



Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Gospel: St. Luke 17:12-19

Tone 3

Epistle: Colossans 1:12-18

28th Sunday After Pentecost

Conception by Righteous St. Anna of the Theotokos

December Bulletin Sponsor: Joe & Valerie Schutt

Christmas Greetings to Fr. Andrew & all the parishioners

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, December 9

9:05 am: Third & Sixth Hours followed by D.L. / Social / Choir Rehearsal

4:00 pm: Annual Inter-Orthodox Nativity Concert
St Paul Greek- North Royalton

4:00 pm: Stories of the Savior by the youth of St Joe's Catholic Church in Marblehead

Monday, December 10

6:30 pm: Orthodoxy 101 Class

Tuesday, December 11

5:30 pm: Monthly Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 12

6:00 pm: Village Public Meeting (choir to perform)

Saturday, December 15

4:00 pm: Great Vespers

Sunday, December 16

9:05 am: Third & Sixth Hours followed by D.L. / 40 Day Panachida for William Rentz & Memorial Sunday / Social

CANDLES / BULLETIN SPONSORS OFFERED FOR DECEMBER

Bulletin Sponsor: Joe & Valerie Schutt: Christmas Greetings to Fr. Andrew & all the parishioners (\$50 for month)

Chandelier: Ron & Bobbie: in memory of the Royhab & Libb Family members (\$50 for month)

Altar Candles: Basil: In loving memory of all his brother and sisters (\$50 for month)

Candles on the Tomb: Mike & Diane Tyron In loving memory of Parents (\$25 for month)

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25 for month)

Jean Hileman In memory of Father, William on the 15th anniversary of repose

CANDLES / BULLETIN SPONSORS OFFERED FOR JANUARY

Bulletin Sponsor: Fr. Andrew: in memory of his father George (\$50 for month)

Chandelier: (\$50 for month)

Altar Candles: (\$50 for month)

Candles on Tomb: (\$25 for month)

Eternal Light: (\$25 for month)

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

Dec. 9: Shooting victims in Pittsburgh

Dec. 16: William Rentz, Archpriest Joseph Martin Mat. Susan Blomquist, Dc. Paul Hilko, Shooting victims in Nightclub in Ca including the deputy

Dec. 23: Protodeacon Dennis & Mat. Helen Lucak

Dec. 30: Firefighter Dan / Chicago Hospital Shooting, infant killed by drive by in Toledo

Jan. 6: Janet Elchisko

Jan. 13: The Marines killed in plane collision off the coast of Japan

DECEMBER

	Cleaners	Readers	Social
2	Laura	Wayne	NO SOCIAL
9	Joe & Sonya	Wayne	Stephanie K
16	Sandy	Tim	Rachel A
23	Wayne	Natalie	Jean H
30	Matthew A.	Ron	OPEN

HUGE THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all you contributed to the Holiday Bureau Fund this year. \$600 was collected. **God Bless you!**

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Prayer List (Updated December 6)

Priests: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius; His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman; His Grace Bishop Athanasiua Akunda (Diocese of Western Kenya); William Bass; Ted Bobosh, John Duranko (*Father's home pastor*); Jonathan Cholcher; Joseph Gibson; James Gleason (*Father's Spiritual Father*); Emilian Hutnyan, Josef Von Klarr; Vladimir Lecko; Peter Tutko; Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

