The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405

AUGUST Bulletin Sponsor–
In Memory of Mary Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar

Liturgical & Events Schedule

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

Wednesday, August 12
6:00 PM: Fire Training & meeting

Friday, August 14
6:00 PM: Vespers w/ Litia / Procession of Shroud

Saturday, August 15
9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy w/ Blessing of Flowers & Herbs followed by drive by fundraiser
5:15-5:45 PM: Confessions by App't
6:00 PM: Vespers

Sunday, August 16
9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by app't
9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida / Social
Noon-6:00 PM: Halupki Festival in Marblehead, OH

August Reader Schedule

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

Social Schedule: AUGUST

August 9– O Club
August 16– Sisterhood
August 23– Council
August 30– Open

AUGUST CHARITY

St. Herman's Seminary

Matthew 17:14-23 (Gospel)

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (Epistle)

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

August 30– Becky Baxter
September 6– Irene Manzanek

Office: 330-755-4931 / Cell: 570-212-8747
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: In memory of Mary Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar
Wine:
Incense:
Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of my mother Olga 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		

Apostle Matthias of the Seventy Commemorated on August 9

The Holy Apostle Matthias was born at Bethlehem of the Tribe of Judah. From his early childhood he studied the Law of God under the guidance of Saint Simeon the God-Receiver (February 3).

When the Lord Jesus Christ revealed Himself to the world, Saint Matthias believed in Him as the Messiah, followed constantly after Him and was numbered among the Seventy Apostles, whom the Lord "sent them two by two before His face" (Luke 10:1).

After the Ascension of the Savior, Saint Matthias was chosen by lot to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve Apostles (Acts 1:15-26). After the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Matthias preached the Gospel at Jerusalem and in Judea together with the other Apostles (Acts 6:2, 8:14). From Jerusalem he went with the Apostles Peter and Andrew to Syrian Antioch, and was in the Cappadocian city of Tianum and Sinope. Here the Apostle Matthias was locked into prison, from which he was miraculously freed by Saint Andrew the First-Called.

The Apostle Matthias journeyed after this to Amasea, a city on the shore of the sea. During a three year journey of the Apostle Andrew, Saint Matthias was with him at Edessa and Sebaste. According to Church Tradition, he was preaching at Pontine Ethiopia (presently Western Georgia) and Macedonia. He was frequently subjected to deadly peril, but the Lord preserved him to preach the Gospel.

Once, pagans forced the saint to drink a poison potion. He drank it, and not only did he himself remain unharmed, but he also healed other prisoners who had been blinded by the potion. When Saint Matthias left the prison, the pagans searched for him in vain, for he had become invisible to them. Another time, when the pagans had become enraged intending to kill the Apostle, the earth opened up and engulfed them.

The Apostle Matthias returned to Judea and did not cease to enlighten his countrymen with the light of Christ's teachings. He worked great miracles in the Name of the Lord Jesus and he converted a great many to faith in Christ.

The Jewish High Priest Ananias hated Christ and earlier had commanded the Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, to be flung down from the heights of the Temple, and now he ordered that the Apostle Matthias be arrested and brought for judgment before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem.

The impious Ananias uttered a speech in which he blasphemously slandered the Lord. Using the prophecies of the Old Testament, the Apostle Matthias demonstrated that Jesus Christ is the True God, the promised Messiah, the Son of God, Consubstantial and Coeternal with God the Father. After these words the Apostle Matthias was sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin and stoned.

When Saint Matthias was already dead, the Jews, to hide their malefaction, cut off his head as an enemy of Caesar. (According to several historians, the Apostle Matthias was crucified, and indicate that he instead died at Colchis.) The Apostle Matthias received the martyr's crown of glory in the year 63.

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

OCA Clergy Wives Blessed by Renewal and Fellowship at Antiochian Village

Thirty-three clergy wives from eight dioceses and stavropegial institutions of the Orthodox Church in America gathered at the Antiochian Village from July 27–30 for the 2026 Office of Pastoral Life's Clergy Wives Retreat.

Organized by Clergy Wives Ministry, the retreat carried the theme "Come Away and Rest: Blueprint for Renewal and Resilience in Our Journey with the Lord." The gathering offered participants time away from the ordinary demands of family, parish, and professional life for prayer, reflection, fellowship, and the chance to rest in Christ.

