

# Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector



Saturday, March 7, 2021

Tone 6

Gospel: St. Matthew 25:31-46

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Sunday of Meatfare / Sunday of the Last Judgment

The Holy Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Capito, Eugene, Aetherius, Elpidius, and Agathodorus

MARCH Bulletin Sponsor:

By Father Andrew, In memory of my ordaining Bishop, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

## Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, March 7

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Swearing in of Officers /Meatfare Social (potluck)

Tuesday, March 9

6:30 pm: Council Meeting in Church Basement

Wednesday, March 10

Noon: Akathist Hymn / Confessions

Thursday, March 11

6:30 pm: Lions Club meeting

Friday, March 12

8:00 pm: Virtual Akathist Hymn from Mogadore w/message from the Archbishop

Saturday, March 13

4:00 pm: Great Vespers / CHANGE CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR TONIGHT

Sunday, March 14

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Pot Luck social followed by Forgiveness Vespers

(NEW NOTE): You must let Fr. Andrew know if you want to attend any service.

## PRAY FOR OUR NEW CATECHUMEN

Austin

May God & the Holy Spirit guide him in his journey in the Orthodox Church and the Orthodox way of Life.



110 E Main Street, Marblehead, OH 43440  
[www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org](http://www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org)

## TENTATIVE READERS

Sunday, Mar 7	Terri
Sunday, Mar 14	Tim
Friday, Mar 19	Terri & Tim
Saturday, Mar 20	Tim
Sunday Mar 21	Terri
Wednesday, Mar 24	Tim & Terri
Thursday, Mar 25	Natalie
Saturday, Mar 27	Tim
Sunday, Mar 28	Tim
Wednesday, Mar 31	Tim & Terri

## MARCH CANDLE & BULLETIN SPONSORS

- Bulletin: (\$50)** Fr. Andrew in memory of Metropolitan Nicholas, my ordaining Bishop
- Chandelier: (\$50)** Diane Tryon in loving memory of her father on his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- Altar Candles: (\$50)** Fr. Andrew in memory of his father George on the occasion of his birthday
- Candles on the Tomb: (\$25)** Fr. Andrew in memory of my deceased relatives & Pani Jeanette
- Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25)** Terri in memory of her dad John on occasion of 15th anniversary of repose

## 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

- March 7:** Archimandrite Alexander [Cutler] / Jane / William Alber / Anna Schofield
- March 14:** Two FBI agents killed in FL / Mitred Protopresbyter Daniel Hiubiak
- March 21:** Christopher Ghareeb / Clay / John / Mary / Michael
- March 28:** John Richard Elchisco
- April 4: Police officer killed in LA / Jerry

Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747  
[info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org](mailto:info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org)

**JANUARY 2021: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY**

**Goal Pledged per month: \$4,825**

**Sunday, Feb. 7:** \$4,880

**Sunday, Feb. 14:** \$1,230

**Sunday, Feb. 21:** \$1,165

**Sunday, Feb. 28:** \$1,560

**TOTAL FOR MONTH:** \$8,835

**JANUARY, 202: OTHER INCOME**

**Goal for the month in this category: \$2,670**

**Sunday, February 7:** \$115 candles; \$270 Vigils; \$525 in Holy Day donations; \$50 Bulletin; \$50 Chandelier; \$25 Candles on the Tomb

**Week Total: \$1,035**

**Sunday, February 14:** \$45 Candles; \$55 Vigils; \$155 Holy Days; \$100 Chandelier; \$200 Donation

**Week Total: \$555**

**Sunday, February 21:** \$20 Candles; \$140 Vigils; \$230 Holy day donations; 50 Altar Candles

**Week Total: \$440**

**Sunday, February 28:** \$45 in Candles; \$85 Vigils; \$280 Holy day donations

**Week Total: \$410**

**Month Total to date: \$2,440**

**RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS RECEIVED**

**Sunday, February 7:** \$750 Building Fund; \$150 Cemetery; \$100 Flower; \$175 in Food Pantry; \$10 Halupki Festival; \$250 Catastrophic Fund; \$150 St Herman's House Special Collection

**Sunday, February 14:** \$20 St Herman's house

**Sunday, February 21:** \$25 Building Restoration; \$100 St Herman's House (Special Collection)

**Sunday, February 28:** \$200 St Herman's House

**FINANCIAL MONTH'S TOTAL**

Jan.

