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 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

Wednesday, March 11
5:15—5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts / Lenten Social / Lenten movie

Friday, March 13
5:15—5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts / Lenten Social / Lenten movie

Saturday, March 14
9:00 AM: Memorial Divine Liturgy w/ the reading of the Diptychs of the parish
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Vespers

Sunday, March 15
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social
5:00 PM: Our one and only Deanery Mission @ Archangel Michael in Broadview Heights (let us try to get a car pool to attend)

REMINDERS

6:00 PM: Monday March 23rd– Full Canon of St. Andrew

6:00 PM: Tuesday March 24– Vespers w/ Litia for the Annunciation

6:00 PM: Wednesday March 25th– Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Feast of the Annunciation followed by Fish & wine dinner. Please sign-up at Candle desk.

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

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

The believer is responsible not only for taking the initiative to seek out a spiritual father, but also for implementing his advice. Moreover, he or she must be honest and eager to become well, for a physician cannot cure someone who is sick unless the patient first entreat him and urge him on by baring his wound with complete confidence.

Bishop Alexis (Trader)
Ancient Christian Wisdom and Aaron Beck's Cognitive Therapy: A Meeting of Minds p.159

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
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	$15,699.70
TOTAL	**-$999.44**
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 8– Sub-Deacon Dr. Donald
- March15– Reader Matthew Vansuch
- March 22– Reader Nicholas Vansuch
- March 29– Robert Willison

Social
- 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 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 @ 330-720-2100 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 / In memory of my Parents George & Mary Vasile & my brother George Robert Vasile– Given by Elaine Johnston
Altar Candles: In memory of my ordaining bishop, Metropolitan Nicholas– Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek
Tetrapod Candles: In memory of my husband Andrew– Given by Ann Cvercko
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

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 or 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.

Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (Epistle, Saint)

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Sunday of Orthodoxy Encyclical: Assembly of Bishops Sunday 2026

Dearly beloved faithful in Christ,

On the first Sunday of Great Lent—the Sunday of Orthodoxy—we joyfully commemorate the restoration of holy icons to the life of the Church. This feast celebrates the unity established by the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787) and the final restoration of icons in 843 under the leadership of Empress St. Theodora, together with her son, Emperor Michael III, and Patriarch St. Methodios. Today, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America carries this legacy forward, manifesting that same spirit of unity. In this light, "Assembly of Bishops Sunday" is now observed nationwide in conjunction with this historic celebration.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul's ancient plea still resonates: he calls us to be "united in the same mind and the same judgment," leaving no room for division (1 Cor 1:10). This mandate, paired with the celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, reminds us that the restoration of icons was more than a historical event—it was the restoration of Church unity itself. It was the victory of faith over fear and the reality of a God incarnate over a distant deity. Just as we honor holy icons, we are called to see the icon of Christ in one another. By standing firm like the Saints of the 8th and 9th Centuries, we move past our differences to embrace the grace that unites us in the Body of Christ.

As we celebrate Assembly of Bishops Sunday – along with the Sunday of Orthodoxy – we encourage you all to learn about the Ministries of the Assembly as well as to support our sincere efforts for Orthodox Christian Unity through the steadfast and generous gifts of your time, talent, and treasure.

With Paternal love in Christ and prayers for a blessed Lenten journey, on the 1st of March, 2026.

Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chair
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Metropolitan Saba, Vice-Chair
Antiochian Orthodox Church

Archbishop Michael
Treasurer

Metropolitan Gregory
Secretary

Bishop Irinej
Serbian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Nicolae
Romanian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Joseph
Bulgarian Orthodox Church

Bishop Saba
Georgian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Tikhon
Orthodox Church in America

Longtime OCA General Counsel Receives St. Theodora Award from the Assembly of Bishops

On Sunday, February 15, 2026 the Honorable Judge E. Ray Lanier, retired General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America, was presented the Assembly of Bishops' Medal of Saint Theodora, "Restorer of Icons" and a patron saint of Orthodox Unity. The Medal of St. Theodora is an annual award given to one male and one female from among the laity who have made significant contributions to the work of the Assembly and to Orthodox Christian Unity. The award was presented to Judge Lanier at his home parish of St. Innocent Church in Macon, GA, by Archpriest Theophan Buck, with remarks delivered on behalf of the Assembly of Bishops by Bill Marianes, Esq.