The retreat was led by Dr. Ioana Popa of Team For The Soul® Institute, an experienced Orthodox Christian spiritual coach and theologically trained physician-psychiatrist with over twenty years of experience leading retreats.

Through presentations, journaling, contemplation, and small- and large-group conversations, Dr. Popa helped participants better understand the chronic stress many Christian women in ministry experience. Clergy wives were invited to identify practices of renewal and begin developing a personal "renewal blueprint" for living and serving in a more sustainable way.

Dr. Popa's particular insight that taking on other people's emotions is not necessary in order to be a loving listener was extremely helpful to many attendees. Some commented this was the single most important insight they would be taking away from the retreat, with one calling it "liberating."

"The retreat was an opportunity for clergy wives to step away, cultivate inner stillness, and reconnect with the Lord. We also hoped to kindle lasting friendships from scratch. These were lofty goals," said Matushka Carrie Foley, who leads the Office of Pastoral Life's Clergy Wives Ministry. "As with any first effort, one must anticipate expectations will fall short. But I am thrilled to report, our expectations were surpassed. We shared prayers, tears, a-ha moments, laughter, hugs, and amens. The Lord was surely with us!"

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated Thursday morning by Father Vjekoslav Jovicic with Matushka Marina Garcia directing. In his sermon, Father Vjekoslav recollected women saints throughout the Scriptures, persecutions, and desert monasticism who lived hidden yet crucial lives in the Kingdom of God.

Throughout the four-day gathering, participants shared meals, informal fellowship, and directed conversation with other clergy wives whose lives carry many of the same joys, responsibilities, and challenges. Strolls along the quiet beauty of Antiochian Village's Meditation Trail, and veneration of the relics of St. Raphael of Brooklyn were other bright stars in the midst of the retreat.

For Matushka Jenn Franchak, of St. Basil the Great Church, in Simpson, PA, the retreat provided ***Con't Nt 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- 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

Clergy wives con't from previous pg

important relief from isolation: "For the first time in 17 years of being a clergy wife, I actually had the opportunity to connect with and learn from other women who understand this life and its challenges. Thank you so much for the care and effort that you put into this retreat. It was such a blessing for me, and has helped me in so many ways. I am so excited for next year!"

The retreat is part of the Office of Pastoral Life's continuing effort to strengthen the lives of clergy families and foster deeper relationships among clergy wives throughout the Orthodox Church in America. Matushka Carrie expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all the hierarchs, parishes, and individuals whose concrete support made this retreat possible. Matushka Jenny Mosher and Matushka Jodi Mathews, who volunteered countless hours to the planning and logistics, were indispensable to the success of this inaugural retreat.

Clergy Wives Ministry is dedicated to providing avenues of connection and renewal for clergy wives. In addition to the annual retreat planned for next year (stay tuned for an announcement of dates coming soon), a downloadable companion guide designed for group discussion for One Book One Sisterhood is now available. The website is expanding, so check back frequently for more opportunities for fellowship and encouragement. The Office of Pastoral Life supports the clergy and clergy families of the Orthodox Church in America through programs promoting spiritual, vocational, relational, and financial well-being. Additional information is available at opl.oca.org.

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - *AUGUST*	2025	2026
1st Week		
Vespers	13	8
Liturgy / Communion Transfiguration Vespers Transfiguration Liturgy	59 / 39 Monastery 18 / 15	56 / 32 Monastery Monastery
2nd Week		
Vespers	7	
Liturgy / Communion Dormition Vespers Dormition Liturgy	47 / 30 7 19 / 14	
3rd Week		
Vespers	12	
Liturgy / Communion	54 / 31	
4th Week		
Vespers	5	
Liturgy / Communion Beheading Vespers Beheading Liturgy	46 / 32 9 15 6	
5th Week		
Vespers Liturgy	6 59 / 33	

Archbishop Daniel Visits with Cleveland Deanery

On Monday, July 27 and Tuesday, July 28, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest visited with the Clergy and Clergy Wives of the Cleveland Deanery at St. Nicholas Church, Mogadore, OH. On Monday His Eminence and the clergy celebrated the Akathist to the Tikhvin Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. After the service all gathered for dinner. The Archbishop spent time visiting with those gathered in fellowship, and conversation. On Tuesday the Divine Liturgy was celebrated by all in attendance. Following Liturgy at brunch the Archbishop spoke about the exciting new programs in the diocese, our seminarians, the amazing Church growth being experienced throughout the Diocese and Church.

