

THE PARISH WEEKLY

HOLY ASSUMPTION ORTHODOX CHURCH

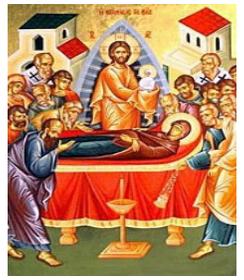
110 East Main Street ♦ Marblehead, OH 43440 ♦ 419-798-4591

A parish of the **ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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Archpriest David A. Lis, B.A., M.A., M.Div., Rector

Mr. Ronald F. Royhab, Parish Council President



8 JANUARY 2017

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

8 January - The Sunday after Theophany; The Venerable George Chozebite

9:15AM.....The Third Hour

9:30AM.....The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

14 January - The Leavetaking of Holy Theophany; St. Nina of Georgia, Equal-to-the-Apostles

4:00PM.....Great Vespers

4:50PM.....Confessions

15 January - The 30th Sunday after Pentecost; The Venerable Paul of Thebes

9:15AM.....The Third Hour

9:30AM.....The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

From the Book of Ecclesiasticus:

***“Be steady in your convictions,
sincere in your speech.”***

- Ecclesiasticus 5:12

Attendance and Collection

1/01/2017 – Total Attendance: 21: 19 parishioners; 2 children; 0 guests; Collection: \$875.00



“For the Service of Thy House, O Lord...”

Reader Schedule:

For the week of January 1: Natalie Twarek

For the week of January 8: Wayne Golob

For the week of January 15: Ron Royhab

For the week of January 22: Tim Glovinsky

For the week of January 29: David Mazurik

Annual Meeting – Third Notice

On Sunday, 15 January at 12 Noon, Holy Assumption Church will hold its Annual Meeting. All members, 18 years of age and older who have met the minimum canonical requirement of Holy Confession to the rector of the parish and the reception of Holy Communion once in the last twelve months and have met the minimum stewardship requirements are able to participate in this meeting, and are expected to do so. ***Only members in Good Standing may be nominated and elected to the parish council.*** Please plan on attending. A light potluck luncheon will take place before the meeting.

Holy Theophany House Blessings

I will begin House Blessings for anyone who would like me to bless their home or apartment on **Tuesday, 10 January**, and would like to complete them by Tuesday, 31 January. Please see me during the coffee hour after the Sunday Divine Liturgy or give me a call at the rectory: 419-798-4591 to make an appointment.

Thanks, Fr. David

After Christmas temple cleaning...

Next Saturday, 14 January, we will be taking down and storing away for another year all of the Christmas decorations that now adorn our temple. We will begin this cleanup at 10AM. I hope that as many of you as possible can help with this effort so that we can complete it in a timely fashion and have the temple ready for Great Vespers at 4PM.

Thanks, Father David



VIGIL LAMPS OFFERED BY:

Marguerite Bird (1)

Julia Guzy (1) Birthday blessings to **Suzy** (1/7) & a Happy and healthy New Year – “*Many years!*”.

Sandy Martin (1)

Greg Mazur (1) Safe journey to **Laura and Jim**.

Laura Kovach (3)

Natalie Twarek (6) For the health & recovery of **Jeanne**; For the health of **Sue, Morgan, John, Judy, Margi, Richard, Diane** and **Jake**; Safe travel for family and friends; Birthday blessings to goddaughter, **Carol**; Birthday blessings to **Father John**; Special Intentions.



Let us pray for Our Sick and Shut-ins:

Dennis Milano – receiving chemotherapy for cancer (prognosis: Good) brother-in-law of Wayne & Heidi Golob

Metropolitan Paul of Aleppo – Greek Orthodox Bishop kidnapped in Syria; we pray for his safe return

Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim – Syriac Orthodox Bishop kidnapped in Syria; we pray for his safe return

Karen Milano – for continued healing and restored health (Heidi Golob’s sister)

Fran Bellman – be treated for Stage IV ovarian cancer (friend of Pastor Robert Butcher)

Lois Tuttamore – in treatment for a re-occurrence of cancer (wife of Bill Tuttamore and friend of Ron Royhab)

