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 15
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy Panchida for Sub-deacon William Livosky & His Em. Metropolitan Nicholas & His Grace Bishop Seraphim & George Bartek / Swearing in of new council / Social in memory of Sub-deacon William offered by Linda Livosky
5:00 PM: Our one and only Deanery Mission @ Archangel Michael in Broadview Heights (let us try to get a car pool to attend)

Tuesday, March 17
6:30 PM: Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 18
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Presanctified Liturgy / Lenten social / Movie

Friday, March 20
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Presanctified Liturgy / Lenten social / Movie

Saturday, March 21
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by App't
6:00 PM: Vespers

Sunday, March 22
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social
5:00 PM: Local Vespers @ our sister parish in Warren

40-DAY REMEMBRANCE

March 15 – His Grace Bishop Seraphim
March 29 – Debbie Zelinski
April 19 - Monk Kyril (Due to when his 40th day falls (Holy week) we will remember it on April 19)

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

REMINDERS– UPDATED

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

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

9:00 AM: Wednesday March 25th– Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Feast of the Annunciation

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

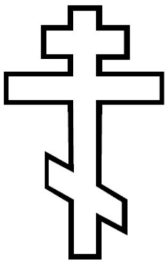
Mrs. Julia Simko
c/o Woodlands @ Hampton Woods
1525 E Western Reserve Rd /
Room 1101
Poland, OH 44514

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

Every morning, we have to prepare ourselves to bear our cross. When we go to work, to our obedience, to pray, we will take up our little cross and follow our Bridegroom. Today, we will bear this cross; next time, we will bear another cross.



Gerondissa Makrina (Vassopoulou)

Words of the Heart p.177

MARCH READER & SOCIAL SCHEDULE

Reader Schedule

March15– Reader Matthew Vansuch
March 22– Reader Nicholas Vansuch
March 29– Robert Willison

Social

March 15– By Linda Livosky
March 22– Sisterhood
March 29– Council
NOTE: If you would like to sponsor an open Social please see Nancy or Father.

MARCH- NO CHARITY COLLETION

Monk Kyril (Yefimov)

Monk Kyril (Yefimov) fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at the age of 79.

Born Konstantin Yefimov in Russia in 1946, Father Kyril immigrated to the United States in the early 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union. In 1997, he came to Saint Tikhon's Monastery and was tonsured to the Small Schema by His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman in 2003.

For many years, Father Kyril labored as a groundskeeper and cared for the monastery's bees. He fought several battles with cancer over the years and reposed following a recurrence of kidney cancer.

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 Midwest / 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

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.

REVISED JANUARY FINANCIAL NUMBERS

OLD NUMBERS:	REVISED NUMBERS
Expenses: $17,449.97	$17,313.26
INCOME: $10,235.70	$13,814,29
TOTAL: -$7,214.27	-$3,498.97

NOTE: Financial numbers are still in negative in January but not as bad as was earlier reported. Errors were corrected.

EASTER– SPRING FEST

PICK-UP: Friday & Saturday April 3 & 4 from 1-5pm

MENU:

Raisin & Plain Paska / Kolbasi / Bacon / Butter Lambs / Halushki / Pirogy / Pagach / Homemade Horseradish / Cheese Blini / Hand Painted Easter Eggs

PRE-ORDER ONLY– Either see Nancy or call 330-755-2223

Tuesdays & Thursdays– Noon-2pm
Wednesday– 3:30-5:30 pm

Accepting Electronic Payments

PASCHAL FLOWERS DONATIONS

If you would like to help defray the costs of Paschal flowers & have your family & friends remembered during the Paschal Divine Liturgy in memory of or for the health of please see Father Andrew. The cost is $15.

BARTEK FAMILY: 10 flowers
-For the Health of all the parishioners & all those on the prayer list
-For the Health of The fire & police of Campbell
-For the Health of the Mayor of Campbell, Marblehead, & Summit and the city Gov't & all businesses & residents of Campbell
-For the Health of His Beatitude Met. Tikhon & His Eminence Archbishop Daniel & the entire Synod of the OCA
-For the health of our military in this country
-For the Health of all my family & friends
-In memory of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, my ordaining Bishop
-In memory of His Beatitude Herman & Theodosius & His Em. AB Paul, AB Job, His grace Bishop Innocent & David & Matthias
-In memory of my parents George & Dorothy & all my family & friends
-In memory of the diptychs of this parish

Financial Health Initiative: Archpastoral Reflection

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

Glory to Jesus Christ!

During the sacred season of Great Lent, the Church calls us to sobriety and renewed stewardship. Through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, we learn again that every aspect of our life—spiritual and material alike—is entrusted to us by God and must be ordered toward his service. Among those entrusted with a particular stewardship are our clergy and their families.

The priest, called to celebrate the Divine Services and care for souls, carries sacred responsibilities week by week in the life of the parish. His household shares in the demands and sacrifices of that calling.

