

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector



Saturday, April 18, 2021

Tone 4

Gospel: St. Mark 10:32-45

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

St Mary of Egypt. / Ven. John, disciple of Ven. Gregory of Decapolis
Fifth Sunday of Lent

APRIL Bulletin Sponsor:

By Father Andrew, for his God-Father Andrew

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, April 18

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Memorial Sunday / Social / Council Meeting in the Church

Wednesday, April 21

6:30 pm: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 22

6:30 pm: Akathist to the Passion of Christ / Confessions

Friday, April 23

6:30 pm: Vespers for Lazarus Saturday / Final Day of Confessions

Saturday, April 24

9:15 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy
4:00 pm: Great Vespers for Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 25

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Social
6:00 pm: Bridegroom Matins for Holy Monday

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

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR HOLY WEEK

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

New Candle Sponsorship Opportunity

For \$15 each, the round candle stand by the Cross & by the Icon of St Tikhon can be sponsored in memory or honor of someone.

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 you to do you harm

Altar Candles: (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of my mother on the occasion of her birthday / For the health of His Grace Bishop Matthias on the occasion of his birthday and 10th 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

Candles at the Cross: (\$15) Fr. Andrew in memory of the matriarch of this parish Julia

Candles at St Tikhon: (\$15) OPEN

TENTATIVE READERS

Sunday, April 18:	Tim
Wednesday, April 21:	Teri & Tim
Saturday, April 24:	Tim
Sunday, April 25:	Teri

APRIL 2021: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

Goal Pledged per month: \$4,825

Sunday, April 4: \$893

Sunday, April 11: \$445

110 E Main Street, Marblehead, OH 43440
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Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747
info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org



RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS RECEIVED

Sunday, April 4: \$25 Catastrophic Fund; \$25 Liturgical Item donation; \$125 Mission Box
Sunday, April 11: \$28 Catastrophic Fund; \$50 Mission Box; \$20 Flower donation

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

Sunday, April 4: \$27 candles; \$115 Vigils; \$10 donation; \$200 Holy Day donations; \$50 Candles on the tomb; \$50 altar candles
Sunday, April 11: \$22 Candles; \$95 Vigils; \$50 Donation; \$95 Holy Day; \$50 Chandelier

VIGILS- SUNDAY APRIL 11

Laura Kovach (6) In blessed memory of Julia. May her memory be eternal; For healing and recovery of David and JC; For health of Betty, Ben, Julia, Andrea, Wendy, Mark, Dana, Bodhi, Brenda, Ben, and Trudy; In memory of Pam Franklin; Birthday blessings to Natalie; Safe travel for family and friends.

Sandy Martin (1) Special intentions

Jim Mazur (1) Special intentions

Diane Tryon (1) Birthday blessing to Natalie

Twarek (9) In loving memory of Julia; In loving memory of Mariah's grandpa, Hank; Health and recovery of David; Health and recovery of Rebecca & Skye; Health and recovery of Trudy; Health of Nikki and Stefani and their unborn babies; God's blessings, health and recovery to child Ezra Bottoms; Health and recovery of Ron, Jim, JC, Tyler, Cheryl and Laura; Health of Matt, Wayne, Tom, Mary, Loren, Joe, Sonya, Tom, Jason, Margi & Joe, Betty, MaryAnn & Bob, Judy, Chuck, Bohdi, Liz, Diane, Stella, Jake, Helen

LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL 2021

Thursday April 1- 2 attended Prayers
Friday, April 2- 5 attended the Akathist
Saturday, April 3- 6 attended the Liturgy / 8 total attended Vespers w/ 2 visitors
Sunday, April 4- 16 attended liturgy / 13 Communicants
Monday, April 5- 3 attended Prayers
Wednesday, April 7- 14 total attended Pre-sanctified w/ 3 visitors
Thursday, April 8- 2 attended Prayers
Friday, April 9- 5 attended Akathist
Saturday, April 10: 8 attended Liturgy / 6 attended Vespers
Sunday, April 11: 12 attended Liturgy / 11 Communicants
Wednesday, April 14: 8 attended Pre-Sanctified

VIGILS- SUNDAY APRIL 4

Susan Guzy (1) Health and healing to mom and 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; In memory of Connie Link; Safe travel for family and friends.

