

News-Messenger Con't

"The church isn't a business, but I learned fundraising techniques and dealing with people. Anytime you deal with the public, it's always a pleasure," he said.

When the Rev. David Lis left Holy Assumption last year, he recommended Bartek as his replacement. Bartek was, at first, hesitant to come.

"The bishop asked me to come out. I said I liked where I am, but then I thought about it again and said yes," Bartek said. "And now this is where I will die."

Bartek has become enamored with the Marblehead area and the people that who here. His congregation, he said, is unique amongst the many he has led. It consists of parishioners who can trace their lineage to Greece, the Ukraine and Russia, but it is the dynamics of the church family that most impresses him.

"I've never been in a parish like this. Not only are we on the water, but the people are fantastic," he said. "They're a small but mighty church. They all work together. If they have problems, they forgive each other and go on. I've never experienced that in any of my churches to this degree."

Bartek has embraced the Marblehead community in the few months he has been here. He blessed the village's new volleyball courts in September, and this summer he will host a blessing of the vehicles at the church. Bartek instituted at Holy Assumption collections for local charities such as the Danbury Food Pantry and Bistro 163.

I'm getting to know the pastors in the area and the food pantry and all that," he said. "Like I do in every place I go, I get involved in the community. In order for the church to get involved in the community, the church must get to know the community." On Wednesday, Bartek became the first-ever chaplain of the Marblehead Police Department. He served as a fire department chaplain in Chicago and approached Marblehead Mayor Jacqueline Bird with the idea of serving the village's police department.



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"I will attend monthly police association meetings, be able to ride with them on shift, and be called out when needed," Bartek said.



Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, 110 E. Main St. in downtown

Marblehead, will host several upcoming Lenten services. Bartek will begin monthly Orthodoxy 101 classes after Easter for those wanting to learn more about the faith. For more information, visit holyassumptionmarblehead.org.

Contact correspondent Sheri Trusty at sheritrusty4@gmail.com.

March		
Readers	Cleaning	Coffee Hour
4 - Natalie	4 - Wayne	4 - Open
11 - David	11 - Tim & Basil	11 - Open
18 - Ron	Parish on Sat. 3/24	18 - Bobbie & Ron
25 - Wayne	25 - Tamara Blackford	25 - Open

First Sunday Con't

Do they see an image of God, a likeness of Christ always ready and willing to be open to others? Do I rejoice with them, share their burdens, wipe their tears and be of service, through my love of God?

To write an icon, an iconographer prepares mentally and spiritually through prayer and fasting to transform an earthly canvas into a heavenly image.

During this Great Fast, through prayer, fasting, spiritual reading, reflection and good works, I, too, can transform my earthly canvas into a heavenly image—reflecting Christ as central in my life, worthy to be incensed.

As God sent his son to become man, accepting the limitations of the flesh and assuming all aspects of our human nature, so, too, God invites all mankind to prevail over those limitations of the flesh and human nature and to become Godlike.

Create in me a new heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. From temptation, sin and evil, spare me, O Lord, and raise me up to your love from which we draw your great mercy.

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THE SECOND MONDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

REFLECTION ON THIS DAY

As I begin the second week of the Great Fast, my thoughts linger on the annunciation by the angel Gabriel to the Blessed Mother Mary and her life as the mother of Jesus. I travel back many years when the doctor announced to me that I, too, would bear a child. I was blessed with this wondrous announcement three times, and so I can imagine how Mary felt when Gabriel appeared to her.

When I think of Jesus, I do not think first of the little boy in his mother's arm or the teenager learning to use a hammer with his loving father. I do not think of him as 12 years old. After he was discovered missing for three days, his parents found him in the Temple and scolded him. But he told them he was about his Father's business.

I'm sure our Blessed Mother faced some of the same problems I did in raising children. Many times, I've prayed to her for help and wondered how she solved the challenges of child-rearing in the days before disposable diapers, nursing bottles, toy cars, baby dolls, washing machines, etc.

As a Parent, one of the unbearable pains is to lose a child to death. What pain the Blessed Mother must have felt as she watched her son, Jesus, condemned to death, suffering as He carried his heavy cross on the road to Golgotha. The sword of sorrow surely pierced her heart when they threw her son on the cross and simultaneously pounded three large heavy pointed nails into his hands and feet.

As she stood at the foot of the cross with the Apostle John, Jesus said, "Woman, here is your son." Then said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother'. (John 19:26-27) When they removed Him from the cross, I can feel her pain and tears when she held Him in her arms as she did when He was a small

Boy.

When Jesus hung on the cross, He gave the Blessed mother to us as our mother. Through her intercession with God, she is ready to protect and help us in our daily lives. She is our constant travel companion on our journey home to our heavenly Father.

May the Theotokos intercede with her Son for all of us sinners. "Let my prayer ascend to you like incense." (Psalm 140:3; Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)

The beginning of our salvation was announced by Gabriel to Mary. When the angel appeared to her, she did not refuse the greeting, she did not doubt as Sarah once did in the tent. Rather, she said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."

Matins, Sessional Hymn 111

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR FIRST SUNDAY & SECOND MONDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

*What do others see in me? Do they recognize the image and likeness of God?

*How can I transform myself, my earthly canvas, into a heavenly image?

*Is Christ really central to my whole life, in all I think, in all I say, in all I do?

*Do I accept adversities of life according to God's will as our Blessed Mother did or do I want only answers according to my will?

*Do I remember to pray to the Theotokos, who, as the mother of Jesus, will intercede for me for the salvation of my soul?

*Through prayer and fasting, can I forgive the offences of others, so that my sins may be forgiven?

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY	NAME DAY	ANNIVERSARY
4- Nathaniel Bremer 5- Christi Soski 6- Alex Zarynow 10- Fr. Eli Bremer 12- Fr. James Gleason 14- Sandy Martin 16- David Mazurik 22- Wayne Golob 24- Sonya Rose 26- Bill Glovinsky 26- Pani Bernadette Zarynow	NONE THIS MONTH	2-10-1973 Consecration of Retired Metro. Herman 2-14-2004 Consecration of the Most Blessed Tikhon 14- Jim & Rita Mazur 8- Joe & Sonya Rose 2-21-2014 His Grace Bishop David of Alaska

If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.