In recent years, it has become clear that many clergy households experience financial strain—not as a dramatic crisis, but as a steady pressure. Some priests have reflected that financial concerns absorb attention that would otherwise be devoted to parish life. Others have noted the necessity of outside employment in order to provide stability for their families. These realities invite a measured and responsible response.

Through the Office of Pastoral Life, the Orthodox Church in America has established the Financial Health Initiative. Supported in part by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, this initiative provides clergy households with financial literacy education, practical planning tools, and professional coaching. Upon completing the program, families may submit a simple application to receive a grant administered by the Office of Pastoral Life, assisting with debt reduction, emergency savings, or retirement preparation.

The Lilly grant requires matching funds. For every dollar distributed in assistance, a dollar must be raised. Gifts offered to this initiative are therefore doubled, directly increasing the support available to clergy families.

Such support is not charity. It is an expression of stewardship of our shared life in Christ. When a clergy household gains financial stability, the priest is freer to devote his attention to the pastoral ministry entrusted to him. When a family stands on firmer ground, the parish it serves is strengthened.

In this Lenten season, I invite you to consider supporting this matching effort. In doing so, you participate directly in strengthening the households of those who serve at the altar and labor for the salvation of souls.

May the Lord, who provides for all our needs, bless this work and grant peace and perseverance to all who serve in his vineyard.

To him, together with his Father and his All-holy Spirit, be all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
+TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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. 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: Mat. Melanie Adamcio / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Trudy Ellmore / John Grabavoy / 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 Tatiana

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Kyle Grabovoy (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.

Lightning Strike Causes Fire at St. John of the Ladder Orthodox Church in Greenville, SC

St. John of the Ladder Orthodox Church, Greenville, SC, sustained significant damage after a lightning strike caused a fire on the evening of Saturday, March 7, 2026. The church caught fire at approximately 10:00 PM.

As restoration efforts begin, the parish plans to continue celebrating Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 7:00 AM and 9:30 AM in the parish hall, as well as its normal weekday services. The parish's iconography, painted by artist-in-residence Seraphim O'Keefe, will also require restoration along with other parts of the temple.

St. John of the Ladder has experienced rapid growth in recent years and currently serves more than 500 faithful across multiple services each weekend. Despite the challenges posed by the damage, the parish sees this as an opportunity to continue their mission in upstate South Carolina.

The faithful of the Orthodox Church in America are asked to keep the clergy and parishioners of St. John of the Ladder in their prayers.

Those wishing to assist the parish are encouraged to support their GoFundMe campaign or donate liturgical items.

Department of Education Launches Lenten Video Series

The Department of Education of the Diocese of the Midwest has begun a Lenten Video series for the edification of the faithful. The first video in this series is a discussion on the newly published book "How to Read the Holy Fathers: A Guide for Orthodox Christians" between Priest Daniel Greeson, Director of the Department of Education, and Priest Joseph Lucas, Rector of Christ the Savior Orthodox Cathedral in Miami Lakes, FL. Fr Daniel and Fr Joseph discuss the challenges of reading the Holy Fathers and offer some guidance in approaching them.

Future videos will discuss compassion, catechesis, family life, and grief. This series will be uploaded on to the Department of Education's YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/@educationdeptDOM). You can also follow the Department of Education on their Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61572846646642) where resources, videos, and other things of relevance are regularly shared.

You can watch & listen on the Diocesan website.

Midwest Seminarians Receive Visit from their Archpastor

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest conducted his spring visits to St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary from Tuesday, March 3 through Friday, March 6 to meet with the seminarians of the Midwest.

On Tuesday evening, the Archbishop arrived at St. Vladimir's Seminary with Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, and Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, and Deacon Timothy Heinbokel. The delegation attended Great Compline and then gathered the seminarians and their family's for dinner.

On the following day, March 4, the Archbishop celebrated his name day. At the conclusion of Matins at the Three Hierarchs Chapel, Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Rector, greeted the Archbishop and intoned "Many years" for him on the joyous occasion. The Archbishop reflected on the life of his heavenly patron encouraging the students to attentive and generous like St. Daniel of Moscow. Dr. Ionut Alexandru Tudorie, Dean of the Seminary, welcomed the Archbishop as well. The Archbishop and the fathers met with the Midwest seminarians for the remainder of the morning.

That evening, the Archbishop traveled to St. Tikhon's Seminary and had dinner with the seminarians and their families. On Thursday, March 5, the Archbishop met with Archpriest John Parker, Dean of the Seminary and Priest Paul Witek, Dean of Academic Affairs, as well as the Midwest students throughout the morning.

The Archbishop remained at St. Tikhon's for another day to attend the seminary's board meeting, which the Archbishop is a member of.

If you would like to support the DOM seminarians please reach out the Chancery.

Many Years to Archbishop Daniel on his Name Day

The clergy and faithful congratulate
His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest
on the occasion of his Name Day.

May St. Daniel of Moscow intercede for you before the Thone of God,
and may God grant you many years.

Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Saint Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland Commemorated on March 17

Saint Patrick, the Enlightener of Ireland was born around 385, the son of Calpurnius, a Roman decurion (an official responsible for collecting taxes). He lived in the village of Bannavem Taberniae, which may have been located at the mouth of the Severn River in Wales. The district was raided by pirates when Patrick was sixteen, and he was one of those taken captive. He was brought to Ireland and sold as a slave, and was put to work as a herder of swine on a mountain identified with Slemish in Co. Antrim. During his period of slavery, Patrick acquired a proficiency in the Irish language which was very useful to him in his later mission.

He prayed during his solitude on the mountain, and lived this way for six years. He had two visions. The first told him he would return to his home. The second told him his ship was ready. Setting off on foot, Patrick walked two hundred miles to the coast. There he succeeded in boarding a ship, and returned to his parents in Britain.

Some time later, he went to Gaul and studied for the priesthood at Auxerre under Saint Germanus (July 31). Eventually, he was consecrated as a bishop, and was entrusted with the mission to Ireland, succeeding Saint Palladius (July 7). Saint Palladius did not achieve much success in Ireland. After about a year he went to Scotland, where he died in 432.

Patrick had a dream in which an angel came to him bearing many letters. Selecting one inscribed "The Voice of the Irish," he heard the Irish entreating him to come back to them.

Although Saint Patrick achieved remarkable results in spreading the Gospel, he was not the first or only missionary in Ireland. He arrived around 432 (though this date is disputed), about a year after Saint Palladius began his mission to Ireland. There were also other missionaries who were active on the southeast coast, but it was Saint Patrick who had the greatest influence and success in preaching the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, he is known as "The Enlightener of Ireland."

His autobiographical Confession tells of the many trials and disappointments he endured. Patrick had once confided to a friend that he was troubled by a certain sin he had committed before he was fifteen years old. The friend assured him of God's mercy, and even supported Patrick's nomination as bishop. Later, he turned against him and revealed what Patrick had told him in an attempt to prevent his consecration. Many years later, Patrick still grieved for his dear friend who had publicly shamed him.

Saint Patrick founded many churches and monasteries across Ireland, but the conversion of the Irish people was no easy task. There was much hostility, and he was assaulted several times. He faced danger, and insults, and he was reproached for being a foreigner and a former slave. There was also a very real possibility that the pagans would try to kill him. Despite many obstacles, he remained faithful to his calling, and he baptized many people into Christ.

The saint's Epistle to Coroticus is also an authentic work. In it he denounces the attack of Coroticus' men on one of his congregations. The Breastplate (Lorica) is also attributed to Saint Patrick. In his writings, we can see Saint Patrick's awareness that he had been called by God, as well as his determination and modesty in undertaking his missionary work. He refers to himself as "a sinner," "the most ignorant and of least account," and as someone who was "despised by many." He ascribes his success to God, rather than to his own talents: "I owe ***Con't Next Pg***

St. Patrick Con't from previous pg

it to God's grace that through me so many people should be born again to Him."

By the time he established his episcopal See in Armargh in 444, Saint Patrick had other bishops to assist him, many native priests and deacons, and he encouraged the growth of monasticism.

Saint Patrick is often depicted holding a shamrock, or with snakes fleeing from him. He used the shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Its three leaves growing out of a single stem helped him to explain the concept of one God in three Persons. Many people now regard the story of Saint Patrick driving all the snakes out of Ireland as having no historical basis.

Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461 (some say 492). There are various accounts of his last days, but they are mostly legendary. Muirchu says that no one knows the place where Saint Patrick is buried. Saint Columba of Iona (June 9) says that the Holy Spirit revealed to him that Patrick was buried at Saul, the site of his first church. A granite slab was placed at his traditional grave site in Downpatrick in 1899.

Martyrs Agapius, Publius, Timolaus, Romulus, two named Dionysius, and two named Alexander, at Caesarea in Palestine
Commemorated on March 15

The Holy Martyrs Agapius, Publius (Pausis), Timolaus, Romulus, Alexander, Alexander, Dionysius and Dionysius suffered under the emperor Diocletian (284-305) in the city of Palestinian Caesarea. During one of the pagan festivals they began to torture and execute Christians who refused to offer sacrifice to idols.

The Martyr Timolaus (August 19) was sentenced to burning, and the Martyrs Agapius and Thekla (August 19) were sentenced to be torn apart by wild beasts. A group of young Christians: Publius, Timolaus, Alexander, another Alexander, Dionysius, and Romulus, the subdeacon of the Diospolis church decided to confess their faith and suffer for Christ.

As a sign of their voluntary deed they tied their own hands behind their backs and appeared before the governor Urbanus. Seeing their youth, the governor tried to persuade them to reconsider their decision, but in vain. He then threw them in prison, where there were already two Christians, Agapius and his servant Dionysius. All these saints were subjected to terrible tortures and beheaded.

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	27 / 16
Fri– Pre-Sanctified	28 / 21	22 / 15
Sat. Vespers	13	11
Lit / Communion	43 / 29	31 / 23
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	

3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross
Commemorated on March 15

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).