



# Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector



**Sunday, December 16, 2018**

**Gospel:** St. Luke 14:16-24

**Tone 4**

**Epistle:** Colossians 3:4-11

**29th Sunday After Pentecost**

**Prophet Haggai / Blessed Empress Theophano**

**December Bulletin Sponsor: Joe & Valerie Schutt**

Christmas Greetings to Fr. Andrew & all the parishioners

## *Liturgical & Events Schedule*

### **Sunday, December 16**

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

### **Monday, December 17**

6:30 pm: Orthodoxy 101

### **Friday, December 21**

6:30 pm: Royal Hours of Christmas

### **Saturday, December 22**

4:00 pm: Great Vespers

### **Sunday, December 23**

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

### **Monday, December 24**

1:00 pm: Christmas Eve Vigil

### **Tuesday, December 25**

9:35 am: Hours  
10:00 am: Christmas Divine Liturgy

## **40 DAY REMEMBRANCE**

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

## **VIGILS- DECEMBER 2**

**Marguerite Bird (1)** In memory of mom

**Susan Guzy (2)** For health of mom; Birthday  
blessings for brother Gary

**Stephanie Kowal (1)** In memory of Carol Mesker

**Laura Kovach (3)** In thanksgiving for healthy birth  
of Madelyn; In memory of Uncle Alex; For health  
of Joe, Margi, Greg, Dana, Jessica

**Sandy Martin (3)** In loving memory of mom (Dec  
1st anniversary); In memory of Janet Elchisko; Spe-  
cial intentions

**Janice Timko (1)** In blessed and loving memory of  
newly departed John Krynock, 10-23. Our  
sympathy, love and prayers to Ann Marie and  
family.

**Twarek family (5)** In loving memory of Baba  
Mazurik; Health of Todd, Alisha and Evelyn, Heidi,  
Steve, John, Stella, Diane, Mike, Greg, Julia, Ron,  
Gage, Judy, Margi, Joe, Nancy, Sue, Morgan, Jake,  
Helen, Ruthe, Janice; Special intention; Special  
intention; Special intention

## **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!

## 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*); Joe Rose; 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*); Elliott Joy (*Police chief's son*); 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.

### 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:** Susan Guzy-In memory of departed Guzy & Felenchak Family members (*\$50 for month*)

**Altar Candles:** (*\$50 for month*)

**Candles on Tomb:** (*\$25 for month*)

**Eternal Light:** (*\$25 for month*)

### CONFESSIONS

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

## 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; \$63 in Vigils & \$15 in Candles

### Wednesday, December 5

15 people attended Vespers for Feast of St Nicholas

### Sunday, December 9

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 23 (19 members; 2 children; 2 guest; 11 Communicants; 8 Attended Vespers)

TOTAL INCOME: \$7,639 (\$2,129 Sunday offering; \$5,000 Anonymous donation; Flowers \$105; Bookstore \$140; Vigils \$120; Candles \$35; Chandelier \$50; Altar candles \$50; Lampada \$10)

**MARK  
YOUR CALENDAR!**

### **Holy Night Supper:**

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

### **Blessing of Lake Erie:**

Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> (weather date: January 26<sup>th</sup>) 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 20<sup>th</sup>. Watch for further details.

### **Annual Meeting:**

Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

## SIGN-UP SHEET FOR HOLY NIGHT SUPPER

This year we will hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

(If anyone would like to help defray the cost of the Christmas flowers and having your loved ones be remembered during the Christmas Liturgy please let Father Andrew know by December 23. You can remember those in "health" or those "reposed" The cost this year will be only \$15 per flower.

### **Fr. Andrew: (9 flowers)**

- For the health of all my family & friends
- For the health of the Marblehead Police and Danbury Fire Departments, and all first responders in the nation
- For the health of all the parishioners and their families, and all those who help this parish in anyway.
- For the health of the Village Gov't, all residents of Marblehead and the surrounding areas
- For all the less fortunate of this community and the world, and those who need our unworthy prayers
- For the repose of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, my ordaining Bishop
- For the repose of my parents, George and Dorothy, and all of my family and friends
- For all the founders and benefactors of this parish and all those listed and are remembered in the Dyptics of the Church
- For all those who have no one to remember them

### **Mike & Diane Tyron: (2 Flowers)**

- In Loving Memory of Aunt Marian
- In Loving Memory of Uncle Norm)

### **Susan Guzy: (2 Flowers)**

- For the health of her mom Julia and her brother Gary
- In Loving memory of the Felenchak and Guzy families

### **David & Sandy Martin: (2 flowers)**

- For the health of family & friends
- In Loving memory of family & friends

# 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.*

## WHO ARE THE FOREFATHERS?

The two Sundays preceding Christmas are preparatory Sundays for the birth of Christ. On the Sunday before Christmas we remember the ancestors of Christ, those who appear in the genealogy of Christ as reported in the Gospels. Two Sundays before Christmas we remember the Old Testament patriarchs, prophets and righteous men and women--the Forefathers of our Christian Faith. Some persons, such as Abraham and David, are remembered on the first as well as the Second Sunday before Christmas.

