# The Weekly Forerunner

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

**AUGUST Bulletin Sponsor–**

## *Liturgical & Events Schedule*

**Sunday, August 2**
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Panachida for Joanie Jovach & Bob Puharich / Social / Anyone who wants their car blessed today see Fr. Andrew

**Wednesday, August 5**
Services at Monastery

**Thursday, August 6**
Services at Monastery

**Saturday, August 8**
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by app't
6:00 PM: Vespers

**Sunday, August 9**
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Blessing of fruit / Social

## August Reader Schedule

August 2– Robert Willison
August 9– George Horodnic
August 16– Dc. James Hyrb
August 23– Proto. David Gemmel
August 30– Natalia Simko

## Social Schedule: AUGUST

August 2 Kovach Family
August 9– O Club
August 16– Sisterhood
August 23– Council
August 30– Open

## AUGUST CHARITY

St. Herman's Seminary

## 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

August 30– Becky Baxter

## Diocesan Seminarian Retreat Convenes in Chicago

The Diocese of the Midwest held its fourth seminarian retreat Monday July 20 through Wednesday, July 22. The retreat gathered current seminarians and those who are entering their first semester in the fall.

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest invited the diocesan seminarians for a three day retreat to focus on prayer and to help cultivate personal relationships with his seminarians. The three day gathering was held at the Diocesan Chancery, and the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL.

On Monday, July 20, the seminarians arrived in Chicago and had dinner with the Archbishop enjoying fellowship.

On the following day, a formal program and introduction to the diocese was held throughout the afternoon. Later that day, the seminarians enjoyed touring Chicago before gathering for Great Vespers.

On July 22, the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, Archbishop Daniel presided over the Divine Liturgy. Students assisted in serving and singing for the feast. Further discussions were held following services and a blessing for departure.

In addition to the retreat, the diocese also holds a regular campaign in September to raise money that goes directly to seminarians to help them during there studies. The diocese has eleven seminarians for the 2023 – 2024 academic year.

### Samuel Miller

Home Parish: St. Mary Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN
Seminary: St. Vladimir's Seminary
Year & Program: 2nd year M.Div.

Samuel Miller is part of the fifth generation of an Orthodox family in America. He grew up attending St. Mary's Cathedral in Minneapolis, and received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in 2025.

Raised by a family which endeavored to live the life of the Church, Samuel began to discern a call to ***Con't pg 2***

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*https://www.stjohnthebaptist-campbell.org/* *padrebartek@gmail.com*

## AUGUST Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

**Bulletin**:
**Wine:**
**Incense**:
**Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:** In memory of my motherOlga Zelina– Given by Maureen Koval
**Altar Candles**:
**Tetrapod Candles**:
**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:**
**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– |
| *Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light | *Protection Icon candles | |
| *Altar Candles | *St. John the Baptist candles | |
| *Tetrapod Candles | | |

## Metropolitan Tikhon Presides at Diocese of the South Nominating Assembly; Bishop Gerasim Nominated for Election as Bishop of Dallas and the South

On Friday, July 24, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the Special Nominating Assembly of the Diocese of the South, convened at Saint Justin Martyr Church in Jacksonville, FL, to nominate a candidate for election as Bishop of Dallas and the South.

The Assembly followed the retirement of His Eminence Archbishop Alexander, which became effective at the conclusion of the Diocesan Assembly on Thursday, July 23, after a decade of faithful archpastoral service to the Diocese.

Earlier that day, the Holy Synod of Bishops met in a special session under the presidency of His Beatitude and, in accordance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, formally declared the See of Dallas and the South vacant.

Following the action of the Holy Synod, His Beatitude appointed His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth as Locum Tenens of the Diocese of the South, effective immediately.

At Friday's Special Nominating Assembly, the clergy and lay delegates of the Diocese nominated Bishop Gerasim as their candidate for Bishop of Dallas and the South.

In accordance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the nomination will now be forwarded to the Holy Synod of Bishops for consideration at its Regular Fall 2026 Session, to be held in early November. At that time, the Holy Synod will consider the canonical election of the next Bishop of Dallas and the South.

