



Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

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



OCTOBER Bulletin Sponsor:

OPEN

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, October 2

9:10 AM: Hours / Divine Liturgy / Social
Fr. Andrew returns in the afternoon

Wednesday, Oct 5

6:45 AM: Bus Trip to Columbus (March for Life)

Saturday, Oct 8

9:00 AM: Lighthouse Festival

Sunday, Oct 9

9:10 AM: Hours / Divine Liturgy / Social

Sunday October 2, 2022

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

Epistle: 2nd Corinthians 6:1-10

Tone 7. 16th Sunday After Pentecost. Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin-Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctist, of Nicomedia. Martyrs David and Constantine, Princes of Georgia. Bl. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at Constantinople. Repose of Rt. Blv. Princess Anna of Kashin. Ven. Cassian of Uglich. Righteous Warrior Theodore Ushakov.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon blesses new the temporary Chancery office

On Wednesday, September 21, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon blessed the new temporary office of the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America in Springfield, VA. The relocation of the Chancery has taken additional steps over the last few weeks and the new office is now fully operational.

110 E Main Street, Marblehead, OH 43440
www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

Oct. 2: Metro. Kallistos Ware

Oct. 15: His Beatitude Metropolitan .Herman

Oct. 23: Eileen Libb / William Deaton

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Diane Tryon
109 Joslyn Street
Arcadia, OH 44804

Joe & Sonya Rose
4351 East Norma Drive
Port Clinton, OH 43452

Ed & Irene Vangeloff
454 Strouse Lane
Sandusky, OH 44870



OCTOBER BULLETIN CANDLE SPONSORS

Bulletin: (\$50) Open

Chandelier: (\$50)

Altar Candles: (\$50) Open

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25) Open

Candles @ the Cross: (\$15) Laura Birthday blessings to Katelyn & in memory of Uncle Alex & John Kovach

Candles @ St Tikhon's Icon: (\$15) For the safety of Nicholas, Tikhon & Gleice and her unborn baby

Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747
info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org

Inaugural “Church Musician Sunday” to be held Sunday, October 2

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has designated the Sunday following the commemoration of Saint Romanus the Melodist (October 1) as “Church Musician Sunday.” This new yearly designation, beginning on Sunday, October 2, 2022, will highlight the essential role of liturgical music in Orthodox Christian worship and the important role of church musicians in the life of the Church. Parishes are encouraged to recognize those who serve in the various roles involved in Church music: choir directors, singers, chanters, readers, composers, arrangers, and bell-ringers, through a public acknowledgment following the Divine Liturgy. Additionally, parishioners and parish leaders are strongly encouraged to consider the many essential responsibilities of those who lead the musical responses during the Divine services. To assist in this regard, thoughtful articles will be posted during the week of September 25 about the appropriate preparation, education, and remuneration of choir directors, as well as general articles about liturgical music.

Graphics are available for download that are suitable for printing and posting online. Parishes are encouraged to use them in their local publications and online. (National OCA Website)

Facebook

Instagram

Poster

8.5 x 11 inches

Poster

11 x 17 inches

You can support the ongoing projects of the Departments of the OCA by considering a gift to the Stewards of the OCA. Your financial support is crucial to the success of these endeavors! For questions about the work of the Departments, contact Father Thomas Soroka at tsoroka@oca.org.

SEPTEMBER LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE

Saturday, Sept. 3: 6 attended vespers (2 of which were guests)

Sunday, Sept. 4: 35 attended Liturgy (20 of which were guests) / 26 Communicants

Wednesday, Sept .7: 10 attended Vespers

Thursday, Sept. 8: 12 attended Liturgy (2 of which were guests)

Sunday, Sept. 11: 25 attended Liturgy (11 of which were guests) / 10 Communicants

Tuesday, Sept 13: 9 attended Vespers (1 was a guest)

Wednesday, Sept 12: 6 attended Liturgy

Sunday, Sept. 18: 16 attended Liturgy (4 of which were guests)

Sunday, Sept. 25: 23 attended Liturgy (9 of which

OCTOBER CLEANING SCHEDULE

Week of Oct. 2: Basil / Tim

Week of the 9: Laura

Week of the 16: Susan

Week of the 23: Laura

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (Epistle)

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Interview with Bishop Daniel of Chicago: “A priest cannot serve in a parish without having his life changed, even transformed...”

This interview was conducted by the Communications Department of the Diocese of the Midwest with His Grace Bishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest. It covers a range of topics, including some of the most recent experiences that the bishop has had with his new diocese.

Your Grace, Master bless!

DOM COMS: I would first like to congratulate you on your election as the Bishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest — Axios! Thank you for allowing some time for us to ask a few questions and letting our audience at domoca.org become more familiar with Your Grace.

