

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

SEPTEMBER, 2017 NEWSLETTER

10383 ALBION ROAD SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m. (except 3 p.m., 9/23, & none, 9/9)
V. Rev. Father Andrew Harmon SUNDAY SCHOOL—September-May, 9 a.m.
440-582-5673/440-826-0662 CONFESSION—after Vespers and 9:45 a.m., Sunday
FAX—440-582-8565 SUNDAY MATINS—9 a.m.
Father's cell phone—440-539-1116 DIVINE LITURGY—10 a.m.
Website—www.stmattroyalton.org e-mail: fatherharmon@wowway.com
DEACONS---Rev. Deacon Macarius Tolbert; Rev. Deacon Basil Vazquez

HOLY DAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

NATIVITY (Birthday) OF THE THEOTOKOS IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8. Our schedule:
Vespers with Artoklasia---Thursday, September 7, 6:30 p.m. **Matins**---Friday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m.
Liturgy—Friday, September 8, 10 a.m. **Potluck lunch**---11:30 a.m. (It's a regular Friday fast)
One of our 12 Great Holy Days.

THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14---Our schedule:
Vespers with Artoklasia---Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 p.m. **Matins**—Thurs, Sept. 14, 9 a.m.
Liturgy with Procession of the Cross---Thursday, September 14, 10 a.m. **Potluck lunch**---11:30
a.m. Strict fasting food as this is a very strict one-day fast. **If you can donate for flowers** for the
Cross procession, please contact Beth Snyder 216-97-7160 bdfarage@gmail.com Join us as we give
thanks to Christ for His death on the cross and as we celebrate the finding of the True Cross by St.
Helen and the recovery of the True Cross in the 600's A.D. *One of our 12 Great Holy Days.*

THE GREAT HOLY DAYS OF OUR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH---We have services for many Saints Days
and holy days. But the most important extra services are for the Great Holy Days of our Church. There are 13 in all,
counting Pascha, the greatest of all. All believers should make attending these special days a top priority. Usually,
there are both evening and morning services for these days—so everyone should be able to attend one or the other
(both, of course, is great!). *2 in September*-----*Nativity of Theotokos, Sept. 8, and Elevation of Cross, Sept. 14.* Please
arrange your schedule now to be able to attend at least one of the services for each of these two Great Feasts. Schedule
details are above.....

NO SATURDAY VESPERS HERE ON SEPTEMBER 9—We will go down to Akron St. George Church for their
Vespers at 6 as Metropolitan JOSEPH will be there---3204 Ridgewood Road, Fairlawn
DEACON VESPERS-----Wednesday, September 27, 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES FOR FALL----SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 9 A.M. CLASSES FOR AGE 3 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, *PLUS*.....

On alternating Sundays, our teen class will be a Bible discussion on the book of Genesis
that is open to young adults & adults as well as teens. It will be led by Peggy Latina----
first time will be Sept. 10. On the other alternating Sundays, the class will be just for
teens and led by George Nassif & Scott Palmer.

BRING YOUR CHILDREN!

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC---AFTER LITURGY, SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

As always, hosted by the Brotherhood and free of charge.

GOOD FOOD & FELLOWSHIP---INFLATABLE CHILDREN'S OBSTACLE COURSE, VOLLEYBALL, ARCHERY, ETC. COME AND ENJOY!

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS, STUDY GROUPS, & MINISTRY TEAMS

TEEN/PARENT BIBLE STUDY/LUNCH---after church Sunday, September 17. At Olivia & Joe Ibrahim-Serafino's home, 9550 Cove Dr., #14. Food, fellowship, Bible---*parents and siblings are encouraged to attend.*

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP---Tuesday, September 12, 7 p.m., at Jean Fadir's, 477 Cranston Drive, Berea. All women are welcome! Call Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464, for more info. *August date to be announced.*

WEST BIBLE STUDY---at the church, 5:45 p.m., Saturday, September 16 (right after Vespers at 5)

We are studying the book of Daniel---all welcome!

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY---6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, September 5 & 19, at Dr. Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. We are studying the book of Hebrews---all are welcome!

NORTH BIBLE STUDY---Monday, Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m., at Ralph & Elle Parkers, 1350 Elmwood Court, Rocky River. We are studying the book of Revelation---please come! *This month---all about the Anti-Christ.....*

BROTHERHOOD MEETING---After liturgy, Sunday, September 3.

MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS---Some of our parishioners will be delivering personal necessity bags, sandwiches, clothes, water, socks, etc. to the homeless on the streets of Cleveland after church on **Sunday, September 17**. If you can help by donating items, let Josie Katzbach 440-668-9831. **ESPECIALLY NEEDED NOW**--- **SOCKS** (see big box on table in hall) **AND WATER**. *And please remember the need for cash funding---please put your donations in the alms box in church narthex. And a particular need right now---sleeping bags. No blankets currently needed.*

ST. HERMAN'S MINISTRY TEAM---Our monthly cooking and serving of a meal to the poor at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter will be **on Sunday, September 17**. We already have volunteer cooks---Jon Scordos & Sara Phillips---thanks! We will need volunteers to help with the 5:30 p.m. serving of the meal. If you can help, please contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591. *Thank you to those who took care of the meal in July---Scott, Simona, Rachael, & Alexandria Palmer and Izzy, Mikey, Jon, and Mike; and thank you to those who took care of the meal in August---David, Rajka, & Angela Ries, Josephine Vuich, and Elizabeth Hunter.*

A GIANT DELIVERY OF FOOD & CLOTHING TO THE HOMELESS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, NOV. 11---Please mark your calendar to help with sandwich production at the church that morning. Donations needed---sweaters, jackets, socks, underwear, blankets, gloves, caps, tents. See Father Andrew about where to put donations.....

HOLY BREAD BAKING MINISTRY TEAM-- We have a rotation of bakers who prepare the bread for the Divine Liturgy. If you would like to be one of them and bake about once every 5 weeks or so, contact Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464 Training available!

PARISH FOOD PANTRY---The food pantry has been getting a fair amount of use all year---and before too long the heavy holiday use will be upon us---so please keep bringing it in! It is in metal cabinet in first room after kitchen. Please bring in non-perishable food---you can leave it on table near room entrance.

CHANTING CLASS ---- It meets on Saturdays at 4 p.m. (before 5 p.m. Vespers). Speak with Anthony [Harmon---anthonysharmon@gmail.com](mailto:anthonysharmon@gmail.com) 440-228-8765 for more info. NO CLASS SATURDAY, SEPT. 9 or SEPT. 23

DONATIONS NEEDED----

---copy paper, either 8 x11 or 8 x 14

---stamps for church mailings

CONGRATULATIONS TO----

---Subdeacon Ryan & Ashley Smith on the birth of Noah Michael on July 21!

---Julie Fadil on the baptism of Lorionna Mae Elizabeth on August 6!

NEW PARISH MEMBERS

Margaret Sabrey

17732 Ash Drive

Strongsville, OH 44149

440-238-1147

Thomas Sabrey

177332 Ash Drive

Strongsville, OH 44149

440-238-1147

Cell—440-759-2526

rabbitman83@aol.com

Norman & Lori Fadil

granddaughter---Lorionna

18 Bronson Street

Berea, OH 44017

440-864-3626

NEFadil46@gmail.com

Please add them to your phone list and welcome them to our parish family!

SEPTEMBER ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

TEAM A, 9/10

Gregory Tolbert, captain

Jacob Kash

Joseph Mozden

Saba Saada

Josiah Blazek

TEAM B, 9/17

Fuad Zogheib, captain

Samir Amer

Ricky Farris

Paul Blazek

Gregory Blazek

TEAM C 9/24

Justin Nassif, captain

Estephan Saada

Grant Johnson

Jed Zogheib

TEAM D 9/3

Shadi Zogheib, captain

Caleb Blazek

Nicholas Katsaros

Xavier Blazek

Emad Zogheib

SEPTEMBER GREETERS SCHEDULE—

9/3---Fred Bourjaily, Susie Harmon

9/17---Scott & Simona Palmer

9/10---Penny Sent, Rachael Palmer, Alexandria Palmer

9/24---Georgette Dye, Judy Yanik

SEPTEMBER USHERS SCHEDULE

September 17

Sam Daher

Gail Malaniak

Cody Krakowski

September 24

Anthony Yanik

George Nassif

Nicholas Katsaros

September 3

Jeff & Susan Joseph

September 10

The Handmaidens

SEPTEMBER EPISTLE READERS SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS--- **Sept. 3---** Maggie George

Sept. 10--- Lisa Palivoda

Sept. 17--- Susan George

Sept. 24--- Judy Yanik

Nativity of Theotokos--- 10 a.m., Friday, Sept. 8---Xenia Amer

Elevation of Cross--- 10 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 14—Michael Lieberman

OUR CONDOLENCES---to Hani Saddic on the falling asleep in Christ of his mother, Serrieh.

