

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

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Marblehead, OH 43440

Rev. Fr. Peter Tomas, Rector

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

APRIL 7, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

EPISTLE: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Brethren: Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also, Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."



Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Brethren: Such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up

sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:34-9:1

At that time When Jesus had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

GOSPEL: John 10:9-16

The Lord said to the Jews who came to him: I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Tony Monastra, 2119 Willow Cove Marblehead, OH 43440; 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; Diane Tryon, 109 Joslyn Street, Arcadia, OH 44804; Ed & Irene Vangeloff, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870

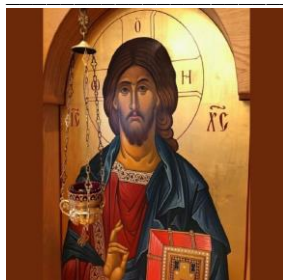


APRIL CANDLE SPONSORS

Altar Candles: Fr. Peter & Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, Matushka's mother and Michal Tomáš, Father's father (**\$50**); **Chandelier:** Joe & Valerie Schutt, In loving memory of LaVerne Schutt, Gordon Schutt and Violet Bargdill (**\$50**); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Available (**\$25**); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, In memory of my mom Margaret and brother-in-law Russ (**\$20**); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** For Safety and Health of Nicholas, Tikhon, Gleice, & Chloe (**\$20**)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

MON. Apr 8	Apostle Herodion of the Seventy, and those with Him; Gen 8:21-9:7, Prov 11:19-12:6
TUE. Apr 9	Martyr Euppsychius of Caesarea, in Cappadocia; Gen 9:8-17, Prov 12:8-22
WED. Apr 10	Martyr Terence and 40 others beheaded at Carthage; Gen 9:18-10:1, Prov 12:23-13:9
6:00 PM	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY, Followed by Lenten soup social
THU. Apr 11	Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum; Gen 10:32-11:9, Prov 13:19-14:6
FRI. Apr 12	Saint Basil the Confessor, Bishop of Parium; Gen 12:1-7, Prov 14:15-26
6:00 PM	AKATHIST TO THE PASSION OF CHRIST, Followed by Book Club
SAT. Apr 13	Memorial Saturday , Hieromartyr Artemon of Laodikeia; Heb 6:9-12, Mk. 7:31-37
9:30 AM	DIVINE LITURGY
4:00 PM	VESPERS
SUN. Apr 14	4th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 4 St. John Climacus
9:10 AM	HOURS
9:30 AM	DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee hour



APRIL REPOSED

Michael Elchisco (1913) No date provided; Andrew Kopchock (1914) No date provided; Anna Onyock (1916) No date provided; Dolores Martin (1974) No date provided; Herb Hobson (2004) No date provided; Charles Rose (2015) No date provided; **1-** Larry Twarek (2019); **4-** Sophia Jump (2012); **4-** Harry Flewelling (2018); **5-** Nancy Sitzler (2022); **6-** John Kotch (2022); **7-** Louis M. Benya (1976); **7-** Mitered Archpriest Basil Dziama (1969) Former Pastor; **7-** Bob Mazur (2018); **9-** Julia Guzy (2021); **11-** LaVerne Schutt (2014); **12-** Helen Tomko (1989); **14-** Paul Glovinsky (1978); **15-** Stephen Brooks (2005); **16-** Mary Wright (2005); **17-** Lois Mazurik (1999); **22-** Olga Belenky (1971); **22-** John Beadle (1988); **22-** Fred Millie (1996); **24-** Demasthony Ballan (1968); **26-** Margaret Mazur (1987); **26-** Russell Kovach (1981); **28-** Ann Kovalick (2018); **29-** Olga Kollmeier (1972); **30-** Anthony Hubicki (1977)



VIGILS FOR MARCH 31

Susan Guzy 1 Special Intentions

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Margi H., Fred S., Marty B., Jim K., Ron R., Diane T., Ruth S., James W., Patti O., Tony M., Hannah S., Barbara D., Pauline O., Betty K., Ben F., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Sharon D., John D., and Karen D.

Birthday blessings and many years to Greg.

Memory eternal to Toni Grodi, Earl Murphy, and Abigail Wilford.