Both of these Sundays accent the theme of preparation: how God worked great signs and wonders through special witnesses preparing for the sending of His Son to the world according to His perfect plan. THESE RIGHTEOUS MEN AND WOMEN RESPONDED TO THE CALL OF GOD, SERVED HIM WITH DEVOTION, AND MANY OF THEM FERVENTLY ANTICIPATED THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH. As we remember them during the two Sundays before Christmas, we too, seek to respond to God's call to us, to lift up our hearts in thankful prayer to Him for His promises and to expectantly prepare for the celebration of the coming of Christ into our lives.

Who are the forefathers? According to the hymns of the

Feastday of the Forefathers, the following persons are mentioned:

- \*persons of the earliest biblical period--Adam, Abel, Seth, Noah, Enoch and others;
- \*the Patriarchs--Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Jacob's twelve sons known as the Twelve Patriarchs;
- \*Women such as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Miriam, Deborah, Esther, Ruth, Judith and others;
- \*all the prophets such as Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, Malachi and others down to John the Baptist;
- \*special figures in the Old Testament such as Melchizedek, Job, David and others; and
- \*the three young men--Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego--rescued by God from Nebuchadnezzar's blazing furnace.

In many hymns of the Orthodox Church the courageous example of the three young men is celebrated. They refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's image and were cast into fire. However, the presence of the angel of God, Whom the Church Fathers recognized as the eternal Christ working in the Old Testament, preserved them safe from the fire. In Orthodox tradition the three young men surrounded in the fire by divine light represent the mystery of the Holy Trinity and also prefigure the presence of Christ in the Virgin's womb because "the fire of divinity consumed not the Virgin's womb into which it had descended" (*Christmas Matins Hymn*).

## 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

## **The Twelve Days of Christmas - They're When?**

*By Pearl Homiak*

Believe it or not, December 25th is the first day of Christmas. You'd never know it, especially if you happen to be shopping any time after Halloween. Plastic crèches, soldiers, and Santa Clauses; Christmas trees, colored and sometimes blinking lights; red ribbons, candy canes, and homes and lawns with varying degrees of lighted decorations-all begin to mushroom each year from the beginning of November, and sometimes even sooner.

I remember that when I was very young Christmas was hardly even mentioned before Thanksgiving. No one that we knew put up a Christmas tree until a few days before Christmas (December 25th; "Orthodox Christmas" took place on January 7th in those days. However, most Orthodox people decorated for Christmas on December 25th, which was celebrated as a gift-giving day. January 7th was reserved for the religious observance of Christmas). Even department stores held off until their day-after-Thanksgiving sales. Christmas parties took place after Christmas, and people sang and played recordings of Christmas carols from Christmas Eve until New Year's Day or even up to Epiphany. The Christmas season was a meaningful time back then, but what is it now?

There is a song we all know called "The Twelve Days of Christmas" that describes gift giving over a period of time-twelve days. St. Ephraim the Syrian first mentioned the period of the "twelve days," according to one source, sometime before the year 400. The Council of Tours made it official in 597. This period of time begins at Christmas and ends at Epiphany.

The origin of the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," has been recently disputed. I had no idea it was more than a cute song until a friend of mine e-mailed an explanation of it to me a few years ago. According to the missive I received, the song was actually a "catechism song" used by Catholics in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The song was supposedly used to teach children the tenets of the faith during this period, when law forbade practicing Catholicism. As such, the song's gifts and other images have the following religious representations (compiled from various sources):

**True love** = God

**Me** = every baptized person

**Partridge** = Jesus Christ, who, like a bird, will protect God's defenseless children

**Pear tree** = the Cross, which was made from a tree.

**2 Turtle doves** = the Old and New Testaments; also, two turtle doves were sacrificed when Jesus was first brought to the temple,

**3 French hens** = faith, hope, and charity (sacrificial giving); also, gold, frankincense, and myrrh from the Wise Men

**4 Calling birds** = the four Gospels and/or the four Evangelists

**5 Golden rings** = the first five books of the Old Testament (the Pentateuch) which gives the history of man's fall from grace

**6 Geese a-laying** = the six days of creation

**7 Swans a-swimming** = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8); also, the seven sacraments

**8 Maids a-milking** = the eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10); also, milking symbolizes Christ's love for us

**9 Ladies dancing** = the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

**10 Lords a-leaping** = the Ten Commandments

**11 Pipers piping** = the eleven faithful Apostles

**12 Drummers drumming** = the twelve points of the Apostles Creed; also, the twelve Apostles preaching

Recently I came across a different source of the song. It seems that several centuries ago in France children played a non-religious memory game called "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Each child recited a verse of the song. If someone missed a verse he/she had a consequence. This game was apparently first recorded in a book published in England in the late 18th century. However, the game could have been known for a long time before that. Further, the religious application of it might have been based on the French game in the first place. Who knows? And, anyway, is it really important? There is more than one way to convey the tenets of faith, and singing representative songs is one way to do it.

