

# Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector



Saturday, March 21, 2021

Tone 8

Gospel: St. John 1:43-51

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

Sunday of Orthodoxy. St. James (Jacob, Iago) the Confessor, Bishop of Catania  
St. Cyril, Bishop of Catania

## MARCH Bulletin Sponsor:

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

### *Liturgical & Events Schedule*

#### Sunday, March 21- Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Memorial Sunday / Please bring Icon from home for Procession of Icons

#### Monday, March 22

Noon: Lenten Prayers / Confession

#### Tuesday, March 23

Noon: Lenten Prayers / Confession

#### Wednesday, March 24

6:30 pm: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy / Lenten Social (Fast from 1:00pm)

#### Thursday, March 25

9:30 am: Vespers Divine Liturgy for Feast of the Annunciation

#### Friday, March 26

6:30 pm: Akathist to the Theotokos

#### Saturday, March 27

9:15 am: Hours followed by Memorial Divine Liturgy  
4:00 pm: Great Vespers

#### Sunday, March 28

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy

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

*The Daily Lenten prayers will not be any particular service. They will be prayers taken from several Lenten services. They will last about an hour or so but if you can't stay, leave when you must.*



## 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)** Teri in memory of her dad, John, on occasion of 15th anniversary of repose

## APRIL CANDLE & BULLETIN SPONSORS

**Bulletin: (\$50)** Fr. Andrew for his God-father Andrew & grandfather Matthew  
**Chandelier: (\$50)** Open  
**Altar Candles: (\$50)** Fr. Andrew in memory of my mother & deceased relatives in April  
**Candles on the Tomb: (\$25)** Open  
**Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25)** Open

## TENTATIVE READERS

Sunday Mar 21	Teri
Wednesday, Mar 24	Tim & Teri
Thursday, Mar 25	Natalie
Saturday, Mar 27	Tim
Sunday, Mar 28	Tim
Wednesday, Mar 31	Tim & Teri

## MARCH 2021: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

Goal Pledged per month: \$4,825

Sunday, March 7: \$1,550

Sunday, March 14: \$1,200

### RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS RECEIVED

Sunday, March 7: \$25 Special Collection Mother Maria (Diocesan)

Sunday, March 14: \$100 Special Collection Mother Maria (Diocesan)

### VIGILS - MARCH 14

**Laura Kovach (4)** For healing of Joe, Andrew, and JC; For health of Betty, Ben, Julia, Andrea, Wendy, Mark, Dana, Bodhi, Wayne, David, Brenda, and Mike; Safe travel for Michelle and Tom; Special intentions

**Sandy Martin (1)** Special intentions

**Jim Mazur (1)** Special intentions

**Royhab (2)** In loving memory of Randall Libb, Bobbie's brother; Healing for Mitch Hagmaier, Bobbie's nephew

**Diane Tryon (2)** In loving memory of Rick on his anniversary 3/13; In birthday memory of dad for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday 3/19. Memory Eternal.

**Twarek (8)** Health and recovery of Bob Snyder, JC Geisman, and Joey Batcha; God's blessing on Jewel and Scott and their newborn Schuyler; Health of Nikki and Stefani 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, Special intentions

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

Ron	President	(two year term)
Tim	Vice President	(two year term)
Laura	Treasurer	(two year term)
Teri	Secretary	(two year term)
Fred	At Large	(one year term)
Joe S	At large	(one year term)

Thank you for your willingness to serve God's Church. May He grant you many blessed years!

### LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH 2021

Wednesday, March 3: 6 attended Akathist  
Friday, March 5: 6 attended Akathist  
Saturday, March 6: 4 attended Vespers  
Sunday, March 7: 16 attended Liturgy / 13 Received Communion  
Wednesday, March 10: 6 attended Akathist  
Wednesday, March 10: 6 attended Akathist  
Saturday, March 13: 6 attended Vespers  
Sunday, March 14: 13 attended Liturgy (11 members / 1 guest / 8 communicants)  
Sunday, March 14: 12 attended Forgiveness Vespers (11 members / 1 guest)  
Monday, March 15:  
Noon 3 attended Prayers / 9 attended the Canon  
Tuesday, March 16:  
Noon: 2 attended Prayers / 9 attended the Canon  
Wednesday March 17:  
5 Attended Pre-Sanctified Liturgy / 9 attended the Canon

### MARCH 2021: OTHER INCOME Goal for the month in this category: \$2,670

Sunday, March 7: \$90 Candles; \$85 Vigils; \$255 Holy Day donations; \$50 Bulletin; \$50 Chandelier

