

To the Honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved brethren and blessed children in the Lord,

Today, the glorious feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ shines forth and brings joy to all of creation. The sacred hymnography and iconography of the Church provide words and images to help us interpret the light-filled feast that we celebrate on this day, when He Who *“has adorned the vault of heaven with stars has been well pleased to be born as a babe,”* and He Who *“holds all the earth in the hollow of His hands is laid in a manger of dumb beasts.”*

Holy Tradition offers us the account of the universal hush that took place at the incarnation, expressed in Joseph’s encounter with the stillness of the natural world: birds hanging motionless in flight, men and beasts frozen in their tracks and the waters ceasing their flow. The continuous passage of time

and movement of history came to a halt as creation paused in astonishment as the Eternal enters into the heart of time and the pre-eternal God is born as a little child.

This miraculous moment may be unique in history, but it provides us with some inspiration for the manner in which we ought to receive the sacred mystery that we celebrate today. The Apostle Paul writes: *“Be ye thankful”* (Colossians 3:15) and *“In everything give thanks”* (I Thessalonians 5:18). It is in this spirit of gratitude that we should receive this feast.

We live in a world in which the offering of thanksgiving has become a scarce commodity and a rare virtue.

In almost every aspect of our human existence, it seems that our first instinct is not to give thanks, but rather to reply, to respond, or to react. At every second of our waking, we are compelled to reply to emails, to texts and to posts. Daily, we respond to our own passionate desires, to every perceived threat and to every offense, and we are drawn to react to every instance of human fallenness, political division and ecclesiastical conflict.

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon Nativity of Christ 2018 Christ is born! Glorify Him!



While it may be easier to blame the world for these challenges, we should remember that it is from within our hearts that our actions and attitudes spring forth. We may long for perfection, but we are confronted by our own weaknesses. But even here we should remember, as Saint Barsanuphius reminds us, that thanksgiving intercedes before God for our weaknesses. Thanksgiving is not the crown of the perfect but the strength of the weak.

Thanksgiving is what allows us as broken, sorrowful, hurting and frail human beings to join our voices to the rest of creation in singing:

*Make glad, O ye righteous; Greatly rejoice,
O ye heavens; Ye mountains dance for joy.
Christ is born; and like the cherubim the
Virgin makes a throne, Carrying at her bosom
God the Word made flesh. Shepherds
glorify the new-born Child. Magi offer the
Master gifts. Angels sing praises, saying: “O
Lord past understanding, glory to Thee”
(Praises at Matins).*

Sincerely yours in the new-born Christ,
+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector



Sunday, December 23, 2018

14:16-24

Tone 5 Gospel: St. Luke

Epistle: Colossans 3:4-11

**30th Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday before Nativity / Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete**

December Bulletin Sponsor: Joe & Valerie Schutt
Christmas Greetings to Fr. Andrew & all the parishioners

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Tuesday, December 25

9:35 am: Hours

10:00 am: Christmas Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 29

4:00 pm: Great Vespers

Sunday, December 30

9:05 am: Third & Sixth Hours followed by D.L. / social

VIGILS- DECEMBER 16

Sandy Martin (1) Special intentions

David & Roddie Mazurik (5) special intentions

Twarek family (7) Health and recovery of Kristi Cla-
baugh, In memory of Jean Kokinda, Safe travel for
family and friends, Health of Todd, Alisha and Eve-
lyn, Heidi, Steve, John, Stella, Diane, Mike, Greg,
Julia, Ron, Gage, Judy, Margi, Joe, Nancy, Sue, Mor-
gan, Jake, Helen, Ruthe, Janice, Special intention,
Special intention, Special intention

CANDLES / BULLETIN SPONSORS OFFERED FOR DECEMBER

Bulletin Sponsor: Joe & Valerie Schutt: Christ-
mas Greetings to Fr. Andrew & all the parish-
ioners (\$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

VIGILS- DECEMBER 9

Marguerite Bird (1) Special intentions

Basil Glovinsky(1) Birthday blessings to Mary,
Many, many years!

Susan Guzy (2) for health of mom, in loving
memory of Aunt Mary, Veshnaya Pamyat

Laura Kovach (2) for health of Joe, Margi, Greg,
Dana, Jessica, Stella, Birthday blessings to Tina
and Ben

Sandy Martin (1) Special intentions

David and Roddie Mazurik (5) 2 for health and
blessings, 2 for safe travel, 1 for our neighbor
who was incarcerated for being different

Diane and Mike Tryon(2) Birthday blessings to
cousin Mary, many, many, many more, health to
son Greg

Twarek family (5) Birthday blessings to Tina,
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

Basil Glovinsky: Altar candles for December \$50 in
loving memory of my sisters and brothers

Dorothy Poggali 7 branch lambada for Christmas. In
loving memory of parents Sophia and Peter
Monak who are deeply missed and deeply loved.
Blessings to sisters Ruthe Flewelling and Janice
Timko

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

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

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Prayer List (Updated December 21)

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.

