

# Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector



Saturday, April 4, 2021

Tone 2

Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Veneration of the Holy Cross / Ven. Joseph the Hymnographer  
Third Sunday of Lent

## APRIL Bulletin Sponsor:

By Father Andrew, for his God-Father Andrew

### Liturgical & Events Schedule

#### Sunday, April 4

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Social

#### Monday, April 5

Noon: Lenten Prayers / Confessions

#### Tuesday, April 6

6:30pm: Akathist to St Tikhon of Moscow / Confessions

#### Wednesday, April 7

6:30pm: Pre sanctified Liturgy No Social

#### Thursday, April 8

Noon: Lenten Prayers / Confessions

#### Friday, April 9

6:30 pm: Akathist to the Cross / Confessions

#### Saturday, April 10

9:15 am Hours followed by Liturgy / Confessions  
4:00 pm: Great Vespers / Confessions

#### Sunday, April 11

9:05 am Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Social

**(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.*

## APRIL CANDLE & BULLETIN SPONSORS

**Bulletin:** (\$50) Fr. Andrew for his God-father Andrew & for the health & recovery David Mazurik

**Chandelier:** (\$50) Laura in loving memory of her mother Margaret & Jim's brother Russell / Archpriest David Lis for Archpriest Andrew on the occasion of his birthday. May God continue to bless your ministry and may he always guard you from those who seek after

**Altar Candles:** (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of my mother on the occasion of her birthday & deceased relatives in April / For the health of His Grace Bishop Matthias on the occasion of his birthday and 20th Anniversary of consecration

**Candles on the Tomb:** (\$25) Fr. Andrew for his Grandfather Matthew

**Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** (\$25) Fr. Andrew for his deceased relatives in April

## TENTATIVE READERS

Sunday, April 4:	Teri
Wednesday, April 7:	Teri & Tim
Saturday, April 10:	Tim
Sunday, April 11:	Joe S.
Wednesday, April 14:	Tim & Teri
Sunday, April 18:	Tim
Wednesday, April 21:	Teri & Tim
Saturday, April 24:	Tim
Sunday, April 25:	Teri

## SOCIAL SPONSORS

Please sign the sheet in the vestibule for sponsoring any socials.

## SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR HOLY WEEK

Please sign up for readings & grave watching in the vestibule.

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

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



## MARCH 2021: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

Goal Pledged per month: \$4,825

Sunday, March 7: \$1,550  
Sunday, March 14: \$1,200  
Sunday, March 21: \$1,025  
Sunday, March 28: \$ 953  
**TOTAL FOR MONTH: \$4,728**

## RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS RECEIVED

Sunday, March 7: \$25 Special Collection Mother Maria (Diocesan)  
Sunday, March 14: \$100 Special Collection Mother Maria (Diocesan)  
Sunday, March 21: \$250 Special Collection Mother Maria; \$100 Food Pantry; \$25 Building Restoration; \$150 Catastrophic Fund  
Sunday, March 28: \$100 Cemetery

## 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**

Sunday, March 21: \$10 Candles; \$50 Vigils; \$230 Holy Day

**Week Total: \$290**

Sunday, March 28: \$75 Candles; \$70 Vigils; \$16 donation; \$205 Holy Day; \$50 Chandelier

**Week Total: \$416**

**Month to date Total: \$1,811**

## MONTH FINANCIAL'S YTD FINANCIAL'S

March

**Income: \$6,539**

**Expenses: \$17,043**

**TOTAL: \$10,504.26 / YTD: \$8,090.67**

**Note:** Big expense this month due to rectory bathroom renovation & tithing to Diocese of 3 months. We are good. We will make it up.

## 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  
Friday, March 19:  
2 attended Prayers / 10 attended Pre-Sanctified  
Saturday, March 20:  
8 Attended Liturgy / 6 attended Vespers  
Sunday, March 21:  
17 attended Liturgy / 13 received Communion  
Monday, March 22: 6 attended Prayers  
Tuesday, March 23: 3 attended Prayers  
Wednesday, March 24: 8 Attended Pre-sanctified  
Thursday, March 25: 5 attended Liturgy  
Friday, March 26:  
7 attended Pre-Sanctified / 7 attended Akathist  
Saturday, March 27: 4 attended Memorial Liturgy / 7 attended vespers with 1 being a guest  
Sunday, March 28:  
11 attended Liturgy / 11 Communicants  
Tuesday, March 30: 4 attended Akathist  
Wednesday, March 31: 9 attended pre-sanctified

## 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.

# PRAYER LIST Updated 3-31

**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; Charisee (Hileman); Betty Kovach; Terri Lariccia (Father); David LaValle (Father); Judy Leeatherman (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 Schritzinger (Soski); Steven Schirtzinger (Soski); Valerie Schutt ; Dacia Snider (Hileman); Christi Soski; Doris Toth (Hritsko); Peter Truta (Hileman); Diane Tryon; Greg Tyron; Tom Twarek; Tim; the child Bodhi (Cassell); Tim; Nikki Williams & her unborn baby; Pani Nicole Mihaly & her unborn baby (Father)

**OTHER REQUESTS:** Mark Britton (Hritsko); Ernest Cornwell (Hritsko); James Crane (Hritsko); Kenny Crane (Twarek); Baby Finn (Cassell); 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); 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 (Father); Karen Muzyka (Father); Vitaly Muzyka (Father); Charlie Nowak (Twarek); Sandy cafaria (Hileman); Bob Snyder (Twarek); Gary Steyer (Twarek); Janice Timko; Philip Andy Timko; George Timko; Cheryl Wieber (Twarek); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Loren Welch (Father); Sara (Jake); Amanda & 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.

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**Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)**

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.”As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”;

**VIGILS - MARCH 28**

**Susan Guzy (2)** 3/21 Health and peace to mom; In memory of Fran and Carole, 3/28 For health and continued recovery of David and strength and peace to Roddie

**Laura Kovach (4)** For healing and recovery of David and JC; For health of Betty, Ben, Julia, Andrea, Wendy, Mark, Dana, Bodhi, Wayne, and Brenda; Birthday blessings for Greg and Fr. Andrew; Safe travel for family, friends, and us.

**Sandy Martin (1)** Special intentions

**Jim Mazur (1)** Special intentions

**Royhab (1)** In loving memory of Judy Leatherman, Bobbie’s cousin

**Twarek (11)** Health and recovery of David; Health and recovery of Rebecca Mazurik; Health and recovery of Skye Craven; Health and recovery of Ron; In memory of Lee Waggoner; For God’s blessings and peace for Bob Snyder and family; Safe travel for Laura and Jim; For health of JC Geisman and Tyler Brown; Health of Nikki and Stefani and their unborn babies; God’s blessings, health and recovery to child Ezra Bottoms following heart transplant; Health and recovery of Jim, Cheryl and Laura; Health of Matt, Wayne, Tom, 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

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**3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross Commemorated on April 4**

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ’s redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. “He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both “the power of God and the wisdom of God” for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

## ***APRIL Celebrations***

<b>ANNIVERSARY</b>	<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
17- Matt & Brittany 20- Ron & Bobbie Royhab 4-30-2011: His Grace, Bishop Matthias of Chicago (Retired)	1-Shawn Lariccia 2- Fr. Andrew Bartek 4- His Grace Bishop Matthias 5-Fr. Herman Kincaid 5- Nicholas Schutt 6-His Grace Bishop Paul 10- Jean Hileman 11- Christopher Mihaly 13- Jennifer Heffernan 13-Margarita Leso 17- Natalie Twarek	18- Nancy Bunge 18- Diane Tryon 20- Nectarios Mihaly 22- Greg Tryon 23- Paul Demkosky Jr 24- Jim Mazur 24-Matt Lariccia III 27- William Jerome 27- Katie Cassell 28- Serena Byngton 29- Katie Twarek
<b>NAMES DAY</b> 4-22: Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit 4-25: Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia		
<p><i>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.</i></p>		

### ***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

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

**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

## ***APRIL Reposed***

1-Andy Basala (1982) (God-father) 1-Andreas Basala (1923) 1-Larry Twarek (2019) 4- Sophia Jump (2012) 4- Rose Bartek (1986) 4- Harry Flewelling (2018) 4- Matthew Kollar (grandfather) 6- John Sabol (2017) 7- Louis M. Benya (1976) 7- Mitered Archbishop Basil Dziama (1969) Former Pastor 7- Bob Mazur (2018) 11- Archbishop John (1982) 11- LaVerne Schutt (2014) 12- Helen Tomko (1989) 14- Paul Glovinsky (1978) 15- Stephen Brooks (2005) 16- Mary Wright (2005)	17- Lois Mazurik (1999) 22- Olga Belenky (1971) 22- John Beadle (1988) 22- Fred Millie (1996) 23- Anna Basala (1994) 24- Demasthony Ballan (1968) 24- Fr. Stephen Dutko (2009) 26- Margaret Mazur (1987) 26- Russell Kovach (1981) 28-Ann Kovalick (2018) 29- Olga Kollmeier (1972) 30- Anthony Hubicki (1977) Dolores Martin (1974) No Date Herb Hobson (2004) No Date Charles Rose (2015) No Date Michael Elchisco (1913) No Date Andrew Kopchock (1914) No Date Anna Onyock (1916) Mo Date
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## Are You Comfortable?

By. Fr. Lawrence Farley

Recently I was reading a foreign-language newspaper (well, the English part of it) and there was an article in it about the church. My eyes were first attracted to the article by a photo of an old priest in a stole, having a long white beard, and holding a prayer rope. The article accompanying the photo read as follows: “The monk priest Father A., came from (a foreign monastery) just before Pascha to hear confessions of the faithful. Many people are more comfortable going to confession with a priest that they don’t know rather than their own parish priest so Bishop B. organized for Father A. to travel to various churches across the country for that purpose.” This revelation caused my brain to stall out a bit, so that I had to read it again to make sure I was reading it correctly.

I will not comment on the particulars of the situation. But I do think it worthwhile to reflect on the idea that confession to our own parish priest makes us uncomfortable.

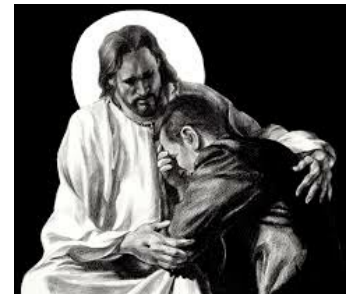
By anyone’s figuring, confession is not a sacrament calculated to increase our comfortable feelings, just as making a list of our sins is not calculated to give us the warm fuzzies. Going to Holy Communion on Sundays, or receiving sacramental anointing when we are sick can be a great comfort and solace, but no one that I know approaching the time when they make their regular confession says to himself, “Gee, I can hardly wait to tell my priest all the horrible things I have done.” There is of course the relief and blessing that come from receiving absolution, but that comfort comes at the end of the confession, not at the beginning. Let’s be honest: in many ways going to confession is like going to the dentist—you really need to go, and are glad that you went after it is over, but no one really looks forward to it.

Going to confession to one’s parish priest is only psychologically possible because one regards him as a father. Confession is usually made to one’s parish priest because Orthodox life is lived in a family called a parish, and the priest is the head of that family, functioning in it the same way that a father functions in any other family. A father is someone who loves and watches over and protects

us, and we can share the things that cause us shame because of that loving and watchful protection. The priest is not like anyone else in the parish, most of whom we would never dream of sharing our secret and shameful deeds. The priest is different. He is our papa, and as such we can allow ourselves to be vulnerable with him, such as we are in confession.

It is just here that going to another priest to avoid feeling uncomfortable with our own parish priest becomes problematic, for this refusal to be vulnerable with our parish priest interferes with our ability to treat him like our father. We want to see and interact with him on Sundays like we would with anyone else in the parish, smilingly confident that he will never know all the horrible things we have done. And this is problematic because when we refuse to treat our parish priest like our father, we do not treat the rest of the parish like our family. In the situation detailed by newspaper article mentioned above, the priest can sometimes become not the father of our family, but simply a paid functionary, one to whom respect (and money) is given, but a mere functionary nonetheless. And the group over which he presides becomes not our true family, but simply an association to which we belong, like the Lions Club or the Rotarians. It can be a good organization, even a holy organization, and one that does much good, but it is still simply an organization and not our family, for it does not give us our identity in the same way that a family does, even if we do sit on its board and derive social status from it.

So, it is okay to feel a little uncomfortable when we confess to our parish priest. We could, of course, avoid the discomfort and short-circuit the whole process of fatherhood and family by going to another priest whom we don’t have to look at every Sunday. Or we could cope with the discomfort by relating to the priest as to our papa. If Saint Paul is correct in describing the Church as household of God (1 Tim. 3:15), the second is clearly the preferred option.



**Rest of Saint Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts, Apostle to the Americas**  
**Commemorated on March 31**

Saint Innocent (Veniaminov), Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomensk (August 26, 1797—March 31, 1879), was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church on October 6, 1977. He was born in the village of Anginsk in the Irkutsk diocese. The Apostle of America and Siberia proclaimed the Gospel “even to the ends of the earth”: in the Aleutian islands (from 1823), in the six dialects of the local tribes on the island of Sitka (from 1834), among the Kolosh (Tlingit); in the remotest settlements of the extensive Kamchatka diocese (from 1853); among the Koryak, Chukchei, Tungus in the Yakutsk region (from 1853) and North America (in 1857); in the Amur and the Usuriisk region (from 1860).

Having spent a large part of his life in journeys, Saint Innocent translated a Catechism and the Gospel into the Aleut language. In 1833, he wrote in this language one of the finest works of Orthodox missionary activity INDICATION OF THE WAY TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

In 1859, the Yakut first heard the Word of God and divine services in their native language. Twice (in 1860 and 1861) Saint Innocent met with Saint Nicholas the Apostle to Japan (February 3), sharing with him his spiritual experience.

A remarkable preacher, Saint Innocent said, “Whoever abounds in faith and love, can have mouth and wisdom, and the heart cannot resist their serving it.”

Having begun his apostolic work as a parish priest, Saint Innocent completed it as Metropolitan of Moscow (January 5, 1868—March 31, 1879). He obeyed the will of God all his life, and he left behind a theme for the sermon to be preached at his funeral: “The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord” (Ps 36/37:23).

Saint Innocent is also commemorated on October 5 (Synaxis of the Moscow Hierarchs) and on October 6 (his glorification).

**40 DAY REMEMBRANCE**

**March 28:** John Richard Elchisco  
**April 4:** Police officer killed in LA / Jerry  
**April 18:** Mat Sonya Tutko / Carol  
**April 25:** Fr. Vladimir Lecko  
**May 9:** Herbert / State Trooper from MI / State Trooper from TX

**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. *(Full prostration)*



**Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)**

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

## 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. Reservations are required.

### 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.

## Upcoming Virtual Tour of the Holy Land

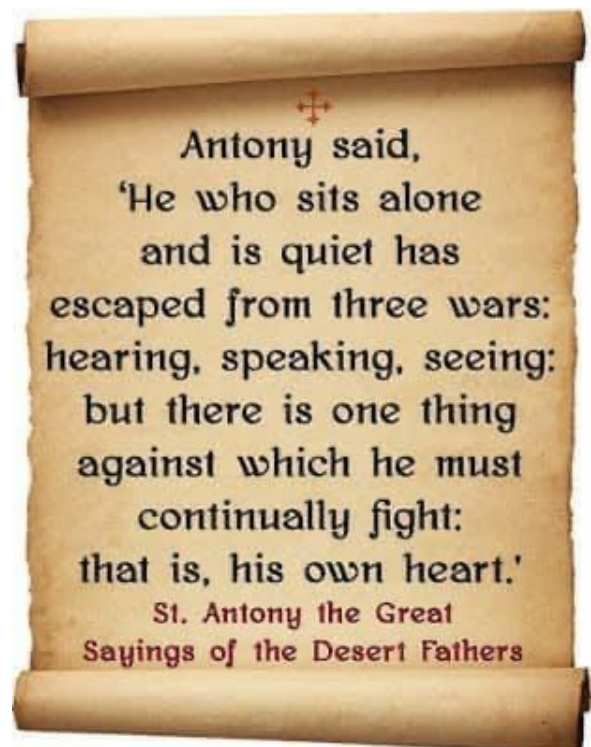
In anticipation of the coming days of Holy Week and our Lord’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will sponsor a virtual tour of holy sites in Jerusalem on Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 7:00pm (EST) via Zoom.

The tour will be led by Archpriest Ilya Gotlinsky, Rector of Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in Binghamton, New York. Fr. Ilya is the director of Orthodox Tours, an agency providing the opportunity for pilgrimage and travel to Orthodox countries and holy places around the world. Having led many trips to the Holy Land, Fr. Ilya has a wealth of knowledge to share.

To reserve your spot simply, the FOCA requests that a donation (tax deductible) be made on their page at Eventbrite.com. Once the donation is made, donors will receive a Zoom link via email.

All proceeds will benefit the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America’s United Fund — funding youth activities, scholarships, and the charitable outreach of the F.O.C.A.

Register on the Diocesan website





## Statement of the Executive Committee on the Proposed Equality Act

We, the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States of America, affirm that all human beings should be treated with dignity and respect, as all are made in the image of God. Indeed, the principle of human equality has its origins in Christianity and is enshrined in the Constitution of the United States, which rightly prescribes that every person must receive equal treatment under the law.

Consequently, we are deeply concerned about the proposed federal “Equality Act,” which would erode religious liberty for both individuals and organizations, including Orthodox Christian jurisdictions, parishes, and faithful. The supporters of this Act, in their desire to promote equality, ultimately infringe upon the religious liberty of Americans to live according to their faith – a right protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Throughout the United States, Orthodox jurisdictions and parishes have ministries, organizations, and facilities through which they provide many beneficial services to the public. All of these ministries, organizations, and facilities would be directly and negatively affected by the “Equality Act” as written. Furthermore, the expansive nature of the Act would affect the lives and careers of many thousands of religious people in America, including Orthodox faithful. All of this is in addition to the broader impact that the Act would have on American society, moving it further away from the traditional and normative moral and ethical foundations, as well as deepening painful divisions that already exist in the country.

As Orthodox Christian bishops, charged by our Savior Jesus Christ to shepherd His flock, we will continue to uphold and proclaim the moral teachings of the Church. We call upon all Orthodox Christians to remain firm in the Orthodox Faith. We also call upon our nation’s civic leaders to uphold, and not infringe upon, the religious freedom guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, and to continue to extend the protections afforded by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

## WEEK FOUR LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Saint Niphon, Bishop of Novgorod Saint Niphon was a monk of the Kiev Caves who lived in the tenth century. He served as the Bishop of Novgorod, located in northwestern Russia. Novgorod is Russia's oldest city.

The bishop knew how important it is for people to have a place of worship that is close to their homes and also beautiful, so as to glorify God. He had a new stone church built in the center of Novgorod, so that all the members of his flock could gather for services. He extended his efforts to oversee the construction and repair of churches in many places beyond Novgorod—it was one of the things he became known for.

Though building churches can be a fairly peaceful activity, it was not the only thing Saint Niphon was called on to do because Novgorod was not always peaceful. When war broke out between Kiev and Novgorod, he was able to step in and get the two cities to cease fighting. His ability to be a peacemaker was important to the citizens of both places. Civilians, those who are not directly involved in a war that is conducted in the place where they live, are always hurt and damaged by that war.

It was not only between Russian cities that the bishop found himself in the middle of conflict. He had to denounce a prince of Novgorod who wanted to enter into a marriage that was not according to the canons of the Church. Saint Niphon didn't pay with his life, as Saint John the Baptist did for denouncing the marriage of Herod to his brother's wife.

But it is never comfortable, and is always risky, for clergy to be forced into the position of having to oppose powerful rulers. They must be willing to stand for the teachings and rules of the Church no matter how much it costs them personally.

Saint Niphon's willingness to stand up for the Church was tested by another situation as well. He refused to serve with a monk who was consecrated to become the Metropolitan of Novgorod without the blessing of the Patriarch of Constantinople. This violated the tradition of the Church, but Saint Niphon was not able to convince the authorities that the consecration shouldn't take place. The Metropolitan, named Clement, was allowed to take his position. *Con't Pg 10*

## Miraculous Kursk Root Icon Visits Diocesan Cathedral for Feast of Annunciation

On Thursday, March 25, the great feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos was celebrated solemnly at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral. In addition to the observance of this holy day, those gathered for the service also had the blessing of venerating the Miraculous Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God.

The Vesperal Liturgy was led by His Eminence Archbishop Paul and concelebrated by Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, and Protodeacon Thomas Keith. Following the Gospel, Archbishop Paul delivered the sermon, teaching the meaning of the feast; "This feast day," he said, "is truly a marvelous day of celebration of our faith and particularly for giving us to understand that we are given a free will as human beings." The Archbishop went on to explain the importance of free will and the part that each of us plays in submitting our will, voluntarily, to God's will in order to unite ourselves to Christ, in fulfillment of our baptismal oath. "God revealed Himself to her and she said, 'Amen!' She consented of her own free will."

Throughout the service, the faithful came to venerate the holy Kursk Root Icon. The icon dates back to the 13th century. It is under the protection of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and resides in New York, NY. Currently, the icon is visiting parishes in the Midwest to strengthen Christians during the Great Fast.

Following the dismissal, Fr Alexander served a Molieben before the icon, praying for the Mother of God's intercession and blessing on the upcoming restoration work of the holy and historic cathedral. Toward the end of the service, to the ringing of the bells, Fr. Alexander processed with the icon around the cathedral and the faithful sang: "Most Holy Theotokos, save us!" Fr. Alexander then expressed his gratitude for the blessing of the icon's presence and noted the significance of having the icon present for the Feast.

"God is so good to us here at Holy Trinity [Cathedral]," he said. "He gives us this blessed Feast during this time of spiritual labor. But He has also sent His Holy Mother, through this Holy Icon, to encourage us and to bless our work of restoration to preserve this holy temple. The Mother of God is no stranger to this

temple. She has chosen this very spot to be a place where she works and has worked. From the time when the Tikhvin Icon was given protection here, to the various other miraculous icons that have been here, our Holy Mother continues to hear our prayers and to minister to us."

Holy Trinity Cathedral was built by St. John Kochurov and St. Tikhon of Moscow. The much needed restoration work will begin shortly to repair and paint the cracked stucco of the cathedral and rectory building, and to restore the signature metal work by Louis Sullivan.

The parish welcomes donations toward the extensive restorations. A GoFundMe page for such donations has been created and may be accessed here. Updates will be available on the cathedral website throughout the process.

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### *4<sup>th</sup> week reflection Con't*

He was so furious with Bishop Niphon that he had him put under house arrest.

In spite of all these troubles, Saint Niphon was able to return to the Kiev Caves Monastery to spend the last years of his life. He had a dream of Saint Theodosius, who is called the Father of Russian Monasticism, telling him his death would come soon. This kind of dream is considered a great gift, because it gives the dying person time to repent and to make peace with everything and everyone.

The saint's end was indeed peaceful, and came in April of the year 1156.

Read Luke 7: 1-5. In this passage, the elders of the Jews encourage Jesus to help a centurion. What do they say makes him worthy of Jesus' help? What does he have in common with Saint Niphon? (The Jewish elders say he is worthy of help because "he loves our nation, and he built us our synagogue." This centurion built a place of worship, just as Saint Niphon built and repaired many. The Church has always honored builders and caretakers of churches.)

Andrew Gould is a church architect and has worked on Orthodox churches and monasteries. He wrote about what an Orthodox church should be like in a pamphlet distributed by the Holy *Con't Pg 12*