Income: \$7,339.00

Expenses: \$8,630.25

**TOTAL FOR MONTH (-\$1,291.25)**

Feb.

Income: \$11,275

Expenses: \$7,600.16

**TOTAL FOR MONTH: \$3,674.84**

**YEAR TO DATE: \$2,383.59**

**VIGILS - FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

**Tim Glovinsky (1)** Birthday blessings for dad

**Susan Guzy (2)** Health & peace to mom; Special intentions

**Laura Kovach (4)** For healing of Joe, Andrew, and JC; For health of Betty, Ben, Julia, Andrea, Wendy, Mark, Dana, Bodhi, Wayne, and David; In thanksgiving for all good things; Special intentions.

**Sandy Martin (1)** Special intentions

**Jim Mazur (1)** Special intentions

**Diane Tryon (1)** Birthday blessings to Uncle Bill

**Twarek (8)** For God's grace and blessings on our country; In loving memory of Jonathan Walbert; Health and recovery of Ann Turinsky, Bob Snyder, JC Geisman; God's blessing to Cole; Health of Jewel and Morgan and their unborn babies; God's blessings and good health to Ezra Bottoms; Health and recovery of Jim, Cheryl and Laura; Health of Matt, Wayne, Tom, Ron, Mary, Loren, Joe, Sonya, David, Julia, Tom, Jason, Margi & Joe, Betty, MaryAnn & Bob, Judy, Chuck, Bohdi, Liz, Diane, Stella, Jake, Helen; Special intentions

**LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY 2021**

**Monday & Tuesday-** Services cancelled

**Saturday, Feb. 6:** 7 attended Vespers

**Sunday, Feb 7:** 12 attended Liturgy / 10 Communicants

**Wednesday, Feb. 10:** 4 attended Akathist

**Saturday, Feb. 13:** 7 attended Vespers (1 guest)

**Sunday, Feb. 14:** 13 attended Liturgy / 9 Communicants

**Saturday, Feb. 20:** 7 attended Vespers

**Sunday, Feb. 21:** 19 attended Liturgy (3 guests) / 16 Communicants

**Saturday, February 27:** 9 attended Vespers

**Sunday, February 28:** 14 attended Liturgy / 11 Communicants

# PRAYER LIST Updated 3-3

**HIERARCH'S:** His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman

**CLERGY:** John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Barry; Gregory Grivna; David Hanes; Emilian Hutnyan; Joseph Von Klarr; Vladimir Lecko; Peter Pawlack; Peter Tutko; John Zabinko / Deacon Paul Gansle

**MATUSHKII:** Pani Patricia Duranko; Virginia Lecko; Maura McCarntey; Snezanna Ruzic; Sonya Tutko; Margaret Zabinko

**PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES:** Jonah Adamcio; John Beadle (Elchisco); Kristen (Cassell Daughter); Maryann Cook (cousin to Twarek); Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Ben Grosik (Hritsko cousin); Julia Guzy; Joseph Habegger (brother-in-law Kovach); Ellie Hritsko (Aunt); Charisee (Hileman); Betty Kovach (Jim's mother); Terri Lariccia (Fr's cousin); David LaValle (Fr's cousin); Helen Lis (fr David's mom); Child Stephanos (Loizos); Jim Mazur; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); Katelyn Pipenur (Hileman niece); Earl Rindfleisch (Tina's dad); Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Roberta Royhab; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Patricia Schritzinger (Christi's mom); Steven Schirtzinger (Christi's brother); Christy Schutt (Joe's sister); Dacia Snider (Hileman); Christi Soski; Doris Toth (Hritsko cousin); Peter Truta (Jean's cousin); Diane Tryon; Greg Tyron; Tom Twarek; Tim; the child Bodhi (Grandson Cassell)

