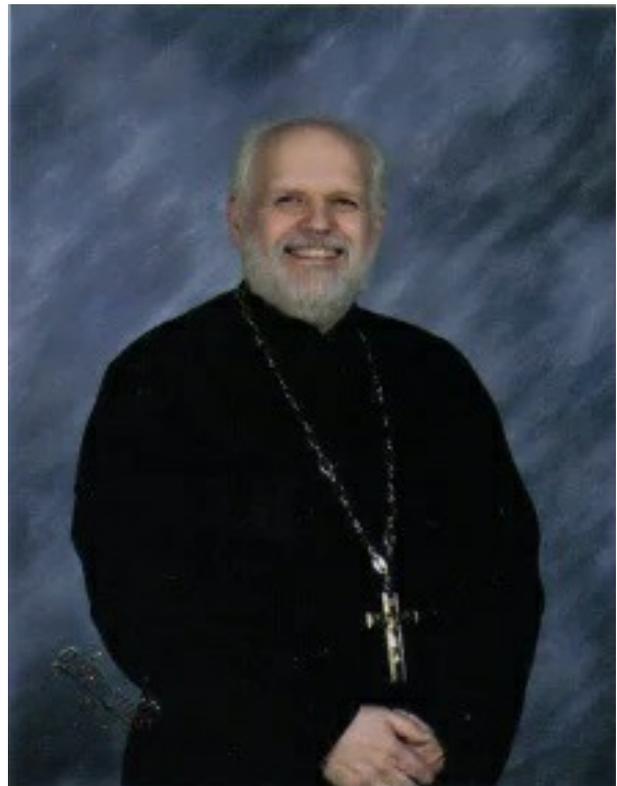
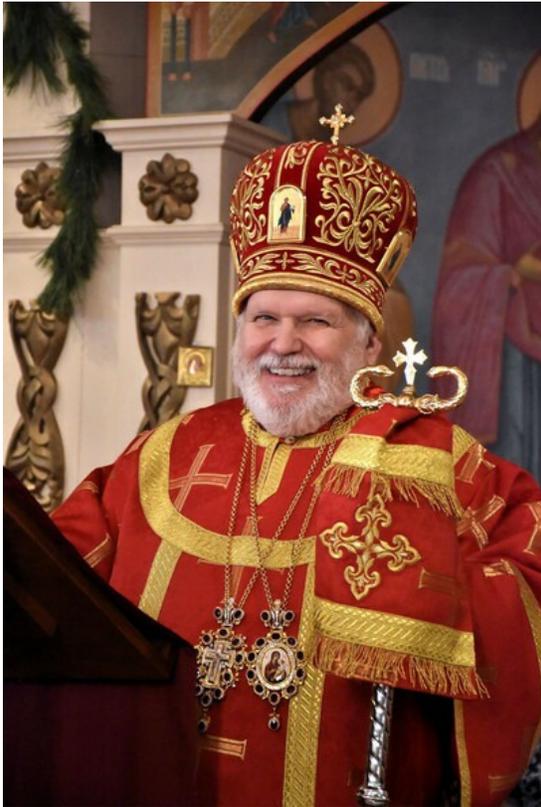


HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP PAUL



MEMORY ETERNAL! APRIL 24, 2022



Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector Parish Council President: Ron Royhab



MAY Bulletin Sponsor:

Fr. Andrew on the occasion of my Priestly Ordination

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, May 1

9:25 am Paschal Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Special Church Meeting / Social / Weather permitting blessing of the graves (Resurrection Matins)

Monday, May 2

9:00 am Resurrection Matins followed by Divine Liturgy on the occasion of my Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood

Saturday, May 7

4:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 8

9:25 am Paschal Hours / Divine Liturgy / Panachida for Mothers Day / Social



Special Meeting:

Today, Sunday, May 1 following the Divine Liturgy (but before blessing of graves) there will be a special meeting of the parish. Purpose: to discuss and vote on the renovation work on the outside of the parish in our preparation for the 125th anniversary of the church. Fourteen (14) members need to be present. An affirmative vote of eleven (11) is required to move forward with the renovations.