Sandy Martin 1 Special intentions

Natalie Twarek 8 For the health and recovery of Father Emilian, For the health and recovery of Ruth, Pam, Diane, Ron, Rita(Gigi), Jim, Ed, For the health of Randy, Patrick and Marty, Health and recovery of Mike Heffernan and Barbara Heffernan, Health and healing for Father's dad Michal and Matushka's

mom Barbara, For the health and recovery of Tony, Bev, Ed, Irene, Father David, Pauline, Judy, Tina, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Tina's dad, Earl, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, special intentions, special intentions

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Tony Monastra / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Ruth Sheller / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Jeanne Smith / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Subdeacon Roger Pinta / Ed Vangeloff / Irene Vangeloff / Diane Tryon / 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 / Stephanie Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, her unborn baby & Chloe / Carol / Debbie & Marco / Nora. **Other Requests:** Michael Heffernan / Susanne / Barbara Heffernan / Rita Mumea / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Sidharth Bijilani – friend of Subdeacon Roger and Debbie Pinta / Anthony / Archpriest David Lis / Bishop Matthias / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Ben Franklin / 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



READERS LIST

Sunday Apr 7 – Natalie
Sunday Apr 14 – Jake
Sunday Apr 21 – Tim
Sunday Apr 28 – Ron



ATTENDANCE

03/30 Vespers, 10 attending (4 guests); 03/31 Divine Liturgy, 29 attending (6 guests); 04/03 Presanctified Liturgy, 11 attending; 04/05 Akathist to the Holy Passion of Christ, 14 attending; 04/06 Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy, 9 attending



APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

10 – Jean Hileman; **13** – Jennifer Heffernan; **17** – Natalie Twarek; **18** – Nancy Bunge; **18** – Diane Tryon; **20** – Ron & Bobbie Royhab Anniversary



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Lions Club/Diabetes” is the charity we donate to for the month of April.



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Tithe	\$ 687.00
Candles	\$ 65.00
Vigils	\$ 45.00
Donations	\$ 70.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 115.00
Bookstore	\$ 39.00
Total:	\$1,021.00

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

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Apr 13th 4. Memorial Saturday

Apr 28th Palm Sunday

May 5th GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

- Consider sponsoring a Sunday coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy



CLEANING SCHEDULE

Apr 8, Roddie & David

Apr 15, Natalie

Apr 22, Basil & Tim

Apr 29, Susan



OUR CEMETERY

Please Note: It was decided at the cemetery committee meeting that the cemetery will be locked from Sunday evening April 7, until Tuesday morning April 9. This is for safety reasons during the Eclipse.



3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross

Commemorated on April 7

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the Lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).



Why Are We Called to Take Up Our Cross, and What Does It Mean for Our Lives?

by Priest Andrey Chizhenko

Only bitter medicine can cure the fallen man from his afflictions, writes Priest Andrey Chizenko

*Life is running
Life is flowing
Life is rushing by,
And carrying us away.*

The gospel says: Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24). As explained in a footnote to the Synodal translation of the Bible, the cross refers to our human life.

The 'cross' is synonymous with 'life'. So 'taking up our cross' should mean the same as 'taking up our lives. This raises the question: When we take up our lives, where do we take them? The fragment is clear on this: to God. But why did the Lord equate our life with the cross?

For thousands of years, the secular world has viewed human life – like a carnival, fireworks show, a perpetual celebration and never-ending fun. Our faith, however, teaches us that all such fun is akin to a feast amid a plague. So, it would take the bitter medicine of the cross to cure the fallen man of his affliction. The cross is both an execution weapon for our passions and sins, and a means of our resurrection and salvation.

Truly, as the Holy Apostle Paul wrote, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:24). The symbolism of taking up the cross is very visible in the sacrament of baptism. It uses water; water symbolizes the earth, and earth is a reminder of our mortality and interment. We immerse ourselves in water three times, which represents the death of our old selves, and redemption of our original sin along with all the others. We rise three times in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, which evokes the resurrection of our new spiritual self, a creation of God. But to resurrect we must follow Christ, we must take up our cross, and carry it to our Mount Golgotha, which we cannot bypass if we want to resurrect.

The cross refers to all things and aspects of our lives – our talents and capabilities, our circumstances and life events, the people around us and generally all things that form our spirits.

As the Holy Venerable Serafim of Vyritsky liked to repeat, “For this thing is from Me.” All the things that ever happen to us are from Him. Our Lord is our Teacher, and the people on earth are His pupils. All our life events are from Him, and so are the people whom we encounter. This includes our enemies, too. The great book of Orthodox asceticism, the Philokalia instructs us to love our enemies. Yet for the fallen man and his sinful mind, this is an almost impossible feat. The Holy Fathers explain, or rather, show us where to start if we want to learn how to love our enemies. They teach us to view our enemies as a tool in the hands of God that He uses to steer us towards our correction. Figuratively speaking, our enemies (and all the people in general) are like a surgeon’s scalpel with which He opens our deep-lying sores, and cleans out the pus of our sins and passions.

In the film “Transfiguration” a rural priest – played by actor Sergey Makovetsky – remarks about his wife: “She is my knife stone.” By extension, we can view ourselves and a knife stone for another. Our best doctor, our Lord, custom-makes for us the life circumstances and sends us the right people to reform us and put us on the right path.

As someone aptly described it, “our earthly life is a school for our spirit”. How well said! In this world, we are only pupils. We bear the cross of our lives – which we sometimes find too heavy – to crucify our passions, to nail down our sins and vices, to learn to be thankful for the people we meet and to lift our spirit from the ground to die for the world and to resurrect in the spirit in our homeland in heaven.

