The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405

JUNE Bulletin Sponsor– OPEN

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, June 21
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Father's Day Panachida / Father's Day Social

Tuesday, June 23
6:00 PM: Vespers
6:45 PM: Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 24
9:00 AM: Liturgy for Nativity of St. John the Baptist
6:00 PM: Fire Meeting & Training

Saturday, June 27
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Vespers

Sunday, June 28
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida / Social

Martyr Julian of Tarsus, in Cilicia Commemorated on June 21

The Holy Martyr Julian of Tarsus was born at Diocesarea in the province of Cilicia. He was the son of a pagan senator, but his mother was a Christian. After the death of her husband, she and Julian moved to Tarsus, where her son was baptized and raised in Christian piety. When Julian reached the age of eighteen, Emperor Diocletian (284-305) began to persecute Christians, issuing a decree that everyone had to offer sacrifice to the idols. If they refused, they would be tortured. Among those arrested was Saint Julian. They brought him before the eparch Marcian to be tried, and for a long time they urged him to renounce Christ. Neither tortures nor threats, nor promises of gifts or honors could convince the devout young man to sacrifice to the idols and deny Christ, and so the holy confessor remained steadfast in his faith.

For a whole year they led the martyr through the cities of Cilicia, everywhere subjecting him to interrogation and torture, after which they threw him in prison. Saint Julian's mother followed her son and prayed that the Lord would strengthen him. In the city of Aegea, she besought the eparch to let her to visit the prison, ostensibly to persuade her son to offer sacrifice to the idols. When she saw him, she did just the opposite. She spent three days in prison with Saint Julian, exhorting him to remain strong until the end.

Once again, Saint Julian was brought before the eparch. Thinking that his mother had persuaded her son to obey the imperial decree, Marcian tried to convince her to offer sacrifice, but she continued to confess Jesus Christ, and boldly denounced polytheism. Marcian then ordered that her feet be cut off, since she had followed her son from Tarsus.

Then Saint Julian was placed into a sack filled with sand and poisonous snakes, and it was thrown into the sea. The Martyr's body was carried by the waves to the shores of Alexandria. There his body was buried by a certain pious Christian. Saint Julian's death occurred around the year 305. Afterward, his relics were transferred to Antioch.

Saint John Chrysostom honored the holy Martyr Julian with an encomium, and fragments of the Saint's relics are found in the Monasteries of Pantokrator and Saint Panteleimon on Mount Athos.

We pray to Saint Julian to protect gardens and fields from creeping things, snakes, and harmful insects.

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
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

Origins of Father's Day

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm–perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June .

Romans 5:1-10 (Epistle)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

JULY Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

Bulletin: In memory of Steve Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar
Wine: In memory of Frank & Marion Zwinski- FGiven by family
Incense: OPEN
Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: OPEN
Altar Candles: In memory of my dad Harry Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar
Tetrapod Candles: In memory of my family & friends– Given by AP Andrew Bartek
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 celebration of Sue Kennedy's 93rd Birthday– Given by Children & Grand children
Protection Icon Candles: Im memory of the Ruff Family– Given by Carol Ruff / In honor of my Son Eugene Kennedy– Given by Sue Kennedy
St. John the Baptist Candles: In memory of my mom Jennie Rudiah– Given by Sue Kennedy
Monthly Flowers: In memory husband Kurtis Shunk – Given by Mrs. Athanasia-Trudy Shunk-Ellmore

$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		

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ST. JOHN OF CHICAGO PASTORAL INSTITUTE OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest,

It is with gratitude to Almighty God and confidence in the future of Orthodox Christian formation within our diocese that I announce the establishment of the St. John of Chicago Pastoral Institute, a new educational ministry of the Diocese of the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America.

The St. John of Chicago Pastoral Institute will assume and expand the educational work previously carried out through the St. Macrina Orthodox Institute. As we continue to strengthen the formation of clergy and lay leaders throughout our diocese, this new institute will provide a unified structure for pastoral education, catechetical formation, and continuing Orthodox Christian learning.

The Institute will initially offer three primary areas of formation:

• A Diaconal Training Track for men preparing to serve the Church in the holy diaconate.

