The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405

May Bulletin Sponsor

CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE HAS RISEN!

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, May 3
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida for 10th Anniversary of Emil Graban & 38th year of remembrance of Veronica Graban

Wednesday, May 6
7:30 PM: Public City Council Meeting

Saturday, May 9
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Vespers

Sunday, May 10
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida for Mother's Day / Following the service there will be a Mother's Day Brunch (Please sign up at the candle desk)

40-DAY REMEMBRANCE

May 3– Andrew Cvercko / James

CHRISTOS ANESTI!
ALITHOS ANESTI!

CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!
VOISTINU VOSKRESE!

Archbishop Job Summer Camp and Youth Conference Scholarships Now Available

Thanks to generous giving to the Archbishop Job Memorial Fund and continued funding from the diocese, the Diocese of the Midwest is again able to offer scholarships to help defray the costs of Orthodox Summer Camps and Youth Conferences for youth in the diocese. These scholarships help enable more young people to enjoy the spiritual and physical benefits of summer camps and youth conferences.

For those interested an application must be submitted. The diocese will make payments directly to camps and families will be notified when funds are paid.

The amount of the scholarship will vary based on number of applicants and cost of camps or conferences.

Please note, camp registration will continue as usual through your deanery or local registration forms as in the past. However, to take advantage of the funds available from the Diocese, please complete and submit the attached Diocesan scholarship form. https://tinyurl.com/DOMOCAScholarships2026 (You can find it on the Diocesan website.

MAY READER SCHEDULE

May 3– Jacob Hryb
May 10– Sub-Deacon Donald Tamulonis
May 17– Reader Matthew Vansuch
May 24– Reader Nick Vansuch
May 31– Robert Willison

APRIL SOCIAL SCHEDULE

May 3– Graban Social
May 10– Mother's Day Brunch
May 17– Sisterhood
May 24– Council
May 31-Rusnak Social

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– UPDATED
c/o Assumption Village
9800Market Street / Room 1402
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 Tikhon's Seminary and the OCA Diocese of the Midwest Announce Creative Partnership to Train Unique Cohort of Seminarians

Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary and the Diocese of the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America are humbled and excited to announce a bold and creative partnership intended to form and train a select cohort of qualified men for the Priesthood in the Chicagoland area over the next three years.

Born of creative discussions between His Eminence Archbishop Michael, Rector of Saint Tikhon's Seminary, and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, and undergirded by a multi-faceted Lilly Grant of nearly $1,000,000, the Chicago Program intends to grant an accredited Master of Divinity, the degree of preparation for ordained ministry. The Cohort, who will follow the same program offered in residence at Saint Tikhon's, will be taught by highly-qualified instructors local to the Diocese of the Midwest in classes combining synchronous online instruction and in-person intensives, making use of Diocesan-appointed and trained mentors for parish internships and liturgical formation. The Cohort will spend additional intensive time in residence at St Tikhon's each of the three years of the program.

The concept meets a demographic need not previously possible: those long-established in the Orthodox Faith, who for reasons blessed by His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel himself, are not able to relocate to seminary for the customary three-year residential formation. Both the Seminary and the Diocese of the Midwest note the following with clarity: We remain absolutely committed to residential formation for ministry as the long-standing, gold standard of formation. This special cohort is not open for applications. It is an episcopally hand-selected group of married men, well-known to their communities, and long-serving in the Orthodox Tradition. The Chicago Program is an effort to add additional clergy to the roster through creative, formal spiritual, theological, liturgical, and pastoral formation, at a time when our churches are bursting at the seams and more clergy are urgently needed.

This special program was blessed by the Holy Synod of Bishops at their Autumn 2025 meeting in Springfield, Virginia. Presently, the leadership team, which includes Fr John Parker, Dean of St Tikhon's; Fr Paul Witek, Academic Dean of St Tikhon's; and Dn Timothy Heinbokel, Chicago Program Director; are working through the academic and practical specifics, as well as the accreditation details, which are pending. With awaited approval from the ATS and pending participation in the relevant interstate distance education agreement (SARA), the program is anticipated to begin in Fall 2026, with the cohort graduating in Spring/Summer 2029.