**OTHER REQUESTS:** Mark Britton (Hritsko); Joel Butcher (Son); Ernest Cornwell (Hritsko); James Crane (Hritsko); Baby Finn (Cassell); Child Ezra Bottoms; Bredan (Child from Norwalk); Marge Dziama Fr's Dziama's daughter (former pastor); Mary Dziak (Twarek); Ruthe Flewelling, (Former parishioner); Ben Franklin (Kovach); James Geisman (Twarek); Theodore Geletka (Choir director St. Michael's Broadview Heights); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Madelyn (Trudy); Elliot Joy (Former Police chief's son); Andrea Joy (Kovach); Ann Marie Krynock (Timko); Melinda Kuzara (Archbishop's list); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath (Fr's friend); Karen Muzyka (Fr's friend); Vitaly Muzyka; Charlie Nowak (Twarek); Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); Arby Shenesky (Pastor B. Daughter); Bob Snyder (Twarek); Gary Steyer (Twarek); Janice Timko; Philip Andy Timko; George Timko; Cheryl Wieber (Twarek); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Loren Welch (Fr's friend)

**MILITARY:** Alex, Nathan Brown, Craig Cassell, Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton

**CAPTIVES:** Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo), Archbishop John Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo, The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world



## BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming!

Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.

Please consider contributing generously to the *Building/Restoration Fund*.

## For Your Prayers

**Julia Guzy (97)**  
1601 Church Rd  
Marblehead, OH 43440

**Diane Tryon**  
109 Joslyn Street  
Arcadia, OH 44804

Please remember our shut-ins, especially now during this National crisis.

## Department of Liturgical Music Expands Important Resources

The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations is expanding offerings to support the liturgical life of parishes and missions.

Father Thomas Soroka, Project Manager for the Departments of the Orthodox Church in America, noted, “The DLM is committed to providing open access to free resources, ensuring that clergy and church musicians have the music and texts they need to sing the Divine Services. We are responding to numerous requests to equip parishes and missions with comprehensive and high-quality materials. We look forward to continuing to serve the needs of the Church.”

Newly posted resources include:

Complete rubrics for the upcoming Saturday evening/Sunday morning cycle of services. This will be expanded to include great and vigil-ranked feasts.

Horologion service texts (in progress).

Resurrectional Ochtoechos Troparia, Kontakia, and Dismissal Theotokia are now available in each tone in Thee/Thou and You/Your formats; “Lord, I Call” Resurrectional stichera for Saturday evening Vespers are available in both formats; Resurrectional Aposticha stichera for Saturday evening Vespers are in progress.

Ongoing production of Menaion troparia into Thee/Thou format.

Three settings of “Open to Me the Doors of Repentance...” have been added to the Lenten Triodion music page, under “The Publican and the Pharisee”.

Choir Director’s Preparation seminars for Great Lent and Pascha led by Dr. Vladimir Morosan.

Continued resources include:

Texts for liturgical services for every Sunday and many weekdays, including additional services for Lent—Sunday evening Vespers; Wednesday evening Presanctified; Friday evening Presanctified and Vespers alone, both of which include the materials for Saturday Divine Liturgy.

Planned resources include posting the available texts of the Octoechos, Menaion, Pentecostarion, and Triodion for year-round access.

The ongoing work and new projects of the Departments of the Orthodox Church in America support parishes and missions in their important ministries. Your prayerful financial support is needed to expand available resources. Go to [oca.org/stewards](http://oca.org/stewards) to learn how you can become a part of the Stewards of the OCA.