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) ©

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America celebrates 99th Convention in Cleveland, OH

Delegates from across the United States gathered in Cleveland, OH from July 24th through the 27th for the 99th Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America's (FOCA) annual convention. Preparing for the centennial celebration of the organization, Cleveland was selected as the site of the 99th convention due to its historical significance for FOCA.

Archpriest Vladimir Prislopsky, founder of the FOCA, originally known as the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs, served for 37 years as rector of Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in Cleveland. Fr. Vladimir founded the organization in Pittsburgh in 1927, and the second convention was held at Archangel Michael Church in 1928. The parish contributed extensively over the years, including providing local district governors through numerous executive offices.

The convention opened on Friday evening with a social event at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church. More than 100 participants gathered for an evening of fellowship and conversation about the future of the organization. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest, and His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth, Locum Tenens of the Diocese of the South and Episcopal Liaison to the FOCA, were also present for the evening.

On Saturday morning, youth participants took part in a FOCA-sponsored "mini-camp" led by Deacon Dan and Matushka Katrina Kovalak. The day included crafts, sports, and other activities for the children.

The adult delegates met throughout the day for convention business, including discussion of operations and governance matters. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon joined the convention in the afternoon and offered ***Con't next pg***

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.

Convention con't from previous pg

words of encouragement to the delegates. The day continued with Great Vespers, at which Archpriest John Memorich, Rector of Archangel Michael Church, wore the vestments of Fr. Vladimir Prislopsky in honor of his memory. The evening concluded with an outing to the Cleveland Zoo and the Asian Lantern Festival.

On Sunday, July 26, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with His Beatitude were His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, His Grace Bishop Gerasim, and several clergy, including past and present National Spiritual Advisors of the FOCA.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Nicholas Ressetar, on behalf of Matushka Theodora Ressetar, daughter of Fr. Vladimir Prislopsky, presented Archangel Michael Church with Fr. Vladimir's gold pectoral cross. The cross, given to Fr. Vladimir by the parish at the time of his elevation to the rank of archpriest, was received with gratitude as a memorial to his priestly ministry and his foundational role in the life of the FOCA.

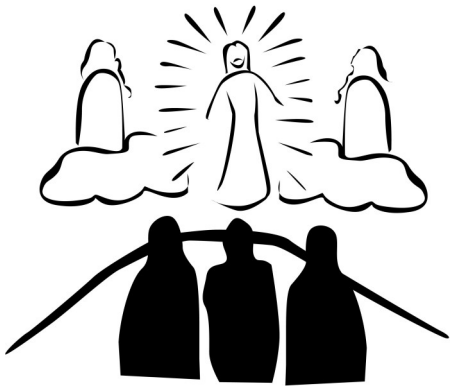
Following the Divine Liturgy, a Grand Banquet was held at Woodside Banquet Center, with nearly 200 people in attendance. During the banquet, a fund drive was held to benefit the Shrine to St. Olga of Kwethluk, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Alaska. Through the FOCA Gifts of Love campaign, nearly $4,500 had already been collected for the project, and the banquet raised an additional $2,300.

The convention concluded on Monday, July 27, with the election of officers, further deliberation on governance matters, and the awarding of future events to various FOCA chapters. During the elections, Nicholas Ressetar was elected to serve as president during the FOCA's centennial year.

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America gives thanks to God for the blessings of the 99th Annual Convention and asks the prayers of its patron, the Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called, as the organization prepares to celebrate 100 years of service to the Church.

Diaconal Ordination takes place in McHenry Parish

On Saturday, August 1, the feast of St. Seraphim of Sarov, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Archbishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest, made an archpastoral visit to St. Nicholas of Myra Church, McHenry, IL.

Archbishop Daniel was joined by Mitered Archpriest Volodymyr Kovalchuk, Rector, and visiting clergy.

During Divine Liturgy, parishioner Mykola Tkachuk was ordained to the Diaconate. Following the divine services, a festive meal was held in the hall.