Judge Ray Lanier has served as Municipal Court Judge in the Monticello and Norcross Municipal Courts in the State of Georgia. He has served as a Professor at the Georgia State Law School and the Georgia State University School of Business Administration. He has also served as President of the Georgia Council of Municipal Court Judges. He labored for many years as the legal counsel for the OCA and was one of the principal drafters of the revised Statute of the Orthodox Church in America. He served as a Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat for service in Vietnam.

All the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America extends their congratulations to Judge Lanier. God grant him many years!

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Begins Great Lent at St. Nicholas Cathedral

On Sunday February 22 and Monday, February 23, 2026, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon began Great Lent with services at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, DC.

On Sunday, His Beatitude presided at Forgiveness Vespers, beginning the Lenten season and concluding with the Rite of Mutual Forgiveness. On Monday, His Beatitude also served Great Compline for the reading of the Great Canon of St. Andrew.

Also present were Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, and Priest David Bozeman, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America, along with other cathedral clergy.

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) ©
22- Matthew Pacak (1969) © / Anna Sweesy (2010) © / Theodore Boldosh (1931) ©
23- John Olesko (1971) © / Andrew Zlatfoff, Sr. (1975) ©
24- Mary Bolina (1988) ©
25- Pani Janette Moriak (1997) / David Chikerotis (2019)
26- Joseph Krause (1998) © / Michael Urchak (2005) © / Irene Homulos (2005) © / Vasili Spirtos (1925) © / George Konstaudinidis (1943) © / Tony Deligeorge (1957) © / Dan Barbus (1958) ©
27- Darlene Hryb (2017) © / Bogan Bolgar (1927) © / Evdokia Vasilika (1932) © / George Britven (1957) ©
28- Anthony Fojcik (1920) © / John Patellis (1926) ©
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 / Mildred Wilfong

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) / 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.

2nd Sunday of Great Lent: St Gregory Palamas / Commemorated on March 8

This Sunday was originally dedicated to Saint Polycarp of Smyrna (February 23). After his glorification in 1368, a second commemoration of Saint Gregory Palamas (November 14) was appointed for the Second Sunday of Great Lent as a second "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, was born in the year 1296 in Constantinople. Saint Gregory's father became a prominent dignitiary at the court of Andronicus II Paleologos (1282-1328), but he soon died, and Andronicus himself took part in the raising and education of the fatherless boy. Endowed with fine abilities and great diligence, Gregory mastered all the subjects which then comprised the full course of medieval higher education. The emperor hoped that the youth would devote himself to government work. But Gregory, barely twenty years old, withdrew to Mount Athos in the year 1316 (other sources say 1318) and became a novice in the Vatopedi monastery under the guidance of the monastic Elder Saint Nikódēmos of Vatopedi (July 11). There he was tonsured and began on the path of asceticism. A year later, the holy Evangelist John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and promised him his spiritual protection. Gregory's mother and sisters also became monastics.

After the demise of the Elder Nikódēmos, Saint Gregory spent eight years of spiritual struggle under the guidance of the Elder Nikēphóros, and after the latter's death, Gregory transferred to the Lavra of Saint Athanasius (July 5). Here he served in the trapeza, and then became a church singer. But after three years, he resettled in the small skete of Glossia, striving for a greater degree of spiritual perfection. The head of this monastery began to teach the young man the method of unceasing prayer and mental activity, which had been cultivated by monastics, beginning with the great desert ascetics of the fourth century: Evagrius Pontikos and Saint Macarius of Egypt (January 19).

Later on, in the eleventh century Saint Simeon the New Theologian (March 12) provided detailed instruction in mental activity for those praying in an outward manner, and the ascetics of Athos put it into practice. The experienced use of mental prayer (or prayer of the heart), requiring solitude and quiet, is called "Hesychasm" (from the Greek "hesychia" meaning calm, silence), and those practicing it were called "hesychasts."