**Week Total: \$530**

Sunday March 14: \$45 Candles; \$130 Vigils; \$50 donation; \$350 Holy Day Donation

**Week Total: 575**

**Month to date Total: \$1,105**

## PRAYER LIST Updated 3-18

**HIERARCH'S / CLERGY:** His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman / John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Barry; Gregory Grivna; Emilian Hutnyan; Joseph Von Klarr; Peter Pawlack; Peter Tutko; John Zabinko / Deacon Paul Gansle

**MATUSHKII:** Pani Patricia Duranko; Virginia Lecko; Maura McCarntey; Snezana Ruzic; Margaret Zabinko

**PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES:** Jonah Adamcio; John Beadle (Elchisco); Kristen (Cassell); Maryann Cook (Twarek); Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Ben Grosik (Hritsko); Julia Guzy; Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Mitch Hagmaier (Royhab); Ellie Hritsko (Aunt); Charisee (Hileman); Betty Kovach; Cooper Kowal; Terri Lariccia (Father); David LaValle (Father); Judy Leatherman (Royhab) Helen Lis; Child Stephanos (Loizos); Jim Mazur; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); Nancy Naiser (Royhab); Katelyn Pipenur (Hileman); Earl Rindfleisch; Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Patricia Schritzing (Soski); Steven Schirtzing (Soski); Valerie Schutt; Dacia Snider (Hileman); Christi Soski; Doris Toth (Hritsko); Peter Truta (Hileman); Diane Tryon; Greg Tryon; Tom Twarek; Tim; the child Bodhi (Cassell); Nikki Williams & her unborn child

**OTHER REQUESTS:** Mark Britton (Hritsko); Joel Butcher (Son); Ernest Cornwell (Hritsko); James Crane (Hritsko); Baby Finn (Cassell); Child Ezra Bottoms; Brendan (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); Gabriella (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); Pani Nicole & her unborn baby

**MILITARY:** Alex, Nathan Brown, Craig Cassell, Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton, Alena Grabavoy, Nicholas & Tikhon

**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.

## VIRTUAL LENTEN YOUTH RETREAT SPONSORED BY FOCA

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America are calling all Orthodox youth of different ages to participate in a Lenten retreat. The retreat entitled “Rediscovering Pascha After a Year of Pandemic” will be held on Sunday April 11, 2021.

Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky and Archpriest Benjamin Tucci will be leading the retreat for children grades K-12 . The main theme will be rediscovering Pascha while emerging from a long period of separation and isolation. The event boasts of the opportunity to see old friends, renew relationships, and create new friendships as one prepares for Holy Week and Pascha.

Attendance is free but participants must register to receive the Zoom Link. Click the link below to access the registration form online. (Link is on the Diocesan website.)

An opportunity for all. No one has to leave their homes. It is free. Please take advantage.



### 1st Saturday of Great Lent: The Miracle of the Boiled Wheat Commemorated on March 20

Today we remember the miracle of Saint Theodore the Recruit and the boiled wheat. Fifty years after Saint Theodore’s martyrdom, Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-

363), devised a plan to corrupt the Christians during the first week of Great Lent. He knew that Christians purify themselves through fasting, especially during this week (which is why it is known as Clean Week). Therefore, he ordered the Polemarch (military leader) of Constantinople to go secretly and sprinkle all the food in the marketplace with the blood of animals which had been offered in sacrifice to idols. Saint Theodore appeared to Archbishop Eudoxios in a dream, telling him to assemble all the Christians on Monday morning and tell them that they must not buy any food from the marketplace; instead they were to boil some kollyva and to eat it with some honey during that week. The hierarch asked Saint Theodore what he meant by kollyva. He replied, “Kollyva is what we call boiled wheat in Euchaita.” Thus the scheme of the idol-worshipping emperor was thwarted and the pious people were preserved undefiled during Clean Week.

Ever since the middle of the fifth century, the Orthodox Church has honored the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the Ambo, the Canon to the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by Saint John of Damascus, is sung. Afterward, kollyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The commemoration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent was established by Patriarch Nektarios of Constantinople (381-397).

The Troparion to Saint Theodore is quite similar to the Troparion for the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths (December 17 and Sunday Before the Nativity).<sup>1</sup> The Kontakion for Saint Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see 1 Thessalonians 5:8).<sup>2</sup>

Saint Theodore the Recruit is also commemorated on February 17.