### What In the World Can Be Done with Magda? By Fr. Lawrence Farley

In discussions about hell and the sad fact that not everyone will be saved (as is clear from the words of Christ, the writings of His apostles, the consensus of the Fathers, and the consistent teaching of the Church throughout the centuries) one quickly encounters the objection that this teaching is too much to bear. Some affirm that the teaching is not only emotionally difficult and burdensome, but wicked, and perhaps even evidence of heartlessness. The poignant question is usually asked, “Could you stand the thought of your own child suffering eternally?” And the answer, of course, is, “No, I couldn’t”. But that doesn’t make the words of Christ any less true.

Rather than approach the matter from the painful perspective of one’s own child, let us approach it from another angle and look at the case of someone else’s child. We may frame the narrative like a fairy tale, though this fairy tale is a dark one, and does not, like some fairy tales, have a happy ending.

Once upon a time there was a couple whose names were Oskar and Auguste. They had a little girl whom they named Johanna Maria Magdalena. Everyone called her “Magda” for short. She lived in a world that was soon awhirl with exciting possibilities, opportunities, and temptations. People looking at her said that she was to be envied as she rose to prominence, money, influence, and fame, riding an intoxicating wave that took her ever higher. Those able to see somewhat into the mystery and murk of the human heart knew that far from ascending ever higher, she was in fact sinking ever lower. Down and down she went spiritually into ever more dangerous, mad, and suffocating places, but only God could see the true tragedy of her descent. *Con’t Next Page*

## ***MARCH Celebrations***

NAME'S DAY	BIRTHDAYS	
3-4: Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa 3-17: Archbishop Alejo of Mexico	1- Marilyn Calzone 2- Lori Batura 3- Tony Monastra 7- Tamera Blackford 8- Rachel Adamcio 8- Ruth Sheller 11- Jason Monschein 16- Paul Bojan	16- Claudia Zile 22- Ariana Holmes 23- Mason Monschein 26- Rachel Sumner 30- Bobbie Royhab 30- Fred Cassell 31- Greg Mazur

*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.*

### ***Fr. Lawrence Con't***

In the glittering world in which she lived and moved, she shone. Everyone knew her name. Everyone knew who Magda Goebbels was, the unofficial First Lady of the Third Reich, wife to Dr. Joseph Goebbels, the powerful Minister of Propaganda.

Fast forward through the shining glitter, the opulence, the refinement, and the champagne parties of her life. All too soon the badly lit, suffocating, and cramped space that was her inner heart became her exterior world as well. Her spiritual descent found literal and architectural expression in another descent as she moved from the sunlit world that God had made into an underground concrete bunker that the Third Reich had made. The music from the parties had died away, as had the singing from the exciting rallies at Nuremberg. Now the only sound was the incessant whine of the exhaust fan keeping air flowing through the bunker and the approaching sound of Russian guns.

It quickly became apparent to her that it was all over. She would never again live in the world she had come

to love. The world that was fast approaching would be a world without a triumphant National Socialism, a world in which swastika flags would not hang from every balcony, a world without Hitler, and for her, a world without hope. She could not bear the thought of her and her six young children emerging from the bunker to live in that world. She could not endure living a world without Hitler. Though urged to leave the bunker and allow her children to be smuggled safely out of Berlin, she refused. In a final letter to her adult son from a previous marriage, she wrote, "Our glorious idea is ruined and with it everything beautiful and marvellous that I have known in my life. The world that comes after the Führer and National Socialism is not any longer worth living in and therefore I took the children with me, for they are too good for the life that would follow."