For more information or to help provide much-needed scholarships for this unique effort, please write to us directly at dean@stots.edu, indicating "Chicago Program" in the subject line.

MAY Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: In memory of my husband George Kolesar – Given by Barbara Kolesar
Wine:
Incense:
Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of His Grace Bishop Matthias & His Grace Bishop Innocent –Given by AP Andrew Bartek
Altar Candles: In memory of my family & friends– Given by AP Andrew Bartek
Tetrapod Candles: In memory of the Sveda Family– Given by Barbara Kolesar
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:
Protection Icon Candles: For the health of AP Andrew on the occasion of his priestly ordination– Given by AP Andrew
St. John the Baptist Candles:
Monthly Flowers:

$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		

Annual Clergy Convocation Welcome Bishop Vasily of the West

The annual Clergy Convocation of the Diocese of the Midwest concluded its four day gathering which was held at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Burr Ridge, IL. This yearly spiritual retreat brings together priests and deacons from all over the Midwest.

On Monday, April 20, the clergy gathered with His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest, who welcomed the clergy to the event. That evening guest speaker, His Grace Bishop Vasily of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West, gave the first part of his presentation on the Mystery of Confession.

On Tuesday, the morning began with the Akathist before the Chicago-Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, served by Archbishop Daniel, Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean. The second presentation was given by Bishop Vasily about confession. The afternoon also saw presentations from diocesan departments giving updates on the various work taking place. His Grace gave the final presentation just prior to the celebration of Great Vespers that evening.

The retreat concluded with the celebration of Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, April 22. His Eminence concelebrated with Bishop Vasily, and was assisted by Fr. Herman, and the Deanery District Deans. The Archbishop offered a final blessing to his clergy at the conclusion of lunch.

A special session was held for the newly ordained priests on Thursday, offering them the chance to receive direction from the Archbishop and to seek counsel for the various challenges they may be facing in their priesthood. This is a part of Diocese of the Midwest's Junior Clergy Day of Formation effort.

John 5:1-15 (Gospel)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Archbishop Daniel Welcomes Bishop of San Francisco to the Diocesan Cathedral

On Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest welcomed His Grace Bishop Vasily of San Francisco and the West to the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. As previously reported, His Grace was the main speaker for the annual Clergy Convocation that was held last week.

On Saturday evening, the bishops attended the All Night Vigil served by the Cathedral Clergy.

Sunday morning, the commemoration of the Myrrhbearing Women, Archbishop Daniel and Bishop Vasily concelebrated the Divine Liturgy and serving with the bishops were Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, Archpriest Tasrasiy Maxim, Deacon Paul Garklavs and Deacon Timothy Heinbokel. The Cathedral Choir was directed by Reader Vladimir Lymar.

Following the liturgy, His Eminence welcomed Bishop Vasily, noting the historical ties between the two diocese in his address to the bishop. In return, Bishop Vasily expressed his gratitude for the invitation to visit the Diocese of the Midwest and for the opportunity to serve at the Cathedral. Fr. Alexander presented His Grace with a hand-painted portrait of the historic Cathedral the was done by the hand of one of the Cathedral parishioners.

A festive meal was held following the Prayers of Thanksgiving.

Fourth Anniversary of the Repose of Archbishop Paul (Gassios)

His Eminence Archbishop Paul, the late Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest reposed a four years ago on the Holy and Saving day of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 24, 2022.

The beloved late Archbishop will be remembered at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, and throughout the diocese.

May Archbishop Paul's memory be eternal. Christ is risen!

Archbishop Paul was born in Detroit, Michigan on April 6, 1953 to Nicholas and Georgia Gassios, natives of Castanea, Greece.

As an infant, he was baptized with the name Apostolos, in honor of the holy Apostle Paul, at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Detroit, MI – his home parish for the first 28 years of his life.

