The Weekly Forerunner

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

MARCH Bulletin Sponsor
In memory of my father, George's, 100th birthday – Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek

Liturgical & Events Schedule

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

Wednesday, March 4
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy / Lite Meal / Lenten Video

Friday, March 6
5:15– 5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Pre-Sanctified / Lite Meal / Lenten Video

Saturday, March 7
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Vespers (Time Change)
NOTE: CHANGE CLOCKS TONIGHT

Sunday, March 8
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida / Social
5:00 PM: Local Lenten Vespers @ St. Demetrios in Warren

THE JESUS PRAYER

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

NOTE: These two prayers, *The Jesus Prayer* and *the Prayer of St. Ephraim* should be incorporated into your daily prayers.

NOTE: As always, before beginning a fasting regiment or prayer rule, you should contact me to discuss it.

Father Andrew

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 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 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 cannot do a prostration due to a medical condition, a deep bow is fine.

NOTE: As always, before beginning a fasting regiment or prayer rule, you should contact me to discuss it.

Father Andrew

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 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

FINAL FEBRUARY FINANCIALS

Expenses	$16,699.14
Income	$15,267.70
TOTAL	**-$1,431.44**
Weekly Tithe	$13,549.79
Weekly Candles	$606.00
Eternal Light Candles	$100.00
Bulletin	$50.00
Altar Candles	$50.00
Coffee Hour donations	$19.00
Unneeded Gifts	$140.00
Superbowl Donations	$78.00
Monthly Flowers	$25.00
Fr. Andrew's Pension	$650.00
Monthly Charity: Deanery	$432.00

MARCH READER & SOCIAL SCHEDULE

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

Social
March 1– O Club
March 8- OPEN
March 15– Council
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

ST. MICHAEL'S BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH EVENT

Friday, March 6– Lenten Pirohi (potato, sweet cabbage, & Lekvar)
Friday, March 13– Lenten Haluski with dumplings
Friday, March 20- Lenten Pirohi (potato, sweet cabbage, & Lekvar)
Friday March 27- Lenten Haluski with dumplings
For guaranteed orders call Regina @ 333-720-2100 by Thursday before pick-up. Non-pre-orders served until sold out.
Drive thru only from 2-6pm.

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		

March Celebrations

Birthday

2- Lori Batura
4- Kaitlyn Kuzemchak
6- AP John Steffaro
9- Kevin Koval
11- Cindy Ferrick
14- Reader Matthew Vansuch
15- Natalia Simko / Patty Tubic
16- Paul Bojan / Claudia Zile / Diana Konik
18- Thomas Zelinsky
17- Christine Koval
20- Gianna Hryb / Jacob Hryb
22- Helena Kalantzis
24- Anne Jesko
25- Ephraimia Andrews
28- Tracy Rusnak / Dennis Tubic
30- Tom Hull

Names Day

4- AB Daniel of Chicago & the Diocese of the mid-west / His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Forth Worth
10- Patty Thompson
14- His Grace Bishop Benedict of Hartford & New England /
17- AB Alejo of Mexico City & Mexico / His Grace Bishop Alexis of Sitka & Alaska
30- Beth Hull / Elizabeth Willison

40-DAY REMEMBRANCE

March 15– His Grace Bishop Seraphim
March 29– Debbie Zelinski

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *February*	2025	2026
1st Week Publican		
Vespers	No Vespers	9
Lit. / Communion	40 / 28	30 / 23
Meeting of Lord– Vespers	7	22
Meeting of the Lord– Lit.	50 / 34 (it was a Sunday)	7 / 6
Theophany Liturgy		
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	6
Lit / Communion	50 / 30	40 / 24
Forgiveness Vespers	43	28
Clean Monday	26	28
Clean Tuesday	16	23
Clean Wednesday	27	
Clean Thursday	21	
Pre-Sanctified	31 / 17	
5th Week		
	No Record	No Record

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST AT THE BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT

To the Clergy, Monastics, Faithful and Friends of the Diocese of the Midwest

Beloved in the Lord,

I greet all of you with love as we enter into the grace-filled season of Great Lent. As the Doors of Repentance are opened to us, I ask your forgiveness for any way in which I have sinned against you as your Bishop and Archpastor, as your Father in Christ, and as your brother in the Lord.