Taking up our cross is a necessary part of it. It is the basis of our foundation. Suicide, by which we give up and shed our cross voluntarily, is one of the gravest sins. The sin is in our rejection of the cross. It is like saying to God:

– I do not need what you have given me. I am not interested. Salvation? No, thank you. If You do not give me what I desire, even if I know that it is destructive, I will not accept what you are giving me. This way, the sin of satanic pride speaks within us.

As we approach the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, let us all remind ourselves to take up our cross and bear it with dignity and patience. A death in the family is God’s will. In hospital? May God’s will be done! Take it as your chance to look at your life and see if any of your transgressions might have brought about your illness. Or could it be God’s way of encouraging you to slow down, look above you, say a prayer, observe a fast, or come to confession, take communion or extreme unction? Had a baby? Rejoice! It is God’s will. Got a job? Be thankful! Lost your job? Accept it with thanks. For it is God’s will too. The Lord, our Loving Father, will never abandon us.

Just take up and bear your cross. Do God's will, and He will do it right for you. As one hegumeness told me, there were only two things that she asked of God: submission to His will and repentance. She also said that it was no use seeking worldly justice, for there is no justice in this world. But having justice in heaven is impossible without the cross. It is a universal law. No wonder, then, that we call it precious and life-giving. It is the spring of life for all men. Just realize this, and you will be rewarded with the joy of a conversation with God, which no one can take away from you. The Cross will become the door to your new life of purity and grace in heaven.

3M'S (MATUSHKA MICHELLE MARIE) CORNER

Hello my beautiful friends, and my dear brothers and sisters in Christ! I'm very excited to have my own little mini "blog" in our weekly church bulletin. I hope that you will all enjoy my little bits and bobs that I will be sharing. I might share some of the things that are very special to me, like my favorite prayers and devotions. I may share my favorite icons and why I like them. I may share a favorite recipe or maybe I'll share a great joke! Maybe I'll share some things I've learned over the 28 years of being a Matushka! Keep your eyes peeled and I do hope you enjoy! Remember, I'm always here if you ever need someone for a chat. You can always see me after services (I'm usually at all of them!) or you can call the church rectory.

3M's Most Delicious Vegan Lenten Cookies

Gluten and Vegan!

1 cup smooth peanut butter

1 cup brown sugar

2 tsp vanilla

1 cup oats

1 tsp baking soda

¼ cup almond or soy milk

I have been known to throw in some dried cranberries or nuts in this too!

Mix together the peanut butter, brown sugar and almond or soy milk until you get a creamy paste. Then add oats. You may use quick oats. Add vanilla and baking soda until thoroughly mixed. Roll dough into little balls approximately the size of a tablespoon or 2 tablespoons for bigger cookies. You can flatten the balls with a fork or with your hand. Place the balls on a parchment lined baking sheet and bake at 350F for 10-13 minutes. Mmmmm! It doesn't even feel like you're fasting!



Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024

So many people are looking forward to this very significant event. For just a few minutes during totality, the temperature will drop about 15 degrees, darkness will envelop you, the stars will be visible, and the normally unseen outer edges of the Sun around become apparent.

For a total eclipse to happen, the moon has to be proportionally the exact magnitude in *size* as the sun is in *distance* from earth. And they have to be the same shape.

That is required for the moon to perfectly block the apparent size of the sun from earth's vantage. The moon must be at exactly the right distance from the Sun and from the Earth to cause an eclipse. We cannot even fathom the greatness of our God.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." Psalm 19:1

"Praise Him, sun & moon; praise Him all you shining stars!" Psalm 148:3

"The Creation proclaims outright the Creator; for the very heavens, as the Prophet says, declare the glory of God with their unutterable words ... how the orbits ... move ... with all the eclipses. We see all this with the piercing eyes of mind, nor can we fail to be taught by means of such a spectacle that a Divine power, working with skill and method, is manifesting itself in this actual world."

St. Gregory of Nyssa – "On the Soul and the Resurrection"

May this event move us to bow in awe and wonder at the feet of the Designer of eclipses and let us use this time to simply marvel at the wonder of God's creation!

The Akathist of Thanksgiving service has within it a series of petitions meant to glorify God. From the first *Eikos*:

Glory to You, Who called me to life,
Glory to You, Who have shown me the beauty of the universe,
Glory to You, Who have opened before me the sky and the earth as an eternal book of wisdom,
Glory to the eternity of You, in the midst of the world of time,
Glory to You, for Your hidden and evident goodness,
Glory to You, for every sigh of my sadness,
Glory to You, for every step of my life, for every moment of joy,
Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages.



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

April 7	-	Greg
April 14	-	Greg
April 21	-	Mat. Michelle
April 28	-	Natalia
May 5	-	HOLY PASCHA
May 12	-	Available

Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall.