibonich (2004) © / Theodore Kalos (1932) ©
13- Bishop Varlaam (2020) / Vera Kristian (1980) ©
14- Emmanuel Balale (1956) © / Bertha Ginnis (1961) © / John Macala (1963) © / Nicholas Angelides (1963) ©
15- Justina Popodich / George Billik (1998) © / John Timkovich (2004) ©
Thelmia Psaras (1930) © / Alfteria Jaetanis (1930) © / Anna Sirilla (1955) © / Mary Shirilla (1962) ©
16- Albert Bartek (1952) / Paul Cole (1997) © / John Stamatinas (1946) ©
16- Infant Klimis (1 hr old) (1956) © / Ann Leschinsky (1956) ©
17- Metropolitan Orestes (1977) / Myron Bilchik (1982) © / Emmanuel Balale (1956) © / Robert Fischer (1995) ©
18- Virginia Nosik (2004) © / George Caleris (1957) © / Paul Petruschak (2024)
19- Elizabeth Antas (1921) © / George Berezovsky (1922) © / Michael Voyis (1949) © / Ann Allshouse (1984) ©
20- Daniel Shirilla (1992) ©
21- Fr. Michael Shuster (2020)
22- Fr. Andrew Hutnyan (2004) / Manuel Smyrmios (1944) © / Carol Ann Feltovich (2016) © / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath (2024)
23- Rose Dobrovolski (1995) ©
24- Nicholas Andrew Shirilla (2012) © / Still born Volchko (1924) © / Eva Wolfe (1925) © Elizabeth Cvercko (1929) ©
25- Vasil Heib (1920) © / John Kotuka (1960) © / Veronica Shirilla (1995) © / Charlette Zenko (2024)
27- Steve Basala (1985) / Mike Kazonis (1950) ©
28- Mike Babiak (1922) ©
29- Milan Miller Batalo (1920) ©

PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achiles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Elaine Johnston / Sue Kennedy / George Clark / Matushka Helen Psinka / Nadine Sabo / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Deborah Zelinsky

CLERGY: AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyan / Fr. Peter Simko / Fr. Bryan Crivella / Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family and his faithful at the parish of St Makarios in the Metropolis of Nairobi, Kenya / Fr. Michael Dayang & his family & his parishioners at 3 Hierarchs parish in Cameroon / Fr. Raphael Stephano & his family and parishioners of his 2 mission communities in the Diocese of Western Tanzania

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Trudy Ellmore / Thomas Hull, Jr. / Ron Hryb / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Kelly Marie Konya (Candle guy's daughter) / Ginny McCay (Fredericks) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Conner (Sabo) Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Matt Turner (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac) / Genna Koval & her unborn baby / Kelly and her unborn baby / Miranda & her unborn baby / Lindsey & her unborn baby / Blaire & her newborn Baby Tatiana

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky) / Kenneth (Simko)

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.

Lenten Message from Metro. Tikhon con't from pg 4

If we try to make this practice our own, we will find that, perhaps unexpectedly, such sobriety and restraint do not limit our God-given freedom, our human agency, but rather increase it. After all, the opinionated person is battered by the winds of change, forced to react to every event and controversy, forced to take a stance on every issue and topic. On the other hand, the sober-minded person, the practitioner of discernment, is free from the shackles of the news cycle, free from the expectation and compulsion to take a stance on the issue du jour. He who is accustomed to restraint is free to form his own opinions—or not—and to do so in his own time, with recourse to prayer, reflection, and unhurried reasoning.

In the end, however, we do not practice discernment, self-examination, restraint, and dispassion as an end in and of themselves. Yes, they may help to liberate us from the whirl of current events and the churning waves of controversy, and this can bring us a measure of temporal peace and well-being. But as Christians we desire not merely to be free from evil, but to be free for good. From this perspective, restraint and sobriety are simply spiritual tools—albeit invaluable spiritual tools—and we use these tools to draw nearer to Christ, or rather, to allow Christ, in his great mercy and love for mankind, to draw closer to us. As the holy apostle James says, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (Jam. 4:8). For, if we are obsessed with our own opinion, what room do we leave for understanding and acting in accordance with God's will? If we are loudly pointing out the wounds of others, what time and space to we leave for Christ to tend own wounds?

From our vantage at the beginning of the Great Fast, all of this serves to remind us that our entire Lenten effort, indeed our entire Christian life-long struggle, is ultimately directed toward joy – not the passing joys that stimulate our passions, but the everlasting joy of communion with God the Father, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. The path of repentance may indeed lead us through valleys of sorrow and up rocky slopes of adversity, but the end of the path is true freedom, true happiness, true delight, true love, true existence.

Therefore, when we draw the contrast between the world and its opinions and Christian sobriety, we do not offer dour moralism in place of excitement and expression. Instead, Christ offers us every good gift—now and eternally—if we desire to receive those gifts. Instead of being dragged along in the wake of shifting events, the Lord shows us the way toward lasting peace of mind and heart: through dispassion, yes, but ultimately through his own presence in us: the true Peace of God in our hearts and in our midst, now and ever.

To him, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, our Peace and our Salvation, be all honor and glory, together with his Father and his Holy Spirit, the Comforter, now and always and unto endless ages of ages.

Once again, please be assured of my prayers for you during this sacred season, and may God sustain all of us as we prepare, through our Lenten struggle, to meet the supreme feast of his radiant Pascha.

Yours in Christ,

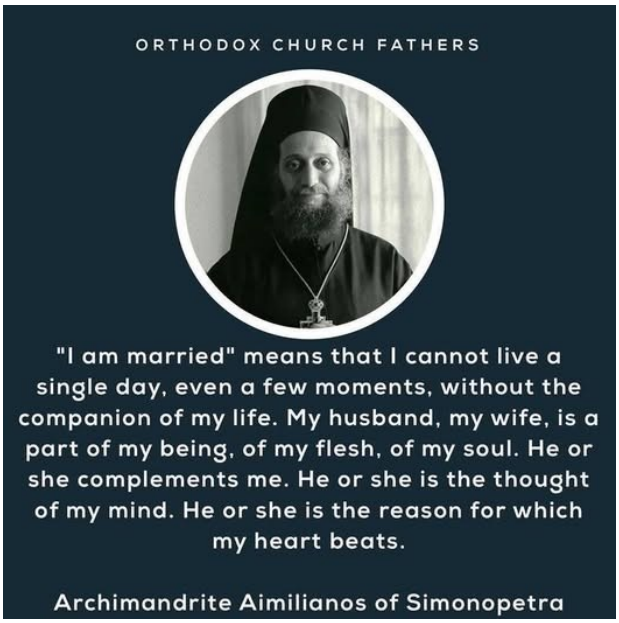
+TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

40-DAY REMEMBRANCE

February 22 – Joanne Biros
March 15– His Grace Bishop Seraphim
March 29– Debbie Zelinski

ALTAR SOCIETY

The Altar Society is collecting dues in the month of February. Please see Maureen Koval.



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