Every year, at the beginning of Great Lent, the Church encourages and reminds us of the traditional practices we have at our disposal in order to continue growing in holiness and to focus most especially on our preparation for the great celebration of the Lord's three-day Paschal mystery which we commemorate in Holy Week and on Holy Pascha. In the sixth chapter of the Gospel of Saint Matthew, we are told of how we should behave in our practices of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer:

"When you give alms, sound no trumpet before you. When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

"When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

"If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

"When you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret…"

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven… for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

As we hear in these words, it is the Lord Himself who counsels us on how we are to proceed in the season of repentance and renewal that lies ahead of us.

Almsgiving. Prayer. Fasting. Focus, or refocusing on the things of heaven and not on the things of this world. These are the keys that open for us the doors of repentance, the doors that lead us into the Kingdom of Heaven.

In our Orthodox Christian tradition, we look to the weeks ahead of us as a holy, sacred time. Indeed, we look to Great Lent as a time during which we embark upon a journey. Great Lent takes us on a journey during which we are guided by the Church, supported by one another in maintaining our focus and our purpose through the very practices of which the Lord Jesus speaks. We understand this journey not merely as a time of dietary restrictions, fasting, more prayer, reaching out to those in need, and resetting our priorities. This is a season in which we cleanse our hearts, minds and souls. We deepen our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through prayer. We focus on the needs of others before our own needs in order to serve Christ by serving our neighbors. And we work to establish the right relationship between the "things" of this word and the treasures that await us in the Kingdom that is to come.

During these forty days, the Church invites all of us to:

Fast with humility – not as an expectation or inconvenience, but as a way to free the soul from passions.

Pray with sincerity – always seeking God's mercy and guidance in every moment.

Give generously – remembering that love for others is inseparable from love for God.

Repent wholeheartedly – turning away from sin and the concerns of the world and placing our eyes on the things that really matter and so be embraced by the Father; and,

Refocus intently on the things that matter most.

As we gather in our churches throughout the Diocese of the Midwest, I encourage you to participate in the Lenten Divine Services and join in prayer with our Orthodox sisters and brothers within the diocese and throughout the world; as we fast together and pray together and repent of our sins, as we minister together with all those who are in need. Let us do so, always being of one mind and heart, professing our faith in the One Who has saved us.

Please be assured that I share with you in all the spiritual challenges of the weeks that lies before us. Let us pray for one another that our efforts will benefit not only ourselves, but indeed, will bring blessings to the entire local Church, our diocesan family.

May this Great Lent, be for all of us a season of peace, forgiveness, healing, and spiritual renewal so that with full hearts we may all greet with joy the bright and radiant feast of Pascha.

Be assured of my prayers and blessings for you, your families, and all your loved ones.

With love in Christ,

DANIEL Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

MARCH Reposed List

1- Anna Rago (1920) © / Konstantin Pavchula (1933) © / Spiros Psaromatis (1936) © / Johnny Basala (1995)
2- Gerasimakis Mikes (1930) ©
4- Theodora Anos (1963) © / Marie Feltovich (2004) ©
5- Emily Vasilchek (1970) © / Mary Bilchik (1923) © / Milan Milasav (1926) ©
6- Joseph Libertyn (1989) © / Joseph Macala Jr (1993) © / Eva Nedostup (1921) © / Mike Korfia (1932) © / Alexander Tsvetanoff (1949) ©
8- Helen Konik (1925) © / Olga Sveda (1995) ©
9- Rampo Nikoloff (1957) © / Stephen Feltovich, Jr. (2015) ©
10- David Joseph Wargo (1977) © / Mary Durshaw (1980) ©
11- John Kostrounis (1924) © / Nicholas Sivachko (1934) © / Christine James (1959) © / Helen Kalafut (1962) © / Olga (Dr Nicoloff cousin) 2023
12- Metropolitan Nicholas (2011) / Margaret Krause (2009) © / Eli Maystevovich (1951) ©
13- George Malchisky Sr (1980) / Steven Gozur (1993) © / Robert Ferdericks (2023)
14- Steven Nosik (1987) © / Nikita Meris (1933) © / John Furin (1933) ©
15- Tatianna Muc (1931) © / Mary Furin (1996) ©
16- Mary Grubich (1931) © / Catherine Kovchuiak (1947) ©
18- Sub-deacon William Livosky (2015) © / Vladimir Conkich (1924) © / Still born Sabastinak (1924) © / John Furin (1934) ©
19- Manthas Geanakis (1956) © / Jimmy Malchisky (2025)
21- Tai Whitham / Sava Yovansvich (1920) © / Michael Barol (1965) ©
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29- Trofin Melnik (1931) ©
30- Nicholas Aasta (1921) © / George Andras (1999) ©
31- Helen Homulas (1974) © / James Malli (1925) © / Katherine Hamanzi (1946) ©