BD: The blessing of the Lord be upon you! Thank you. It’s a pleasure to be able to continue to connect with the clergy and faithful of the diocese in this way.

DOM COMS: Your Grace, by this point, many people have read or heard about your upbringing and the story of your coming to the Church. But since being received into the Orthodox Church, you have had many experiences working in many different areas of church life. Could you share with us some of those experiences and which one you feel has been the most influential?

BD: As you said, I have been blessed with opportunities to take part in a wide variety of ministries with the Orthodox Church in America. These ministries include both pastoral and administrative roles and experiences. I have had times in my ministry in which there was more of an emphasis on administrative work, on both national and diocesan levels. I have been given the opportunity to serve on a number of committees and commissions and councils. A highlight of administrative work was when I served on the Statute Revision Committee, the group which produced the current OCA Statute which was adopted at the All American Council in Atlanta in 2015. And, while my chief desire and focus has always been to serve in a pastoral role, particularly in parishes, these times of administrative work were ultimately in service to the OCA, to the Dioceses

(particularly the DOW), and to the priests and people in the parishes. So, with that in mind, I can say that I have always seen church administrative work to be pastoral, though not necessarily parochial. And I have learned through those experiences. But, your question relates to what experience has been most influential in my life. This is an easy one to answer, as, without a doubt, my years of pastoral ministry has been the most influential and formative on me. This is true for me both personally and spiritually.

After I was first received into the Church, I spent several week at Saint Nicholas Church in Saratoga, CA. My first official assignment was at Saint Paul Church, Las Vegas, Nevada. I then was assigned to Saint Gregory Palamas Mission, then in Flemington, now in Clinton, NJ. After serving for a time at the national chancery in Syosset, NY, I was assigned to Saints Peter and Paul Church, Phoenix, AZ. I served that community for a little over seventeen years, first as a priest and then as a bishop during these past almost eight years, right up until the time of my election as Bishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest. I still have contact with the people I served in every one of those parish communities. And the reason I mention this is because being pastoral, being a pastor, means sharing life and faith with those you serve.

A priest cannot serve in a parish without having his life changed, even transformed... always, hopefully, for the better. So, to get back to your question, I have to acknowledge that parish life and parish ministry have had the most impact and been the most influential aspect of my years of ministry. And, for me, pastoral ministry on the diocesan level has continued in my years as an auxiliary bishop and will now continue as I begin to serve the priests and faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest.

DOM COMS: That’s all very interesting, and certainly significant work as well. God has now called you to the next chapter of service to His Church as a bishop, which you have been serving as for close to eight years — what is something that you have learned during this time as a bishop personally?

BD: Throughout these past years as a bishop, one of the most important personal things that I have learned is to be more patient with myself. People who know me would say that I am generally patient with others, but not so much with myself. *Con’t Pg 6*

PRAYER LIST- UPDATED September 25

HIERARCH'S / CLERGY: Archbishop Benjamin from San Francisco; Archbishop Melchizedek of Western PA; John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Berry; Emilian Hutnyan; Deacon Paul Gansle ;Deacon Peter Rentsch; Deacon Michael Wilson; Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

MATUSHKII: Pani Patricia Duranko; Pani Helen Shuytak; Virginia Lecko

PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES: James Bargdill (Schutt); John Beadle (Elchisco); Kristen Cassell; Carole Conaway (Twarek); Maryann Cook (Twarek); Sharon Dietrich (Twarek); Charlie Dietrich (Twarek); Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Elaine Hileman; Joe Kollar (Fr.); Betty Kovach; Helen Lis; Walter Litzie; Sandy Martin; David Martin; David Mazurik; Mark Mazurik; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); William Pipenur(Hileman); Earl Rindfleisch; Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Stephanie Royhab; Donna Schoonmaker; Valerie Schutt; Joe Schutt; Tom Twarek; Diane Tryon; Ed Vangeloff, Child Bodhi (Cassell); Brittany Lariccia & her unborn child (Fr.); Nikki and her unborn child; Gleice & her unborn child

OTHER REQUESTS: Donny (Jake); Marge Dziama; Child Ezra; Kurt Franck (Royhab); Ben Franklin (Kovach); Dorothy Goldman (Twarek); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Marsha (Rose); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath; Karen Muzyka; Jamie Philpot (Twarek); Robert Piznar (Rentz); William Romanchak; Rick Rowe (Kovach); Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); David Warner (Schutt); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Sara (Jake); Chris Quotap; Zoland Zile; Ashley and her unborn child (Fr.); Elizabeth And her unborn child (Fr.)

MILITARY: Craig Cassell, Cory Deaton , Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton, Alena Grabavoy, Justin Issler; 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



NOTE: Please let Fr. Andrew know who can come off the list or be put on.