<sup>1</sup> The term “water of rest” comes from Psalm 22:2 (LXX). It is also found in the Troparion for the Prophet Daniel (perhaps from Daniel 1:12). The Hypakoe (in Tone 2) for December 17 mentions that an angel “turned the furnace into a place of rest” for the Three Holy Children. In today’s troparion (and that of Feb. 17), we should not say sweet bread, because of the term “sweetbread,” which is made from unappetizing parts of animals.

<sup>2</sup> The term “breastplate” is an exact translation from the Greek. It is not a “shield,” or any other thing.

## ***MARCH Celebrations***

NAME'S DAY	BIRTHDAYS	
3-4: Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa 3-17: Archbishop Alejo of Mexico	1-Marilynn 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.*

### **John 1:43-51 (Gospel)**

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

### **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 diners. Deadline is always noon on Thursday.

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

**Dinner Dates:** 26, 31

## ***MARCH Reposed***

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

## WEEK TWO LENTEN REFLECTIONS

The Annunciation and Saint Mary the Mother of God (Theotokos)

The Mother of God, the Theotokos, the God Bearer: all these are names of the holy woman we thank for saying "yes" to God and for willingly becoming the Mother of His Son, Jesus Christ, when He took a body and became Man for our salvation. She was prepared for this from childhood, spending time around the Temple in worship and prayer, learning the ways of God. Her parents, Joachim and Anna, were devout, humble people who raised her in the same way.

But what Mary was asked to do was not easy, nor was it something she expected. So when the archangel Gabriel told her God's plan for her to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of the Most High, she asked him, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" (Luke 1: 34).

Still, she was ready to do what God asked of her, to trust Him, and so she answered, "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1: 38). But before he told her any of this, Gabriel said to her, "Do not be afraid" (Luke 1: 30).

Mary the Theotokos is the greatest of many people in the Bible who were called on to do something great, or to face something that was startling and unexpected. All of them were reassured and told not to be afraid, because sometimes it isn't easy to do what God asks! Here are a few other examples:

Deuteronomy 20: 1—When you go forth to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up out of Egypt.

Matthew 14: 26-27—But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

Matthew 28: 5-6—But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

Can we trust in God, as Mary the Theotokos did, even when facing something that might make us afraid? Psalm 46: 1-3 gives us some good words to remember:

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

What recent experiences all over the world have reflected these verses? Do you know of any examples of people who trust God, as the Theotokos did, even when their lives have gone through great and perhaps difficult changes?

The Theotokos' own words, in her song known as the Magnificat, tell us that any fear she may initially have felt is overcome by her joy. Look through the song in Luke 1: 46- 55, and pick out some of the words that reflect this joy.

### Lenten Reflections for Families from the Department of Christian Education

For each week of Great Lent, the Department of Christian Education (DCE) has chosen a saint who is commemorated that week, and whose life offers some points for reflection. Families (or anyone who wishes to) can read the brief account of the life, note the saint's connection to people or events in the Bible, and reflect on the questions and thoughts offered. Some of these saints are familiar; others perhaps less so. A general and very simple review of all six saints' stories is offered at the end.

Bible verses are taken from the Revised Standard Version; please have a Bible ready to look up passages. In the texts for each saint, suggested answers to some of the reflection questions are included. These can be shared after participants have offered their own answers.

The Department of Christian Education hopes this series of reflections will enrich the Lenten experience of families and readers.

**NEW: FIRST ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAI  
LECTURE, MARCH 23**

A Message from the Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary  
Archpriest John Parker:

Dear All,

I am pleased to announce our First Annual St. Nicholas Lecture, scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 7:00-8:30PM.

The Lecture is the spring coefficient to the October St. Tikhon Lecture, and is to be scheduled each Spring, on or around March 18, the Feast of St. Nicholas.

Our inaugural lecture will be given by His Grace, The Rt. Rev. Irenej (Dobrijevic), Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern America of the Serbian Orthodox Church. His Grace is an alumnus of St. Tikhon's. His Grace wrote his M.Div. Thesis on St. Nicholas, "Bishop Nicholas Velimirovich: A 1921 Mission to America."

The Lecture will be entitled, "St. Nicholas: His Last Years".

It will be live-streamed for the benefit of the wider world through our YouTube and Facebook pages.

Please mark your calendars for March 23, 7:00-8:30PM.

Glory to God for all things.

Your Servant in Christ,

Fr. John Parker



**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.

**Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)**

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**40 DAY REMEMBRANCE**

- March 7:** Archimandrite Alexander [Cutler] / Jane / William Alber / Anna Schofield
- March 14:** Two FBI agents killed in FL / Mitred Protospesbyter Daniel Hiubiak
- March 21:** Christopher Ghareeb / Clay / John / Mary / Michael
- March 28:** John Richard Elchisco
- April 4:** Police officer killed in LA / Jerry
- April 18:** Mat Sonya Tutko / Carol
- April 25:** Fr. Vladimir Lecko

## NEW PASCHA SCHEDULE THIS YEAR

Due to the aging population of our parish, I am going to try the following schedule for Pascha weekend. Please plan accordingly. Good Friday is a very holy day. Therefore, my recommendation is for children to stay home from school and adults stay home from work on Friday April 30th, Holy and Great Friday in order to spend the day in church. This year a maximum of 26 people allowed at any service unlike last year when we were not permitted to hold any services. Please let me know what services you will be attending.

### Great & Holy Friday:

Noon: (6<sup>th</sup> Hour) Royal Hours (following the service there will be light Lenten refreshments)  
(About 1.75 hours)

3:00 pm: Burial Vespers (About 1.25 hours) (Following the service there will be light Lenten refreshments)

5:30pm: Lamentations & Matins of Holy Saturday  
(About 1.5 – 2 hours)

All night Grave Watch: Sign up for 1 hour turns, or stay with me through out the night guarding the Tomb of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

### Great & Holy Saturday:

9:30 am: Akathist to the Life Bearing Tomb

3:00 pm: Akathist to the Resurrection

4:00 pm: Vespers Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday followed by the Nocturn Service. (Nocturn service: Christ comes out of the tomb & is placed on the altar)

### PASCHA:

7:50 am: Begin Procession outside

8:00 am: Resurrection Matins

9:05 am: (approximate time) Paschal Hours

9:10 am: (approximate time) Divine Liturgy

10:50 am (approximate time) Blessing of the Baskets)

11:00 am (approximate time) Agape Meal / Social  
(This will be the first time held at the parish.

“Agape” means “Love.” The “Love meal” is when the Spiritual family first breaks bread together before breaking bread with their personal family. Everyone eats a little from their Pascha baskets. Stay for as long or little as you wish. Currently, 8 people are interested. Please consider staying.

## 40 years since the repose of the first OCA Primate

March 18, 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the repose in 1981 of His Beatitude Metropolitan Ireney (Bekish), the first Primate of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church in America (OCA). When Metropolitan Ireney signed the agreement with the Church of Russia on autocephaly for the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America (popularly known as the Metropolia) and the the Tomos of Autocephaly was granted by the Patriarch of Moscow in the spring of 1970, he had already served as Primate of the Metropolia for nearly five years. He would continue his Primatial service within the Autocephalous Orthodox Church in America for seven years, until his retirement in 1977. He then lived quietly and humbly in retirement until his repose on March 18, 1981.

To commemorate this anniversary, the Office of History and Archives published a new, expanded biography of Metropolitan Ireney.

An enlarged photo gallery documenting his life can be found here.

Two key documents issued by Metropolitan Ireney during his Primacy of the American Church:

An appeal in December 1966 to the Primate of the Orthodox Churches worldwide to resolve the canonical disorder of Orthodoxy in North America.

Metropolitan Ireney’s report to the First All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America in October 1970.

Remembrances of Metropolitan Ireney written for the 20th anniversary of his repose, previously published in the 2001 OCA Sourcebook & Church Directory, are now posted online for the first time.

May the memory of Metropolitan Ireney be eternal!





## His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon meets with His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph

On Thursday, March 4, 2021, His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America welcomed His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon of the Orthodox Church in America to the headquarters of the Archdiocese in Englewood, NJ. The two hierarchs met and held a fraternal discussion on a wide array of issues of common concern. Above all they gave thanks to God for allowing them to meet in person for the first time since the pandemic, and for bringing them and their church through this difficult time in good health and safety. In the course of their discussion, they reviewed the work of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, and the state of Orthodox unity in America. They also considered the state of theological education, both the work of the seminaries and the late-vocations programs, and the pressing vocational challenge facing the Orthodox Church. The two primates also spoke candidly about the worrying polarization and extremism found both within the Church and in civil society. They pledged to work together and find common ways to address these issues within their churches.

They concluded the meeting exchanging prayers for each other and their churches at the outset of the Lenten journey to Pascha.

After their meeting, they released the following statement:

We have come through a year that has seen unprecedented challenges facing our communities and, indeed, society as a whole. The pandemic, growing political polarization, civil unrest, the rise of extremism, and economic anxiety have all contributed to test us within the Orthodox Church. While some of what has tested us is new, other things are as old as human history. In response to all of them, there is only one response, remaining firm in our faith in Jesus Christ, who alone is our Savior, and loving one another as he has loved us (cf., Jn 13:34).

We thank the faithful of our churches for their labors, their patience, their steadfastness, and their love during all that has transpired throughout this most difficult time. We also join together and mourn those whom we have lost in our churches, because of the

pandemic. May their memory be eternal!

We bemoan the political polarization within this country and within the Orthodox Church, and call all to remember that we are created, each of us without exception, in the image and likeness of God. We strongly condemn extremism and fundamentalism, whether in the Church or society, and call to repentance those who would perpetrate acts of violence or hatred against any of our brothers and sisters in our communities or in society.



### Archbishop Paul's Travel Schedule: March 8 to April 12

**Ss. Peter & Paul Cathedral, Detroit, MI,**  
March 19th to 21st  
Tonsure of Phillip Dage as Reader

**Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL,**  
March 24th to 25th  
Feast of Annunciation

**Protection of the Virgin Mary, Royalton, IL**  
March 27th to 28th

**St. John of Kronstadt, Lincoln, NE,**  
April 2nd to 4th

**Visits to SVS and STS Seminaries** to see students,  
April 5th to 8th

**St. Demetrius Church, Jackson, MI,**  
April 9th to 11th

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### **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

## Commemorating Saint Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn

When studying the Church's history, it is always uplifting to connect with significant figures by examining the original primary source documents they created that are preserved in the Archives of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). When a document was handwritten by a saint, it is all the more poignant.

The feast of Saint Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn on February 27, which is celebrated on the anniversary of his repose in 1915, provides an opportune moment to see and appreciate an intriguing document preserved in the clergy file of Bishop Raphael of Brooklyn in the OCA Archives.

This document is a letter dated December 17, 1914, just over two months before Saint Raphael's repose. It was addressed to Archbishop Evdokim, the newly-appointed ruling hierarch of the Diocese of the Aleutians and North America, who had received his appointment in July, but due to travel restrictions related to the outbreak of World War I, was delayed in traveling to his new see and was able to reach America only in May 1915. The original letter can be viewed [here](#); a translation follows below. The text, beautifully handwritten in flawless Russian, vividly illustrates the words which Saint Raphael used to describe himself: "I am an Arab by birth, a Greek by primary education, an American by residence, a Russian at heart, and a Slav in soul." Before coming to America, Saint Raphael had spent seven years in Russia, studying, teaching and serving as a deacon and priest. Less than a decade after his arrival in North America, he became the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated on this continent, assuming his see in Brooklyn as the second auxiliary to Saint Tikhon. His saintly spiritual labors among his flock and his fruitful missionary efforts culminated in his archpastoral service that reflected the unity of the ethnically diverse North American diocese of the Russian Church, which has since blossomed into the Orthodox Church in America.

The Church has the duty and honor to treasure and preserve such documents from the saints in its archival repository so that the holy legacy of these luminaries may continue to empower the Church's mission today, while allowing future generations to

connect with the saints through the study of these precious, original archival documents.

December 4/17, 1914

Your Eminence, Most Merciful Father and Archpastor

Clergy seated in second row, from left to right: Archimandrite Sebastian (Dabovich), Bishop Raphael (Hawaweeny), and Archbishop Platon (Rozhdestvensky)

Having recently returned from my five-month missionary journey throughout North America, I learned from my beloved brother in Christ, Bishop Alexander, that Your Eminence has been appointed Archbishop of Alaska and North America.

Therefore, as the second auxiliary bishop and as one of the senior missionaries of the American Orthodox Church, I consider it my sacred duty to offer to Your Eminence my heartfelt congratulations and to affirm from myself and on behalf of my entire Syro-Arabic flock in North America our heartfelt love and sincere dedication to Your Eminence.

In view of the presently transpiring war of God-saved Russia against ardent enemies of Slavism, Orthodoxy and Christianity, i.e. Germans and Turks, I am not only praying unceasingly to the Lord God to grant victories over all enemies to glorious Russia, that is beloved by me and our people, but soon after returning to my see in Brooklyn, I began fundraising for the Russian Red Cross Society among our Orthodox Syro-Arabs, and have as of today collected nearly a thousand dollars.

Beseeching your archpastoral prayers for my entire flock, I forever remain with unfeigned respect and sincere allegiance,

Your most merciful Eminence's most humble and most obedient servant,

(signed) Raphael,

Bishop of Brooklyn

Further info. On St Raphael can be seen on National OCA Website.