

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***

JANUARY 12, 2025

**TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**

EPISTLE: Eph. 4:7-13

Brethren: To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men. (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

GOSPEL: Mt 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and



Martyr Tatiana of Rome
Feast Day – January 12th

and

Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

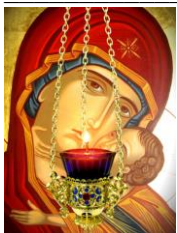
MON. Jan 13	Afterfeast of the Theophany, Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonikus Heb 8:7- 13, Mk 8:11-21
TUE. Jan 14	Leavetaking of Theophany, Saint Nina, Equal of the Apostles; Heb 9:8-10, 15-23, Mk 8:22-26
WED. Jan 15	Venerable Paul of Thebes; Heb 5:11-6:8, Lk 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24
THU. Jan 16	Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter; Heb 10:35-11:7, Mk 9:10-16
FRI. Jan 17	Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great; Heb 11:8,11-16, Mk 9:33-41
SAT. Jan 18	Saint Athanasius the Great; Eph 5:1-8, Lk 14:1-11
	4:00 PM VESPERS
SUN. Jan 19	30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, <i>Tone 5</i>
	9:10 AM HOURS
	9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour

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

JANUARY REPOSED



Andrew Matway (1906) No date provided; William Gratson (1908) No date provided; Eva Hritsko (1908) No date provided; Sara Rose (2005) No date provided; **3-** Mat. Marilyn Federoff (2019); **3-** Larry Naiser (2019); **3-** Elinor Williams (2021); **4-** Margaret Reavley (1965); **4-** Baby Clyde Madison (2020); **5-** Russell (2019) Heidi's relative; **5-** Donald (2019) Waynes Relative; **5-** Maria Semionow (1981); **11-** Anna Tomko (1960); **15-** Archpriest Pavel Soucek (2009) Former Pastor; **21-** Daniel Kowal (2006); **21-** Philip Kobb (2018); **23-** Helen Beadle (1988); **23-** Deborah Pribanic (2020); **25-** Jane (2019) Ron's Aunt; **25-** William "Bill" Alber (2021); **28-** Michael Tarasavage (2021); **29-** Anna Kravetz (1973); **29-** Marjorie Kowal (2003); **29-** Ernest Gresh (2020); **29-** Rick Schlotterer (2020); **30-** Anna Schofield (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 Tomášová / 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 / 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: Sarah King / 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 JANUARY 5

Susan Guzy 1 Special Intentions

Fr. David Hannes 1 Remembering Sophie Monak and Ruthe Flewelling

Jean Hileman 1 In loving memory of Elaine Hileman

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., and Sarah K.

Safe travels for family & friends

In Thanksgiving for safe travels

Sandy Martin 1 Special Intentions

Darlene Mazurik 1 Prayers for thanksgiving, health, and guidance

Natalie Twarek 8 Memory Eternal for Debby's mother, Katherine and Jean's mother in law Elaine, For health and recovery of Mike, Dave & Sandy, 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

JANUARY CANDLE SPONSORS



Altar Candles: Fr. Peter and Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, and Michal & Helena Tomáš (\$50); **Chandelier:** The Vangeloff family, For the health and healing of Dad, Ed (\$50); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Jean Hileman, In loving memory of Elaine Hileman (\$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 Jan 12 – Tim

Sunday Jan 19 – Jake

Sunday Jan 26 – Joe

Sunday Feb 2 – Jake



ATTENDANCE

01/04 Vespers, **7** attending (2 guests); **01/05** Divine Liturgy, **24** attending (11 guests);
01/05 Vespers, **21** attending (8 guests); **01/06** Divine Liturgy **9** attending (2 guests)



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

13 – Mary Blackford; **13** – Roger & Debby Pinta Anniversary; **16** – Matushka Michelle Tomas; **17** – Kayla Fay