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

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.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Presides at Funeral of Bishop Seraphim (Sigrist)

On Monday, February 16, 2026 His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the funeral services for His Grace Bishop Seraphim (Sigrist), the newly-departed former bishop of Sendai, at Holy Trinity Church in Yonkers, NY. Serving with His Beatitude were His Eminence Archbishop Michael of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Archpriest David Cowan, Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Priest David Bozeman, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America, representatives from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary including Archpriest Alexander Rentel, rector of Three Hierarchs Chapel, along with other local clergy.

The Order for the Burial of a Hierarch was served on Monday evening. Prior to the service, Archpriest Michael Meerson shared remembrances about His Grace. At the conclusion of the funeral service, His Beatitude offered condolences and commented on the life and work of His Grace.

On Tuesday, February 17, His Beatitude presided at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with him were His Eminence and other local clergy with many area faithful in also in attendance. At the conclusion of the liturgy, a personal friend of His Grace, Archpriest David Kossey, rector of St. Mary's Orthodox Church of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, delivered a brief eulogy, recalling the impact and legacy of Bishop Seraphim.

A mercy meal followed the Divine Liturgy. Bishop Seraphim's interment took place at New Skete Monastery in Cambridge, NY.

Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America Visits the Church of Poland

With the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, and at the invitation and with the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw and All Poland, Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, undertook an official visit to the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church from February 14–18, 2026.

The principal purpose of the visit was an official audience with Metropolitan Sawa, Primate of the Church of Poland, which took place in Warsaw on Tuesday morning, February 17. Fr. Alessandro was received by His Beatitude with the participation of His Eminence Archbishop Jerzy of Wrocław and Szczecin. Fr. Alessandro conveyed the greetings of Metropolitan Tikhon and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America. Their discussion focused on the life and ministries of both Churches, the longstanding friendship between them, and areas of mutual interest and cooperation. They also discussed the ongoing work of ELEOS, the support offered by the Orthodox Church in America, and possible collaboration in youth ministry, including cooperation between the Fellowship of Orthodox Youth in Poland and Supraśl.

Upon his arrival in Warsaw on Saturday, February 14, Fr. Alessandro was welcomed by Archpriest Doroteusz Sawicki, Executive Director of ELEOS (the charitable arm of the Church of Poland), and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak. He then traveled to Lublin for the celebration of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord.

In Lublin, Fr. Alessandro was received at the Bishop's Residence by His Eminence Archbishop Abel of Lublin and Chełm for a meeting and luncheon. Also in attendance were His Grace Bishop Athanasy of Łódź and Poznań and His Grace Bishop Andrei of Supraśl.

That evening, Fr. Alessandro concelebrated at the All-Night Vigil at the Cathedral in Lublin for the feast.

During his time in Lublin, Fr. Alessandro also participated in events connected with World Orthodox Youth Day, organized by the Church of Poland, which brought together more than 200 young people from across Poland and other countries.

On Sunday, February 15, Archbishop Abel presided at the Divine Liturgy. At the conclusion of the service, Fr. Alessandro conveyed the greetings of Metropolitan Tikhon and of the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America.

That afternoon, Fr. Alessandro met with Fr. Andrzej Konachowicz, who oversees the ELEOS Polish-language and integration courses in Lublin—ministries supported in part by funds raised by the Orthodox Church in America in 2022 to assist Ukrainian refugees in Poland. He also visited the Diocesan Social Welfare Home directed by Priest Mirosław Wiśniewski, where he met with staff and residents.

Later that evening, Fr. Alessandro and Fr. Doroteusz traveled to Biała Podlaska, where they were welcomed by Priest Marcin Gościk.

On Monday, they journeyed to Grabarka to visit the Social Welfare Home directed by Priest Michał Siemieniuk and to meet with His Grace Bishop Paweł of Hajnówka. While there, Fr. Alessandro accompanied His Grace in visiting residents of the home.

The trip to Grabarka also included a visit to the Monastery of Saints Martha and Mary on Holy Mount Grabarka, widely regarded as the spiritual heart of Polish Orthodoxy and a major pilgrimage destination, particularly for the Feast of the Transfiguration. Fr. Alessandro toured the monastery and met with members of the sisterhood.

