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 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

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

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

Wednesday, March 25
9:00 AM: Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Friday, March 27
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by App't
6:00 PM: Akathist

Saturday, March 28
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Vespers

Sunday, March 29
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social
5:00 PM: Deanery Unction Servicein Mogadore

FUNDRAISER UPDATES

This past week at the Parish Council meeting to cancel the May rummage / food sale fundraisers since no one has come forward to chair them.

At this point, no volunteer(s) has come forward to chair the picnic fundraiser.

Be aware, with the cancellation of the first, and possible cancellation of the second, the financial strain on the parish will increase. Please prayerfully consider coming forward to chair. Being chair means : 1) to organize it and 2) make sure its ready to proceed.

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

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

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

Hebrews 6:13-20 (Sunday, Epistle)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

MARCH READER & SOCIAL SCHEDULE

Reader Schedule
March 22– Reader Nicholas Vansuch
March 29– Robert Willison

Social
March 22– Sisterhood
March 29– Thomas Zelinsky in memory of Deborah
NOTE: If you would like to sponsor an open Social please see Nancy or Father.

MARCH- NO CHARITY COLLETION

Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Gospel, Saint)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

APRIL Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: In memory of my Mother Dorthy's 90th b-day– Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek
Wine: OPEN
Incense: In memory of Marion Zelinski on her year anniversary– Given by anonymous
Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of parents Nicholas & Mary Libertin– Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant
Altar Candles: In memory of my brother DR. Nick Libertin –Given by Charissa Oliphant
Tetrapod Candles: In memory of my parents George & Mary Gresko– Given by Mary Gresko & Family
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

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

Ephesians 5:9-19 (Epistle, Saint)

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

His Beatitude Archbishop Joani of Albania Celebrates Divine Liturgy at St. George Cathedral in Boston

On Sunday, March 8, 2026, His Beatitude Archbishop Joani of Tirana, Durrës, and All Albania presided at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of St. George in Boston, MA

His Beatitude was greeted by His Grace Bishop Nikodhim of Boston and the two hierarchs concelebrated the Divine Liturgy together with clergy of the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese and the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania. Serving with His Beatitude and His Grace were Archpriest Mark Doku, Chancellor of the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese, Hieromonk Danaks (Rhodes), Secretary of the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese, Archpriest Nicholas Dellermann, Protopresbyter Jani Trebicka, and Archpriest Grigori Pelushi, Secretary to the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Albania.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, His Grace Bishop Nikodhim read a greeting from His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. He said, "I hope that this will serve as a sign of and model for an ever-deepening relationship between the Albanian Orthodox Church and the Orthodox Church in America. It is my hope that this meeting might serve as a prelude to a primatial meeting and concelebration between myself and Your Beatitude in due time."

Following the remarks, a lunch was hosted at St. George Cathedral in honor of His Beatitude's visit.

His Beatitude Archbishop John Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës, and All Albania Kisha Othodokse Rr. e Kavajës 141 Tiranë ALBANIA

Your Beatitude, dear brother and concelebrant in the Lord's Mysteries,

Christ is in our midst!

I write to greet Your Beatitude and welcome you to the United States of America. I am pleased that Your Beatitude is able today to concelebrate the Divine Liturgy with one of our diocesan bishops, His Grace Bishop Nikodhim, and I hope that this will serve as a sign of and model for an ever-deepening relationship between the Albanian Orthodox Church and the Orthodox Church in America. It is my hope that this meeting might serve as a prelude to a primatial meeting and concelebration between myself and Your Beatitude in due time.

I ask Your Beatitude's prayers, and I assure you of my own primatial prayers for Your Beatitude's ministry. Please accept, once again, my warmest greetings on the occasion of this visit and concelebration.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon Archbishop of Washington Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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	33 / 12
Fri– Pre-Sanctified	27 / 16	18 / 8
Sat. Memorial	10 (Akathist)	10 / 14
Vespers	8	8
Lit. / Communion	76/ 39	51 / 30
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	

SPRING CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

We will be cleaning the church inside & out on Saturday, March 28 from 10-6. Please bring:

Gloves, racks, etc. Lunch will be provided. This will be a deep clean for Pascha both inside & out.

Hope to see you there! After a beautiful day of cleaning the church plan to stay and thank God & praise him at Vespers which will be served @ 6pm

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.

Twelfth Parish Development Forum to be Held in Palos Hills IL, July 9-11

The Diocese of the Midwest announced today that the 2026 Parish Development Forum will be held at Saint Luke's Church in the Chicago suburb of Palos Hills, IL. The Forum will begin at 1:00 PM Thursday July 9 and conclude before noon on Saturday July 11, 2026.

The Parish Development Forum is a clergy and laity conference dedicated to exploring the challenges facing contemporary Orthodox parishes, delivering actionable ideas and good practices valuable to parish leaders, and creating mutually supportive relationships among participants.