Lynn Ruggles – for health and recovery

Alison Pinckney – for healing and restored health (daughter of a good friend of Wayne Golob)

Brad Biecheler – for healing and restored health (son of George Biecheler)

Martin Veronic – for successful surgery and full recovery

Violet Mattingly – neighbor of Greg Mazur, dealing with lung issues

Daria Petrykowsky - diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer (dear friends of Ron & Bobbie Royhab)

William Rentz – for healing and restored complete health

Beth Reinhard – (friend of Diane Tryon) preparing for surgery, we pray for healing and restored health

James Heffernan – in treatment for cancer – we pray for healing and restored health

Matushka Audrey Nicoloff – recuperating from her third stroke – we pray for healing and restored good health

Baby Lucas Goodman – undergoing several surgeries to repair a rare heart defect (friend of Christi Soski)

Diane Tryon – now receiving dialysis three times per week – we pray for her healing and restored health

Joseph Habegger – for healing & restored health (Laura Kovach’s brother-in-law)

John Mazurik – struggling with progressive dementia (brother of Paul Mazurik) – we pray for God’s care and comfort

Judy Mazurik – recuperating from successful surgery to remove a tumor on her colon – we pray for healing & health

Nelson Fontanez – a special needs child - we pray for healing & God’s comfort (great nephew of Ron & Bobbie Royhab)

Howard Bailey – undergoing treatment for cancer – we pray for healing and complete recovery

Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan – now undergoing chemotherapy – we pray for healing and restored health.

Jeanne Smith – recuperating after surgery to repair a shattered knee (sister-in-law of Natalie Twarek)

Jake Lipstraw – in treatment after surgery for the removal of a tumor on the spine (friend of Natalie Twarek)

Please remember to update Father David on the condition of those for whom you have requested prayers so that we can keep this prayer list current.

Danbury Food Pantry

Here’s the breakdown for donations we are asked to collect for the Danbury Food Pantry for 2017. We need your donations by the second Sunday of each month as the distribution of the donated food takes place on the third Saturday of the month. Please refer to the following chart for the monthly donations:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Tuna	Apple Sauce	Peanut Butter & Jelly	Canned Fruit	Tomato, Vegetable, or Chicken Soup	cereal	Boxes of Macaroni & Cheese Mix	Dish Detergent	1lb & 2lb boxes of spaghetti	Laundry Detergent	Jars of spaghetti sauce

Religious War? A Christian Was Killed For Their Faith Every 6 Minutes In 2016

Source: [International Business Times](http://www.internationalbusiness-times.com)

Nearly 90,000 Christians were killed for their faith in 2016, equivalent to one every six minutes, according to a new study by the Italy-based Center for Studies on New Religions (Censur). The annual study, which is set for release next month, also indicated that between 500 and 600 million Christians were prevented from freely practicing their faith.

The number has actually declined from 105,000 in 2015, but it still makes Christians the most persecuted religious group in the world, Massimo Introvigne, director of Censur, [told Vatican Radio](http://www.vaticanradio.com) when announcing the findings on Monday. “Without wishing to forget or belittle the suffering of members of other religions, Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world,” Introvigne said.

Around 70 percent of the killings occurred in tribal conflicts in Africa, with the high number attributed to Christians refusing to take up weapons for reasons of conscience, Introvigne said. A separate report earlier this year found

that a large number of Christian deaths were occurring in northern Nigeria, where the terrorist group Boko Haram operates.

The other 30 percent, according to Introvigne, occurred due to terrorist attacks and government persecution, notably in North Korea. Last year, Canadian pastor Hyeon Soo Lim was [sentenced to life in prison](#) in North Korea for what Pyongyang described as “anti-state activities.”

The numbers found in the study were significantly higher than calculated elsewhere because Censur used a broader definition of what constitutes a person being killed for their faith, Introvigne said. However, the number of Christians and Muslims killed was of a similar number outside of Africa, with the Islamic State terror group responsible not only for killing Christians but large numbers of Muslims, Introvigne added. According to the study, Muslims are generally killed by other Muslims.

While it has long been claimed that Christians are the most persecuted religious group, they are also by far the most populous religious group. There are believed to be 2.2 billion Christians in the world, significantly more than the next highest, Muslims, with an estimated 1.6 billion.

In terms of the places where the two groups face persecution, the numbers are very similar. Christians faced harassment in 110 countries around the world, compared to 109 countries for Muslims, in 2012, [according to a 2014 Pew Research Study](#).

St. Tikhon's meditation for the New Year

Editor's Note: The following homily, "Meditation for the Coming New Year (1901) and the New (20th) Century," was delivered by Saint Tikhon the Confessor during his tenure as Bishop [and later Archbishop] of the Aleutians and North America at Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA on January 1, 1901. Originally published in the Messenger and translated by Alexis Liberovsky, Archivist of the Orthodox Church in America, it is as applicable today as it was the day it was delivered. In 2017, we observe the 100th anniversary of Saint Tikhon's election as Patriarch of Moscow.



Usually we face a new year with some apprehension and spiritual excitement. We anticipate in it something new and primarily the realization of our most cherished desires and dreams of happiness. This excitement is even greater now because of the arrival not only of a new year, but also of a new century. Many await this impatiently: we have only to recall one year ago when some were so vehement to prove that the new century was beginning then. In such passionate anticipation of the new year and century, there is much frivolity.

The new century has now finally arrived. And so what of it? Has the day been changed because of this? Have the sky and the earth become different? Have we the young become older, and the old become younger? Are we kinder, smarter, happier? No and no! “What has been,” says the wise man of the Old Testament, “is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done” [Ecclesiastes 1:9]. Life goes on its uninterrupted path. Global events change, people are born and disappear, disregarding our counting of the years. Our new year and new century are only numbers, present in our minds and memories, and they do not have the influence on life which we often ascribe to them. They in themselves do not, of course, bring anything new. Even if in the coming century great discoveries, inventions, improvements occur this will not depend on the passage of time.

We often ascribe to time much significance which in reality does not pertain to it. We say, for example, that years age us; that time, above all, heals our wounds, reconciles us with losses, tempers our grief; that it is the testing ground of love, attachment, friendship; that it disperses darkness and brings light; that it is a great energy and a powerful force; that time, as is often said here, is money. All of these statements must, of course, be understood in a figurative sense. In these statements is the poetical expression not of time itself, but of various forces which only act within time. In and of itself, time is simply a formula for expressing a chronological sequence, and an indicator of changes in things. Consequently, in and of itself, time cannot create something new, and, if we reflect sensibly, we cannot demand or expect any of this from it.

Thus, if this is true, is there any significance or impact to our life in the coming of the new year and century? Usually, as the old year ends and a new one begins, we reflect on the past, recalling what we have done and making plans for future activity. This kind of “contemplation” and introspection is beneficial as it obliges us to see how far we still are from the exemplary (the ideal), and compels us to strive for self-perfection. Unfortunately, we don't practice this introspection often, but instead we live a superficial life, which is always full of frivolity, concern for the worldly, gratification, riches, power, glory. “We strive to live the way everyone lives,” “in the ways of this world.” In other words, we devote our time to work, business, receptions, travel, recreation, etc. In this kind of life, however, our soul remains hungry, for it is surrounded by a kind of worldly crust, which suppresses its perception of the spiritual, the exalted, the heavenly.

In this kind of life, according to Father John of Kronstadt, “the body thrives, but the soul wilts; the body is spacious, but the soul is crowded; the body is satiated, but the soul is hungry; the body is embellished, but the soul is disfigured; the body is fragrant, but the soul is malodorous; the body rejoices, but the soul is distressed; the body is radiant, but the soul is in darkness.” “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” [Matthew 16:26]. This, however, is not real life “nor the living age,” but “is false and temporal” (Kontakion for the Feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist). For the kingdom of God is not food and drink, it is within you [see Luke 17:21 and Romans 14:17], and the quicker we assimilate it into ourselves, the more we take care of our souls, the better we can enter into ourselves, into our “room.”

Just as the best wife is considered to be not the one who spends all her time outside the home, visiting and enjoying herself, but rather, the one who is diligent in managing her household, who doesn't partake of the bread of slothfulness but willingly works with her hands, who takes care of her children and her husband [Proverbs 31], likewise, in the good ordering of inner life, a zealous head of household is not the one who only amuses himself and is concerned only with external, social life, but rather, the one who withdraws from external amusements, which disperse the spirit, and stays “at home” to focus on himself, his innermost thoughts and feelings, to ponder and safeguard them.

Therefore, the Church Fathers also forcefully exhort Christians to be temperate, vigilant towards themselves, in their thoughts, words and actions. Saint Ephrem the Syrian says, “Every evening, enter into your heart, ponder and ask yourself: have I offended God in any way? Have I been talking idly? Have I been negligent? Have I offended my bother? Have I condemned anyone? When my lips opened for praise, was my soul dispersed in the world? When sensuality was stirred in me, did I indulge in it? Was I preoccupied with worldly concerns? If in all of this you have suffered affliction, try to make amends for it, while lamenting and weeping, so that you do not suffer more affliction.”

However, if we, as a result of caring and speaking of great service, forget to act according to this salvific precept, then at least now, with the advance of years and centuries, as conclusions are drawn everywhere, let us also examine our lives according to our conscience and fulfill that which the Holy Church commands us to do daily before going to sleep.

- Give thanks to God Almighty for the time He has given you, by His mercy, to live and have good health.
- Enter profoundly into yourself, and do an examination of your conscience with a thorough accounting and recollection of where you have been, what you have done, with whom and about what you have spoken; examine and remember all of your actions, words and thoughts with great prudence.
- If you have done anything good, this has not come from you but from God Himself, who gives us everything good, give praise and thanks for this; pray that He may strengthen this good in you and grant you the capability to do other good things.
- But if you have done anything evil, declare that this came from yourself, your own weakness, from your evil habits, and your own free will. Repent and entreat the Lover of mankind, while resolutely promising that you will not do this again, so that He may deign to grant you forgiveness for this.
- Beseech your Creator with tears that he may mercifully grant you at present to have a peaceful, calm and sinless time without temptation, for the exaltation of His holy name.

Bible Word Search: “The Baptism of Jesus”

Last Thursday evening we celebrated the Great Feast of Holy Theophany, a feast which commemorates our Lord Jesus’ baptism by John the Forerunner in the River Jordan. This Great Feast has the added significance of revealing to mankind the mystery and reality of the Holy Trinity. See if you can find words in today’s puzzle that speak to the two-fold mystery of this great feast!

H	E	L	B	A	H	C	N	E	U	Q	N	U	M	J
I	G	N	I	S	S	E	F	N	O	C	G	I	O	C
W	R	A	T	H	T	O	C	O	M	E	H	H	A	T
I	U	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	N	D	N	M	G	S
L	P	S	G	S	F	A	T	E	E	T	E	A	R	O
D	Y	U	T	I	D	S	R	R	H	L	L	H	E	H
E	L	S	R	R	U	A	E	E	S	I	R	A	P	G
R	H	E	O	C	T	F	B	H	L	E	E	R	E	Y
N	G	J	O	I	F	A	A	E	O	U	T	B	N	L
E	U	L	O	U	P	I	E	V	O	D	A	A	T	O
S	O	N	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	W	A	Y	H
S	R	E	I	D	E	S	A	E	L	P	L	L	E	W
E	H	S	P	I	R	I	T	O	F	G	O	D	N	R
S	T	H	G	I	A	R	T	S	S	H	T	A	P	S
L	O	I	N	S	E	C	N	A	T	N	E	P	E	R

Abraham, Camel's hair, Confessing, Dove, Fire, Galilee, Generation, Heavens, He suffered him, Holy Ghost, Jesus, John the Baptist, Jordan, Locusts, Loins, Paths straight, Repentance, Repent ye, Spirit of God, Straightway, Thoroughly purge, Unquenchable, Water, Well pleased, Wilderness, Wrath to come

Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!