He graduated from Detroit's Cooley ***Con't Pg 6***

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *APRIL*	2025	2026
1st– Week of Palms		
Wed. Presanctified	35 / 22	27 / 21
Fri. Presanctified	24 / 13	24 / 16
Lazarus Sat Liturgy	29 / 24	32 / 28
Palm Sunday Vespers	17	12
Palm Sunday	82 / 53	72 / 47
2nd Week– Holy Week		
Sunday Night Matins	11	12
Monday Presanctified	16 / 12	19 / 17
Monday Night Matins	35	19
Tuesday Presanctified	14 / 11	15 / 14
Tuesday Night Matins	33	23
Wednesday Presanctified	21 / 18	20 / 16
Thursday Liturgy	17 / 13	22 / 19
Thursday Matins	47	31
Friday Vespers	45	42
Friday Lamentations	62	53
Saturday Liturgy	35 / 34	31 / 26
Nocturns / Matins	35	32
3rd Week-Pascha		
Pascha	130 / 77	103 / 60
Agape Vespers	16	14
4th Week –St. Thomas		
Vespers	12	10
Liturgy	65 / 33	53 / 42
5th– Myrrhbearers		
Vespers	8	8
Liturgy / Communion	51 / 37	43 / 33

Holy Synod of Bishops Begins Regular Spring 2026 Session

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has begun its regular Spring 2026 Session under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon.

The hierarchs are gathered in Springfield, VA, where they will meet to address matters concerning pastoral care, administration, and the ongoing life of the Orthodox Church in America.

On Wednesday, April 29, the members of the Holy Synod will travel to Washington, DC, where they will gather at the Primatial Cathedral of Saint Nicholas for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy will be presided by His Grace Bishop Benedict of Hartford and New England. Local clergy and faithful are welcome to join the bishops for Liturgy. Further information regarding the work of the Holy Synod will be shared in due course.

MAY Reposed List

1- Melaine Michaels (2019)
2- Anton Stanoff (1974) © / Stephen Kalas (1952) ©
3- Naume Evanoff (1984) © / Frank Carandonis (1955) ©
4- Mary Fischer (2007) © / Mary Graban (1963) © / Bishop Matthias (2024)
6- Bishop Innocent (2002) / Joseph Leschinsky (1983) © / Robert Puskas (2014) © / M. Krut (1923) © (no name)
7- Anna Holowatyk (1977) © / Samuel Zelina (1994) © / Emilian Graban (2016) © /
8- John Bilas (2015) © / Mary Fesz (2002) © / Still Born Lazich (1923) © / Satilarius Tsagaris (1949) © / Infant Diamantes (1957) ©
9- Stanley Gozur (1960) ©
10- Olga Sveda (2008) © / Tom Mahinis (1931) © / Joseph Slatsky (1943) © / John Boldish (1970) ©
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13- Sevasti Papantonokis (1928) ©
14- Stanley Lis (2019) / Nicholas Zoppia (1984) © / William Petroff (2000) © / E. Mastoridis (1922) © / Steve Lisko (1928) © / Greg Puskas (2023)
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19- Betty Billy (2020) / Mary Kiddin (1993) ©
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30- Anna Toth (1997) © / George Andras (1999) ©

PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achiles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Matushka Helen Psinka / Nadine Sabo / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Reader Nick Vansuch / Mildred Wilfong

CLERGY: Fr. Basil Duesenberry / Fr. Andrew Gall / AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Emil Hutyan / AP Michael Rustic / Fr. Peter Simko / Fr. Theophanes Kamau & family & parishioners at St. Joachim & Anna in Nairobi, Kenya

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mat. Melanie Adamcio / Anthony (Willison) / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / 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) / Brandon Rader (Middle East)

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.

AB Paul Con't from pg 4

High School in 1971, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, after which he enrolled at Wayne State University (WSU) as a history and psychology major. After graduating in 1976, he worked with emotionally and physically abused children. He received a Master of Social Work degree from WSU in 1980, and continued to work in his chosen field.

In the mid-1980s, he became a member of Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI. He began theological studies in September 1991 at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY, from which he received his Master of Divinity degree summa cum laude and served as valedictorian in 1994. He was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence, the late Archbishop Job of Chicago and the Midwest, on June 25, 1994.

After ordination, he was assigned Priest-in-Charge of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, Kokomo, IN, which he served until June 2005, after which he resided at Saint Gregory Palamas Monastery, Hayesville, OH until May 2006. He briefly served as Rector of Archangel Michael Church, St. Louis, MO and the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church, Desloge, MO before his transfer to the OCA's Bulgarian Diocese and assignment as Dean of Saint George Cathedral, Rossford, OH in 2007. In August 2014, he was named Administrator of the Diocese of the Midwest and relocated to Chicago.

On October 20, 2014, he was tonsured to monastic rank with the name Paul, in honor of Saint Paul the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople. On October 21, 2014, the Holy Synod elected him to fill the vacant Episcopal See of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest.

Archimandrite Paul was consecrated to the Episcopacy and enthroned as Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest at Chicago's historic Holy Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, December 27, 2014. Concelebrating at the Consecration Liturgy were His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon; His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate; His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West; His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania; His Eminence, Archbishop Nicolae of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas; His Grace, Bishop Irénée of Ottawa and Canada; His Grace, Bishop Michael of New York and New Jersey; His Grace, Bishop Alexander of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese; and His Grace, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska. On Thursday, May 28, 2020, he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop.

His archpastoral tenure in the Midwest was only seven years but filled with great progress and accomplishment for the diocese. From an administrative perspective, he was known for prompt replies and calls when his clergy contacted him. He was very organized and thoroughly followed the established procedures with attentiveness. He actively attended diocesan, deanery, and parish meetings guiding the progress of the discussed topics.

He established new ministries within the diocese that focused on building up the communities within the diocese which include: the Mother Maria of Paris Ministry – Department of Charitable Efforts, Department of Family Life, St. Andrew of Crete Music Ministry, and the Department of Youth. These were four areas he saw to be important pillars to building up the Body of Christ.

With a prioritization of pastoral visits, he was often on the road traveling each weekend to visit a different community within his vast diocese. He often reflected that this was the most enjoyable part of his ministry and gave him something to look forward to each week. In addition to leading the services when making archpastoral visits, he would make time to be with clergy and their families to hear about their life and struggles. He would gather with youth and parish councils to lead discussions on the faith and other topics of interest. He made annual visits to the seminaries to visit with the diocesan seminarians and their families and actively encouraged vocation within his parishes.

His genuineness is unforgettable, and his smile brought joy to those around him. His sermons were impactful and memorable for those who were blessed to hear them.

He is fondly remembered throughout the diocese as a loving shepherd for his flock. May his memory be eternal!

Matthew 11:27-30 (Gospel, Saint)

All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

TAGALOG

SI KRISTO AY NABUHAY!

SIYA TALAGA AY NABUHAY!

SPECIAL COLLECTION MAY:

St. Tikhon's Seminary

Sunday of the Paralytic / Commemorated on May 3

Many miracles in the Old Testament involve water. To name but a few, the water of the Nile turned to blood after Moses lifted his rod and struck the water before Pharaoh and His servants (Exodus 7:20). Not only was the Nile turned to blood, but also "their rivers, their canals, their ponds, and all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone" (Exodus 7:19).

In chapter 14 of Exodus, Moses divided the waters of the Red Sea, and the Hebrews passed over as if on dry land. When they were safely across, the waters came together, and their Egyptian pursuers were drowned.

On their forty year journey to the Promised Land, the Hebrews camped at Rephidem, but there was no water for them to drink. The people murmured against Moses, asking him why he had led them out of Egypt. God told Moses to strike the rock at Horeb. Then water came out of it so that everyone could drink (Exodus 17:6).

In Judges 6:36-40 we read about Gideon and the dew on the fleece. When Gideon squeezed the fleece, there was enough to fill a bowl with water.

On the Fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Church remembers the man who lay paralyzed at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first person to enter the pool after an Angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The Lord healed the paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and He remained there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Theologian, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

Like some Old Testament miracles, many of Christ's miracles also involved water, and they prefigure the Church's Baptism, which cleanses us of every sin. In the Sheep Pool, once a year, only one person was healed, but Christ saves endless multitudes by divine Baptism. Sometimes, as in the case of Saint Vladimir (July 15), Baptism can also heal our bodily infirmities.

In the Canon for the Paralytic, the Angel who stirred the water in the Sheep Pool is identified as the Archangel Michael. Some of the Troparia call him "Leader of the Angels," and "Supreme Commander" (Ode 1). In Ode 3 we ask him to "protect us from falling into the passions of life." In Ode 6, we ask Saint Michael to guide us on the paths of life." In Ode 8, we ask him to pray with all the Bodiless Hosts, that we may be granted deliverance from our offenses, correction of our life, and the enjoyment of eternal blessings.