Matushkii: Pani Patricia Duranko; Barbara Kopka; Virginia Lecko; Sonya Tutko

Parishioners / & their Family: Carol Chevenger (*Roddie's mom*); Christopher Dixon (*son-in-law of Mary H.*); Victoria Dixon (*Mary H. Daughter*); John Richard Elcishko; Debbie Garnek (*sister of Roddie*); Michael Glovinsky (*Nephew to Basil*); Ernest Gresh (*Basil's nephew*); Julia Guzy; Joseph Habegger (*Laura Kovach's brother-in-law*); Margi Habegger (*Laura's sister*); James Heffernan (*father-in-law of Jennifer Heffernan*); Judy Heffernan; Tom Hileman (*Jean's husband*) Maria (*Terrie's mom*); Michael Kouznetsov (*Son of Mary Hiser*); Helen Lis; Stanley Lis; Walter Litzie (*Fr.'s Cousin*); David Martin; Greg Mazur; Judy Mazurik (*sister-in-law of Paul Mazurik*); Larry Naiser (*Ron's Uncle*); Margaret Rose (*daughter*); Nancy Sitzler (*mother of Amber Twarek*); Baby Stella Miller (*Chico's granddaughter*); Peter Truta (*cousin of Jean H.*); Diane Tryon; Greg Tryon; Larry Twarek (*Greg's T. uncle*); Kristen (*Daughter of the Cassell's*); Eleanor W; Sarah & her newborn baby Madelyn (*Laura's daughter*); Lauren Jerome & her unborn baby (*Daughter of Jean H*);

Other Requests: Victor Abrahamowicz (*Friend of Mary Hiser*); Brad Biecheler; George Biecheler; David Bobb (*friend of Nikki Twarek*); Steven Brancho (*friend of Fr*); Anna Burch (*friend of Wayne*); Frank Cannon; Diane Cannon (*Friends of Halupki festival*); Linda Crockett (*Vendor*); Shawntee Day (*Friend of Christi*); Chris Fallon (*Bishop Matthias's sister-in-law*); Ben Franklin (*friends of Laura Kovach*); Theodore Geletka (*St. Michael Orthodox Church, Broadview Heights choir director*); Tom Hutnyan (*Brother of Fr. Emil*); Baby Lucas Goodman (*friend of Christi Soski*); Donald Gresh (*neighbor to Basil*); Alicia Kelly (*friend of Tammy B.*); Tommy Leonchick (*Friend of Fr's*); Jake Lipstraw (*friend of Natalie*); Michael Lucak (*son of the Protodeacon*); Dana Mahler (*Friend of Christi*); Dan Mallory (*neighbor of Basil*); Violet Mattingly (*neighbor of Greg Mazur*); Pauline Meath (*Friend of Fr.'s*); Todd Pollick (*Friend of the Twarek's*); Beth Reinhard (*friend of Diane Tryon*); Emily Sarisky (*Fr's friend*); Cheryl Schell (*Co-worker of Jennifer Heffernan*); Nick Shortridge (*Friend of Christi*); Matthew Sterling (*neighbor of Diane T*); Janice Timko; Donald Williams (*Friend of Joe S.*); Alisha Zura & new born Evelyn (*friend of Natalie*); Cheyenne Welch & her two unborn babies (*wife of Former Sgt. Of Marblehead Police Dept*); Katie & her unborn baby (*manager at Bruno's*)

Military: Craig Cassell; Nathan Brown

Captives: Metropolitan Paul (*Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo*); Archbishop John (*Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo*); for the UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world; those held captive throughout the world.

Luke 17:12-19 (*Sunday Gospel*)

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Colossians 1:12-18 (*Sunday Epistle*)

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE: DECEMBER

Sunday, December 2:

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 30 (24 members; 1 non-member regular; 3 children; 2 guests; 11 Communicants: 7 Attended Vespers

TOTAL INCOME: \$1,150 (\$1,000 Sunday offering; \$150 Special Collection: Holiday Bureau) NOTE: There was no candle info at this time. Will be adjusted next week.

SIGN-UP SHEET FOR HOLY NIGHT SUPPER

This year we will hold our 2nd Annual Holy Night Supper on Theophany Eve on Saturday, January 5 @ 4:00pm with services to follow at 6-6:30ish. Please sign up what you will be bringing on the sheet located in Vestibule.