• A Catechist Training Track for those called to teach and instruct others in the Orthodox Faith.

• Adult Enrichment Courses designed to provide clergy and parishioners with opportunities for deeper study and growth in Orthodox theology, spirituality, liturgical life, Scripture, and Church history. These courses will also serve as a reliable resource to which rectors may direct parishioners seeking further education and formation in the faith.

I am pleased to announce that Priest Daniel Greeson has been appointed as the founding Director of the St. John of Chicago Pastoral Institute. Under his leadership, the Institute will work closely with the clergy of the Diocese of the Midwest to provide accessible, faithful, and academically sound formation for those seeking to serve Christ and His Church.

Students currently enrolled in programs through the St. Macrina Orthodox Institute will continue their course of study without interruption and will be supported through the completion of their educational requirements.

Individuals interested in applying to either the Diaconal Training Track or the Catechist Training Track for the upcoming academic year beginning in August 2026 are invited to contact Fr. Daniel Greeson at institute@domoca.org to begin the admissions process and receive additional information.

I ask your prayers for the success of this new endeavor, that it may help form faithful servants of Christ, strengthen the ministry of our parishes, and contribute to the growth of Orthodox Christian witness throughout the Midwest.

Invoking God's blessings upon all of you, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

JUNE Celebrations

Birthday

1- Anthony Jesko, Sr.
2- Sue Kennedy
5- Peter Adzima / Michael Simko / Ryan Konik / Alex Vansuch
11- Elaine Johnston
13- Fr. Nick Mihaly / Sarah Wilson
15- Emily Kusinski / Aijire Dardovski
19- Emily Sarisky / Victoria Elash
22- Donna Chiarelli
24- John Koval III
25- Ron Zenko
26- John Rusnak
28- Vincent Cavaliere

Anniversary

10- Joey & Mary Ruth Mico
14- Sub-deacon Donald & Susan Tamulonis (80)
21- V.R. Archpriest Dave Lis priestly ordination (41 years 2021)
27-2009- AB Melchisedek of Pittsburgh & Western, PA
29-2021- His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Forth Worth

Names Day

3- Fr. Andrew Bartek
4-Martha Centofanti
24- Gianna Hryb / Joann Biros
27-Joan Cross / Heidi Kuzemchak / Joann Sirilla
29- Pauline Fesz / Mat. Pauline Gemmel

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *JUNE*	2025	2026
1st– All SAints		
Vespers	6	7
Liturgy / Communion	56 /37	34 / 28
2nd Week– N. Am. S.		
Vespers	9	7
Liturgy / Communion	50 / 36	44 ./ 34
3rd Week– 3rd Sunday		
Vespers	5	
Liturgy / Communion Nativity Vespers St. John Nativity Liturgy	58 / 30 9 7 / 6	
4th Week – 4th Sunday		
Vespers	No Vespers	
Liturgy / Communion Peter & Paul Vespers Peter & Paul Liturgy	59 / 29 No Record Canceled	
5th–		
No 5th Week in June		

DEANERY TIKHVIN ICON CELEBRATION

Holy Trinity
6822 Broadview Rd
Parma

Thursday June 25– 6-8pm Vigil
Friday, June 26– 9-11 am Divine Liturgy & Moleiben followed by Festive meal

In Memoriam: Hieromonk Alexis (Lisenko)

Hieromonk Alexis (Lisenko) reposed in the Lord on Friday, June 12, 2026.

Additional information will be published as it is received.

May Hiermonk Alexis' memory be eternal!

JUNE CHARITY

St. Vladimir Seminary

Midwest Prepares for Annual Diocesan Feast of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God

On Friday, June 26, the annual diocesan observance of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God will take place throughout the diocese. The main celebration will be led by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest at the Diocesan Cathedral, and home to the Chicago Tikhvin Icon, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL.

Clergy and faithful are invited to attend the divine services at the Cathedral in honor of this feast to the Mother of God. Vigil will be celebrated on June 25, at 6:00 p.m. The responses will be sung by the Chicago Deanery Male Choir. On the following day, Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30 a.m.