Reflecting on the Assembly and the Diocese's next steps, Metropolitan Tikhon said:

"The Diocese of the South has been greatly blessed through the devoted archpastoral ministry of Archbishop Alexander, whose faithful service has strengthened the life of the Church for many years. As the Diocese now enters a new chapter, I ask the clergy, monastics, and faithful throughout the Orthodox Church in America to continue praying that the Holy Spirit will guide the Diocese, Bishop Gerasim in his service as Locum Tenens, and the members of the Holy Synod as they prepare to consider the election of a new diocesan bishop. May the Lord grant His abundant grace, wisdom, and peace to all during this important time of transition."

Metropolitan Tikhon also expressed his gratitude to the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Diocese of the South for the spirit of prayer and unity in both the Diocesan Assembly and the Special Nominating Assembly.

***Samuel Miller cont from pg 1***

Ordained ministry towards the end of high school, largely through the inspiration and encouragement of the cathedral dean and other parish clergy. He has served in the altar since childhood, taught Sunday school, and participated in the pan-Orthodox community in the Twin Cities; he continues to act as a sacristan and lead altar server.

## 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

## His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Presides at 2026 Canadian Archdiocesan Assembly

On July 15–17, 2026, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon traveled to Calgary, AB, to preside at the 2026 Canadian Archdiocesan Assembly.

His Beatitude was accompanied by Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America. Upon their arrival in Calgary on July 15, they were greeted at Calgary International Airport by Archpriest Phillip Eriksson, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Canada, and proceeded to Ambrose University, the venue for the Assembly, where he was greeted by His Eminence Archbishop Irénée.

That evening, Vespers was served by Priest Matthew Francis and Deacon Micah Friesen. Following Vespers, His Beatitude addressed the gathered clergy and faithful, speaking about Saint Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles, as a fitting example for the Assembly.

"Here was one man, in one generation, who received the faith and chose — freely, and at some cost — to hand it on," His Beatitude said. "Everything that has followed from that choice: a thousand years of the Church's life among the Slavic peoples, the planting of Orthodoxy in North America, in time, the establishment of this very Archdiocese, its expansion and flourishing, including the succeeding gatherings of clergy, monastics, and faithful at events such as this Assembly, and even our evening prayer this evening — all of this flows from a single act of transmission."

On Thursday, July 16, following the Divine Liturgy in the chapel, His Beatitude and Fr. Alessandro met with members of the Archdiocesan Council to discuss matters pertaining to the life of the Archdiocese.

Later that morning, His Beatitude presided at the Assembly session. Archpriest Rodion Luciuk presented a proposal for a Canadian clergy pension plan, Priest Andrew Applegate offered a report from the St. Tikhon's Archdiocesan Stewards, and the Assembly received nominations for the Archdiocesan Council and Metropolitan Council.

Following the session, His Beatitude had lunch with the clergy wives. During the afternoon session, His Beatitude answered questions from the clergy and assembled delegates.

That evening, His Beatitude, His Eminence, and Fr. Alessandro attended the Assembly Banquet, held in the parish hall of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. During the banquet, Archpriest Matthew Francis, who serves as Regional Director for British Columbia and Yukon of the Canadian Bible Society, presented His Beatitude and His Eminence with copies of a newly translated version of the Gospel of John in the Blackfoot language, spoken by the member nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy in southern Alberta.

His Beatitude also offered remarks at ***Con't next Pg***

## AUGUST Celebrations

### Birthday

1- Heidi Kuzemchak
4- Meiriam Dardovski / Sonja Harvischak
5- Linda Livosky
7- William Sabo
9- Elaine Basala
12- Layne Demkosky / Reader Nick Vansuch / Ethan Donofrio / Sue Tamulonis
13- Frank Batura, Jr. / Ed Kusinski
14- Eli Arvan / Katie (Zelinsky)
15- Anthony Cavaliere
16- Anthony Jesko, Jr.
17- Lauren Koval
27- Michael Centofanti
29- Archbishop Michael / Gary Thompson Sr
31- Sharon LaVallee / Melanie Rusnak