During his stay at Glossia the future hierarch Gregory became fully embued with the spirit of hesychasm and adopted it as an essential part of his life. In the year 1326, because of the threat of Turkish invasions, he and the brethren retreated to Thessalonica, where he was then ordained to the holy priesthood.

Saint Gregory combined his priestly duties with the life of a hermit. Five days of the week he spent in silence and prayer, and only on Saturday and Sunday did he come out to his people. He celebrated divine services and preached sermons. For those present in church, his teaching often evoked both tenderness and tears. Sometimes he visited theological gatherings of the city's educated youth, headed by the future patriarch, Isidore. After he returned from a visit to Constantinople, he found a place suitable for solitary life near Thessalonica the region of Bereia. Soon he gathered here a small community of solitary monks and guided it for five years.

In 1331 the saint withdrew to Mt. Athos and lived in solitude at the skete of Saint Savva, near the Lavra of Saint Athanasius. In 1333 he was appointed Igumen of the Esphigmenou monastery in the northern part of the Holy Mountain. In 1336 the saint returned to the skete of Saint Savva, where he devoted himself to theological works, continuing with this until the end of his life.

In the 1330s events took place in the life of the Eastern Church which put Saint Gregory among the most significant universal apologists of Orthodoxy, and brought him great renown as a teacher of hesychasm.

About the year 1330 the learned monk Barlaam had arrived in Constantinople from Calabria, in Italy. He was the author of treatises on logic and astronomy, a skilled and sharp-witted orator, and he received a university chair in the capital city and began to expound on the works of Saint Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3), whose "apophatic" ("negative", in contrast to "kataphatic" or "positive") theology was acclaimed in equal measure in both the Eastern and the Western Churches. Soon Barlaam journeyed to Mt. Athos, where he became acquainted with the spiritual life of the hesychasts. Saying that it was impossible to know the essence of God, he declared mental prayer a heretical error. Journeying from Mount Athos to Thessalonica, and from there to Constantinople, and later again to Thessalonica, Barlaam entered into disputes with the monks and attempted to demonstrate the created, material nature of the light of Tabor (i.e. at the Transfiguration). He ridiculed the teachings of the monks about the methods of prayer and about the uncreated light seen by the hesychasts.

Saint Gregory, at the request of the Athonite monks, replied with verbal admonitions at first. But seeing the futility of such efforts, he put his theological arguments in writing. Thus appeared the "Triads in Defense of the Holy Hesychasts" (1338). Towards the year 1340 the Athonite ascetics, with the assistance of the saint, compiled a general response to the attacks of Barlaam, the so-called "Hagiorite Tome." At the Constantinople Council of 1341 in the church of Hagia Sophia Saint Gregory Palamas debated with Barlaam, focusing upon the nature of the light of Mount Tabor. On May 27, 1341 the Council accepted the position of Saint Gregory Palamas, that God, unapproachable in His Essence, reveals Himself through His energies, which are directed towards the world ***Con't next Pg***

St. Gregory con't from previous pg

and are able to be perceived, like the light of Tabor, but which are neither material nor created. The teachings of Barlaam were condemned as heresy, and he himself was anathemized and fled to Calabria.

But the dispute between the Palamites and the Barlaamites was far from over. To these latter belonged Barlaam's disciple, the Bulgarian monk Akyndinos, and also Patriarch John XIV Kalekos (1341-1347); the emperor Andronicus III Paleologos (1328-1341) was also inclined toward their opinion. Akyndinos, whose name means "one who inflicts no harm," actually caused great harm by his heretical teaching. Akyndinos wrote a series of tracts in which he declared Saint Gregory and the Athonite monks guilty of causing church disorders. The saint, in turn, wrote a detailed refutation of Akyndinos' errors. The patriarch supported Akyndinos and called Saint Gregory the cause of all disorders and disturbances in the Church (1344) and had him locked up in prison for four years. In 1347, when John the XIV was replaced on the patriarchal throne by Isidore (1347-1349), Saint Gregory Palamas was set free and was made Archbishop of Thessalonica.