---to Francene Comstock on the falling asleep in Christ of her father, Ed Madias.

---to Dan Patrick on the falling asleep in Christ of his uncle, Larry Patrick.

---to Jeff Joseph on the falling asleep in Christ of his brother-in-law, Alex Arshinkoff.

---to Florentina Popa on the falling asleep in Christ of her sister-in-law, Maria.

Memory eternal!

MORE LAY VISITORS NEEDED---Can you be one of our lay visitors? We need more! What lay visitors do is make occasional visits to shut-ins, either in nursing homes or in their own homes. It's a very good way to serve Christ by bringing some cheer and fellowship to those parishioners who can't come to church. If you wish to be a visitor, or need more info, please contact Jack Palivoda, the head of our Lay Visitors Ministry---216-235-2990 jack.palivoda@css-security.com

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday & Many Years to-----

5—Norman Fadil
6---Joanne Esber, Harry Marantides, Joseph Vazquez
13—Jed Zoghaib
15—Lucy Dragos, Jessica Rotundo, Evan Sevastos
17—Lee Ann Daher
20—Georgette Dye
22—Marilyn Bailey, Ryan Johnson
23---Jay Amer
24—Darek Childress
25—Tonya Katsaros
26—Livia Dinu, Emilia Spirescu
30—Julianna Amer, Father Andrew

Wedding Anniversaries

4---Alex Lane
6—Scott & Simona Palmer
9—Craig & Cindy George
21—Ron & Georgette Dye

Send a card or make a call and make someone's special day a little more special!

IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE PARISHIONER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST, CALL FR. ANDREW!

THANKS!

--to Mike Vovos for his help for our St. Herman's meal fund
--to Paul, Caleb, Josiah, Xavier, Gregory, & Sebastian Blazek for their help for our St. Herman's meal fund.
--to Jean Fadil for a gift in memory of Joyce Nader.
---to David & Rajka Ries for a gift in memory of Daniel Resanovic.
---to Craig & Cindy George for a gift in memory of Serrieh Saddic.
--to Beth Snyder for hosting the Chat and Chew in August.
---to Jean Fadil, Ralph & Elle Parker, & Marianna Russyn for hosting our July Community Lunch.
---to Hani & Chantelle Saddic for hosting our August Community Lunch.

ORTHODOX HOME SCHOOL CO-OP BEGINNING

With the blessing of His Grace Bishop ANTHONY, an Orthodox Home School Co-op is beginning at St. Matthew's on September 7. A ministry of our parish, it is open to Orthodox homeschoolers from all parishes and we hope for cooperation and support from all parishes. (And non-Orthodox children are also welcome). No parish funds will be expended, but your prayers are requested!

We are starting with 8 families and 21 children. It will meet at St. Matthew's on almost all Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

With Bishop ANTHONY's blessing, the directing group for the Co-op is made up of Lisa Amer, Susan Blazek, and Khourie Bonnie Harmon.

There are several Home School Co-ops, but there has never been an Orthodox one in the Cleveland area before. The intent is to provide support, encouragement, fellowship, supplemental classes, and Orthodox instruction to the growing number of homeschooling Orthodox in our area. Our Antiochian Archdiocese does now have a Home Schooling Department and we hope to make use of their resources and advice in this new venture.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED We are now e-mailing most of our parish newsletters to save on paper, copying, and mailing. If you received this copy by regular mail, but do have e-mail, please get your address to us. Just send a quick e-mail to fatherharmon@wowway.com or call 440-582-5673 **THANK YOU!**

ASK THE PRIEST---This section of the newsletter is for questions to Fr. Andrew concerning our Orthodox Christian Faith---anything you have been wondering about! Just let Fr. Andrew know.

WHY DO WE USE INCENSE IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH? Incense is used in the worship services of the Orthodox Church and has been used since Old Testament times. And it was prophesied in Malachi 1:11 in the Old Testament that the day would come when incense would be offered to God by all peoples---“In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name...” That prophecy is fulfilled each Sunday when in all nations Orthodox Christians offer incense to God.