PRAYER FOR THE FOREFEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Rejoice, O faithful, and make ready for the feast of the birth of Christ. The King of kings comes to live with his servants. Behold a most wonderful mystery: the cave will become a heaven; the Virgin the throne of God; the manger a room where Christ the Savior will be laid in swaddling clothes. Come, people slow of heart, cast away the veil of sin that lies upon your heart; recognize the Maker Who comes to dwell among us. Let us make ready to praise Him and say: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers, Who is born of a Virgin! Praised and glorified is Your name forever! Amen.

MEDITATION

The Lord Himself has said that He came to call not the righteous but the lost to salvation. His coming at Christmas is especially significant for the afflicted, destitute and hopeless in spirit, health or circumstance. Let us turn to the God of all comfort in time of suffering and distress. When the three young men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, were thrown into the blazing furnace they “started walking around in the flames, singing hymns to God, and praising Him as Lord.” In whatever circumstances we may find ourselves, let us fix our eyes on God, praise Him as Lord, confess our sins to Him and commit our lives to Him in complete obedience. He is near to uphold us with His mighty grace in the most trying moments.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be heard a half hour before & after Vespers.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUN NIGHT IN 2019

Faith & Family night at the Toledo Walleye on Sunday, February 10

- *Sit together as a group
 - *Exclusive ticket discount
 - *Church name on the video board
 - *Sing the National Anthem
 - *Have one member ride the Zamboni
 - *Group picture with Spike & Cat Trick
- There are pre-game party spaces available!



Holy Night Supper:

Saturday evening, January 5, 2019. More info to come.

Blessing of Lake Erie:

Saturday, January 12th (weather date: January 26th) at Noon. (This is a Village of Marblehead event & their Board is very excited about it.) Fliers will be posted. A “soup & sandwich” lunch will be served at the Church following the blessing.

March for Life, Port Clinton:

Sunday, January 20th. Watch for further details.

Annual Meeting:

Sunday, January 27th following Divine Liturgy. There will be a pot luck social.

Interested in being part of the leadership of the parish? Please speak to Fr. Andrew ASAP. Currently, no Board member is at the end of their term, but others can run for office if they are interested with the blessing from Fr. Andrew. If anyone is interested in helping out in any way please see Father, as well.

D E C E M B E R

BIRTHDAY		ANNIVERSARY
1-Ileana Bruner	11- Tina Rindfleisch,	12-5-2004: Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia
4- Steven Calzone	Emmelyn Monschein	12-19-1971: Retired Bishop Seraphim of Sendai
5- Mat. Laryissa Bremer	13- Gabe Mazurik	21- Ed & Irene Vangeloff
8- Joe Rose	23- Teri Cassell	12-27-2014: Bishop Paul of Chicago
9- Pauline Meath	25- Darlene Mazurik	31- Fred & Christi Soski
9- Angie Dardovsky	28- Carol Mazurik	

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.

A REAL CHRISTMAS

“Should the churches be allowed to remain open on Christmas Day?” That’s a question with which Art Buchwald once began one of his columns. He lampooned Christmas commercialism by humorously suggesting that the churches should close on Christmas because such spiritual activity detracted from the commercial value of Christmas and interfered with the gift-giving, partying, eating, and television watching. Cast in the style of a dialogue, the column went this way in part:

“If you keep the churches open, you detract from the great materialistic fervour in this country.” “But,” I said, “Christmas once was a religious holiday.” :When?” He asked. “Quite a few years ago. I read a book that said at one time the religious aspect of Christmas was more important than exchanging of gifts.” “I don’t believe you,” he said. “It’s true. The original idea of Christmas was to celebrate the birth of Christ.”

Buchwald drives home a point. The Church indeed seeks to help us celebrate a real Christmas. How can we experience a real Christmas? Here are some things to think about:

1-The examples of the Forefathers remind us of the priority of seeking, believing in and serving God—always looking to Him for the fulfilment of our deepest hopes and desires. “Wise men still seek Him!”