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- Jan 26th** Potluck followed by Annual Parish Meeting (*Sunday*)
- Feb 2nd** MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE – Blessing of candles (*Sunday*)
- Feb 22nd** Memorial Saturday (*Saturday*)
- Mar 3rd** Beginning of the Great Fast (*Monday*)
- Apr 13th** Palm Sunday (*Sunday*)
- Apr 20th** HOLY PASCHA (*Sunday*)



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, January 5, 2024

Tithe	\$1,455.00
Donations	\$ 270.00
Candles	\$ 57.00
Vigils	\$ 50.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 530.00
Chandelier	\$ 50.00
Eternal Light and Icon Screen	\$ 25.00
Candles at St. Tikhon	\$ 20.00
Total:	\$2,457.00

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

- Jan 13, Susan
- Jan 27, Stephanie
- Feb 3, Sandy
- Feb 10, Greg



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

- Jan 12– Greg
- Jan 19– Kolachi
- Jan 26– Pot Luck lunch

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



THEOPHANY – THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF HOMES

Between the Feast of Theophany and the beginning of the Great Fast (Lent), it is customary in our Holy Church to have our homes blessed by the parish priest with the Holy Water sanctified on this glorious Feast Day. This is an ancient tradition of the Orthodox Church and through it we extend the “Blessing of Jordan” into our homes and private places.

Please Note: Parishioners who wish to have their house blessed are asked to fill out the form, which can be found in the vestibule. Each household that requests this blessing will be contacted by phone to schedule the mutual convenient time.



HOLY WATER

You may take some Holy Water home for your private use at any time. Just bring your own container and help yourself. The Holy Water Font is in the church and easily accessible.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS

We invite you all to take the poinsettia plants home after the Divine Liturgy. *Sincere Thank You to all who sponsored Christmas flowers this Nativity and Theophany Season!*



THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincere thank you to all who came to church yesterday and helped us to take down the Christmas decorations and stored them for next year. Our thanks are extended also to Ryan who came to shovel the snow off our sidewalks, steps, and father’s driveway. *May the Lord reward you all for your help and your kindness!*

MATUSHKA’S CORNER

Christ is Baptized!

I hope and pray everyone had a wonderful Nativity season, happy New Year’s celebrations and most blessed season of the Theophany! We had some wonderful, prayerful and meaningful church services these past few weeks. Father Peter and I would like to strongly encourage that each and every one of you all try to make an effort to attend our Holy Orthodox services “every time the church bells ring!” How about we all make that our New Year’s resolution? Our society focuses so much on diets, clothing, worldly needs and wants, but there is no better “resolution” we can make then to attend to our spiritual needs as a call to holiness. Join us for our ancient Divine services!

I will be starting a monthly “Club” for anyone and everyone who would like to join me! Every 3rd Thursday of the month I will pick a local restaurant for us to meet up. This will be some time for us to get together, to sit and chat a while, visit, but most of all, be together as brothers and sisters of our Orthodox family. This time will be for us to kindle our friendships and mutual encouragement of faith, piety, love of God and neighbors. A true Orthodox friend is an indispensable treasure! On Thursday, January 23rd I will be at **Cleats Club Seat Grill**, 6801 East Harbor Road, Marblehead, OH, at 6pm. The following month we will meet on February 20th. Location to be announced.

With abundant love and prayers, Matushka Misha



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting of our parish will be held on **Sunday, January 26th**, following the Divine Liturgy. All voting members in good standing are encouraged not only to attend this vitally important meeting, but also to constructively participate. Please mark this on your calendars, and prepare for the meeting by prayer, fasting, and receiving Holy Confession and Holy Communion. This is the second announcement.

To Be a Voting Member in Good Standing

The Parish Bylaws of the Diocese of the Midwest, Orthodox Church in America, defines a "voting member in good standing:"

- a) is a Baptized and Chrismated Orthodox Christian;
- b) is at least 18 years of age;
- c) partakes of the Sacraments of Private Confession and Communion in one's home parish at least once a year;
- d) has been a member of the Parish for a prior consecutive six (6) month period; and
- e) regularly fulfills such financial obligation as established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and the Parish, which obligations may be adjusted or waived by the Rector in consultation with the Parish Council. (*Article II, Section 2*)

If there is any question regarding your status as a "voting member in good standing," please contact Natalie Twarek and Fr. Peter at your earliest convenience.

We kindly ask that the following reports be prepared and submitted to Fr. Peter about two weeks before the meeting so they can be copied and distributed:

- President's Report (Natalie)
- All Financial Reports including Fundraising (Joe)
- Cemetery and Envelopes Reports (Natalie)
- Baking Report (Tina)



Martyr Tatiana of Rome, and those who suffered with her

Commemorated on January 12

The Holy Virgin Martyr Tatiana was born into an illustrious Roman family, and her father was elected consul three times. He was secretly a Christian and raised his daughter to be devoted to God and the Church. When she reached the age of maturity, Tatiana decided to remain a virgin, betrothing herself to Christ. Disdaining earthly riches, she sought instead the imperishable wealth of Heaven. She was made a deaconess in one of the Roman churches and served God in fasting and prayer, tending the sick and helping the needy.

When Rome was ruled by the sixteen-year-old Alexander Severus (222-235), all power was concentrated in the hands of the regent Ulpian, an evil enemy and persecutor of Christians. Christian blood flowed like water. Tatiana was also arrested, and they brought her into the temple of Apollo to force her to offer sacrifice to the idol. The saint began praying, and suddenly there was an earthquake. The idol was smashed into pieces, and part of the temple collapsed and fell down on the pagan priests and many pagans. The demon inhabiting the idol fled screeching from that place. Those present saw its shadow flying through the air.

Then they tore holy virgin's eyes out with hooks, but she bravely endured everything, praying for her tormentors that the Lord would open their spiritual eyes. And the Lord heard the prayer of His servant. The executioners saw four angels encircle the saint and beat her tormentors. A voice was heard from the heavens speaking to the holy virgin. Eight men believed in Christ and fell on their knees before Saint Tatiana, begging them to forgive them their sin against her. For confessing themselves Christians they were tortured and executed, receiving Baptism by blood.

The next day Saint Tatiana was brought before the wicked judge. Seeing her completely healed of all her wounds, they stripped her and beat her, and slashed her body with razors. A wondrous fragrance then filled the air. Then she was stretched out on the ground and beaten for so long that the servants had to be replaced several times. The torturers became exhausted and said that an invisible power was beating them with iron rods. Indeed, the angels warded off the blows directed at her and turned them upon the tormentors, causing nine of them to fall dead. They then threw the saint in prison, where she prayed all night and sang praises to the Lord with the angels.

A new morning began, and they took Saint Tatiana to the tribunal once more. The torturers beheld with astonishment that after such terrible torments she appeared completely healthy and even more radiant and beautiful than before. They began to urge her to offer sacrifice to the goddess Diana. The saint seemed agreeable, and they took her to the heathen temple. Saint Tatiana made the Sign of the Cross and began to pray. Suddenly, there was a crash of deafening thunder, and lightning struck the idol, the sacrificial offerings and the pagan priests.

Once again, the martyr was fiercely tortured. She was hung up and scraped with iron claws, and her breasts were cut off. That night, angels appeared to her in prison and healed her wounds as before. On the following day, they took Saint Tatiana to the circus and loosed a hungry lion on her. The beast did not harm the saint, but meekly licked her feet.

As they were taking the lion back to its cage, it killed one of the torturers. They threw Tatiana into a fire, but the fire did not harm the martyr. The pagans, thinking that she was a sorceress, cut her hair to take away her magical powers, then locked her up in the temple of Zeus.

On the third day, pagan priests came to the temple intending to offer sacrifice to Zeus. They beheld the idol on the floor, shattered to pieces, and the holy martyr Tatiana joyously praising the Lord Jesus Christ. The judge then condemned the valiant sufferer to be beheaded with a sword. Her father was also executed with her, because he had raised her to love Christ.