### Anniversary

7- Stephen & Karen Simko / Dennis & Pamela Tubic
10- Fr. John's Ordination
18- Nicola & Shelly Nicoloff / Philip & Trudy Ellmore
21- Proto. Dc. David & Mat. Gemmel
28- Fr. Eli Bremer Priestly ordination / Joe & Georgiana Lukehart
29- Zoland & Claudia Zile
30- Fr. Peter & Pani Bernadette Zarynow

### Names Day

15- Sonja Harvischak / Sophia Jesko
23- AB Irenee of Ottawa & the Archdiocese of Canada
26- Natalia Simko
30- AB Alexander of the Bulgarian Diocese

| ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *JULY* | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|---|---|
| **1st– All SAints** | | |
| Vespers | 5 | No Vespers |
| Liturgy / Communion | 58 / 30 | 47 / 26 |
| **2nd Week– N. Am. S.** | | |
| Vespers | No Vespers | No Vespers |
| Liturgy / Communion | 59 / 29 | 44 / 28 |
| **3rd Week– 3rd Sunday** | | |
| Vespers | No Vespers | 5 |
| Liturgy / Communion | 38 / 30 | 51 / 31 |
| **4th Week – 4th Sunday** | | |
| Vespers | No Vespers | 8 |
| Liturgy / Communion | 45 / 30 | 38 / 17 |
| **5th–** | | |
| No 5th Week in June | | |

***Canada con't from previous pg***

the banquet, reflecting on the meaning of a common meal in the life of the Church.

His Beatitude said, "On a fundamental level, the Church has never really handed down bare information. She has handed down a table — from the manna in the wilderness, to the bread and cup Christ gave His disciples, to the Divine Liturgy we will serve together before this Assembly ends. God feeds His people first, and only afterward asks them to tell the story of having been fed."

On Friday, July 17, His Beatitude presided at the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut Church in Calgary. Concelebrating with His Beatitude were His Eminence Archbishop Irénée, Fr. Alessandro, Fr. Phillip, the diocesan deans, and other clergy of the Archdiocese.

At the Little Entrance, His Beatitude awarded Igumen Vladimir Lysak the right to wear the jeweled cross and Priest Aleksey Isakov the right to wear the gold cross.

During the Divine Liturgy, His Beatitude delivered the homily, speaking about the need to hold knowledge and love together in the life of the Church.

"This is a gentle reminder to us that often the complexities we are presented with in life are not problems to be solved but opportunities to love God so that we might be known by him, that is, receive his divine grace," His Beatitude said. "And in this simple movement is where healing begins and where worship flows forth."

Read the full text of His Beatitude's homily

The liturgical responses were sung by the Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut parish choir, joined by many Assembly delegates, under the direction of Mka. Barbara Eriksson.

Following the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence Archbishop Irénée thanked His Beatitude for his time and expressed the love of the clergy and faithful for him. His Beatitude, in return, expressed his gratitude to His Eminence, to the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese, and to all who had worked in preparation for the Assembly. He also noted the blessing of seeing the growth of Orthodoxy in Canada and the strong faith of the Archdiocese.

On behalf of Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut Church, Priest Jonathan Goossen presented His Beatitude with an icon of the parish's patron saint, the original painted by a Canadian monastic in British Columbia.

Following the Divine Liturgy, His Beatitude, the clergy, and the delegates returned to Ambrose University, where the Assembly concluded with a brunch, final presentation, and closing Molieben.

His Beatitude and Fr. Alessandro departed Calgary that afternoon.