Sandy Martin (1) Special intentions

Jim Mazur (1) Special intentions

Diane Tryon (2) In loving memory of dad on his anniversary 4/7/76. Memory Eternal; Birthday blessings to Jeannie Beck 4/9

Twarek (9) Birthday blessing to Father Andrew; Health and recovery of David; Health and recovery of Rebecca & Skye; In memory of Bob Snyder; In memory of Connie Link; 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 Ron, Jim, JC, Tyler, 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

PRAYER LIST Updated 4-15

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; Protodeacon Edwin Aasen

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

PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES: John Beadle (Elchisco); Marguerite Bird; Kristen (Cassell); Maryann Cook (Twarek); Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Ben Grosik (Hritsko); Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Mitch Hagmaier (Royhab); Ellie Hritsko; Charisee (Hileman); Betty Kovach; Terri Lariccia (Father); David LaValle (Father); Helen Lis; Child Stephanos (Loizos); Jim Mazur; David Mazurik; 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 Schirtzinger (Soski); Valerie Schutt; Dacia Snider (Hileman); Doris Toth (Hritsko); Peter Truta (Hileman); Diane Tryon; Greg Tyron; Tom Twarek; Tim; the child Bodhi (Cassell); 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); Child Ezra; Baby Finn (Cassell); Marge Dziama Fr's Dziama's daughter (former pastor); 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); Robert Koncel (AB List); Ann Marie Krynock (Timko); Melinda Kuzara (AB List); Gabriella (AB List); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath (Father); Sandy Cafaria (Hileman); Janice Timko; Philip Andy Timko; George Timko; Loren Welch (Father); Sara (Jake); Amanda & her unborn baby (Father))

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 125th 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

Diane Tryon
109 Joslyn Street
Arcadia, OH 44804

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.

A New Direction for the Departments of the OCA

The Departments of the Orthodox Church in America have a long and fruitful history. When the OCA received her autocephaly in 1970, Orthodox resources in the English language were rare. The burgeoning OCA took her mission to be the Church in North America seriously, supporting parish ministries and Orthodox Christians with the development of much needed resources. The first half of the history of the OCA was met with an explosion of new and fresh materials. Towering leaders set their sights on equipping the parishes and the Church at large with exemplary offerings which endure even to this day.

Over the decades, the Departments have gone through various changes in names, structures, personnel, and projects. All of the individuals that have served in the Departments have done so out of tremendous love for Christ and the Church in the hope that the faithful would be well served by their efforts. As we look to the future, we must first look back in deep gratitude to all those who have selflessly served the Church in this way. We thank God for their productivity and vision which provides great inspiration for the work ahead of us.

As we look to the future, the Departments of the OCA are committed to taking a renewed approach to their work with the knowledge that a plethora of materials are now readily available to the faithful. There are dozens of Orthodox publishers providing thousands of books on every conceivable topic, Orthodox media outlets providing audio and video resources, Church musicians providing thoughtfully crafted music, and various jurisdictions and Church organizations continuing to provide Christian education materials. Therefore, the Departments must approach their work in the light of the realities of 2021 and beyond. As we continue to develop new ways of doing departmental work, our sole focus will be to provide essential resources and services which support the ministries of parishes and missions. These resources should also seek to fulfill the vision of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon as outlined in the document “Of What Life Do We Speak? Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church” along with the guidance and blessing of the Holy Synod.

The major change that has taken place in the departmental structure is the current elimination of Departmental Chairpersons. Instead, one head for all the Departments, the Project Manager of the Departments, will set the agenda for the production of needed resources, services, and materials. The Project Manager is tasked with seeking out talented and knowledgeable individuals who will serve as Project Leaders. The projects may involve one or numerous departmental areas. Projects may also be proposed by the clergy or faithful at large, the prime directive being the usefulness of the outcome to the entire Church.

The projects listed below are either completed, ongoing (meaning that they have been initiated and will continue), or are in production.

Department of Liturgical Music and Translations

COMPLETE: Basic Sight-Singing and Ear-Training Course for choir directors and singers who may be unfamiliar with basic musical concepts.

COMPLETE: Four webinars to prepare church musicians for the Pre-Lenten, Lenten, Holy Week, and Paschal Services. Registrants were provided with a wealth of information and new music. Webinars are archived on YouTube.

ONGOING: Compilation of all available resources and texts into a usable online Horologion, Triodion, Pentecostarion, Menaion, Psalter, and other possible resources.

ONGOING: Expansion of Thee/Thou music for the Ochtocchos and Menaion.

ONGOING: Creation of complete rubrical notes for upcoming Saturday night/Sunday cycle of Divine Services. Plans include other commonly served services for the Great and Vigil-ranked feasts.

IN PRODUCTION: Basic music for Matins and Vespers.

IN PRODUCTION: Basic Conducting Course which will be held online, beginning Summer or Fall, 2021.

Department of Evangelization

COMPLETE: Launch, review, and awarding of 2021 Mission Planting Grant Program. Ongoing maintenance of program and coaching of mission **Con't Pg 6**

APRIL Celebrations

ANNIVERSARY	BIRTHDAYS	
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
NAMES DAY		
4-22: Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit 4-25: Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia		
<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>		

Archbishop Paul's Travel Schedule:

April 15 to May 3

St. Thomas Church, Holy Resurrection Monastery,

April 15th to 18th

Holy Resurrection, Palatine, IL,

April 21st, Presanctified Liturgy

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL,

April 23rd to 25th, Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday

Ordination of Deacon John Thetford to the Priesthood on Lazarus Saturday

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL,

April 26th to May 3rd, Holy Week and Pascha

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

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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A New Direction Con't

parishes and priests.

IN PRODUCTION: Revision and redesigning of approximately 40 attractive trifold and bifold tracts, made freely available for download and use in parishes (to be released the week of April 19).

IN PRODUCTION: New series of videos on various topics important to Orthodox Christians.

IN PRODUCTION: A new apologetics website which will feature articles mainly by OCA priests and informed OCA laypersons, providing reliable, well researched materials on a variety of subjects.

IN PRODUCTION: A compilation of available educational and liturgical resources in the Spanish language and the creation of new resources as needed.

Department of Continuing Education

ONGOING: Production of 12 one-hour online seminars or educational forums on a variety of topics relevant to clergy and church workers, beginning in January 2021, called "Third Thursdays."

ONGOING: Production of six 15 minute high-quality production videos on a pastoral approach to those dealing with Suicide, taught by experts in the field.

Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid

COMPLETED: Production of links and tags to all current resources in the Department supporting His Beatitude's "Four Pillars" document.

ONGOING: Additional articles for Parish Ministry Resources.

IN PRODUCTION: Four live approximately one-hour long webinars on the topics based on "Compassion in Action" with guest speakers to address relevant topics.

Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry

COMPLETED: Coordination of the annual Orthodox Youth Workers Conference, held January 27-29, 2021 online.

ONGOING: Coordination of the OCA's participation in the Assembly of Bishops "Year of Youth" initiative.

IN PRODUCTION: OCA-specific youth initiatives including a Bible Bowl-type competition leading up to the All-American in 2022.

IN PRODUCTION: Resource creation for use in parishes to engage youth at various levels.

Department of Christian Education

ONGOING: Weekly Online Church School for Middle School and High School Students provided openly for any students who wish to join every Tuesday at 7:00 pm ET during the school year.

IN PRODUCTION: Completion of a sixth volume of Saints activity book for children as an online resource.

Inter-Departmental

COMPLETED: Virtual March for Life on January 28, 2021.

IN PRODUCTION: A 16-chapter/session Catechism written collaboratively by outstanding authors and made freely available for parish use, including a catechist and catechumen manual, and resource site to accompany the course.

We are excited about the plans and possibilities for the coming months and beyond. But we need your help. First, pray that God would bless the work of the Departments to strengthen and increase it. Next, support the ongoing efforts by considering a gift to the Stewards of the OCA. Your financial support is crucial to the success of these endeavors. Finally, if you have an idea, see a need, or want to offer your talents as a Project Lead or contributor, contact the Project Manager of the Departments of the OCA, Father Thomas Soroka, at tsoroka@oca.org.

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

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; Bob Synder

May 16: Julia Guzy

5th Saturday of Great Lent: of the Akathist to the Theotokos

Commemorated on April 17

On the Fifth Saturday of Great Lent, the Saturday of the Akathist, we commemorate the “Laudation of the Virgin” Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos.

In 625, when the emperor Heraclius was fighting the Persians, the Khan sent forces to attack Constantinople by land and by sea. Patriarch Sergius urged the people not to lose heart, but to trust in God.

A procession was made around the city with the Cross of the Lord, the robe of the Virgin, the Icon of the Savior not made by hands, and the Hodēgētria Icon of the Mother of God. The Patriarch dipped the Virgin’s robe in the sea, and the city’s defenders beat back the Khan’s sea forces. The sea became very rough, and many boats sank. The invaders retreated, and the people of Constantinople gave thanks to God and to His Most Pure Mother.

On two other occasions, in 655 and 705, the Theotokos protected the city from Saracen invaders. A feastday dedicated to the Laudation of the Virgin was established to commemorate these victories. The Akathist to the Mother of God is believed to originate from this period, and its use has spread from Constantinople to other Orthodox lands.

The icon before which the Akathist was sung was given to the Dionysiou Monastery on Mt. Athos by Emperor Alexius Comnenos. There, it began to flow with myrrh. There were at least three wonderworking copies of this icon in Russia before the Revolution.

This icon shows the Mother of God seated on a throne, and surrounded by Prophets with scrolls.



Hebrews 9:11-14 (Epistle)

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall

the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?



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 10:32-45 (Gospel)

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

WEEK 6: WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

Saint Luke the Evangelist

When we read through the New Testament, we may not realize that almost one-fourth of the text is the writing of Saint Luke. He is one of the four evangelists, or Gospel writers. He is also one of the seventy apostles who were sent out, in pairs, by Jesus to preach and teach. Saint Luke is not one of the original twelve apostles who accompanied the Lord in His ministry.

Saint Luke was born in Antioch and many scholars believe he was a Gentile, or possibly a Hellenistic Jew (a member of the group of Jews that combined Jewish traditional religion with Greek cultural elements.) In any case, he wrote and spoke in Greek and was clearly well-educated. Having been trained as a physician, he was a friend and companion of Saint Paul and went along on some of Paul's missionary travels.

We know this because some passages in the Book of Acts, the second volume of Luke's writing, are put in the first person plural; Luke writes of things that "we" did or places that "we" went to, meaning that he took part in those events.

Saint Luke's writings are rich and varied. Many of the well-known parables appear only in his Gospel. One story that only Luke offers is the encounter of Jesus with the ten lepers. He gives us the complete account of the Annunciation and of Jesus' birth and early years with Mary and Joseph. Later in the book, Luke describes Jesus standing before Herod Antipas and the friendship that develops between Herod and Pontius Pilate (23:6-12), an episode that doesn't appear in the other three Gospels.

The Book of Acts is a different kind of writing, and gives us thrilling accounts of the travels of Saint Paul and those with him. But in all his work, Luke wants to emphasize that the Good News is for everyone, Jew and Gentile alike.

Saint Luke was not only a writer but an iconographer, and from his hand we have the first icon of the Theotokos and Christ. Like his writing, his icon is an attempt to guide people to Christ, and to faith in Him as the Lord and Savior of the world.

Read the story of the Ten Lepers in the Gospel of Luke 17: 11-19. Why do you think the nine lepers didn't return to thank God? (Answers and opinions may vary. But perhaps the story is about people who ask God for something, and then when they get it they are so relieved or happy that they forget all about thanking Him. Jesus doesn't want us to skip that step of giving thanks to God!)

Read Philippians 4: 8. This verse doesn't mention thanks, but it encourages us to think in ways that will make us thankful to God. In the Encyclical from our Holy Synod of Bishops mentioned *Con't Next Page*

Week 6 Reflection Con't

above, we read: "...let us remember the Lord's blessings far more than we contemplate tribulations. Even when we encounter very serious challenges, God gives us countless consolations, which we often take for granted!" How can these statements from Scripture and from the Encyclical help us to be thankful, as Jesus called the lepers to be? (Again, answers and opinions may vary. But it is true that if we try to think about the world in a positive way, and to remember all that God has given to us, we will be able to thank Him sincerely, and will have a more joyful life.)

PASCHA FLOWERS

\$20/each

Would you like your loved one remembered during the Great Entrance on Pascha? Donations of \$20 per plant are being accepted "in memory of" or "for the health of" an individual or family.

Fr. Andrew: (10 Flowers)

- For the Health of my family & friends
- For the Health of the parishioners of this parish
- For the Health of first responders nationwide and in this area, especially Marblehead Police; Danbury Fire & Summit, IL fire and police departments
- For the Health of the residents of this Village
- For the Health of all who do good works for this parish.
- In loving memory of my ordaining bishop Metropolitan Nicholas
- In loving memory of my parents George and Dorothy
- In loving memory of all the deceased clergy who have served this parish
- In loving memory of my God Father Andrew & Godmother Helen
- In loving memory of my grandparents Matthew, Steve, Mary & Justina & all my deceased relatives

Jim Mazur: (3 Flowers)

- All departed family & friends

How Lenten Disciplines Work Together

Lent is always a challenge when it comes to observing the fast, getting to more church services, and increasing or improving upon the quality of one's prayer life. These words from Peter Chrysologus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are wonderful thoughts to live by. This excerpt is taken from the 4th Sunday of Lent after the Synaxarion on St. John the Ladder. You can read the entire short sermon by St. Peter in a book put out by Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction in 1999. Please read that sermon or this excerpt I have included below. It is worth discussing these thoughts as a family.

St. Peter Chrysologus on Prayer, Fasting, and Mercy-Fasting is the soul of prayer; mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So, if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others you open God's ear to yourself. ...If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery.... Fasting bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy. Fasting dries up when mercy dries up. Mercy is to fasting as rain is to the earth.... When you fast, if your mercy is thin your harvest will be thin; therefore, do not lose by saving, but rather gather in by scattering. Give to the poor, and you give to yourself. You will not be allowed to keep what you have refused to give to others.

Taken from the Synaxarion of the Lenten Triodion and Pentecostarion Holy Dormition Monastery Press, 1999

The Lord's blessing be upon you all as you continue your journey to Pascha.

With love in Christ,

Archbishop Paul

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE FAITH FROM OCA WEBSITE

The Trinity

Question

You have mentioned Christ, the Holy Spirit and God the Father. Can you say something more about the Trinity?

Answer

According to the Orthodox teaching, God is always and forever unknowable and incomprehensible to creatures. Even in the eternal life of the Kingdom of God—heaven, as we say—men will never know the essence of God, that is, what God really is in Himself.

But we believe and confess that God the “ineffable, inconceivable, incomprehensible, ever-existing God,” to use the words of the Orthodox liturgy, has made Himself known to creatures. He has revealed Himself in the creation of man and the world, in the Old Testament Law and the Prophets, and fully and perfectly in Christ through the Holy Spirit in the New Testament Church.

In every way that God reveals Himself, He does so through His Son (or Word-Logos) and through the Holy Spirit. It is the same Son and Spirit through whom God made the world, through whom God revealed Himself in the Old Testament, through whom God enlightens and makes alive every man in the world... that come to us personally in the New Testament Church. The Son comes as a man in the person of Jesus Christ—we have discussed this already. The Spirit comes to those who believe in Christ in order to make them sons of God in Him.

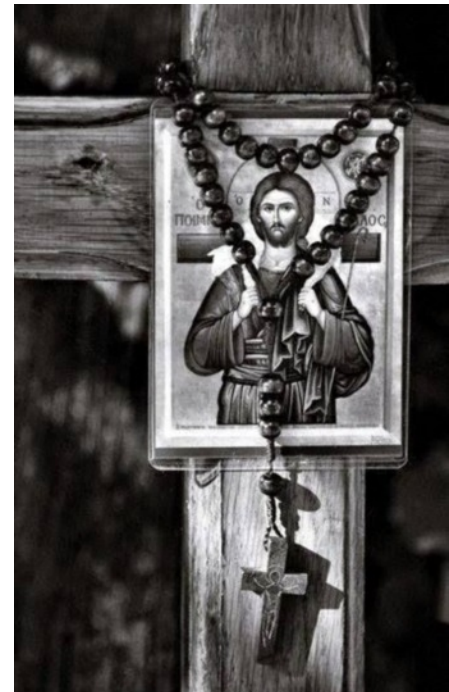
Thus we have always and everywhere God the Father, the Son of God who comes as Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. In the Orthodox Church we confess that these three are not three competitive gods, divided, and separated from each other. On the contrary we believe that the Father, who is the Source of all that exists, always has His Son and His Spirit who are not creatures, Who were not made like everything and everyone else, but Who exist eternally with Him; from, in and by His very own divine being.

Thus what God the Father is, the Son and the Holy

Spirit also are, namely: eternal, perfect, good, wise, holy, timeless, spaceless... divine and worthy of the title GOD.

We believe as well that each of the three divine persons is divine in his own unique way, yet always living and acting in the perfectly absolute unity of the divine truth and love. Thus the Three are one not only because what they are is one and the same, but because their divine union allows of no separation or duality or division whatsoever.

We must hasten to point out here that the Orthodox teaching about the Holy Trinity is not an “abstract dogma” thought up by some clever minds. It is the expression on the level of words—which are always and of necessity inadequate to reality—of the loving experience of God in the Church. The doctrine of the Trinity is the product of man’s living communion with the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit.



”The great medicine is for you to devote yourself to worship Christ. Everything is healed. Everything functions normally. The love of God transforms everything; it sanctifies, amends and changes the nature of everything.”

+St. Porphyrios the Kafsokalivites