SUNDAY MAY 1, 2022

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Epistle: Acts 5: 12-20

Antipascha. Second Sunday of Pascha. St. Thomas Sunday. Prophet Jeremiah. Martyr Bata the Persian. Rt. Blv. Tamar (Tamara, Queen of Georgia. Ven. Paphnutius, Abbot of Borovsk. Hieromartyr Makary (Macarius), Metropolitan of Kiev. New Martyrs Euthymius, Ignatius, and Acacius, of Mt Athos. Ven Nicephoros of Chios. Icon of the most Holy Theotokos Unexpected Joy.

MAY BULLETIN / CANDLE SPONSORS

Bulletin: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew on the occasion of my Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood
Chandelier: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew In memory of my family & friends & Fr. David's Father Stanley
Altar Candles: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew in memory of His Grace Bishop Innocent
Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (25) From Father Andrew in memory of His Eminence Archbishop Paul
Candles @ the Cross: From Laura: Birthday Blessings to Michael
Candles @ St Tikhon's Icon For the Hlth of Tim & Cami & safety of Nicholas, Tikhon & Gleice

Al'Masiah qam Haqqan qam

Arabic

APRIL: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

**Goal Pledged per month: \$5,667
(average of \$1,307 per week)**

April 3: \$1,695
April 10: \$1,605
April 17: \$2,200
April 24: \$695
TOTAL FOR MONTH: \$6,195

APRIL: OTHER INCOME

**Goal for the month in this category:
\$4,000 (Average \$923 a week)**

April 3: \$5 Vigils; \$20 donations; \$150 holy day donation; \$50 Chandelier; \$30 Candles at the cross
April 10: \$35 Vigils; \$20 donations; \$200 Holy day donation; \$50 Bulletin; \$50 Chandelier; \$25 Candles on the tomb; \$50 Altar Candles; \$25 Eternal light; \$15 St Tikhon's Icon
April 17: \$30 Vigils; \$530 Donations; \$150 Holy day donations
April 24: \$5 Candles; \$25 Vigils; \$756 Donations; \$1,805 Holy Day Donations
TOTAL FOR MONTH: \$4,026

**APRIL: RESTRICTED
FUND DONATIONS**

April 3: \$65 Building Restoration; \$50 Flower; \$20 Mission Boxes (March); \$10 St Vladimir Seminary (Feb); \$250 Lions Club (April)
April 10: \$100 Cemetery; \$415 Flowers; \$100 Mission Boxes (March); \$50 Lions Club (April)
April 17: \$225 Flowers; \$10 food Pantry; \$5 Lions
April 24: \$100 Lions Club

**CHRISTOS
VOSKRESE!

VOISTINU
VOSKRESE!**

**APRIL LITURGICAL
ATTENDANCE**

Wednesday, March 30: 8 attended Pre-Sanctified
Friday, April 1: 8 attended Akathist
Saturday, April 2: 15 attended Mem. Sat (6 being guests)
Saturday, April 2: 13 attended Vespers
Sunday, April 3: 19 attended Liturgy (1 was a guest) 16 communicants
Wednesday, April 6: 11 attended pre-sanctified
Friday, April 8: 6 attended Akathist
Saturday, April 9: 10 attended Vespers
Sunday, April 10: 19 attended Liturgy (4 being guests) / 17 received communion
Wednesday, April 13: 11 attended pre-sanctified
Friday, April 15: 11 attended Lazarus Vespers
Saturday, April 16: 14 attended Liturgy / 13 attended Vespers
Sunday, April 17: 37 attended Liturgy (19 of which were visitors) / 20 communicants / 7 attended Bridegroom Matins
Monday, April 18: 8 attended pre-sanctified / 12 attended Bridegroom matins
Tuesday, April 19: 9 attended pre-sanctified / 8 attended Bridegroom Matins
Wednesday, April 20: 6 attended pre-sanctified / 14 attended the Sacrament of Holy Unction
Thursday, April 21: 11 attended Vesperal Liturgy / 16 attended the Reading of the Holy Passion Gospel
Friday, April 22: 9 attended Royal Hours / 14 attended the Burial vespers / 19 attended the Lamentations
Saturday, April 23: 21 attended the Vesperal Liturgy
Sunday, April 24: 52 attended the services of Pascha (20 parishioners & 32 visitors) / 23 Communicants

*Christos Anesti!
Alithós anésti!*
Greek

His Eminence Archbishop Paul April 24, 2022

On the Feast of Feasts, Great and Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 24, 2022, His Eminence, the Most Reverend Paul (Gassios), Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest, fell asleep in the Lord at the age of 69 after a grave illness. He was the ruling hierarch of the Diocese of the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America from 2014 until his repose.