The Relics of Saint Tatiana in Craiova

The honorable head of the Holy Martyr Tatiana was first brought to Romania in 1204, when members of the ruling family (Asanestan dynasty) placed it in a church in Tarnovo (Bulgaria) and then in Bucovat Monastery (near Craiova). Later, however, in 1393, the head of the Saint was taken to a church in the town of Nicaea (where the First Ecumenical Synod met), and then to Constantinople, and placed in the Church of the Holy Apostles.

In 1453, after the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks, during the reign of Neagoe Basarab, the Craiovești boyars brought the head of the holy Martyr Tatiana to this country, as well as the entire body of Saint Gregory the Decapolite (November 20), which they placed in the church of Bistrița Monastery. From that monastery, the relics of Saint Tatiana were taken by Saint Neagoe Basarab (September 15) and brought to the royal church at Curtea de Argeș. Later, with the reorganization of the Metropolitan Church of Oltenia (1950-1955), the honorable skull of Saint Tatiana was taken from Curtea de Argeș and brought to the Episcopal Cathedral of Râmnicu Vâlcea in 1955. Finally, the honored relics were permanently enshrined in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Craiova.

Today, the holy relics of Saint Tatiana are kept, with great honor, in the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Holy Great Martyr Demetrios in Craiova, in the same reliquary with the relics of Saint Niphon of Constantinople (August 11), and the Holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus (October 7).



History of Blessing of Water

by Fr. Gennady Nefedov

The rite of the blessing of water is directly derived from the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan River. The Church sees this Gospel event not only as the mysterious cleansing of sins but also the actual consecration of all water, the very nature of water, through the immersion of God incarnate.

In addition to the great blessing of water, performed only on the Feast of Epiphany, there has been the lesser blessing of water in the Orthodox Church since ancient times. According to tradition, it was established by the Apostle Matthew. The Church performs this rite in memory of the blessing of water by an angel in the Pool of Siloam. The ancient origin of the rite of the lesser blessing of water is confirmed by Alexander, the Roman Pope martyred during the reign of Emperor Adrian (118-138), who wrote that the blessed water “tears apart the nets of sorcery and drives away demons.” Balsamon, Patriarch of Antioch, who lived in the 12th century, mentions lesser blessing of water as an ancient custom in his commentary on the 65th Rule of the Sixth Ecumenical Council. He points out that the Fathers of this Council ruled to carry out a lesser blessing of water at the beginning of each month in opposition to the pagan observance of the new lunar month which had been preserved for a long time among Christians, and included customs like bonfires, over which “by some strange custom they leap madly”. The rite of lesser blessing of water was given its present form by Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople, in the 9th century.

Almost all the prayer chants in the rite of the lesser blessing of water are addressed directly to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who has been referred to as the Life-Giving Spring and Joy of All Who Sorrow since ancient times. Some of the hymns suggest that the lesser blessing of water was originally carried out in churches dedicated to the Mother of God. For example, in the troparia of the rite, the Church exclaims, “Thy temple, Our Lady, shines forth, granting free healing of ailments and consolation of insulted souls... Whoever comes into Thy temple, Our Lady, will soon be healed, both mentally and physically... O Christ, who hast poured water onto the source of healing in this all-honorable temple of the Virgin by the sprinkling of Thy blessing, to drive away the infirmities of the sick, O Doctor of our souls and bodies.”

The Church does not restrict the lesser blessing of water to a particular day or place. It can be done at any time according to an established tradition or at the request of believers where it is deemed necessary – in a church, in the homes of parishioners, or – in certain cases – in the open air. Since ancient times, the Church has established two days during which lesser blessing of water in rivers, streams and other water bodies is to be carried out. It is on August 1 – the Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord, and on the Bright Friday. In addition, the lesser blessing of water is to be performed on Wednesday of the fourth week after Easter, on the day of mid-Pentecost, when the Church remembers the most profound and mysterious words of the Savior, which He said to the Samaritan woman, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). In some churches, lesser blessings of water are performed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord; they are also held on patron saints’ days in all churches, during which the churches are renewed with prayer and sprinkling. There is a lesser blessing of water in the homes of parishioners at the foundation or blessing of a new house, combined with a moleben.