Those attending the service are invited to bring flowers to place before the holy Icon.

There are many miraculous icons of the Virgin Mary that have appeared throughout history and continue to be revealed to this day. One of the most ancient icons of the Mother of God is known as the "Tikhvin Icon" which has become the most revered icon of the Theotokos in the Diocese of the Midwest. ***Con't Next pg***

JUNE Reposed List / © Parishioner

Mary Churinsko ©
1- Anna Voytilla Timpko (2011) © / Michael Nosik, Sr. (2015) © / Lambos Trangos (1930) ©
Eli Roman (1951) © / Infant La Bruno (1 day old) (1962) ©
3- Irene Leso (2002) / George Gozur (1972) © / Vasil Babinec (1920) © / Mary Korchniak (1934) ©
4- Marilynn Kidd (2007) © / Steve Bosak (1933) ©
5- Mildred Paproski (2018) / Kathryn Howard (2021) / Margaret Urchak (2014) ©
6- Fr. Stephen Shutack (2008) / George Konik (2006) ©
7- Martha LaVallee (2005) / Eleotherios Pagonis (1923) ©
8- John Toth (2000) ©
9- John Sutko (2020) / Elizabeth Gozur (1979) © / Andrew Sarisky (1938) © / Evtimios Tsangaris (1953) ©
10- Joseph Korchinack (1925) © / Mary Furin (1943) ©
11- Catherine O'Shanie (1982) © / Nicholas Nedostup (1933) ©
12- Ann Sanders Rusnak (2017) © / Margaret Timkovich (2002) © / John Dubosh (1947) ©
John Holibonic Jr (1964) ©
13- Harry Sveda (1998) © / Edward Graban (2016) ©
14- Fr. Justin Foster (2016) / Ronald Thomas Moore- (2024) ©
15- Vera Berzowsky (1984) © / Mary Sykola (2005) © / George Kushma (1962) © / Pearl Petrosky (2005) ©
16- Fr. Michael Prevas (2018) / Mary Petrusovich (1920) © / Dora Kravec (1924) © / Baby Mastoridis (1939) © / John Zambetis (1958) ©
17- James Hryb (2017) ©
18- Eleanor Dussling (2020) / Vasil Holowatyk (1969) © / Vasili Haudziuk (1942) © / Nicholas Caubouris (1944) © / Steve Dratar (1956) ©
20- Fr. John Yurcisin (2003)
21- Ronald Basala (2016)
22- Nicholas Sveda (1954) © / Mike Psaromatis (1959) ©
23- Nick Pavlos (1960) ©
24- Margaret Stahara (2006) © / Green Still born (1928) © / Evangeline Maravelas (1929) © /
Olga Berdie (1963) ©
25- Peter Goban (1975) © / Frank Woychik (1979) © / Stephan Elash, Sr (2022) © / Vasil Kovach (1922) ©
26- John Konik (1969) © / Helen Colaluca (2025) ©
27- Anna Lebo (1975) © / Anna Simko (1993) © / Mary Cole Simko (2011) © / Sevasti Arfaras (1961) © / Anna Serilio (1993) ©
28- Fr. Charles Kovich (2005) / Andrew Leso (2000) / Matthew Lajcharoff (1936) © / Peter Pantos (1936) ©
29- John Travers (2001) © / Eugene Simko (2007) © / Susanna Stepancevich (1921) © / Zachary Maximor (1947) © / Catherine Vansuch (1965) © / Mary Helen Feltovich (1987) ©
30- Zoopegy Lambrianos (1960) © / Nomikos Grikilis (1960) ©

Matthew 6:22-33 (Gospel)

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Icon con't previous pg

Although the Holy Icon's origins began in Jerusalem at the hand of the Evangelist Luke, the Icon's travels throughout history has connected many in the old world and the new to the rich history and presence of the Mother of God. From Jerusalem to Constantinople, to Tikhvin, Russia, through war-torn Europe to Chicago, this Icon has been present in significant places reminding those before her of the hope and consolation that she brings by her prayers.