2- The purpose of fasting is to live free from the bondage of excessive food and drink.

3-The singing of Christmas hymns and carols inspires us to anticipate Christmas as a spiritual banquet.

4- The preparation to receive Holy Communion awakens us spiritually and leads us to see how truly Christ is born to us.

5- Giving of ourselves to others in need— our attention, our love, our time and our resources—puts flesh and blood on the meaning of Christmas.

As we follow the rhythm of the liturgical year and respond to God’s gift of His Son with faith, prayer and obedience, we are able to prepare for and to celebrate a real Christmas.

A year of the Lord Liturgical Bible Studies, Vol. 2

D E C E M B E R Reposed List

1-Helen Elchisco (1990)	20- Julia Brosojah Millie (1953)	26- Fr. Robert Sally (2002)
3- Mary Hubicki (2013)	20- John Mazuril (2017)	26- Julia Malchisky (1971)
12- Anna Bretz (2002)	21- Mary Sennich (1985)	29- Alexandra Dotsenko (1980)
13- Joseph Mazurik (1986)	22- Antonima Vecsey (1972)	30- Bishop Boris (2000)
13- Archimandrite Seraphim Oblivantseff (1954) Former Pastor	23- Steven Danchisen (1982)	30- Rita Felenchak (1996)
15- Michael W. Belenky (1971)	23- Fr. David Sedor (2008)	31- Jevgeny Cernonok (1980)
18- Archbishop Job (2009)	24- Alexandra Turkul (1980)	Eva Hritsko (1908)-Dec
19- Edward Malchisky (2001)	24- John Bird <i>No year provided</i>	Helen Hritsko (1908)-Dec

Alaskan faithful rocked by back-to-back earthquakes

The relics of St. Herman were temporarily evacuated from Kodiak's Holy Resurrection Cathedral as a precaution against a possible tsunami.

Faithful in parishes from Kenai to Fairbanks were rocked by back-to-back earthquakes measuring 7.0 and 5.7 in magnitude, the first of which struck several miles north of downtown Anchorage, home of Saint Innocent Cathedral and several other parishes of the Orthodox Church in America, at 8:29 a.m. Friday, November 30, 2018.

The quakes were among the worst in the state's history since a 9.2 earthquake, centered some 75 miles east of Anchorage, generated [widespread damage on March 27, 1964](#).

"We had quite a shaker, and we are still experiencing aftershocks," said His Grace, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska on Friday afternoon. "So far, none of our churches has reported any damage or injuries, and the worst prospect of tsunamis after such a large quake loomed as a distinct possibility."

While the worst did not occur—and as of Friday evening no deaths had been reported—precautions had been taken to evacuate the relics of Saint Herman of Alaska from Kodiak's Holy Resurrection Cathedral to higher ground.

"Saint Herman's relics were returned safely to the cathedral after the 'all clear' had sounded later on Friday," Bishop David was happy to report. "Saint Herman's Seminary also had been evacuated during the warning, but the students and faculty also have returned to the campus."

With much of the region's communications infrastructure down, including all of Anchorage's television stations, detailed information on conditions in more remote areas has been sparse.

"While this quake was a shallow one, it was felt in many communities throughout the state," Bishop David continued. "Power was off for a while, and reports of widespread damage to roads and bridges, in addition to sinkholes, have been circulating."

Bishop David requests prayers for the faithful of his diocese as more information is received and the inevitable aftershocks occur.

"I am grateful that we have been spared from what

could have been much worse," he added. "We will have to wait until a more detailed assessment of the damage. In the meantime, we pray that our heavenly intercessor, Saint Herman, will continue to watch over us in the days ahead as reconstruction begins."

The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God

Commemorated on [December 9](#)

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

"In the icon Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, Who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under Her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power."

There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna's face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk district of Volhynia diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

New Ministry Resources article highlights Cleveland's FOCUS St. Herman House

An informative and inspiring new article just added to [Parish Ministry Resources](#) highlights the outreach ministry of [Saint Herman House of Hospitality](#), which became an active site of [FOCUS Cleveland](#) in January 2013.

Priest Jonathan Lincoln, Associate Pastor at Saint Joseph Church, Wheaton, IL, is the author of the article, titled [“Gateway Ministries and the Garment of Salvation—An Interview with Paul Finley”](#). Mr. Finley serves as Director of Saint Herman House.

As the article's title reveals, Saint Herman House provides a broad scope of ministries to meet the “gateway” material needs of food, shelter and clothing, as well as the spiritual needs of homeless and troubled men in its community. It is a place where those in need are afforded an opportunity to live and work in a community setting.

“We do the best we can for the broken people who come here for help, but we do try to make people feel that they have value, worth, dignity, that they're important in the eyes of God,” Mr. Finley explains. “And if they remember that they were treated that way by somebody who is an Orthodox Christian, it may be an opportunity for them someday to look more deeply into our faith.

“People voluntarily come here for food, and they voluntarily come here for spiritual food,” he continued. “We don't make anybody come to the services. But there are always men at the services who are seeking something more.”

Read about this three-decades-old Orthodox Christian outreach program and share the information with others. [A video about Saint Herman's](#) is also available online.

Comments and questions may be directed to Donna Karabin, who chairs the Orthodox Church in America's [Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid](#) [CSHA], and/or Arlene Kallaur, Parish Ministry Resource Coordinator, at csa@oca.org.

“Mixed Marriage: An Orthodox History” offers fascinating study of marriage and the Church

A new book, *Mixed Marriage: An Orthodox History* by Priest Anthony Roeber, Professor of Church History at [Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary](#), Yonkers, NY, “will surely become a standard work on the subject,” according to Archpriest John A. McGuckin, Visiting Research Professor at Oxford University and Emeritus Professor of Byzantine Christian Studies at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary.

The volume—[now available through Saint Vladimir's Seminary \[SVS\] Press](#)—explores historical documentation of incidents and practices regarding mixed marriages throughout the history of the Orthodox Church.

“Father Roeber's excellent book offers a lucid and fascinating history of marriage and its relationship to the Church, the authority of the bishop, pastoral practice in relation to the administration of the Mysteries (how can a couple sharing in the sacrament of Orthodox marriage not be allowed thereafter to share in the Eucharist from which it flows?) and how that important, but often ill-defined term of *oikonomia* can address the issue of mixed marriage today,” said Father McGuckin. “The study's strength is that it looks to the historical documentation of what happened in relation to mixed marriage in Orthodox past history, rather than following what is vaguely ‘supposed’ to have happened. Brilliantly and elegantly written, with a calm and surefooted perspective, it offers great interest for the specialist and layperson alike. This book will surely become a standard work on the subject.”

Father Anthony is the author of some 50 articles, six books, and three edited volumes. His most recent publications include the co-authored *Changing Churches: An Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran Theological Conversation* (Eerdmans, 2012) and *Hopes for Better Spouses: Protestant Marriage and Church Renewal in Early Modern Europe, India, and North America* (Eerdmans, 2013).

Prophetess Hannah the mother of the Prophet Samuel

Commemorated on [December 9](#)

The Holy Prophetess Hannah dwelt in marriage with Elkanah, but she was childless. Elkanah took to himself another wife, Phennena, who bore him children. Hannah grieved strongly over her misfortune, and every day she prayed for an end to her barrenness, and vowed to dedicate her child to God.

Once, as she prayed fervently in the Temple, the priest Heli thought that she was drunk, and he began to reproach her. But the saint poured out her grief, and after she received a blessing, she returned home. After this Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, whom she named Samuel (which means “Asked from God”).

When the child reached the age of boyhood, the mother herself presented him to the priest Heli, and Samuel remained with him to serve before the Tabernacle (1 Kings/1 Samuel 2: 1-21).