The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405

APRIL Bulletin Sponsor
In memory of my Mother Dorthy's 90th b-day– Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, April 5
9:25 AM: Hours
9:55 AM: Procession outside with Cross & Palms & Pussy willows
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Fish Dinner Social
6:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins for Monday – Beginning of Great & Holy Week

Great & Holy Monday April 6
9:00 AM: Presanctified Liturgy
6:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins for Tuesday

Great & Holy Tuesday, April 7
9:00 AM: Presanctified Liturgy
6:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins for Wednesday

Great & Holy Wednesday, April 8
9:00 AM: Presanctified Liturgy
6:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins for Thursday

Great & Holy Thursday, April 9
9:00 AM: Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (Institution of the Holy Eucharist by Christ)
6:00 PM: Matins of Good Friday (Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels)
8:30 PM: Set-up Tomb

Great & Holy Friday, April 10
3:00 PM: Burial Vespers of our Lord
4:15 PM: Lite Lenten Social
5:30 PM: Lamentations at the Tomb w/ Procession of Shroud outside
7:30 PM: Grave Watching begins

Great & Holy Saturday, April 11
9:00 AM: Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil (Commemoration Jesus' descent into Hades)
11:25 PM: Nocturns followed by Procession outside

PASCHA, April 12
Midnight– Resurrection Matins
9:55 AM: Paschal Hours sung by Choir
10:00 AM: Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by blessing of the Easter Baskets

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

APRIL SOCIAL SCHEDULE

April 5- Fish Dinner Social (Needed to Sign-up)

April 12– Pascha

April 19– Sisterhood / 96th B-day cake for Mary Fredericks by Sherrie

April 26– Council

NOTE: If you would like to sponsor an open Social, please see Nancy or Father.

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

St. Theodosius Cathedral begins Restoration after Devastating Fire

The restoration of the iconic Orthodox Cathedral of St. Theodosius of Chernigov in Cleveland has started.

The parish had originally intended to begin the cathedral restoration last August. However, the discovery of a $3 million funding shortfall required a comprehensive reassessment of the project's scope. After careful deliberation, it was determined that the restoration of the main dome would need to be deferred. As a result, this portion of the work has been designated as Phase Two, allowing Phase One to proceed within the available resources and enable the parish to use the cathedral for services.

On Sunday, the parish community gathered in prayer to mark the beginning of the restoration effort, which officially commenced on Monday, March 23. The general contractor, along with subcontractors and supporting teams, has begun mobilization and initial site work. Phase One is projected to continue through the end of November.

The first stage of work will involve the demolition of the two medium-sized domes. Due to extensive internal fire damage, these structures are beyond repair and must be fully dismantled. Following their removal, a temporary protective roof will be installed over the cathedral to safeguard the interior from weather exposure. Under this protective covering, roofing repairs will proceed in carefully managed sections to prevent further damage to the structure.

Phase One will concentrate primarily on restoring the roof system, excluding the reconstruction of both, the main dome and the two medium-sized domes.

The parish expresses deep gratitude for the continued prayers and support of the faithful. Looking ahead, the restoration of the main dome remains a central goal of Phase Two. Achieving this will require additional time and an estimated $3 million to fully restore the crown dome to its rightful place atop the cathedral.

All are asked to continue keeping this effort in their prayers. Contributions, both spiritual and material, remain vital to the successful completion of this important work.

The cathedral is still accepting donations, which can be offered online through on Tithely.

APRIL Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: In memory of my Mother Dorothy's 90th b-day– Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek
Wine: In memory of Marion Zwinski– Given by Family / For the health of Sherrie Fredericks on the occasion of her 70th B-day– Given by Sherrie Fredericks
Incense: In memory of Marion Zwinski on her year anniversary– Given by anonymous
Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of parents Nicholas & Mary Libertin– Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant / In memory of His Eminence AB Paul—Given by AP Andrew Bartek
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: In memory of my God-father Andrew & Grandfather Matthew– Given by AP Andrew B.
St. John the Baptist Candles: In memory of my mom's b-day Jennie Rudiak on April 20th– Given by Sue Kennedy
Monthly Flowers: In memory of my dad on the occasion of his 3rd anniversary of repose– Given by Sherrie Fredericks

$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		

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE 12 PASSION GOSPELS

John 13:31-18:1 / John 18:1-28
Matthew 26:57-75 / John 18:28-19:16
Matthew 27:3-32 / Mark 15:16-32
Matthew 27:33-54 / Luke 23:32-49
John 19:25-37 / Mark 15:43-47
John 19:38-42 / Matthew 27:62-66

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR ROYAL HOURS ON GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY

Zechariah 11:10-13 / Galatians 6:14-18
Matthew 27:1-56 / Isaiah 50:4-11
Romans 5:6-11 / Mark 15:16-41
Isaiah 52:13-54:1 / Amos 8:9-12
Hebrews 2:11-18 / Luke 23:32-49
Jeremiah 11:18-12:5, 9:11, 14-15 / Hebrews 10:19-31
John 18:28-19:37

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR VESPERS ON GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY

Exodus 33:11-23 / Job 42:12-17 LXX
Isaiah 52:13-54:1
1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2
Matt. 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-43; Matt. 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matt. 27:55-61

APRIL Celebrations

Birthday

2- AP Andrew Bartek / David Koval
3- Genna Koval
7- Georgiana Lukehart
8- Sherrie Fredericks
9- Ann Konik / Jason Tsvetkoff
10- Mary Fredericks
11- Lynn Polewan
12- Michele Basile
13-Margarita Leso
18- Lucas Harvischak
20- Stephen A Elash
23- Paul Demkosky Jr / Andrew Zelinsky
27- Michael Polewan, Jr

Anniversary

4-8-89 Tonsur of Reader of AP Andrew Bartek

Names Day

22- AB Nathaniel of Detroit & Romanian Episcopate / Nathaniel Willison
23- Fr. Andrew Bartek / George Horodnic, Jr. / George Horodnic, Sr.
25- AB Mark of Philadelphia & Eastern, PA
30- Dc James Hryb / Sub-deacon Donald

APRIL READER SCHEDULE

April 5– George Horodnic
April 12– Sub-deacon Donald
April 19– Proto. Deacon Gemmel
April 26– Natalia Simko

Archbishop Places Antimension and Offers Thanksgiving at St. Paul the Apostle Monastery

On Monday, March 30, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest made an Archpastoral visit to the newly formed monastic community of the diocese, St. Paul the Apostle Monastery.

The Archbishop arrived and was greeted by the monastery Superior, Hierodeacon Menas (Thomas), along with members of the brotherhood and local community. The Archbishop entered the temple and placed the Antimension and Chrisom, on the altar. A Service of Thanksgiving was prayed.

Joining the Archbishop from the diocese were, Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral, Dean, Priest Esteban Vazquez, Vice Chancellor, Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, Secretary to the Archbishop, Priest Daniel Greeson, Rector of St. Peter and St. Paul, Burr Ridge, IL.

Following the service, Archbishop Daniel reflected on the importance of monastics communities in the life of the Church, as well as the importance of the day for the diocese and the St. Paul community. His Eminence thank Fr. Menas and everyone gathered for their work and expressed his hope that people will begin to visit the new monastery.

Following the Archbishop's greeting, a meal was held in the refectory, and a tour was giving of the monastery grounds.

The new community, St. Paul the Apostle Monastery, was canonically established by decree of the Archbishop as a monastery and institution of the Diocese of the Midwest on March 11, 2026. This action restores a stable monastic presence at the historic site which, for almost four decades, has been associated with Orthodox monastic life in the region. As part of the formal establishment of the monastery, Hierodeacon Menas (Thomas) has been appointed Superior of the monastery and entrusted with the spiritual and administrative leadership of the monastic brotherhood. The monastery functions under the spiritual and canonical authority of the Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest, with the assistance of a duly appointed Board of Trustees.

For more information about the monastery, visit their website. To order icons from the monastery workshop, visit saintpaulsicons.org.

40-DAY REMEMBRANCE

April 19 - Monk Kyril (Due to when his 40th day
April 26- His Holiness Ilia II, Patriarch of All Georgia
May 3– Andrew Cvercko / James

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	22 / 14
Fri– Pre-Sanctified	23 / 14	24 / 18
Vespers	10	18
Lit. / Communion	55 / 39	50 / 33
5th Week –St. Mary		
Wed Pre-sanctified	No record	None
Full Canon	8	15
Annunciation Vespers	No record	12
Annunciation Lit.	25 / 18	12 /9
Fri. Akathist	20	15
Vespers	8	15
Lit. / Communion	62 / 46	56 / 37

FINAL FINANCIAL NUMBERS FOR MARCH 2026

EXPENSES	$25,193.31
INCOME	$31, 447.65
TOTAL	+$6,254.34

With the final numbers for March 2026, we are +$5,227 for the year. A positive moment. Again, fundraisers are key for the success of the year.

We are +$2,705.93 from this time last year for quarter 1. A positive moment. Again, fundraisers are key for the success of the year.

Thank you everyone & keep up God's work!

APRIL Reposed List

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PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achiles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Cindy Ferrick Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Elaine Johnston / Sue Kennedy / George Clark / Matushka Helen Psinka / Nadine Sabo / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Reader Nick Vansuch / 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 / Anthony (Willison) / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Trudy Ellmore / Erin (Willison) / John Grabavoy / Thomas Hull, Jr. / Ron Hryb / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Kelly Marie Konya (Candle guy's daughter) / Mary Alyce Koval, 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.

Paschal Flowers

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 Eminence 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

Cvercko Family (3 flowers)
- In memory of Andrew Cvercko
- In memory of Antonia & Morris Pecuszok
- In memory of Andrew & Anna Cvercko

Sherrie Fredericks (2 flowers)
- For the health of my mother Mary Fredericks for 96th b-day
- In memory of my father, Robert Fredericks

Mary Fredericks (2 flowers)
- For the Health of my daughter Sherrie on the occasion of her 70th b-day
- In memory of my parents Naume and Mary Evanoff.

Hull Family-(1 flower)
- For the Health of Thomas Hull, Jr.