The Tikhvin Icon's history with the Diocese ***Con't pg 8***

PRAYER LIST

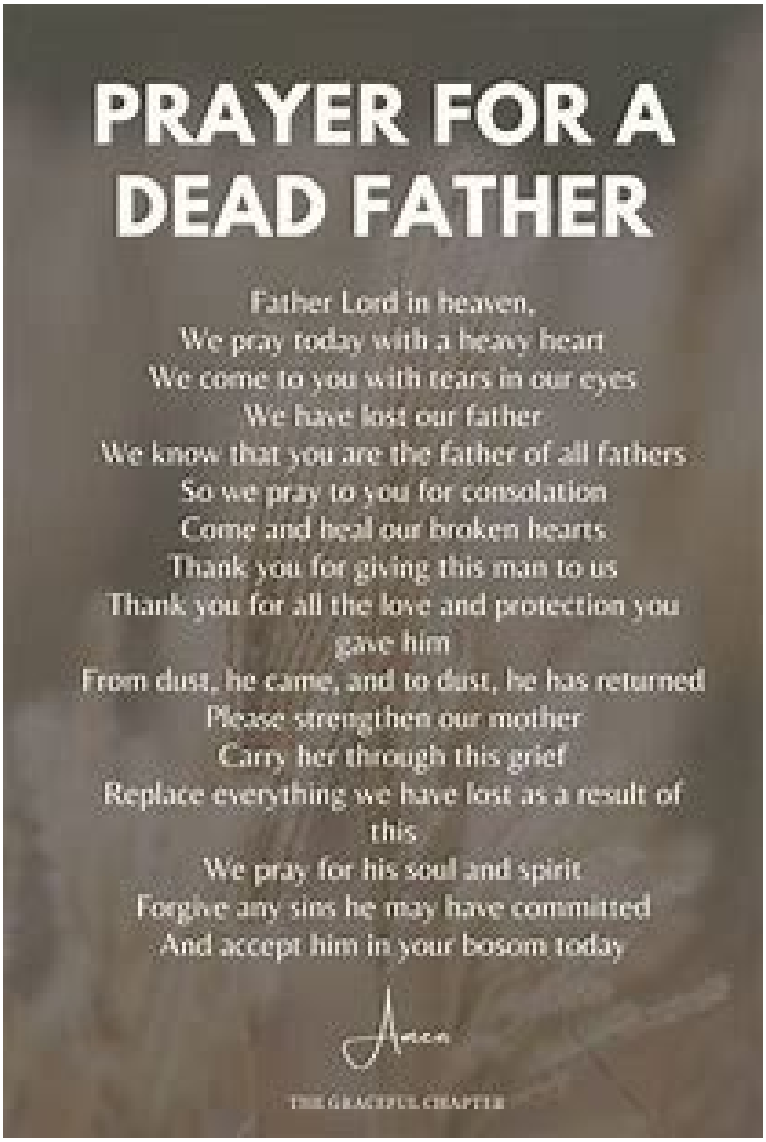
PARISHIONERS: Achiles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Matushka Helen Psinka / Nadine Sabo / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Reader Nick Vansuch / Mildred Wilfong

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 / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Erin (Willison) / Thomas Hull, Jr. / Ron Hryb / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Ginny McCay (Fredericks) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Conner (Sabo) Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Matt Turner (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac) / Miranda & her unborn baby / Lindsey & her unborn baby

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Kyle Grabovoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky) / Kenneth (Simko) / Brandon Rader (Middle East)

MISCELLANEOUS: The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.



His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presides at 50th Anniversary Celebration of Christ the Savior–Holy Spirit Church

On Saturday, June 6th, 2026, at the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon traveled to Cincinnati to preside at the 50th Anniversary celebration of Christ the Savior–Holy Spirit Orthodox Church. Upon arrival in Cincinnati, His Beatitude was greeted at the airport by His Eminence and Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor of the Diocese of the Midwest. Also accompanying His Beatitude was Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk.

His Beatitude then traveled to Christ the Savior–Holy Spirit Orthodox Church where he presided at Great Vespers. Following the service, a light reception was held in the church hall.