## AUGUST Reposed List / © Parishioner

Joseph Uhrin (1973) ©
Sophie Kotanchik (1964)
1- Peter Vansuch (1971) ©
2- Dr. Zervas (1931) ©
4- Rose Bartek (1984) / Nicholas Kioussis (1956) © / Mary Kovach (1963) ©
5- Elias Lisko (1925) ©
6- Julia Sirilla (1992) © / George Libertin (2019) © / Mike Kropinak (1959) ©
7- Helen Kropinak (1991) © / George Rusnak, Jr (2021) © / Mike Gerakios (1937) ©
8- Stella Gebbia (1998) © / Christina Krajnak (1920) ©
9- Anna Marie Tennis (1973) ©
10- Olga Zelina Kucheruk (2013) ©
11- Carl D. Essex (2014) / George Tobak, Sr (1972) © / John Kropinak (1926) ©
12- Fr. Stephen Jula (2014) / Michael Pacak (1978) © / John Kristian (1956) ©
13- Daria Voytilla (2019) © / Elia Milovancovich (1933) © / John Holecko (1939) ©
14- Bobby Almasche (2022) / Kaliope Koulianos (1950) ©
15- Archpriest John Mutusiak (2019) / Eugene Sanders (2014) © / Alice Stalian (1920) © / John Georgeadis (1941) © / Thomas Kristian (2023) ©
16- Shawn Larriccia (2022) / Anna Livosky (1984) © / Joseph Fedorchoh (1987) © / Justin Pubos (1989) © / Anna Mikita (1999) © / Margaret Kalas (1920) ©
17- Helene Flaherty (2015) / Mary Pikos (1943) © / Jack Vallas (1944) ©
18- Mary Duritza (1984) © / Anna Cverko (1982) © / George Madich (1920) ©
19- Fr. George Dyak (1995) / Steve Hanuscin (1920) © / Harry Kidon (1925) ©
20- John Kaschak (1976) ©
21- Fr. Paul Herbert (2016) / Sophie Boldish (1967) ©
22- Fr. Peter Molchany (1990) / Mary Rusnak (1991) © / George Roseta (1922) © /
Basil Sarokos (1930) © / Kostas Zombobi (1930) © / Joseph Raschak (1930) © / Mary Karcotis (1943) © / Infant John Emil Graban (1956) © / Kenny Ruff (2024 ©
23- Helen Gerakios (1925) ©
24- Rosica Rago (1922) © / Felogia Fradzeskus (1924) ©
25- Steve Kalas (1938) ©
26- Michael Hally (1991) © / George Tabus (2000) ©
27- John Vrabel (1972) © / Christopher Forgac (1976) © / Mike Lawrence (1961) ©
28- Matthew Lariccia Sr (1992) / John Simko (1969) © / Simeon Kaliscak (1921) © / Harry Sosnovchik (1925) © / George Despetarich (1956) © / Karen Muzyka (2023)
29- Anna Vrabel (1972) © / Pani Gizella Mihaly (1975) / Joseph Vansuch (1964) ©
30- Mike Pihunias (1948) ©
31- Mike Lawrence (1930) © / George Vasilos (1930) ©

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## Matthew 14:22-34 (Gospel)

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

## 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 Drew Clements / 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) / Mary Margaret Tusinac / Emilia Yanitto / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac) / Miranda & her newborn Gwendolyn / Lindsey & her newborn James III

**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.

## Translation of the relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople Commemorated on August 2

The Transfer of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople took place about the year 428.

After the holy Protomartyr Archdeacon Stephen was stoned by the Jews, they left his holy body unburied to be devoured by the beasts and birds. After a day and a night the renowned Jewish teacher of the Law, Gamaliel sent people to take up the body of the Protomartyr. Gamaliel buried him on his own property, in his own tomb, not far from Jerusalem.

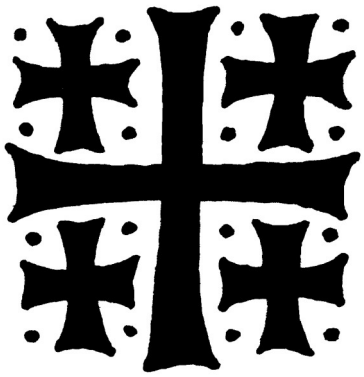
When Lord's secret disciple Nikódēmos died, Gamaliel also buried him near the grave of Saint Stephen. Afterwards Gamaliel himself, who had been baptized with his son Abibas, was buried near the grave of the Protomartyr Stephen and Saint Nikódēmos.

In the year 415 the relics of the saint were uncovered in a miraculous manner and solemnly transferred to Jerusalem by Bishop John and the bishops Eutonius of Sebaste and Eleutherius of Jericho. From that time healings took place from the relics.