In 1351 the Council of Blachernae solemnly upheld the Orthodoxy of his teachings. But the people of Thessalonica did not immediately accept Saint Gregory, and he was compelled to live in various places. On one of his travels to Constantinople the Byzantine ship fell into the hands of the Turks. Even in captivity, Saint Gregory preached to Christian prisoners and even to his Moslem captors. The Hagarenes were astonished by the wisdom of his words. Some of the Moslems were unable to endure this, so they beat him and would have killed him if they had not expected to obtain a large ransom for him. A year later, Saint Gregory was ransomed and returned to Thessalonica.

Saint Gregory performed many miracles in the three years before his death, healing those afflicted with illness. On the eve of his repose, Saint John Chrysostom appeared to him in a vision. With the words "To the heights! To the heights!" Saint Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359. In 1368 he was canonized at a Constantinople Council under Patriarch Philotheus (1354-1355, 1364-1376), who compiled the Life and Services to the saint.

Mark 2:1-12 (Sunday, Gospel)

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 (Sunday, Epistle)

And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Archbishop Daniel leads Clean Week Services in Chicago Parishes

During the first week of Great and Holy Lent, February 23–27, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest led the reading of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at his parishes in Chicago. On Clean Monday and Clean Thursday, His Eminence read the Great Canon at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, served Great Compline. The Archbishop also served the first Presanctified Liturgy of the season on Wednesday morning at the Cathedral. On Clean Tuesday, the Archbishop served at Christ the Savior Church, Chicago, IL, reading the second section of the Great Canon. Great Compline was served by Priest John Kennerk, Rector. The Archbishop read the Great Canon on Clean Wednesday, at St. George Cathedral, Chicago, IL. Great Compline was served by Priest Nikolai Lochmatow.

Archbishop Daniel presides over Orthodoxy Sunday in Chicago

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest presided over the annual Chicagoland observance of the Triumph of Orthodoxy Vespers. Services were held at Holy Resurrection Serbian Cathedral, Chicago, IL, on Sunday, March 1.

His Eminence concelebrated with His Grace Bishop Serafim of Kostajnica, as well as the clergy, and faithful from around Chicagoland. Responses were sung by the Pan Orthodox Choir of Greater Chicago.

Bishop Serafim was the homilist for Orthodoxy Sunday and offered a retreat to the clergy the next day. Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor also attended the service.

St. Louis Faithful Welcome Archbishop on First Sunday of Lent

On Sunday, March 1, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and theMidwest, made an archpastoral visit to St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, St. Louis, MO

Archbishop Daniel served the Divine Liturgy and was joined by Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Priest Matthew Mcdonald, Rector, Archpriest Anthony Roeber and Archpriest Peter Tobias.

The service was also attended by the faithful of the nearby parish Nativity of the Virgin Mary.

Prior to the service, Timothy Sapp was ordained a Reader. Following the Divine Liturgy, a festive meal was held in the hall.

John 10:9-16 (Gospel, Saint Gregory)

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *February*	2025	2026
1st– Week (Orthodoxy)		
Clean Wednesday	27	13
Clean Thursday	21	Canceled
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	31 / 17	22 / 13
Saturday Vespers	13	10
Lit. / Communion	64 / 41	49/ 28
2nd Week– St. Gregory		
Wed– Pre-Sanctified	43 / 25	
Fri– Pre-Sanctified	28 / 21	
Sat. Vespers	13	
Lit / Communion	43 / 29	
3rd Week– Cross		
Wed Pre-sanctified	48 / 28	
Fri– Pre-Sanctified	27 / 16	
Sat. Memorial	10 (Akathist)	
Vespers	8	
Lit. / Communion	76/ 39	
4th Week– St. John		
Wed Pre-sanctified	36 / 22	
Fri– Pre-Sanctified	23 / 14	
Vespers	10	
Lit. / Communion	55 / 39	
5th Week –St. Mary		
Wed Pre-sanctified	No record	
Full Canon	8	
Annunciation Vespers	No record	
Annunciation Lit.	25 / 18	
Fri. Akathist	20	
Vespers	8	
Lit. / Communion	62 / 46	

40-DAY REMEMBRANCE

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