

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith

110 EAST MAIN STREET,
Marblehead, OH 43440

V. Rev. Archpriest Peter Tomas, Rector

Rectory: (419) 798-4591

Father Peter's cell: (607) 206-5523

E-mail: info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org

Father Peter's email: frpetertomas@yahoo.com

website: www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org



*Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest*

DECEMBER 29, 2024

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

EPISTLE: Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren: I make known to you, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.



Flight into Egypt

GOSPEL: Mt 2:13-23

At that time, when the Astrologers had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring

you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: “A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK



- MON. Dec 30** Afterfeast of the Nativity, Virgin Martyr Anysia;
2 Tim 2:20-26, Mk 12:13-17
- TUE. Dec 31** Leavetaking of the Nativity, Venerable Melania; 2 Tim 3:16-4:4, Mk 12:18-27
6:00 PM **VESPERS**
- WED. Jan 1** **CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST, St. Basil the Great**
10:00 AM **DIVINE LITURGY** of St. Basil the Great
- THU. Jan 2** Forefeast of the Theophany, Venerable Seraphim of Sarov;
Titus 1:1-5 -2:1, Mk 12:38-44
- FRI. Jan 3** Forefeast of the Theophany, Holy Prophet Malachi;
Titus 1:15-2:10, Mk 13:1-8
- SAT. Jan 4** Forefeast of the Theophany, Synaxis of the 70 Apostles;
1 Tim 3:14-4:5, Mt 3:1-11
4:00 PM **VESPERS**
- SUN. Jan 5** **28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, Eve of Theophany, Tone 3**
9:10 AM **HOURS**
9:30 AM **DIVINE LITURGY** Followed by
VESPERS and Holy Supper





FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Patti Owens, 311 Woodbridge Road, Vermilion, OH 44089; **Basil Glovinsky**, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; **Subdeacon Roger Pinta**, P.O. Box 39, Middle Bass, OH 43446; **Ed & Irene Vangeloff**, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870



DECEMBER REPOSED

Peter Onyock (1952) No date provided; Anna Mazurik (1968) No date provided; **1-** Helen Elchisco (1990); **3-** Mary Hubicki (2013); **8-** Mary (Marika) Lefas (2019); **12-** Anna Bretz (2002); **13-** Joseph Mazurik (1986); **13-** Archimandrite Seraphim Oblivantseff (1954) Former Pastor; **15-** Michael W. Belenky (1971); **20-** Julia Brosojah Millie (1953); **20-** John Mazurik (2017); **20-** William Pipenur (2003); **21-** Mary Sennich (1985); **22-** Antonima Vecsey (1972); **23-** Steven Danchisen (1982); **24-** Alexandra Turkul (1980); **24-** John Bird No year Provided; **25-** Joe Rose (2022); **29-** Alexandra Dotsenko (1980); **30-** Rita Felenchak (1996); **31-** Jevgeny Cernonok (1980); **31-** Janice Timko (2021)

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Norb / Greg Twarek / Heidi Golob / Ron & Bobbie Royhab / Rodney Clevenger / Jennifer Heffernan / Tom Hileman / Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Helena Tomášova / Ruth Sheller / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Subdeacon Roger Pinta / Ed Vangeloff / Irene Vangeloff / Sonja Rose / Ron Royhab / James Bargdill / John Beadle / Carole Conaway / Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Elaine Hileman / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Clifford / Gleice, Sophie & Chloe / Carol / Nora.

Other Requests: Catechumen Blake Shoemaker / Catechumen Nickolas Dawenport / Matushka Melania / Sharyn Osborne / Christine Zahm / Amy / Bill Byrnes / Michael Heffernan / Susanne / Barbara Heffernan / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Sidharth Bijilani – friend of Subdeacon Roger and Debbie Pinta / Anthony / Archpriest Ján Čížmár / Archpriest David Lis / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Robert Piznar / Mark Masica / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chris.

Military: Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military



VIGILS FOR DECEMBER 22

Basil Glovinsky 4 In memory of Glovinsky & Monak families, For the health of Glovinsky & Monak families, Blessings and good health to grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Thanks & many blessings to Tim, MaryJean and Dan

Fr. David Hannes 1 Remembering Sophie Monak and Ruthe Flewelling

Jean Hileman 1 Special Intentions

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Matushka Melania, Ron R., Betty K., Margaret M., David M., Hannah S., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Kathie J., Jerry P., Ed & Irene V, Heidi & Wayne G., Greg T.

Birthday blessings to Teri, Darlene, and Fr. John

Congratulations and blessings to Joshua, Ryan, Josh, Danielle and Wrenley on their catechumen journey

Sandy Martin 1 Special Intentions

Darlene Mazurik 1 Prayers for thanksgiving, health, and guidance

Natalie Twarek 8 God's blessings on our new catechumens, Nativity Blessings and good health to our family and friends, Memory Eternal for our departed family and friends, For health and recovery of Greg, For the health Fr Peter & Matushka Michelle, For the health & recovery of Matushka Melania, For the health and recovery on Ron, Rodney, Betty, Carol, Kayla, Bill, Ruth, Pam, Jim, Jerry, Heidi, Father Emilian, Barbara Heffernan, Health and healing for Father's parents Michal & Helena and Matushka's mom Barbara, and Walter, For the health of Jen, Tony, Bev, Ed, Irene, Father David, Judy, Tina, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Tina's dad, Earl, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat

VIGILS FOR DECEMBER 25

Dan Elchisco 4 In loving memory of Father, George, Mother, Helen, Sister Margerite, Brother, Mike, Brother-in-law Joe Rose

Ruth Sheller 1 Special Intentions

DECEMBER CANDLE SPONSORS



Altar Candles: Jen Fela and the Havrilla Family, In Loving Memory of Bernadine Havrilla (\$50); **Chandelier:** Sonya Rose, In Loving Memory of Joe Rose (\$50); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Angela Bricker, For the Health and God's Blessings for Holy Assumption's Parishioners, Family, and Catechumens this Nativity Season; Jean Hileman In loving memory of my father, William (\$25); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Jim and Sarah (\$20); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** For Safety and Health of Nicholas, Tikhon, Gleice, Sophie & Chloe (\$20)

READERS LIST



Sunday Dec 29 – Tim
Sunday Jan 5 – Jake
Sunday Jan 12 – Tim

ATTENDANCE



12/21 Vespers, **9** attending; **12/22** Divine Liturgy, **31** attending (11 guests); **12/24** Great Compline, **24** attending (10 guests) [6 people more than the previous year]; **12/25** Divine Liturgy **51** attending (29 guests) [1 person less than the previous year]

DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



31 – Fred & Christi Soski Anniversary * **1** – Jim Kovach; **7** – Susan Guzy; **8** – Matushka Melania Adamcio *; **13** – Mary Blackford; **13** – Roger & Debby Pinta Anniversary; **16** – Matushka Michelle Tomas; **17** – Kayla Fay

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec. 31st New Year's Eve – Vespers at 6:00 pm (Tuesday)



- Jan. 1st** Circumcision of Our Lord, St. Basil the Great – Div. Liturgy at 10:00 pm (*Wednesday*)
- Jan. 5th** Eve of Theophany – Vespers and “Holy Supper” after the Div. Liturgy (*Sunday*)
- Jan. 6th** THEOPHANY (BAPTISM) OF OUR LORD – Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM (*Monday*)
- Jan. 26th** Potluck followed by Annual Parish Meeting (*Sunday*)
- Feb. 2nd** MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE (*Sunday*)



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Tithe	\$1,215.00
Donations	\$ 86.00
Candles	\$ 70.00
Vigils	\$ 160.00
Memorial Donation	\$ 50.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 240.00
Flowers Donation	\$ 40.00
Wine Donation	\$ 25.00
Bookstore	<u>\$ 215.00</u>
Total:	\$2,101.00

Christmas 2024 Donations

Donations	\$ 75.00
Candles	\$ 19.00
Vigils	\$ 55.00
Holy Day Donation	<u>\$1,565.00</u>
Total:	\$1,714.00

May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Support a Priest (OCMC),” is the charity we donate to for the month of January.



CLEANING SCHEDULE

Dec 30, Natalie
 Jan 6, Basil & Tim
 Jan 13, Susan
 Jan 27, Stephanie



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

Dec 29 – Natalia
 Jan 5 – Roddie
 Jan 12– Greg

Please sign up to host coffee hour. Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS DONATIONS 2024

We would like to thank Ron and Bobbie Royhab for their additional donations of \$25 for wine in memory of Royhab & Libb family members.

May Our Lord and God reward you for your generosity and grant you His Special blessing in the coming new year!



May the Lord grant you all, and your loved ones,

peace, happiness and prosperity in this coming

New Year 2025!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

With love, Fr. Peter and Matushka Michelle



“SVJAT VECHUR” HOLY SUPPER

Our Traditional “Svjat Vechur” Holy Supper will take place on **Sunday, January 5th after Vespers**. We would like to invite you all for the supper and bring your family and friends along to share in the joy of the Nativity Season. To make sure that we have a seat for everyone attending, we kindly ask that you give us the count of the people attending. The sign-up sheet is located in the vestibule of the church. We also ask that you prepare your traditional Christmas Eve dishes to share with everyone.



Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

Commemorated on December 29

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother

of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian.



Sermon on the Saint Joseph Sunday after Christmas

On the Sunday after Christmas, the Church commemorates other saints associated with the Birth of the Lord. Among them is St. Joseph, the man betrothed (engaged) to the Blessed Virgin Mary (one of his titles is “the Betrothed”).

He was a carpenter from Bethlehem, who had settled down in Nazareth. It was said that he was a widower with six children. From the Gospels we know the names of his sons: James, Joshua, Simon, and Judas (Matthew 13:55). The Gospels also mention his daughters, who are unnamed (verse 56). We know from Tradition that their names are Mary and Salome (Zebedee’s wife and the mother of St. James and John the Apostles).

St. Joseph was a devout and pious man, who would worship at the Temple in Jerusalem for the great feasts. During one of these trips, the priests of the Temple lead by St. Zacharias (the father of St. John the Baptist) entrusted the Blessed Virgin Mary to the elderly Joseph through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. She was only 15 years old when she came under his protection, and they were engaged. Following the custom of that time, the Blessed Virgin accompanied St. Joseph to Nazareth, living in prayer and fear of God.

As we know from the Gospel of Luke (1:26-38), the Blessed Virgin Mary received the message from the Angel that she would conceive a Son by the Holy Spirit. In her humility and modesty (that she would become the Mother of the Son of God), she did not reveal this to St. Joseph. After some months and with signs of an advanced pregnancy, he was overwhelmed by great temptation. Having had no marital relations with her, he did not know what to think about the fact that she was pregnant! His reflection attests to the Virginité of the Blessed Virgin Mary. St. Joseph was the guardian of her purity, and the holy patron of both the Theotokos and Our Lord Jesus. He is honored as such by the Church, and was never considered her husband. While he was still thinking about all of this, an Angel of the Lord said to him: “Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20-21).

It is from these words of the Angel that St. Joseph finally understood the mission that God had entrusted to him, to stand by the Blessed Virgin Mary and always be her guardian and protector. This message from God was accepted with humility and faithfulness, respecting His will. St. Joseph affectionately and obediently took charge of the Blessed Virgin and Our Lord.

It is important to note how meaningful this protection was. Since he was considered the Blessed Virgin’s husband in the eyes of society, it protected the mother and child from stoning, which was the penalty for pregnancy out of wedlock declared by Mosaic Law (who among the Nazarenes would believe the truth of the matter?). When the Imperial Census Decree was issued by Rome, St. Joseph undertook the long journey to Bethlehem with the Virgin Mary, who was close to delivery.

On the Night of Our Savior’s Birth, St. Joseph arranged for shelter, even in a Cave, to stay overnight. When the Divine Infant was threatened with death by Herod, he took care of the Holy Family by taking them to safety in Egypt. And when they returned to Nazareth, he secured work and

the resources to care for their needs. All this was done with love for the Blessed Virgin and Our Lord, faith, and obedience to the will of God.

The last time St. Joseph is mentioned in the Holy Gospels is when they visited the Temple of Jerusalem (Jesus was twelve years old at the time). Holy Tradition tells us that not long after this, St. Joseph completed his mission and delivered his spirit to God.

St. Joseph is a model of manhood. He coped with all of these stressful situations in a peaceful way. He did not react with anger when the Blessed Virgin was pregnant and he was unaware of what happened. He willingly took the long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and then again for refuge in Egypt. This he did, and much more! He was guided only by his humility and obedience to the will of God.

It is for this reason that the Church honors annually the memory of St. Joseph the Righteous, the betrothed of the Theotokos.

May we all imitate his prudence, selflessness, and his willingness to take on any difficulty or burden in conformity with the will of God. Amen.



The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Commemorated on January 1

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3].

After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion,

as certain heretics had taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured [Colossians 2:11-12]. Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Savva Monastery.

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus [Savior] on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world [Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Philippians 2:9-10]. These two events -- the Lord's Circumcision and Naming -- remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" [Colossians 2:11]. The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.





HOLY ASSUMPTION ORTHODOX CHURCH
 110 East Main Street - Marblehead, Ohio 43440
 (phone) 419-798-4591



JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 29 9:10 Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour/fellowship Fast free	Dec 30 Fast free	Dec 31 6:00pm Vespers Fast free	1 <i>Circumcision of the Lord</i> 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fast free	2 Fast free	3 Fast free	4 4:00pm Great Vespers Fast free
5 9:10 Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by Vespers for the Feast followed by Holy Supper Fast: wine & oil	6 THEOPHANY OF THE LORD 9:30 Divine Liturgy for the Feast	7 <i>Synaxis of the Baptist</i>	8 Fast	9 Fast	10 Fast	11 4:00pm Great Vespers
12 9:10 Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour/fellowship	13	14	15 Fast	16	17 <i>St. Anthony the Great</i> Fast: fish, wine, & oil	18 4:00pm Great Vespers
19 9:10 Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour/fellowship	20	21	22 Fast	23	24 Fast	25 4:00pm Great Vespers
26 9:10 Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by Parish Potluck and Annual Parish Meeting	27	28	29 Fast	30 <i>Three Holy Hierarchs</i>	31 Fast	Feb 1 4:00pm Great Vespers

See Sunday Bulletin for changes.