In the afternoon, the delegation returned to Biała Podlaska for a visit to the parish-operated Integration Center supported by ELEOS. ***Con't Next Pg***

Poland trip con't from previous pg

There, Fr. Alessandro met with a group of Ukrainian refugees, who shared their experiences of life before the war, their displacement, and their efforts to rebuild their lives in Poland. Some have enrolled in universities, others have found employment, and others are beginning small businesses. All expressed deep gratitude to ELEOS and to the Church of Poland for their assistance, as well as to the Orthodox Church in America for its financial support of these initiatives.

That evening, Fr. Alessandro returned to Warsaw and met with the full ELEOS staff over dinner, learning about the broad range of charitable programs currently underway.

On Tuesday morning, Fr. Alessandro was received in audience by Metropolitan Sawa, with the participation of His Eminence Archbishop Jerzy of Wrocław and Szczecin.

Following the audience, Fr. Alessandro visited the Primatial Cathedral of St. Mary Magdalene in Warsaw, as well as the Church of Hagia Sophia on the outskirts of the city and its food production center, which is supported by ELEOS.

Later that day, Fr. Alessandro visited the Orthodox Seminary in Warsaw, where he met with the seminarians and spoke about the life of the Orthodox Church in America and the structure of theological education in North America.

On Wednesday, February 18, Fr. Alessandro departed Warsaw and returned to the United States.

In 2018, Metropolitan Tikhon made an official visit to the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church at the invitation of Metropolitan Sawa. In recent years, the relationship between the two sister churches have been strengthened with the collaborative charity efforts undertaken in the wake of the war in Ukraine. The Orthodox Church in America conducted a fundraising appeal, raising over $700,000 for ELEOS' humanitarian work assisting refugees and displaced families.

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy / Commemorated on March 1

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm.

The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilos, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

John 1:43-51 (Gospel)

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

THANK YOU RECEIVED FROM HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ALEXEI

Dear friend of St. Herman Seminary,

I am writing to you to thank you for your generosity that is so necessary for the work at our beloved seminary, through your gifts, the seminary can continue the great labors of Saint Innocent and Saint Herman- training future priests so that they might forth with true light of the gospel of Christ. The light by which the seminarians read, the food is blessed at meals, the prayers offered up in the chapel, and the work they will do one day in the villages-you are part of this. On behalf of the Dean, the faculty, the staff, the seminarians and their families, I thank you and pray that God Bless you one-hundred-fold.

With God's blessing through the prayers of St. Herman,

+Archbishop Alexei

THANK YOU RECEIVED FROM DEAN OF ST. HERMAN SEMINARY

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We greet you with great joy thanking you for your generous gift of $823 to St. Herman Seminary. Your contribution allows us to continue our vital mission to train Alaskans to bring the Word of God and the Cup of life to those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness (Mt. 5:6)." Your support enables us to grow our faculty, provide students full scholarships and maintain our campus buildings and grounds. The needs of our faithful continue to grow as the Alaskan "fields are white for the harvest (Jn. 4:35)" but the laborers are few.

The Seminary continues to graduate and produce dynamic clergy and lay leaders who will implement Vladyka Alexei's vision in the field. Many of us have just enjoyed the great blessing of being present in Kwethluk and Anchorage at the glorification service of St. Olga, our new Alaskan intercessor. Together we can ask our newest saint for her prayers and intercessions: "Righteous Mother Olga of all Alaska, refuge of the afflicted, comfort of the grieving, intercessor for women, protector of the pure, pray to Christ God for us, that our souls be saved." By her intercessions may the Seminary continue to grow and thrive.

With love in Christ,

The V. Rev. Dr. Father John Dunlop

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISERS OF THE YEAR

As was mentioned at the Annual Meeting, we are in a financial crisis in the parish. Not only are we in need of increasing our tithe to the Church, but we are unfortunately, in need of fundraisers. The Fundraiser Committee met this past week and have made a calendar. We need all your help. Please see Nancy orf Fr. Andrew to help on the committee.

April 3rd & 4th– Easter-Spring Festival (details to follow soon) Saturday May 2– Rummage Sale along with a Bake sale & food festival.

Saturday, July 11 from 12-8pm: 250th celebration picnic with food and drink.

Sunday, September 27– Purse bingo

Saturday, November 7– 2nd annual Slavic Food Festival w/ Crates & Barrels.

Saturday, December 12– 2nd Annual Cookie tray with Haluski & Halupki food sales

Please tell your family, friends & neighbors to save the dates. These fundraisers could determine the future of this parish.