Her will did not waver: on May 1, 1945 she had her six children drugged with morphine and then murdered with cyanide, and then took her own life. When the Russian soldiers finally breached the bunker, they found only **Con't Pg 7**

## ***MARCH Reposed***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1- George Danchisen (2018)<br>3- Anna Stoyka (2018)<br>4- Andrew Mazur (2001)<br>6- Frank Guzy (2002)<br>11- Ella Mazur (1918)<br>13- Metropolitan Nicholas (2011)<br>13- Richard Michael Benya (1983)<br>13- George Malchisky Sr (1980)<br>17- Frank Holodnak (1961)<br>23- Eva Pondillo (2001)<br>23- Ella Mazurik (1985) | 23- Francis Mitchell (2008)<br>23- Barbara Ann Wasylenko (2017)<br>25- Pani Janette Moriak (1997)<br>25- David Chikerotis (2019)<br>29- Todd Pollack (2019)<br>29- Carolyn Woodward (2000)<br>30- John Rofkar (2019)<br>Michael Elchisko (1909)<br>Helen Millie (1910)<br>George Danchisen (1912) |
|---|---|

**CONNECT, PROBLEM-SOLVE, AND  
GATHER INSIGHTS WITH PARISH LEAD-  
ERS LIKE YOU**

Register Today!

When you serve the Church, are you joyful and invigorated? Or do you feel your service is a thankless, lonely, or overwhelming burden? As the body of Christ, we are called to encourage one another. To do this, we need connections!

Peer Learning offers you the opportunity to connect with other parish leaders like you to problem-solve, share best practices, gather insights, and celebrate successes.

The Pan-Orthodox Peer Learning program is for:

- Clergy
- Parish Council Presidents
- Church Treasurers
- Council Members and Ministry Leaders
- New or Emerging Leaders

Register today for a cohort that fits your schedule and leadership role. Each group will meet twice monthly, March through May, for at least one hour under the guidance of a trained facilitator. Before each meeting you will receive a short article, podcast, or video link related to the chosen topic as a way to kick-off the monthly conversation. After enriching discussion, each member will be encouraged to implement one take-away concept or practice. The cohort structure will keep us together, committed, and accountable as we strive to be faithful stewards in our leadership responsibilities.

Sample Topics include:

- Resilience - responding to change
- Communication strategies
- Engaging people in service
- Setting boundaries
- Conflict resolution
- Cultivating trust
- Good governance processes
- Financial audits
- Onboarding new leaders
- Running efficient meetings
- How to talk about money
- Aligning budget to mission
- Financial transparency
- Casting vision
- Avoiding burn-out
- Active listening
- Building consensus
- Succession planning

**NEW PEER LEARNING COHORTS  
BEGIN IN MARCH**

**Clergy**

2nd & 4th Thursdays - 8am PT / 11am ET

**Parish Council & Ministry Leaders**

2nd & 4th Thursdays - 5pm PT / 8pm ET

**Stewards & Treasurers**

2nd & 4th Fridays - Noon PT / 3pm ET

Choose a cohort that suits your role and schedule for monthly Peer Learning growth and support!

Please go to [OCA.org](http://OCA.org) to register

***CATASTROPHIC RELIEF FUND***

Purpose of fund: To provide some small financial assistance to a parishioner, family member or community member who has suffered a catastrophic event.

Funds will be offered at the discretion & blessing of the Rector and the discretion of the Board.

This money can also be used for outreach programs in the parish

Thank you and God bless!

**Subscribe to the OCA's new Telegram channel**

The Orthodox Church in America now has a Telegram channel. Please subscribe to our channel to receive regular updates and announcements from there, our website, and social media: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Go to [oca.org](http://oca.org) (National OCA website)



## *Fr. Lawrence Con't*

her charred corpse in the Chancellery garden with that of her husband, and down below, the limp corpses of their six children, dressed in their nightclothes, with ribbons still tied in the girls' hair.

Let us be clear about the lesson to be learned from this tragedy. The question to be asked is not "How should Magda be punished for her evil?" but rather, "What in the world can be done with Magda?" Magda Goebbels found the possibility of a life without Hitler and National Socialism too painful to bear. Living in that post-Hitler world was for her literally a fate worse than death. Life in that world would be agony, a ceaseless turmoil of tears and searing pain. That was why she murdered her children and took her own life.