Blessed Andrew the Fool-For-Christ at Constantinople Commemorated on October 2

Blessed Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, was a Slav and lived in the tenth century at Constantinople. From his early years, he loved God's Church and the Holy Scriptures. Once during a dream, the saint beheld a vision of two armies. In the one were men in radiant garb, in the other, black and fiercesome devils. An angel of God, who held wondrous crowns, said to Andrew, that these crowns were not adornments from the earthly world, but rather a celestial treasure, with which the Lord rewards His warriors, victorious over the dark hordes. "Proceed with this good deed," the angel said to Andrew. "Be a fool for My sake and you will receive much in the day of My Kingdom."

The saint perceived that it was the Lord Himself summoning him to this deed. From that time Andrew began to go about the streets in rags, as though his mind had become muddled. For many years the saint endured mockery and insults. With indifference he underwent beatings, hunger and thirst, cold and heat, begging alms and giving them away to the poor. For his great forbearance and humility the saint received from the Lord the gift of prophecy and wisdom, saving many from spiritual perils, and he unmasked the impiety of many.

While praying at the Blachernae church, Saint Andrew beheld the Most Holy Mother of God, holding her veil over those praying under her Protection (October 1). Blessed Andrew died in the year 936.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES	BIRTHDAYS	
10-1-2009: Archbishop Irenee of Canada 2- Fr. Matthew & Pani Eleni Stagon 3- Fr. Matt Stagon Priestly ordination 7- Fr. Eli & Mat. Larissa Bremer 9- Sub-deacon Wylie & Pauline Meath 19- Archpriest John & Mat. Cynthia Zidinak 31- Paul & Layne Demkosky <p style="text-align: center;">NAMESDAY</p> 10-9: The Most Blessed Tikhon	1-Trudy Ellmore 2- Tina Litzie 3- Ethan Chendorain 3- Alicia Calzone 6- Brian Lariccia 6- Ron Royhab 10- Walter Litzie 10- Craig Cassell 11- Karen Muzyka	12- Fred Soski 13- Mary Hiser 14- Fr. Andrew Groom 16- Fr George Lardas 17- Tim Glovinsky 20- Helen Lis 20- Hayden Issler 25- Sam Dardovsky 31- Fr. Peter Zarynow

Luke 6:31-36 (Gospel)



And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

OCTOBER REPOSED

2- His Grace Bishop Antoun (2017) 3- Anna Tomko (1990) 4- William Peter Guzy (1974) 5- John Elchisco Sr. (1982) 5- Mark Conroy (2018) 5- Patricia Schirtzinger (2021) 6- Andrew Tomko (1970) 6- Helen Elchisco (1956) 7- Michael Gresko (1963) 8- Archpriest Michael Kostyk (1964) Former Pastor 11- Helen Pipenur (2009) 12- Pauline Mary Gresh (1981) 13- James E Jump (2011) 13- Tom Grgich (2018) 13- Mary Basala (2006) 13- Michael Mazurik (2018) 14- George Kaitsa (1991) 15- Michael Mazurik (1972) 15- John Kovach (1983) 16- Mary Kobb (2017)	16- Tom Wiseman (2020) 16- Frank Flaherty (1999) 18- Nadexda Kaitsa (1992) 19- Archpriest Sergei Garklavs (2015) 19- Gori Pietropolo (Trudy's dad) (2017) 19- His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius (2020) 21- Alex Mazur (1920) 21-Terry (Bobbie's cousin) (2017) 21- Regina Lomme (2021) 25- Serge Mihaly Jr (2019) 28- George Elchisco (1996) 28- Anthony Glovinsky (1946) 30- Joseph Malchisky (1993) 31- Margaret Basala (2002) 31- George Rusincovitch (1994) William Martin (1982) Joseph L. Mazurik (1944) Anna Mazur (1945) Anna Danchisen (1945)
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Interview w/ Bishop Daniel Con't from Pg 3

But I have come to understand something that I already knew, and that is that I am unable to do or manage everything, even with the best of intentions. Rather, Christ works through everyone, even though the imperfect. And I am certainly that.

DOM COMS: Your Grace, you were elected as the Bishop of the Midwest only a couple of months ago — what has your impressions been of the diocese? What do you see as the biggest challenge?

BD: I think I have learned a lot, but I also know that I have much more to learn. The Diocese of the Midwest, as the name implies, is comprised of the eleven states of the American Midwest. It includes over seventy parishes and missions. These communities are in some of the largest cities in America and also in some of the most rural of areas. Coming from a rural background myself, though having lived in large metropolitan areas, I value both. And, although there are differences of people and experiences throughout the diocese, the people are pretty much the same. The people are generally nice. Life can be slower, but not necessarily smaller. It's "pop," not "soda." And a John Deere is a legitimate means of transportation.

DOM COMS: I personally know from our past hierarchs that parish visits played such an important role in their ministry and the ability to be present and pray with each community. It brought them a lot of joy and ended up being their favorite part of their ministry. What are you looking forward to the most in visiting the churches of this vast territory?

BD: I am definitely looking forward to visiting the communities throughout this large diocese. These pastoral visits play an important and essential role for the chief shepherd of the diocese — to be with his people. Parish visits are key in the ministry of bishops, the shepherds of the flock of Christ. When I was a child living on our family farm, we often had shepherds graze their sheep on corn stalks in fields that had already been cut. They didn't commute to work, but lived with the sheep they were caring for. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus Himself, says about His sheep in the Gospel of John: "I know mine and mine know me." A good shepherd knows his sheep. And concerned and attentive bishop, in his role as

shepherd, must know his sheep just they must know him. This can only happen if there is personal interaction, person to person communication. And this happens in dioceses mostly through the bishop's pastoral visits to parishes.

It does not surprise me one bit that the past bishops of this diocese made that a focal point of their ministry because they were great pastors. I look forward to continuing that tradition and legacy of the hierarchs of this diocese to be with my parishes as much as possible. With that being said, the size of the diocese does bring its own challenges, a reality of which I am becoming more and more aware from my own recent experience in the diocese, traveling to parishes. Even still, this is a high priority for me. Saint Ignatius of Antioch speaks of the people gathering around their bishop to manifest the Church in its fullness. It is an important part of the life of the Church, for bishops, and for clergy and faithful as well.

DOM COMS: Any final words or thoughts that you would like to share with our audience?

BD: I would like to thank Fr. Paul Jannakos, our Chancellor, and the administration of the diocese who put in many unseen hours. I would also like to thank the clergy and faithful throughout the diocese who have already welcomed me with warmth and the hospitality that is so typical of the Midwest. I would also like to invite and encourage as many people from the diocese as possible to attend the enthronement on October 1st at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago. Not only do I believe that it is important for the diocese to be together as one family for this important event, but I truly count on the prayers of the clergy and faithful of this diocese to support and guide my ministry as their bishop.



The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary Commemorated on October 1

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe."

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard."

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and "for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation."

At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered more important by the Slavs than by the Greeks.

The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor also notes the miraculous deliverance followed an all-night Vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blachernae church, but does not mention Saints Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer. These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the Feast of the Protection, seem to postdate Saint Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under (October 2) dating Saint Andrew's death to the year 936.

The year of death might not be quite reliable, or the assertion that he survived to a ripe old age after the vision of his youth, or that his vision involved some later pagan Russian raid which met with the same fate. The suggestion that Saint Andrew was a Slav (or a Scythian according to other sources, such as S. V. Bulgakov) is interesting, but not necessarily accurate. The extent of Slavic expansion and repopulation into Greece is the topic of scholarly disputes.

In the Prologue, a Russian book of the twelfth century, a description of the establishment of the special Feast marking this event states, "For when we heard, we realized how wondrous and merciful was the vision... and it transpired that Your holy Protection should not remain without festal celebration, O Ever-Blessed One!"

Therefore, in the festal celebration of the Protection of the Mother of God, the Russian Church sings, "With the choirs of the Angels, *Con't Next Pg*

Protection Con't from previous Pg

O Sovereign Lady, with the venerable and glorious prophets, with the First-Ranked Apostles and with the Hieromartyrs and Hierarchs, pray for us sinners, glorifying the Feast of your Protection in the Russian Land." Moreover, it would seem that Saint Andrew, contemplating the miraculous vision was a Slav, was taken captive, and became the slave of the local inhabitant of Constantinople named Theognostus.

Churches in honor of the Protection of the Mother of God began to appear in Russia in the twelfth century. Widely known for its architectural merit is the temple of the Protection at Nerl, which was built in the year 1165 by holy Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky. The efforts of this holy prince also established in the Russian Church the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, about the year 1164.

At Novgorod in the twelfth century there was a monastery of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (the so-called Zverin monastery) In Moscow also under Tsar Ivan the Terrible the cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God was built at the church of the Holy Trinity (known as the church of Saint Basil the Blessed).

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."



Venerable Romanus the Melodist, "Sweet-Singer" Commemorated on October 1

Saint Romanus the Melodist was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city.

Saint Romanus was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place. The clergy ridiculed Romanus, which devastated him.

On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus was he given the gift of understanding, composition, and hymnography.

That evening at the all-night Vigil Saint Romanus sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: "Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One..." All the hymns of Saint Romanus became known as kontakia, in reference to the Virgin's scroll. Saint Romanus was also the first to write in the form of the Oikos, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil at his places of residence (In Greek, "oikos").

For his zealous service Saint Romanus was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song. Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the hierodeacon Romanus the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, many of which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord. About eighty survive.

READER

October 2:	Tim
October 9:	Joe
October 16:	Tim
October 23:	Joe
October 30:	Tim