Afterwards, during the reign of holy Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450), the relics of the holy Protomartyr Stephen were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople and placed in the church of the holy deacon Laurence (August 10). When a church dedicated to the Protomartyr Stephen was built, the relics were transferred there on August 2. Saint Stephen's right hand is preserved in the Serapionov chamber of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra.

## 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 (Epistle)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.



## St. Vladimir Church Camp Celebrates "Lights of the North"

St. Vladimir Church Camp welcomed Orthodox youth from across the country this summer for three weeks of faith, fellowship, and fun under the theme, "Lights of the North: The Saints Who Shined."

Campers, ages 8 through 18, traveled from seven different states to participate in the annual program, which focused on the lives and witness of the Saints of North America. Through worship, educational sessions, games, and activities, the campers learned how these holy men and women brought the Orthodox faith to the North American continent and continue to inspire believers today.

A highlight of the summer was the visit of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest, who joined the campers on the Feast of St. Vladimir. Archbishop Daniel celebrated the Divine Liturgy services and offered words of encouragement, reminding the youth that they are called to be lights in the world and faithful witnesses of Christ.

St. Vladimir Church Camp has long served as a gathering place for Orthodox youth, providing opportunities to strengthen their faith, build lasting friendships, and experience the joy of Christian fellowship. More than a summer camp, it is a ministry dedicated to forming the next generation of Orthodox Christians.

For more information about the camp, visit the camp website.

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***Seminarians con't***

## Mattew Stams

Seminary: St. Tikhon's Seminary

Year & Program: 1st year M.Div.

Mattew was born and raised in North East Ohio to a culturally Greek family where he inherited some of the traditions and customs of the Orthodox faith, although it was not an active part of daily life growing up until he re-discovered Orthodoxy in 2012.

In 2015, Matthew graduated with an Associates degree in Visual Communication & Design and worked both as an in-house and freelance graphic designer, web designer and photographer. Most recently, he has also been working as a professional dog trainer.

Matthew, his wife Megan and their son Frederick are active members of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church where Matthew is a member of the parish council and altar server.

## Chesterton Parish Welcomes Archbishop to Celebrate 30th Anniversary

On July 17-18, St. Elizabeth the New Martyr Church celebrated their patronal feast day. On Sunday, July 19 – feast of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils – the parish community welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest. It was a weekend filled with prayer and joy, and was one of several festive events this year commemorating the 30th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

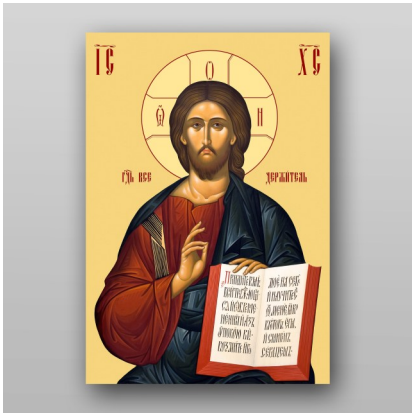
On the evening of Friday, July 17, Festal Vigil for St. Elizabeth was served by Priest Anthony Saunders, Rector, and Deacon Thomas Porter, from Holy Ascension Church in Albion, MI. The responses were sung by a small mixed choir, led by Reader Simeon Sabourin, parish choir director.

The day of the feast, Saturday, July 18, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Anthony. He was assisted by Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, and Deacon Paul Garklavs. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Fr. Anthony gave a homily on the words, "thou wast purified by mercy, patience, and love," from St. Elizabeth's troparion. After the homily, Fr. Anthony welcomed the guest clergy and all the faithful celebrating the feast. Many Years was sung for several women in attendance named in honor of either St. Elizabeth or her faithful companion, St. Barbara. All were invited to a festive meal in the parish hall after veneration of the Cross and the Prayers of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion.

As Saturday evening approached, the parish faithful gathered for the Resurrection Vigil at which the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils were also commemorated.

On Sunday morning, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel was greeted by the community and was offered the traditional bread and salt. His Eminence celebrated the Divine Liturgy, and was assisted by Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Fr. Anthony, and Deacon Timothy Heinbokel.