On Sunday, June 7th, 2026, His Beatitude presided at the celebration of the hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with His Beatitude was His Eminence, His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, Archpriest Steven Kostoff, Parish Rector, Fr. Herman Kincaid, Archpriest Alexander Rentel, and Archpriest Dennis Buck.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, His Eminence warmly greeted his Beatitude and His Eminence and welcomed them to the parish and the Diocese.

A festive banquet was held at the Cintas Center at Xavier University in Cincinnati to conclude the weekend's celebrations. At the banquet, remarks were given about the history of the parish and greetings to the faithful of the parish. His Beatitude then returned to Washington, DC.

Donations Sought for July Fundraiser

As you can see from the flyer on page 8 of the bulletin, ng a major fundraiser is scheduled for the week after the 4th of July. Donations are needed to off set the cost of the event.

This ***Festival of Foods*** has the potential to be a big event and will be a vital infusion of funds to our budget. Everyone's help is needed to make it successful. The week prior, the Parish Council will be asking for help to prepare food and the hall.

All hands will be needed the day of the event as well. When you are asked, please say YES!

Please post it to your social media and tell your family and friends.

Donations are also needed to help cover the:

- Interactive games
- Bounce House
- Money to defray the costs of the food
- Money to defray the cost of the entertainment
- Money to defray the cost of the police
- Money to defray the cost of the beer & wine

Nancy Tusinic is in charge of the Bake Sale .

Anything anyone can do will be for the Glory of God.

Thank you in advance from Father Andrew and the Committee and the Church Council.

HISTORY OF FATHERS DAY

Father's Day is a day to honor fatherhood and celebrate the role of fathers in society. It was founded by Sonora Smart Dodd, who wanted to pay tribute to her father, a Civil War veteran and a single parent of six children. The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in Washington state. It became a nationwide holiday in the United States in 1972, after President Richard Nixon signed a proclamation. Father's Day is observed on the third Sunday of June in the United States and on various dates in other countries

JUNE READER SCHEDULE

June 21– Proto. Dc. David Gemmel
June 28– Natalia Simko

Social Schedule: *JUNE*

June 21 - Father's Day Brunch
June 28 - Sisterhood

His Eminence Archbishop Michael and St. Tikhon's Pilgrims Received by His Beatitude Archbishop Stefan in Macedonia

On Wednesday, June 10, 2026, His Beatitude Archbishop Stefan, Primate of the Macedonian Orthodox Church – Ohrid Archbishopric, welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Michael, Archbishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Rector of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, together with clergy and pilgrims.

The meeting took place at the Monastery of St. Panteleimon in Gorno Nerezi, a 12th century monastery on the outskirts of Skopje. Archbishop Michael was accompanied by Archpriest John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, Archpriest Daniel Degyansky, Archpriest Josiah Trenham, Archpriest John Vitko, Deacon Ephraim Rivers, and 26 additional pilgrims.

Archbishop Stefan offered generous words of welcome to the pilgrims, including a brief reflection on the history of the Macedonian Orthodox Church and the apostolic roots of Christianity in the region. Gifts were exchanged, and the pilgrims were welcomed to hospitality at the monastery. Archbishop Michael extended the greetings of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, who is eagerly anticipating a future time he will be able to visit the Macedonian Church.

During the visit, Archbishop Stefan and Archbishop Michael spoke about the growth of the Church, seminary life, and the work of forming clergy and faithful for service in the Orthodox Church. Archbishop Stefan also recalled with gratitude his concelebration with Metropolitan Tikhon at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC. "We know one another when we visit one another, especially when we pray the Liturgy together," he said.

At the conclusion of the visit, Archbishop Michael, clergy, and pilgrims gathered for a group photo inside the 12th century church. At the request of Archbishop Stefan, "Many Years" was intoned for Metropolitan Tikhon.

The pilgrimage, sponsored by St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, is taking place from June 2–13 in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the repose of St. Nikolai Velimirovich. The journey traces the life, ministry, and legacy of St. Nikolai, who spent the final years of his life at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA, where he served as professor and rector.