Paul Nicholas Gassios was born in Detroit, Michigan on April 6, 1953 to Nicholas and Georgia Gassios, natives of Castanea, Greece.

As an infant, he was baptized with the name Apostolos, in honor of the holy Apostle Paul, at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Detroit, MI - his home parish for the first 28 years of his life.

He graduated from Detroit's Cooley High School in 1971, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, after which he enrolled at Wayne State University (WSU) as a history and psychology major. After graduating in 1976, he worked with emotionally and physically abused children. He received a Master of Social Work degree from WSU in 1980, and continued to work in his chosen field.

In the mid-1980s, he became a member of Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI. He began theological studies in September 1991 at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY, from which he received his Master of Divinity degree summa cum laude and served as valedictorian in 1994. He was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence, the late Archbishop Job of Chicago and the Midwest, on June 25, 1994.

After ordination, he was assigned Priest-in-Charge of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, Kokomo, IN, which he served until June 2005, after which he resided at Saint Gregory Palamas Monastery, Hayesville, OH until May 2006. He briefly served as Rector of Archangel Michael Church, St. Louis, MO and the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church, Desloge, MO before his transfer to the OCA's Bulgarian Diocese and assignment as Dean of Saint George Cathedral, Rossford, OH in 2007. In August 2014, he was named Administrator of the Diocese of the Midwest and relocated to Chicago.

On October 20, 2014, he was tonsured to monastic rank with the name Paul, in honor of Saint Paul the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople. On October 21, 2014, the Holy Synod elected him to fill the vacant Episcopal See of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest.

Archimandrite Paul was consecrated to the Episcopacy and enthroned as Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest at Chicago's historic Holy Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, December 27, 2014. Concelebrating at the Consecration Liturgy were His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon; His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate; His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West; His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania; His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas; His Grace Bishop Irénée of Ottawa and Canada; His Grace Bishop Michael of New York and New Jersey; His Grace Bishop Alexander of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese; and His Grace Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska. On Thursday, May 28, 2020, he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop.

His archpastoral tenure in the Midwest was only seven years but filled with great progress and accomplishment for the diocese. From an administrative perspective, he was known for prompt replies and calls when his clergy contacted him. He was very organized and thoroughly followed the established procedures with attentiveness. He actively attended diocesan, deanery, and parish meetings guiding the progress of the discussed topics.

He established new ministries within the diocese that focused on building up the communities within the diocese which include: the Mother Maria of Paris Ministry – Department of Charitable Efforts, Department of Family Life, Saint Andrew of Crete Music Ministry, and the Department of Youth. These were four areas he saw to be important pillars to building up the Body of Christ.

With a prioritization of pastoral visits, he was often on the road traveling each weekend to visit a different community within his vast diocese. He often reflected that this was the most enjoyable part of his ministry and gave him something to look forward to each week. In addition to leading the services when making archpastoral visits, **CON'T NEXT PG**

Archbishop Paul Con't from previous pg

he would make time to be with clergy and their families to hear about their life and struggles. He would gather with youth and parish councils to lead discussions on the faith and other topics of interest. He made annual visits to the seminaries to visit with the diocesan seminarians and their families and actively encouraged vocation within his parishes.

His genuineness is unforgettable, and his smile brought joy to those around him. His sermons were impactful and memorable for those who were blessed to hear them.

He is fondly remembered throughout the diocese as a loving shepherd for his flock.

May Archbishop Paul's memory be eternal!

Bright Monday Commemorated on April 25

On Bright Monday the Church commemorates the Sweet-Kissing (Glykophilousa) Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Like the Ivéron Icon (March 31), the Sweet-Kissing Icon was also saved from the iconoclasts by a pious woman in the ninth century. It also traveled miraculously upon the sea, arriving at Mt. Athos, the "Garden of the Theotokos," where it was honored by the monks.

A nobleman named Simeon was an iconoclast who shared the emperor Theophilus's hatred for the holy icons. Simeon's wife Victoria, on the other hand, venerated icons, especially a certain icon of the Mother of God before which she prayed each day. Simeon could not tolerate his wife's piety, so he demanded that she give him the icon so he could burn it. Victoria threw the icon into the sea, hoping that it would be preserved through God's providence.

Years later, the icon appeared on the shores of Mt. Athos near the monastery of Philotheou. The igumen and the brethren of the monastery retrieved the icon and placed it in the church, where it worked many miracles.

In 1830 a pilgrim came to the monastery from Adrianopolis. He listened to the history of the icon and the miracles associated with it, but regarded such things as childish fables. The monk who had related all this was surprised and grieved by the pilgrim's disbelief, fearing that such doubts indicated an unhealthy spiritual state. He did all that he could to remove the pilgrim's skepticism, but the man stubbornly adhered to his opinion.

The Mother of God, in her compassion, finally healed the pilgrim's soul in a rather dramatic way. On the very day that he had his discussion with the monk, the pilgrim was walking on an upper balcony. Suddenly, he lost his footing and began to fall. In his distress he called out, "Most Holy Theotokos, help me!" The Mother of God heard him, and he landed on the ground completely unharmed.

The icon is one of the Eleusa (Tenderness) type. It is unusual in that it shows the Virgin kissing her Child. Christ raises His hand as if to repulse His mother's caress.

Other Sweet-Kissing (Tenderness) icons are:

Lubyatov (March 19)

Novgorod (July 28)

Pskov (May 21, June 23, August 26, October 7)

Smolensk (March 19)

Sviatogorsk (July 17)

Yaroslavl (May 14)

READER

May 1: Tim
May 8: Joe
May 15: Tim
May 22: Joe
May 29: Tim

PRAYER LIST- UPDATED April 25

HIERARCH'S / CLERGY: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman; Archbishop Benjamin from San Fransico; John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Berry; Gregory Grivna; Emilian Hutnyan; Joseph Von Klarr; Michael Kuzara; John Zabinko / Deacon Paul Gansle, Deacon Peter Rentsch, Deacon Michael Wilson / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

MATUSHKII: Pani Patricia Duranko; Susan Dank; Virginia Lecko; Maura McCarnthey; Roberta Spengler; Margaret Zabinko

PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES: James Bargdill (Schutt); Jim Basala (Fr.); John Beadle (Elchisco); Kristen Cassell; Carole Conaway (Twarek); Maryann Cook (Twarek); Sharon Dietrich (Twarek); Charlie Dietrich (Twarek); Ethan Feldman (Fr); Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Elaine Hileman; Betty Kovach; Helen Lis; David Mazurik; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); Nancy Naiser (Royhab); William Pipenur (Hileman); Pat Rentz; Earl Rindfleisch; Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Stephanie Royhab; Joe Schutt; Diane Tryon; Greg Tyron; Tom Twarek; Child Bodhi (Cassell); Irene Vangeloff; Kathryn Tryon & her unborn child

OTHER REQUESTS: Mary Dank (ABL); Layne Demkosy (Fr); Paul Demkosky (Fr.); Marge Dziama; Child Ezra; Zoe Finley (ABL); Ruthe Flewelling; Ben Franklin (Kovach); Dorothy Goldman (Twarek); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Andrea Joy (Kovach); Maria (ABL); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath (Fr); Karen Muzyka (Fr); Noah (ABL); Jamie Philpot (Twarek); Robert Piznar (Rentz) ; William Romanchak (Fr); Andrew Rydgig (ABL); Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Sara (Jake); Chris Quotap (Fr); Zoland Zile (Fr.); Molly and her unborn child (Fr.); Ashley and her unborn child

MILITARY: Alex, Nathan Brown, Craig Cassell, Cory Deaton , Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton, Alena Grabavoy, Justin Issler; Nicholas & Tikhon, Cory Deaton, Alex Zarnow

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



NOTE: ABL (Archbishop's request) / Please let Fr. Andrew know who can come off the list or be put on



40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

May 1: Gary Smolk / David Lavalle
May 15: Nancy Sitzler / John Kotch
June 2: His Eminence Archbishop Paul

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Diane Tryon
109 Joslyn Street
Arcadia, OH 44804

MAY Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES	BIRTHDAYS		
5-1-2004: Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco 2-Archpriest Andrew (Priest ordination) 5-5-2012: Archbishop Alexander of Dallas 6- Fred & Teri Cassell 5-8-2010: Archbishop Michael of NY & NJ 13- Craig & Katie Cassell 16- David & Sandy Martin 17- Tony & Tina Monastra 20- Joseph & Valerie Schutt 24- Jason & Trisha Monschein 5-28-2005: Archbishop Alejo of Mexico 5-30-1987: Retired Bishop Tikhon of San Francisco	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> 2- Sub-deacon Wylie Meath 2- Pam 4- Fr. Matthew Stagon 5- Joseph Schutt 5- Justin Issler 8- Laura Kovach 8-Missy Schlotterer 12- Proto. Bob Northrup </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> 12- Mike Kovach 15-Holly Gast 16- Austin Palmer 17- Brian Turner 20- Philip Ellmore 24- Avzi Dardovski 25- Quincy Kowal 29- Carol Krochta </td> </tr> </table>	2- Sub-deacon Wylie Meath 2- Pam 4- Fr. Matthew Stagon 5- Joseph Schutt 5- Justin Issler 8- Laura Kovach 8-Missy Schlotterer 12- Proto. Bob Northrup	12- Mike Kovach 15-Holly Gast 16- Austin Palmer 17- Brian Turner 20- Philip Ellmore 24- Avzi Dardovski 25- Quincy Kowal 29- Carol Krochta
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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*.

מָקָם תְּמַאֵב! מָקָם חֵישְׁמָה!
(HaMashiach qam!
Be'emet qam!)
Hebrew (modern)

CATASTROPHIC RELIEF FUND

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

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

This money can also be used for outreach programs in the parish. Thank you and God bless!

Hristos a-înviat ;
Adevărat a-înviat
Romanian

MAY Reposed

1-Donald Cholcher (2020) 4- Norman Anthony Glovinsky (2016) 6- Bishop Innocent (2002) 8- Brad Bauer (2019) 12- Elaine Whitham (2012) 12- Proto. George Hutnyan (2020) 14- Stanley Lis (2019) 15-George Glovinsky (1986) 15- Fr. Michael Rosco (2013) 19- Betty Billy (2020)	21- Anna Mazurik (2008) 22- Mary Opritza (2011) 24- Helen Greshko (1980) 25- Anna Mazurak (1966) 25- Philip Timko (2021) 27- John Gresko- (2008) 30- Anna Elchisco (1977) Christos Karniotis (1992) Julia Onyock (1921) Andrew Onyock (1922)
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Bright Tuesday Commemorated on April 26

Commemoration of Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene of Lesbos

The Newly-Appeared Martyrs of Lesbos, Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene These Saints were martyred by the Turks on Bright Tuesday (April 9, 1463) ten years after the Fall of Constantinople. For nearly 500 years, they were forgotten by the people of Lesbos, but “the righteous Judge... opened the things that were hid” (2 Maccabees 12:41). For centuries the people of Lesbos would go on Bright Tuesday to the ruins of a monastery near Thermé, a village northwest of the capital, Mytilene. As time passed, however, no one could remember the reason for the annual pilgrimage. There was a vague recollection that once there had been a monastery on that spot, and that the monks had been killed by the Turks.

In 1959, a pious man named Angelos Rallis decided to build a chapel near the ruins of the monastery. On July 3 of that year, workmen discovered the relics of Saint Raphael while clearing the ground. Soon, the Saints began appearing to various inhabitants of Lesbos and revealed the details of their lives and martyrdom. These accounts form the basis of Photios Kontoglou’s 1962 book *A Great Sign* (in Greek).

Saint Raphael was born on the island of Ithaka around 1410, and was raised by pious parents. His baptismal name was George, but he was named Raphael when he became a monk. He was ordained to the holy priesthood, and later attained the offices of Archimandrite and Chancellor.

In 1453, Saint Raphael was living in Macedonia with his fellow monastic, Deacon Nicholas, a native of Thessaloniki. In 1454, the Turks invaded Thrace, so the two monks fled to the island of Lesbos. They settled in the Monastery of the Nativity of the Theotokos near Thermi, where Saint Raphael became the Igoumen.

In the spring of 1463, the Turks raided the monastery and captured the monks. They were tortured from Holy Thursday until Bright Tuesday. Saint Raphael was tied to a tree, and the ferocious Turks sawed through his jaw, killing him. Saint Nicholas was also tortured, and he died while witnessing his Elder’s martyrdom. He appeared to people and indicated the spot where his relics

were uncovered on June 13, 1960.

Saint Irene was the twelve-year-old daughter of the village mayor, Basil. She and her family had come to the monastery to warn the monks of the invasion. The cruel Hagarenes cut off one of her arms and threw it down in front of her parents. Then the pure virgin was placed in a large earthen cask and a fire was lit under it, suffocating her within. These torments took place before the eyes of her parents, who were also put to death. Her grave and the earthen cask were found on May 12, 1961 after Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene had appeared to people and told them where to look.

Others who received the crown of martyrdom on that day were Basil and Maria, the parents of Saint Irene; Theodore, the village teacher; and Eleni, the fifteen-year-old cousin of Saint Irene.

The Saints appeared separately and together, telling people that they wished to be remembered. They asked that their icon be painted, that a Church Service be composed for them, and they indicated the place where their holy relics could be found. Based on the descriptions of those who had seen the Saints, the master iconographer Photios Kontoglou painted their icon. The ever-memorable Father Gerasimos of Little Saint Anne Skete on Mount Athos composed their Church Service.

Many miracles have taken place on Lesbos, and throughout the world. These Saints hasten to help those who invoke them, healing the sick, consoling the sorrowful, granting relief from pain, and bringing many unbelievers and impious individuals back to the Church.

Saint Raphael is tall, middle-aged, and has a beard of moderate length. His hair is black with some grey in it. His face is majestic, expressive, and filled with heavenly grace. Saint Nicholas is short and thin, with a small blond beard. He stands before Saint Raphael with great respect. Saint Irene usually appears with a long yellow dress reaching to her feet. Her blonde hair is divided into two braids which rest on either side of her chest.

Saints Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene (and those with them) are also commemorated on Bright Tuesday.

Con’t next Pg

Bright Tues Con't from previous pg

Dr. Constantine Cavarnos has given a detailed account of their life, miracles, and spiritual counsels in Volume 10 of his inspirational series *Modern Orthodox Saints* (Belmont, MA, 1990).

The Appearance of the Ivéron (Portaitissa) Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos on Mount Athos

This Icon was the property of a pious widow who lived in the area of Nicaea in Asia Minor during the time of the iconoclastic Emperor Theophilos (829-842). When the Emperor's men arrived there to find and destroy every holy icon, this faithful widow threw the wonderworking Icon of the Theotokos into the sea. Then she beheld a strange wonder. The Icon stood upright on the water and traveled westward across the waves in this position.

After a time the Icon arrived in front of the Ivéron Monastery on Mount Athos. A certain ascetic named Gabriel took it from the water, and gave it to the monks. They built a small church for the Icon near the gate of the monastery, and placed the Icon there. From that time it was known as the Portaitissa, or Gate-Keeper.

Since then the Most Holy Theotokos has worked many miracles through her holy Icon. She has cured those who were possessed by demons, healed those who were lame, and given sight to the blind. At the same time, she has protected the monastery from every danger and saved it from invasions of foreigners. Among those who received benefit from the Portaitissa was a Russian princess, the daughter of Tsar Alexei Michailovitch (1651).

The Icon arrived at the Holy Mountain on Bright Tuesday in 1004. Therefore, the Ivéron Monastery celebrates this radiant festival even to the present day. The Divine Liturgy takes place in the church by the sea, where a spring gushed forth at the place where the Icon had rested.

The Ivéron (Portaitissa) Icon is also commemorated on February 12, March 31, and October 13.

Ktitorissa or Bematárisa Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of Vatopaidi Monastery. (Παναγία Κτιτόρισα ή Βηματάρισσα)

When certain Arabs invaded Vatopaidi Monastery, Hierodeacon Savva, the Bematáris (custodian of the sanctuary) was responsible for the sacred relics and other valuables kept there. He managed to hide the Icon and Constantine's Cross in a well of the Holy Altar, with an oil lamp burning before them. The monastery was looted and the monks were taken captive and brought to Crete. Seventy years later, Hierodeacon Savva was released and he returned to his monastery. There he found some young monks whom he didn't know, and they knew nothing about the hidden relics. Then they uncovered the well and discovered the Icon and the Cross standing upright upon the water, with the oil lamp still burning!

Today the Ktitorissa Icon is in the synthronon (stone seats behind the altar) of the Holy Sanctuary, and it is also called the Foundress, or Builder, because her discovery may be related to the rebuilding of the monastery by three brothers (the monks Athanasios, Nicholas and Anthony) who lived there around the end of the X century.

In memory of this event, the Paraklesis (Canon of Supplication) to the Theotokos is sung every Monday evening, and the Divine Liturgy is served every Tuesday morning in the katholikon. The Ktitorissa Icon is honored on Bright Tuesday, when it is taken around the Monastery in procession.

The Martyrs of Saint David of Garesja Monastery in Georgia in 1616 (also April 4)

Venerable Patápios, Nikon, and Hypomoné.

These Saints struggled in a cave where the Monastery of Saint Patápios was built (in the metropolis of Corinth). There the skulls of Saint Patápios the New and Saint Hypomoné are treasured, and also the jaw of Saint Nikon the New. These holy relics were placed in silver reliquaries by the Most Reverend Metropolitan Panteleimon (Karanikola).

Saint Patápios is also commemorated on December 8.

Christus resurrectus est; Vere resurrectus est.

Latin

Bright Wednesday Commemorated on April 27

On Bright Wednesday we commemorate the holy monastic Fathers who have shone forth on the God-trodden Mt Sinai. This commemoration was established by the Church of Russia on April 17, 1997.

Saints Theocharis and Apostolos are local saints of Arta. The first fell asleep in 1845 and the second a little later. Saint Theocharis was a teacher at Komboti, Arta. The icons of these saints are in the church of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) in Arta.

The Kasperov Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos is also commemorated today. Tradition says that this holy icon had been brought to Cherson from Transylvania by a Serb at the end of the sixteenth century. Passing down from parent and child, the icon had come to a certain Mrs. Kasperova of Cherson in 1809.

One night in February of 1840 she was praying, seeking consolation in her many sorrows. Looking at the icon of the Virgin, she noticed that the features of the icon, darkened by age, had suddenly become bright. Soon the icon was glorified by many miracles, and people regarded it as wonder-working.

During the Crimean War (1853-1856), the icon was carried in procession through the city of Odessa, which was besieged by enemy forces. On Great and Holy Friday, the city was spared. Since that time, an Akathist has been served before the icon in the Dormition Cathedral of Odessa every Friday.

The icon is painted with oils on a canvas mounted on wood. The Mother of God holds Her Son on her left arm. The Child is holding a scroll. Saint John the Baptist (January 7) is depicted on one side of the icon, and Saint Tatiana (January 12) on the other. These were probably the patron saints of the original owners of the icon.

The Kasperov Icon is commemorated on October 1, June 29, and Bright Wednesday.

Bright Thursday Commemorated on April 28

On Bright Thursday the Gospel reading is John 3:1-15, which mentions the Pharisee Nikódēmos who came by night to speak to Christ. The Lord told him that a man could not see the Kingdom of God unless he were born again. Nikódēmos, taking Him much too literally, could not understand how such a thing was possible.

The Savior then clarified His words, saying that one must be born “of water and the Spirit” (John 3:5), referring to Baptism. Nikódēmos, however, still found it difficult to understand Him.

The Lord said, “If I have told you of earthly things, and you believe not, how shall you believe if I tell you of heavenly things?” (John 3:12).

The reading from Acts 2:38-41 also speaks of Baptism. Saint Peter told the crowd, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

The main focus of today’s readings is on Baptism, but they also point to other things. We are to raise our mind and understanding from earthly to heavenly things, and to seek the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Bright Friday: The Life Giving Fountain of the Mother of God Commemorated on April 29

Today we commemorate the Life-Giving Fountain of the Most Holy Theotokos.

There once was a beautiful church in Constantinople dedicated to the Mother of God, which had been built in the fifth century by the holy Emperor Leo the Great (January 20) in the Seven Towers district.

Before becoming emperor, Leo was walking in a wooded area where he met a blind man who was thirsty and asked Leo to help him find water. Though he agreed to search for water, he was unable to find any. Suddenly, he heard a voice telling him that there was water nearby. He looked again, but still could not find the water. Then he heard the voice saying “Emperor Leo, go into the deepest part of the woods, and you will find water there. Take some of the cloudy water in *Con’t Next Pg*