Melanie Yannitto– (2 flowers)
- For the Health of my mother Emmilia Yannitto
- For the Health of my sister & brother Ann & Bob

Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) / Commemorated on April 5

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the "hour" of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in a earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

Our Pledge

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: "Do you accept Christ?" We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: "I accept Him as King and God!"

Thus, on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom:

... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11). Very Rev. Paul Lazor

Metropolitan Tikhon Attends Funeral of Patriarch Ilia II of Georgia

On Sunday, March 22, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon attended the funeral of the newly departed His Holiness Ilia II, Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, who fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, March 17, at the age of 93, after nearly fifty years of primatial service to the Georgian Orthodox Church.

His Beatitude traveled to Tbilisi on Saturday, March 21, accompanied by His Grace Bishop Vasily of San Francisco and the West. Joining them was Archpriest Daniel Andrejuk, Dean of the Representation Church of the Holy Great Martyr Catherine in Moscow.

Upon arrival, His Beatitude was received by a delegation of the Georgian Orthodox Church headed by His Grace Bishop Saba of the Georgian Diocese of North America. The delegation escorted His Beatitude to the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Tbilisi, where Patriarch Ilia was laid. There, His Beatitude and His Grace offered a litya for the repose of the Patriarch and conveyed condolences to His Eminence Metropolitan Shio, Locum Tenens of the Patriarchal Throne, as well as to the hierarchs, clergy, and faithful of the Georgian Orthodox Church. On this occasion, His Beatitude also expressed the prayers and fraternal solidarity of the Orthodox Church in America during this time of mourning.

On Sunday, March 22, His Beatitude attended the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral, presided over by Metropolitan Shio, followed by the funeral service, presided over by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. His Beatitude attended the services alongside the primates and representatives of several local Orthodox Churches, as well as delegations from around the world, bearing witness to the deep respect and love held for the late Patriarch.

His Beatitude's presence at the funeral underscored the fraternal bonds between the Orthodox Church in America and the Georgian Orthodox Church, and the unity of the Orthodox Church in prayer for the repose of His Holiness.

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

Maintenance Issues:

Michael Simko - 330-565-0084
Michael Centofanti - 330-544-3518

John 12:1-18 (Gospel)

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Philippians 4:4-9 (Epistle)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

ARCHPASTORAL GREETINGS OF THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL

ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST

ON THE BRIGHT AND JOYOUS FEAST OF PASCHA – 12 APRIL 2026

Beloved Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest:

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! In this radiant and holy season of Pascha, we proclaim with joy that death is overthrown and eternal life is promised to those who believe. The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is not merely an historic event from the past, but the living foundation of our faith, the unshakable promise of our future, and the transforming power of our present.

By His Cross, Christ entered into the depths of human suffering. By His glorious Resurrection, He shattered the gates of Hades and destroyed the dominion of death forever. What once seemed final hasbeen rendered powerless. What once brought fear now opens the way to eternal hope.

Pascha assures us that life—true, abundant, and everlasting life—is not a distant dream, but a divine promise and guarantee. In the Risen Christ, despair gives way to hope, sin to forgiveness, sorrow to joy, and death to immortality. No darkness can overcome the Light that shines from the empty tomb.

As we celebrate this Feast of Feasts, let us renew our faith, strengthen our love, and embody the victory of the Resurrection in our daily lives. Let us become witnesses of this triumph—proclaiming by word and deed that Christ has conquered death and opened for all humanity the path to eternal life.

May the joy of the Resurrection fill your hearts, strengthen your families, and bless our communities throughout our beloved Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest. And may the peace of the Risen Lord abide with you always.

With love in the Risen Lord,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

A LETTER OF WELCOME FROM HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP DANIEL

To the Newly-Illumined Members of the Orthodox Church in the Diocese of the Midwest

Beloved Sons and Daughters in the Lord,

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

With great joy and thanksgiving to Almighty God, I greet each of you who have recently been received into the Holy Orthodox Church in the Diocese of the Midwest. You have fully embraced the ancient faith that has been preserved in the Orthodox Church throughout the centuries, the faith transmitted to us by the Apostles themselves. Your entry into Christ's Body is cause for celebration throughout our entire Diocese. You have taken a courageous and grace-filled step along the narrow path that leads to life, and we, your brothers and sisters in the Lord, rejoice that you now share fully in the life of the Holy Mysteries, the prayers, and the communion of the Church.

You now belong to a living tradition—the faith once delivered to the saints, kept alive through love, repentance, and the joy of the Resurrection. May your hearts remain open to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us in every good word and work, and Who will guide you ever more deeply into the mystery of life in Christ.

I also wish to express heartfelt gratitude to those who have accompanied you on this journey—your sponsors and catechists as well as all the clergy and faithful who have taught, prayed for, and encouraged and guided you. Their care and witness have been a true offering of love to the Lord and to His Church.

As your bishop, I assure you of my sincere welcome, prayers, and blessing. May you always find in our parishes places of refuge, peace, and growth. Continue steadfast in prayer, in participation in the Holy Mysteries, and in acts of mercy, that your light may shine before all, glorifying our Father in heaven.

With paternal love in Christ,

DANIEL

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