Fast forward from this tumultuous age to the shining world of the age to come. What in that world can be done with Magda? In that world also there will be no Hitler, and the "glorious idea" that was ruined in 1945 along with "everything beautiful and marvellous" that she had known in her life will find no place there either. Instead, everywhere the Jew from Nazareth will reign supreme, and His face will illumine that world to its furthest corner. Magda would regard that world as an accursed place, for Hitler and the "glorious idea" of National Socialism will not simply be hated. For her it will be worse than that: as age succeeds sunlit age, Hitler and National Socialism will be utterly forgotten, left behind, like a disease which had long ago found its cure.

The question must be faced: if Magda could not endure living in a post-Hitler world, if she would have found that world too painful to bear and a fate worse than death, how would she regard living in the sunlit world of the age to come? Such an existence would be for her worse than a fate worse than death. If a post-Hitler world would be too agonizing to endure, what would her pain be in this world?

This is where the pains of hell find their source. God did not create a subterranean torture chamber to punish the lost for their sins. The pain suffered by Magda Goebbels in that age will not come from the hands of Jesus, but from the heart of Magda. God is love, and His offer of light and joy stands before us now like an open door. Anyone can look to Him and be

radiant (Psalm 34:5), anyone can emerge from their own darkness and hear the music of heaven which thunders like a mighty flood, praising the Lamb upon His throne (Revelation 5:11-12). But Magda (in my fairy tale) has shut her eyes to the light, refusing to see anything but the swastika flag flapping triumphantly in the breeze. She has stopped her ears, refusing to hear any song but those that were sung at the Nuremberg rallies. What in the world can be done with Magda?

In the age to come, there will nothing that she would regard as glorious, beautiful, or marvellous. Life in that world will for her be nothing but agony. She therefore refuses to live in that world, even as she refused to live in this one. She refuses to emerge from the cramped and suffocating bunker that is her own heart. She locks and bars the gates to a world that she hates, and insists on remaining safe from it, trapped forever in the security of the darkness that she herself has created. Entreaties from Christ, from His Mother, from St. Paul, from Fr. Lawrence, from Dr. Hart, are all in vain. She is safe from all of us.

This is what sin does. For sin is not simply a misdeed. It is a fire, a flame that, however tiny it begins, eventually consumes everything. Everything good that Magda once was—her love for her children, her sense of humour, her courage under suffering, her loyalty to her friends—all has turned to ashes, burnt to cinders by the obsession that has gripped her and that she treasured. Now there is nothing left that Oskar and Auguste would recognize as Magda, their little girl. All her humanity has been burnt away, and now only rage and pain remain, a fire that gives no light.

We live in a world where actions and choices have consequences. That is what it means to be human. Those saying that the cost of living in a world where such consequences are possible is too high a cost are really asking to live in a non-human world, a world of machines running on programmes or animals running on instinct. But God made a world for men and women to live in, a world of consequences, a world full of invitations to joy. A tender soul will grieve for Magda, and since this is a fairy tale where we cannot truly know what was in her heart, we may pray for her as well, hoping that some small corner of her heart remained open to the light after all, and that she will choose to emerge from her fatal and suffocating obsession. It seems unlikely, given the bare facts of her biography, but we cannot know with absolute certainty. *Con't Next Page*

## 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Epistle)

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.



*Pray for us  
St. Patrick!*

### Prayer of St. Ephrem

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.  
*(Full Prostration)*

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.  
*(Full Prostration)*

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Full Prostration)*

O God, cleanse me, a sinner *(12 times)*.  
And recite prayer one more time.



## Fr. Lawrence Con't

What we can know is that such a tragedy is possible, for we live in a world of consequences, a world where choices count, a world made for joy. We must therefore choose wisely.

Ultimately we must face the question about what kind of world we have and what kind of world we want. Do we want a non-human world, a cosmos safe from such dreadful possibilities, even at the cost of excluding the possibility of joy and love? Are we saying that because Magda might choose misery over a world without National Socialism that God should never have created a world where choice and love are possible? That because Magda refuses joy none can ever have it?