As we remember the paralytic, let us ask Christ to "raise up our souls, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts" (Kontakion of the paralytic).

Acts 9:32-42 (Epistle)

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

Hebrews 13:7-16 (Epistle, Saint)

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

MAY Celebrations

Birthday

3- Marcus Kubancsek / Fr. Matthew Stagon / Juliana Gemmel / Jordan Tsvetkoff
4- Isabella Willison
5- Joseph Schutt
6- Michael Polewan
8- Nancy (Anastasia) Tusinac
9- Patricia Thompson
12- Marco Kubancsek
14- Stephen Simko / Mary Gemmel
17- Brian Turner
19- Paula Kennedy
20- Philip Ellmore
22- Rachel Konik
24- Avzi Dardovski
27- Jennifer (Tsvetkoff)
28- Audrey Chengelis
29- Carol Krochta
30- Joseph Mico / Stacy Donofrio

Anniversary

1-2004- AB Benjamin of San Francisco & the West
2- Fr. Andrew's Priestly Ordination
5-2012- AB Alexander of Dallas & the South & the Bulgarian Diocese
6- Eli & Lidija Arvan / Gregory & Linda Simko
8-2010- AB Michael of NY & NY & NJ
11- Reader George & Michele Horodnic, Jr
18- Mark & Lorraine Livosky
28-2005- AB Alejo of Mexico City & Mexico
29- Reader Matthew & Deena Vansuch / Jim & Elaine Johnston

Names Day

4- Monica Vansuch
7- Alexis Jesko / Ron Luthern
20 Lidija Arvan

Some reminders about church guidelines and statutes from the Holy Synod of Bishops (Some of these were revised in 2023)

At the recent priest convocation in Chicago recently, it was brought to our attention again about the norm for confession in the Church.

Under the section on the *Mystery of Penance* it states under the first item:

> *The priest, as the confessor for the flock entrusted to his care, determines the frequency with which his spiritual children confess their sins, with MONTHLY confession as the norm.*

Also, it is stated that *only with the permission of the Rector can someone go to another confessor.* A parishioner can't just pick and choose. The Rector must be informed and give his blessing for a person to go to a different confessor than the parish rector.

The Holy Synod states that this is the norm. By going to confession and communion once a year, the person is only fulfilling an obligation and is not allowing themselves to form a better relationship with the Lord. This is not living a Christian Orthodox lifestyle and is therefore harmful to one's soul.

The Statutes also say that *nothing can be done in the church without the acknowledgement and blessing of the Rector.* This includes all organizations in the Church.

Since my time here as rector, people have accused me of "being power hungry" and doing things "my way." In light of the above Statute quotes, you can see that is clearly quite far from the truth. I am teaching all parishioners the Guidelines & Statutes of the Church. Over the course of the next few months I will be putting reminders of the Guidelines & Statutes in the bulletin. This will help form a better Orthodox Christian life style for all of us here at St. John the Baptist.

AMERICAN ORTHODOX A LOST ICON. A HIDDEN FAITH

Screening of the Award-winning documentary American Orthodox (Director: Robert John Hammond)

Travel to California's coastal Fort Ross, where an icon mysteriously washed ashore, sparking a legacy of faith. Encounter St. Peter the Aleut, a Native American saint who planted the seeds of Orthodoxy and gave his life as a martyr. Through the lives of early saints, this evocative film reveals the hidden stories and sacred connections that continue to shap America's spiritual landscape.

Where: St. Nicholas Banquet Center, Mogadore, OH / When: Tuesday May 19, 2026 @ 7pm

Concessions will be available for purchase. Tickets for the movie may be purchased on event Brite for $10.38 ($8 +$2.28 processing fees.) All proceeds will be given to help the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America's Gifts of Love Program. This years recipient is the St. Olga of Alaska Shrine in the Diocese of Alaska. Copy the link for tickets:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/american-orthodox-a-lost-icon-a-hidden-faith-ticketa-19882379566249?aff=oddtdtcreator