After the Gospel, Archbishop Daniel instructed the faithful with a homily reflecting on the life of St. Elizabeth as well as the commemoration of the Holy Fathers. After the conclusion of the Liturgy, His Eminence greeted the gathered community, offering words of congratulations on the occasion of the altar feast the day before.



## Luke Anderson

Home Parish: Holy Trinity Church, St. Paul, MN

Seminary: St. Vladimir's Seminary

Year & Program: 3rd year M.Div.

Luke Joseph Anderson was raised as an Evangelical in rural Minnesota and has a Bachelor of Science in American history from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. He was received into the Church at Holy Trinity Church in St Paul, Minnesota, in 2019. Though he initially intended to pursue a career as a high school teacher of U.S. history and civics, he felt drawn to pursue seminary studies instead by the formative power of the liturgy and life of the Church.

He spent three and a half years working as a live-in care provider, gaining direct experience in a life of service. During this time, he also assisted in the altar—particularly in helping train younger servers—and participated in the charitable outreach and day-to-day work of his parish. He began his studies at St. Vladimir's Seminary in the fall of 2024, and hopes to serve in the ministries of the Church in a work-oriented capacity focused chiefly on helping others.

## Alexander Baker

Home Parish: St. Mark Church, Rochester Hills, MI

Seminary: St. Tikhon's Seminary

Year & Program: 1st year M.Div.

Growing up as the son of an Orthodox Priest, Mason Alexander Baker was raised next door to Christ the Savior Church in downtown Chicago. From an early age, he served in the altar, and for three years he traveled as kelenik to His Eminence, Archbishop Paul, of blessed memory.

While traveling with His Eminence and completing his undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree, Mason met his future wife, Elizabeth, at Archangel Michael Church in Broadview Heights, OH. He later relocated with his family to Michigan to complete his undergraduate studies. On December 26, 2021, he was ordained to the subdiaconate.

For the past several years, Elizabeth has served as an elementary school teacher while also ministering at their home parish, St. Mark Church in Michigan, as Sunday School Director and Church Administrator. At the same parish, Mason has helped develop the men's fellowship, organized altar server practicums, and assisted with church school programs.

Mason and Elizabeth have one son, Brooks, and are

## Timothy Blinnikov

Home Parish: Holy Myrrhbearers Church, St. Cloud, MN

Seminary: St. Tikhon's Seminary

Year & Program: 2nd year M.Div.

Timothy Blinnikov was born into a Russian immigrant family and raised in the Orthodox faith. He grew up serving in the altar and singing in the choir at Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Church in St Cloud, MN. He graduated Saint Olaf College in 2018 with a degree in Political Science and Russian Area Studies.

Timothy was made a reader in 2016 by Archbishop Paul of blessed memory, continued to serve and read in church. After being encouraged to consider seminary studies, Timothy was ordained to the subdiaconate in 2023 by Archbishop Daniel. Serving as a sacristan for the next two years helped solidify his decision, which led him to begin his seminary studies at St Tikhon's Seminary in the Fall of 2025.

## Henry Brink

Home Parish: Holy Trinity Church, St. Paul, MN

Seminary: St. Vladimir's Seminary

Year & Program: 2nd year M.Div.

Henry Brink was raised in a Baptist missionary family and spent his childhood in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Russia. He and his wife Marcella both encountered Orthodoxy in college and were received in 2021. Henry loves singing church music, and he sang for a year in a Russian Cathedral choir in Kazakhstan. He and his wife and friends have also travelled twice to Georgia to learn its folk music and chant. He also enjoys composing, and both he and his wife have a love for the liturgical arts in general.

Henry and Marcella both studied literature at Hillsdale College and completed Master's degrees in theology at the University of Notre Dame. While Henry pursues his M.Div. at St. Vladimir's Seminary, Marcella is pursuing a Ph.D. in theology at Fordham University, specializing in late antique liturgical art in Jewish and Christian communities in Palestine and Syria.

They have two sons, Elias and Benjamin, who keep them busy and teach them to pay attention to the world.