Now is the time to bring our own children back into the equation. Should they never have been born with the possibility of knowing love and joy because some will refuse it? One may still insist, "The cost of freedom is too high. Because Magda will suffer for her refusal to live in a world without Hitler, no one, including your own children, may know joy. Better to have cosmos full only of machinery or animals than to have Magda eternally damned by her own refusal." Maybe that's the only moral option available. Maybe our children should never have been created because the risks are too great and Magda's fate is too terrible. But then who's the heartless one now?



### Archbishop Paul's Travel Schedule: February 8 to March 7

**Ss. Peter & Paul, Lorain, OH,**

March 5th to March 7th, Meatfare Sunday

Fr. Basil Stoyka to be awarded the St. John of Chicago Cross

**Holy Trinity Cathedral,**

March 13th to 14th

Sunday of Forgiveness, Forgiveness Vespers  
Beginning of Great Lent

**Ss. Peter & Paul Cathedral, Detroit, MI,**

March 19th to 21st



## Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel)

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eter-

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

## Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment Commemorated on March 7

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

## FISH FRY

St. Mary's Byzantine Church in Marblehead will be holding a fish Fry on Friday's from 4-6pm for take out only at the church during their Great Fast.

Menu: Breaded Perch & Tartar Sauce, Cole Slaw, Cheesy Potatoes & a roll (The last 3 fish fry's will occur during our fast. Just tell Restaurant & they will substitute the dairy portion of the meal)

Cost: \$12 and will be provided by the Latitude Cafe.

Bakery Available for purchase. / Raffle Basket tickets also available for sale.

Pre-orders only. Call Restaurant @ 419-702-7004 If no answers leave a message with name & # of dinners. Deadline is always noon on Thursday.

Place order with restaurant but pick dinners up at the church.

**Dinner Dates:** March 5, 12, 19, 26, 31

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### How Do We Become Strangers to God?

*COMPASSIONATE ONE, I COME BEFORE YOU LIKE THE PRODIGAL SON: FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE ABANDONED YOU, AND NOW YOU ARE A STRANGER TO ME. RESTORE TO ME THE FIRST LOVE WHICH I WASTED, LORD; RECEIVE ME IN REPENTANCE AND SAVE ME! (Matins Tone 4 Praises Verse, Prodigal Son)*

In the parable of the Prodigal Son we just heard last Sunday, we were told of a son who made himself a stranger to his father. Notice, the father did not make himself a stranger to his son. Even in a faraway country where he was eating the food of swine, he remembered the love and care of his father. His father was there with him as he ate the food of the swine. The presence of his father allowed the son to remember his father and his home. This enabled the son to return home to and to confess that he was not worthy to be called his son. He asked if he could come back as a worker, a servant or a hired hand. His father had begun to run to him even before the son could say anything. The following canon verse says it all:

“Open Your arms, O Christ, and receive me in loving kindness as I return from a far country of sin and passions.” (Ode Three Verse, Canon of the Prodigal Son)

This parable can be a source of encouragement to families. There is no sin that is so great that cannot be forgiven. So, it is very important for parents to call upon the grace of the Holy Spirit to make them icons of this father that is not only willing to forgive, but to rejoice and throw a party for the son who returns home. Is this father rewarding his bad behavior? No, he is celebrating the fact that his son has found himself and has returned to his first love

We live in such a condemning, judgmental world, where cancel culture lives in both realms of the political spectrum. We are in need of the humility of this prodigal son and the great mercy of his father. Let us not be like the older son, who stayed home where he became fixated and stuck in a pool of anger, judgment and condemnation. This is sad, because he was obedient and did all that he was supposed to. He could not acknowledge his brother who returned home, referring to him as “this son of yours.” When he complained to his father, his father affirmed that all he (the father) had, belonged to his obedient son as well. As families seek to live out the reality of this parable in their daily living, let us not lose sight of the fact that the Lord wants to rejoice over our repentance and not focus on our wrongdoings.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,  
With love in Christ, Archbishop Paul