"The 2026 Forum theme will be "St. Tikhon's Vision for the Church in America: An Experiment for Parish Life", noted Archpriest Stephen Frase, Clergy Chairperson for the Forum. "Saint Tikhon was a transforming figure for Orthodoxy in America following his arrival to America in 1898. He found a fledgling Church operating under significantly different conditions than in historically Orthodox countries. What he encouraged was, in many ways, an ecclesial experiment—faithful to Orthodox Tradition, yet, adapted to a radically new social environment. His vision and important contributions included an emphasis on English language worship, active lay ministry, conciliar parish and Church governance and leadership, a missional expansion of Orthodoxy through extensive parish planting, an emphasis on adult faith education and laying a foundation for a unified, local, self-governing Church in America. Principles that continue to be significant for today's American parishes."

"This will be the twelfth Parish Development Forum," said Joseph Kormos, Forum Lay Chairperson. "While no Forum was held in 2025 due to the OCA's 21st All-American Council, the 2024 Forum attracted an active group of parish leaders from six OCA Dioceses, the Antiochian Archdiocese, the Greek Archdiocese, and from Ukrainian Orthodox parishes in the US and Canada. The agenda will include keynote presentations, facilitated small group discussion, time to forge interparish connection and relationships and daily worship. Keynote contributors will include Professor Scott Kenworthy, historian and author of a recent book on the life of Saint Tikhon, Archpriest Alexander Rentel, former OCA Chancellor and Professor at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Father Nicholas Anton of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops in America and others.

"Our Chicago location provides an excellent conference setting. The host parish is 22 minutes from Chicago Midway Airport and ten minutes from I-294. Over half of the OCA's parishes are within a manageable drive of the site," noted Mr. Kormos.

Forum registration will be online only and will begin in mid-May. To maintain an atmosphere of fellowship and dialogue among attendees, registration will be limited to 80 persons. A block of rooms has been reserved at a local hotel at special Forum rates.

Questions and enquiries may be directed to Mr. Kormos at joekormos1@gmail.com.

Mark 9:17-31 (Sunday, Gospel)

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

NEW COUNCIL

Nancy Tusinac– President
Sub-Deacon Dr. Donald Tamulonis– Vice-President
Sherrie Fredericks– Secretary
David Dionisio- Treasurer
David Konik– Financial Secretary
Natalia Simko– Member

40-DAY REMEMBRANCE

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

4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder) Commemorated on March 22

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Klimakos, the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent. In this book the Igoumen of Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God's Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was nineteen years of age,1 his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skḗtē and Tabénnisē in Egypt. For another forty years, he lived in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert, which was a two hour (5 mile) walk from the Monastery of Saint Katherine.

Aflame with indescribable longing for God, he ate everything that was permitted by the monastic Rule, but only in very small quantities, and not unto satiety. By so doing, he overcame the vice of pride; and by eating just a little food, he humbled the stomach, which always wants more. He raised his body from death and paralysis by the remembrance of death, and he overcame the tyranny of anger with the sword of obedience.

Who can describe the fountain of his tears, which is now to be seen in very few individuals? He slept only as much as was necessary to prevent his mind from being distracted. Before going to sleep he prayed a great deal, and he also wrote books. This was how he subdued despondency. His entire life was spent in unceasing prayer, and incomparable love for God.

After writing The Ladder at the request of Igoumen John of Raithu Monastery, and leading a God-pleasing life, Saint John fell asleep in the Lord when he was about seventy-five years old (ca. 603). He is also commemorated on March 30.

The inscription on his icon is from Step 7:2. It reads: "Compunction is a perrenial trial of the conscience, which brings about the cooling of the fire of the heart through mental confession. And confession is a forgetfulness of nature, since someone because of this forgot to eat his bread."2

1 This was his monastic age. He was, in fact, thirty-five years old.
2 Psalm 101:5 (Septuagint) "Him that speaks privily against his neighbor, him have I driven from me; he that is proud in look and insatiable in heart - with him I have not eaten."

SAINT VLADINIR'S SUMMER CAMP

Faith, Family & Fellowship
(Matthew 19::14) Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these"

Session 1(Ages 8-12) June 28– July 4

A week of younger campers to learn and discover a passion for our faith. Life-long friendships form through arts and crafts, group activities and learning sessions with the resident clergy. Young campers can't wait to return ever summer!

Session 2 (Ages 10-17) July 5-11

FOCA Junior Olympics week takes sports and Orthodoxy to create an activity-filled week of fun competition, team work, and comradery. Campers will learn how our faith works through sports and how Christianity and sportsmanship go hand in hand.

Session 3 (ages 13-17) July 12-18

Our older campers take on meaningful discussions during learning sessions with the resident clergy and drive deep into our faith with exciting crafts and projects. Group activities, nightly campfires, and daily reflections create memories that last! Questions? Contact at: info@stvladimirscamp.com

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St. VLAD's CAMP CLEANUP

When: June 6 from 10am-5pm

2795 Wakefield Creek Road
Farmdale OH

Come with:

Sweeping
dusting
disinfecting
organizing
inventorying
cabin Prep
landscaping & More / Campers Encouraged to help!

Contact if interested: 216-534-4679