## Elias Johns

Home Parish: St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Springfield, MO

Seminary: St. Tikhon's Seminary

Year & Program: 1st year M.Div.

Spencer Elias Johns was raised in Southern Baptist family in Ozark Missouri. In 8th grade he started to study the scriptures and began navigating his faith by trying out a multitude of different denominations ultimately ending of in the Church of Christ denomination. After graduating High school and completing 2 years of Culinary School, Spencer transferred to Missouri State University and studied Church History and Koine Greek ultimately obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies with an emphasis in New Testament History. During his time at MSU Spencer was confronted with a test of faith in his studies over Church History, ultimately leading to his conversion and baptism into the Orthodox church in 2017.

Spencer started serving at St. Thomas by singing in the chior for 3 years before regularly altar serving and reading until the present. After graduating University in 2018, Spencer felt called to seminary. While discerning this call, Spencer taught Special Education in Branson Missouri and earned a teaching certification in World and American History through DESE. In early 2025 Spencer decided to finally follow the call to seminary for the priesthood in the fall of 2026.

## Deacon Joseph Goshorn-Maroney

Home Parish: St Stephen the First Martyr Church, Crawfordsville, IN

Seminary: St. Tikhon's Seminary

Year & Program: 3rd year M.Div.

Deacon Joseph was raised on a family farm in west central Indiana near Crawfordsville. He and his home parish of St. Stephen the First Martyr were received into the OCA from the Evangelical Orthodox Church in 2001 by Archbishop Job of blessed memory.

After completing his Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology at Hanover College, Dn. Joseph pursued a Master of Science in the same subject at Western Washington University in Washington. After this, Dn. Joseph began attending St. Innocent Antiochian Orthodox Church in Everson, WA. There he met his wife Margaret, a teacher, and moved back to Indiana and his home parish of St. Stephen's to run the family farm. He and Margaret married within the year and now have five children: Eleni, Macrina, Seraphima, Maria, and John.

They have been active members at St. Stephen the First Martyr, Crawfordsville, where Margaret has been involved in reading and singing, while Joseph has served on the parish council in various capacities, and in the Altar. Joseph was ordained to the subdiaconate in 2019 by Archbishop Paul of blessed memory. Joseph, Margaret and their children began the next chapter of their lives in the Fall of 2024 at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

## Michael Katalenich

Home Parish: St. John of Kronstadt Church, Lincoln, NE

Seminary: St. Tikhon's Seminary

Year & Program: 2nd year M.Div.

Michael was born at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska and raised in a largely non-religious household. He later entered the Roman Catholic Church and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 2017, with studies in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew.

After college, he spent time as a novice with the Dominican Order, and it was then that he first became acquainted with the Christian East. He later served as cantor for the Ruthenian and Melkite Catholic Mission in Nebraska, while also teaching Latin, Philosophy, and Theater at Pius X High School in Lincoln.

In 2022, Michael was received into the Orthodox Church at St. John of Kronstadt Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he helped teach catechesis and sang in the choir and kliros. He studied in the St. Macrina Institute's Diaconal Training Program before beginning the M.Div. program at St. Tikhon's Seminary in the Fall of 2025.

## Gabriel Krug

Home Parish: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Overland Park, KS

Seminary: St. Vladimir's Seminary

Year & Program: 3rd year M.Div.

Gabriel Krug was born in San Francisco, CA and raised in a mostly non-religious family. Having grown up a quarter-mile from Holy Virgin "Joy of All Who Sorrow" Cathedral, Gabriel converted to Orthodoxy in 2015 after being inspired by close family friends who were Orthodox Christians. Following high school, he served two tours in the Marine Corps. Trained as a technician for aircraft-borne weapon systems, he served the latter years of his career as an occupational instructor, providing technical and leadership training to both military and civilian personnel.

While serving on active duty, Gabriel met his wife, Bailey, who herself converted to Orthodoxy from Evangelical Christianity in 2016. In 2018 they were married, and now have three daughters – Emelia, Sophia, and Marie. Immediately following Gabriel's discharge from the military, the Krug family moved to Saint Vladimir's Seminary, where they are now settled in for their second year.

## Reader Justinian Tatooles

Home Parish: Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chircago, IL

Seminary: St. Tikhon's Seminary

Year & Program: 1st year M.Div.

Justinian Tatooles was born into a Greek-American family and raised in the Orthodox faith. He grew up serving in the altar at Saint Luke Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, IL. Regularly attending diocesan events, he often served at Holy Trinity Cathedral during high school and college before becoming a parishioner in 2022.

He was ordained a reader in 2021 by Archbishop Paul of blessed memory and served as his Keleinik the same year before pursuing undergraduate studies at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. He graduated with a B.A. in History and German in 2024. Feeling the call to ministry from a young age, with the blessing of Archbishop Daniel, he began his first year of the M.Div. program at St. Tikhon's Seminary in the Fall of 2026.

## Seth Watson

Home Parish: Holy Assumption Church, Canton, OH

Seminary: St. Vladirmir's Seminary

Year & Program: 1st year M.Div.

Seth Watson was raised in a devout Protestant family in West Virginia. From an early age life centered around faith and family. This upbringing led him to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Theology from Malone University in Canton, OH, focusing in Old Testament linguistics. It was here that he first encountered Orthodoxy and began to reevaluate his faith. Through Holy Assumption, he entered the catechumenate and was later received into the Church in 2015.

Rather than continue immediately with schooling, he felt compelled to remain in Canton to further learn the Orthodox faith at his home parish. During this time he became an altar server and helped train new servers. It was also around this time that he met his wife, Erinn, who was later received into the Church in 2017. They married at Holy Assumption in 2021 and have since continued to work in the area and serve the parish.

With the encouragement and guidance of his priest, Seth began to discern a call to ministry and a life fully devoted to the Church. He has since served as an occasional reader and homilist for their home parish, while Erinn continues to sing in the choir and bake prosphora for services. The Watsons will start a new chapter as Seth pursues the M.Div. program at St. Vladimir's Seminary in 2026.

## Matthew Yeager

Home Parish: Annuncication Church, St. James, MO

Seminary: St. Tikhon's Seminary

Year & Program: 1st year M.Div.

My name is Matt Yeager I grew up in Taos Missouri with my parents, brother, and sister. I became a Christian in 1998 at a Baptist church. Soon after I joined a Christian international missions organization where I met my future wife, Evangeline. We moved back to my hometown and married in 2001, our time in world missions caused us to seek out the original church, leading us into Orthodoxy in 2012, being received into the Church in 2014. We are members of Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Church in St. James Missouri.

Previously served at the altar for over 8 years as well as parish council president at another Orthodox parish and currently serving at the altar currently at Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

I have a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Lincoln University of Missouri, and an AAS in Computer Networking from State Fair Community College. I am currently a project manager; my wife is a sales manager for a window manufacturer. We live on a small farm in our rural area, raising beef cattle and gardening are two hobbies I enjoy.

Looking forward to St. Tikhon's Seminary this fall.

## Benjamin Zack

Home Parish: St. Panteleimon Church, Summit Argo, IL

Seminary: St. Vladimir's Seminary

Year & Program: 3rd year M.Div.

Benjamin Zack was raised in a largely non-practicing family in Philadelphia, PA, occasionally attending St. Nicholas Orthodox Church with his grandparents. He and his family periodically attended the local Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church together throughout his childhood. While in high school, he received a four-year ROTC Scholarship, intending to become an infantry officer in the US Army. Reconnecting with his faith while in college, he and his spiritual father began a formal discernment process for the Catholic priesthood. As a result, Ben commissioned as a chaplain candidate in the US Army upon his graduation from college.

During an Army training course at Fort Jackson, while still a Ukrainian Catholic, he regularly observed the Divine Liturgy at Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Columbia, SC. Through this attendance, he felt a profound call to reconcile himself with the Church of his baptism. He and his wife, Abigail, were received into the Orthodox Church at St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church in Summit Argo, IL. He is now a US Army Chaplain Candidate endorsed by the OCA serving at the 151st Theater Information Operations Group (TIOG) in Ft. Totten, NY.