We still hear the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," but it has nothing to do with Christianity. (I haven't found any information about children today playing a game called by the same name). Sadly, many modern-day children don't know the real story of Christmas, of Christ's Nativity.

*Con't Pg 6*

## *Twelve Days Con't*

For them Christmas is only a great decorating, celebrating, and present-getting time that happens to begin revving up after Halloween and reaches its high point on December 25th. (Even Thanksgiving gets minimized). After that, everything returns to "normal," except for more celebrating on New Year's Eve.

Maybe people think the "twelve days of Christmas" start on December 13th and are the most important shopping days before Christmas. To some people "the twelve days of Christmas" might even be the twelve Saturday-and-Sunday-department-store-best-sale-days between Halloween and Christmas (there really are twelve Saturdays and Sundays during this time, and don't most people shop then)?

I see nothing wrong with shopping well in advance for the sake of my personal economy and more unique and unhurried gift selection. (In fact, one year I actually got all of my Christmas shopping done before advent started. The only store I went to during advent was the grocery store, and that as rarely as I could. What a meaningful advent and Christmas I had that year!). However, the untimely pre-season decorating, the never-ending-department-store-carol-playing, and the during-advent Christmas partying are too much for me. I'm all for getting things back into perspective. We shouldn't allow ourselves to be dictated to by advertising and department store companies. Let's put the celebration of Christmas back where it belongs.

Awhile back I decided to make changes in my Christmas-related habits to refocus my celebration of Christ's Nativity. I stopped playing tapes of Christmas carols during advent. Instead, I started playing them on Christmas day. We also continued to turn the TV off during advent, something we have done for more than twenty years (except for one chaotic year).

Over the last several years I have deliberately been sending my Christmas cards after December 25th when I can truly say, "Christ is Born! Glorify Him!" It just seems to make more sense that way. While everyone else is watching TV or snoozing after Christmas dinner, I sit down after the dishes are done and write out my Christmas cards. If I send out a Christmas letter, I write it then. Within the next couple of days, I mail out my cards with joy, rather than the hurry-up-let's-get-this-over-with anxiety that plagues pre-Christmas card-senders. If I'm not home for Christmas, then I get the cards ready for mailing the next day. So if you receive a Christmas card from me shortly after Christmas, it's not late. It's right on time!

I like the idea of Christmas starting instead of ending on

December 25th. We usually don't celebrate our own birthdays until the day they occur or later. So why do we, in effect, celebrate Jesus Christ's birthday (Nativity) so long in advance? Christmas trees and outdoor decorations could still be put up ahead of time. However, they don't have to be turned on until Christmas Eve. After all, no one would light the candles on a birthday cake two months before the birthday party.

It doesn't take much effort to make these changes, but it does feel weird at first. Yet it's not a matter of bucking the establishment. It's really all about getting things back into perspective. And it just makes sense.

Our society has come a long way from St. Ephraim the Syrian's statement about the significant twelve-day period between Christmas and Epiphany. However, I question our ultimate destination. We seem to proclaim Christmas earlier and earlier as time goes on. Focusing our celebration of Christmas after December 25th could help us do that.

The Twelve Days of Christmas became important to western Christians many centuries ago. However, this period ultimately degenerated to become filled with superstitions, fear, and other negative elements. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," was used to teach spiritual truths, then it, too, degenerated, becoming a cute folk song. From now on let's limit the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle. Let's use the real "twelve days" - between Christmas and Epiphany - to pull away from the over commercialization of Christ's Nativity. Let's start making the Twelve Days of Christmas something special and joyful - a real celebration of Christ's birth - for us in America and for our children. We will be glad we did.

### **MEDITATION**

As you prepare for Christmas, keep in view the central purpose of Christmas which is to welcome the Lord Jesus in the world, the Church, our family and personal lives. Take sufficient time to pray and to give a spiritual orientation to all your practical preparations. For example, on Saturday evening prior to the Feastday of the Forefathers or on Sunday, open up your Old Testament and read about the life of at least one of the Forefathers such as Abraham (Genesis Chaps 12-22), Ruth (The Book of Ruth), or David (2 Samuel Chaps 5-7). If you have small children tell them or read to them about Noah (Genesis 6:9-8:22), or Joseph and his brothers in Egypt (Genesis Chaps 42-45), or Daniel and the three young men (Daniel chaps 3 & 6). As you build up a spiritual foundation with the Lord's help, all the practical preparations for Christmas also gain a deeper significance. You might consider making such reading from the Bible, alone or with your family, a goal for the New Year.