Church basement cleaning

Volunteers are needed to help clean the church basement in preparation for events planned for early January--the Holy Supper on Jan. 5 and the lunch following the Blessing of Lake Erie on Jan. 12.

I KNOW IT IS A VERY BUSY TIME OF THE YEAR, but please consider spending some time in the hall cleaning and rearranging things.

There is a long list of tasks that need to be done. It is posted on the hall bulletin board and I have highlighted items that I think have priority. Please cross them out as they are completed.

Thanks everyone!
--Bobbie Royhab for the Holy Assumption Sisterhood

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)



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)

Sunday, December 16

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 25 (19 members; 1 non member regular; 5 children; 16 Communicants; 9 Attended Vespers)

TOTAL INCOME: \$1,287.39 (\$868 Sunday offering ; \$50 Special Collection Hospice; \$74.39 Bookstore; \$195 Christmas Flowers; \$60 vigils; \$20 candles)



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



(If anyone would like to help defray the cost of the Christmas flowers, and have 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.

Mike & Diane Tyrone: (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

Basil Glovinsky: (3 Flowers)

- For the repose of the Glovinsky, Monak and Kaperak Families

Fr. Andrew: (9 Flowers)

- For the health of all my family & friends
- For the health of the Marblehead Police and Danbury & Summit, IL 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

Greg & Natalie Twarek: (3 Flowers)

- For the Health of family & friends
- In Loving memory of parents, grandparents & God-parents
- Departed Family & friends

Kristina Kovalik: (1 Flower)

- In loving memory of her mom Anna

D E C E M B E R

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

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.



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.

Faith & Family Night at the Toledo Walleye:

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!



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

"Thank You" Letters

Dear Fr. Andrew and parish members,

Thank you, very much for your continuous support by volunteering and / or financial and food contributions to the Ottawa County Holiday Bureau.

You made it possible to help support this project for Danbury Township. In 2018 we were able to help 91 families (293 individuals) in Danbury Township.

Wishing all of you a Blessed Christmas Season and New Year.

If you have any questions please call me at 419-732-2333.

Judy Smolk
Ottawa County Holiday Bureau
Danbury Township

To Father Bartek and all the members of the Holy Assumption Orthodox Church,

I want to thank you for your generous donation to support supervised visitations for children who have been removed from their homes through no fault of their own. We are the only agency providing these services to the children of Ottawa County.

This year, we are celebrating our 10 year anniversary of helping children stay connected to their families when they have been moved out of their homes to ensure their safety. To date, we have provided children and families with over 14,500 hours of family time. Family time is so very important to these children, not only for their emotional health, but also for their physical health.

These children don't understand adult issues such as mental health issues, domestic violence, addiction and poor parenting skills. They don't realize their situation may be unsafe for them. These children just want to see their parents and Joyful Connections makes that possible for them.

Without your generous donation, we would not be able to provide for these children. Your support has made the lives of these children brighter and happier. On behalf of the children, I thank you for your generosity and your kindness.

Sincerely

Sheila Powell, Executive Director
Joyful Connections

Dear Fr. Andrew and faithful parishioners:
Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be Forever!

"We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thesalonians 1:2-3).

"What is a Seminary?" Is a question I have been pondering in my first few weeks here at our beloved St. Tikhon's. Our commitment is to be traditional and patristic, the sacred ground on which young men are trained to be the next generations of Priest-Pastors in the Orthodox Churches here and throughout the world. A seminary is a place, linguistically speaking, which sows seed. We make every effort in our liturgical life, in our classrooms, in community service, in our refectory, and in our free time, to sow seeds of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What is needed for this sowing of seeds? Students to learn, teachers to teach, sufficient space in which to do so, and philanthropists-lovers of mankind-to support our efforts.

You are those philanthropists, an imitation of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are the ones who have opened your God-given treasures, to share with us the means of forming the next generation of clergy, the next generation of choir directors, the next generation of lay leaders.

For your generosity, we thank you. As we pray in St. Basil's liturgy, "for your earthly, temporal, and corruptible gifts, may the Lord Grant you heavenly ones, eternal and incorruptible."

Thank you for hearing our call for support, and thank you for answering the call!

Allow me to invite you to come and see all the good that God is doing at St. Tikhon's. I would love for you to behold it with your own eyes.

Yours gratefully, in Christ Jesus

Fr. John Parker, Dean
Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary