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST / ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SAINT JOHN OF CHICAGO PASTORAL INSTITUTE OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel has announced the establishment of the St. John of Chicago Pastoral Institute (www.domoca.org/institute), a new educational ministry of the Diocese of the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America dedicated to diaconal formation, catechetical education, and lifelong Orthodox Christian learning. Through its programs, the Institute will support the ongoing development of clergy, catechists, and lay faithful throughout the Diocese of the Midwest.

The Institute succeeds and expands upon the educational work previously carried out through the St. Macrina Orthodox Institute, providing a unified diocesan structure for pastoral education and faith formation. Archbishop Daniel also expressed his gratitude for the faithful work of Archpriest Elijah Mueller who had served as the head of the St. Macrina Orthodox Institute.

“The St. John of Chicago Pastoral Institute represents an important step in strengthening Orthodox Christian formation within our diocese," Archbishop Daniel said in announcing the new initiative. “Through sound theological education, practical pastoral training, and opportunities for lifelong learning, the Institute will help equip faithful servants of Christ for ministry in the Church and witness in the world."

The Institute will initially offer two primary educational tracks:

• Diaconal Training Track – A program of theological and pastoral formation for men preparing to serve the Church in the Holy Diaconate.

• Catechist Training Track – A structured course of study for individuals called to teach and transmit the Orthodox Faith within parish communities.

And will be working on developing a third educational track:

• Adult Enrichment Courses – Continuing education opportunities for clergy and laity seeking deeper study in Orthodox theology, Holy Scripture, Church history, liturgical life, spirituality, and related disciplines. These courses will also provide parish clergy with a trusted resource for directing parishioners who desire further formation in the faith.

Archbishop Daniel has appointed the Rev. Daniel Greeson as the founding Director of the St. John of Chicago Pastoral Institute. In this role, Fr. Daniel will oversee the Institute's educational programs and work closely with the clergy of the Diocese of the Midwest to provide accessible, faithful, and academically rigorous formation opportunities.

Students currently enrolled through the St. Macrina Orthodox Institute will continue their studies without interruption and will be supported through the completion of their educational requirements. The previously announced conference in July has been canceled. Those seeking diaconal practicum experience and training are welcome to sign up for the training being provided in Parma in August.

Applications are now being accepted for both the Diaconal Training Track and the Catechist Training Track for the 2026–2027 academic year. Prospective students interested in beginning studies in August 2026 are encouraged to contact Fr. Daniel Greeson at instutute@domoca.org for additional information and admissions materials.

Archbishop Daniel has asked the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest to pray for the success of the Institute and its mission to form faithful servants of Christ, strengthen parish ministry, and contribute to the growth of Orthodox Christian witness throughout the Midwest.

With love in the Lord,

Priest Daniel Greeson Director, Department of Christian Education / Director, Saint John of Chicago Pastoral Institute

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Icon con’t from pg 5

of the Midwest is not a simple a passthrough or that of storage of the Icon waiting for conditions to improve overseas, but rather, the Icon’s presence made a lasting impact that continues to touch the souls of the faithful in Chicago and the entire Midwest. Bishop John [Garklavs] of Riga, in whose care the icon was placed, was permitted to take the Icon to the United States in 1949, shortly after his arrival in the United States, Bishop John, who was later elevated to the rank of Archbishop, was elected to oversee the Diocese of Chicago, and the Icon was regularly displayed and venerated in Chicago’s Holy Trinity Cathedral. Bishop John would frequently take the Icon on pilgrimage to various places throughout the United States and Canada providing comfort to those who prayed before the Icon, and a moment that they would not be quick to forget. The Tikhvin Icon was present in the diocese for over fifty years which a natural devotion to this particular icon was developed within the clergy and faithful of the Midwest. The annual commemoration of the Icon has been solemnly celebrated since her arrival to America and has continued to be an important “summer feast” for the diocese. At this point, a generation of adults in the diocese have grown up with the celebration of this feast can not recall a time without it. As the Icon has done throughout its existence, in 2004, the icon again moved locations and returned to its former home in Tikhvin, Russia. Since that time, a replica was given to Holy Trinity Cathedral from the Tikhvin Monastery and has been enshrined in the Cathedral and is often referred to as the Chicago-Tikhvin Icon.