And when we give incense to God, we imitate the Wise Men at the first Christmas who brought the gift of incense to the infant Jesus.

We also use incense in the Liturgy because worship in the Liturgy is a reflection of the worship of God in heaven itself by the saints and angels---and we know that incense is used in heavenly worship. As we read in St. John’s vision of heaven in Revelation 5:8---“the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” And in Revelation 8:5---“And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of the saints.”

In addition to using incense as a fulfillment of St. Malachi’s prophecy, as an imitation of the Wise Men, and because it is used in heaven, there are several symbolic meanings in its use. The smoke going up symbolized our prayers going up to God in heaven. The beautiful smell reminds us of the beauties of the kingdom of Heaven. The odor of the incense purifies the church from other odors and reminds us of how the Holy Spirit purifies our souls. Incense is a symbol of veneration so it helps us in venerating the holy things in the church-----the altar, the gospel book, the icon, etc.----and also in venerating each other as Christians who have within them the Holy Spirit. Thus, the people in church are censured as well as the holy things.

WHY IS THE LITURGY ALMOST ENTIRELY SUNG, NOT SPOKEN? When we’re happy we sing. The Liturgy is a time of great joy, so we sing. The litanies are sung, the gospel reading is sung, the variable hymns are sung by the chanters, almost all of the priest’s prayers are sung, and the beautiful and majestic hymns such as the Trisagion, the Cherubimic Hymn, etc. are sung.

The book of Revelation tells us more about heaven than any other part of the Bible. And it describes heaven as a place with lots of singing! We enter into heaven in the liturgy every Sunday morning and holy day---so when we enter heaven we worship in a heavenly way---that means singing.

What is especially wonderful about the Liturgy at St. Matthew’s (and many other parishes) is that we *all* sing. Standing in front at the altar, I get the full effect and volume of our congregation’s singing---a wonderful thing to hear!

What if you’re not a very good singer and thus reluctant to sing? Sing anyway. Don’t worry---the good singers will drown out your mistakes. And even if they don’t, God will be pleased to hear you anyway, even if you’re out of tune. As the Psalms say-----“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!” Sing joyfully and God will love your singing, even if some humans think you’re off-key. Of course, we should do all we can to make our Liturgy music the best offering we can give to God, but it’s even more important that we all make that offering of song, even if we’re not great singers.

Musical excellence is great and we should strive for it. But even more important is that we all enthusiastically worship God and offer Him our song, as humble as our talents might be. Let our words be that of Asaph who wrote in the 10th verse of Psalm 74 (75)----“I will rejoice forever, I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.”

NORTH ROYALTON MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION---COMMUNITY MONTHLY MEAL

This ministry has been organized with Orthodox (2 parishes), Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Nazarene, & Methodist participation. The basic plan is for the parishes to go together to serve a hot meal to all who can come---the target group originally was the needy, but all are welcome! The next meal will be Sunday, September 24, 3-5 p.m., at St. Albert Catholic Church on Wallings Road. If you can help in any way, contact Father Andrew.

SAINTS DAY PRAYERS---Children whose Saints Days fall in September will be honored and prayed for after the liturgy on Sunday, September 17.

NEXT PARISH NEWSLETTER will be printed the week of September 24. Please give any info for it to Father Andrew by then.

CAN YOU SPONSOR A MEAL FOR THE POOR? It costs about \$100 for us to serve our monthly meal to the poor at St. Herman's. Would you like to help in a very special way by sponsoring one meal by donating \$100? You can do this either by yourself or together with another family or families. Please mark your donation clearly!

**ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH
10383 ALBION ROAD
NORTH ROYALTON, OH 44133**

MORE MEMORIAL WHEAT PREPARERS NEEDED—We have several preparers who make the wheat for memorial services, but we need some more... If you would like to be a wheat preparer, contact Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464 Training available!

**----BISHOP ANTHONY WILL BE WITH US FOR OUR ST. MATTHEW DAY WEEKEND----
NOVEMBER 17-19...Please keep those dates open!**

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD FUNDRAISING DINNER---Thursday, Oct. 5, at Copperstone (formerly Ridge Manor), corner of Ridge & Biddulph. Doors open, 6; Dinner, 7. Fr. Remus Grama is the speaker. Family style meal. Chinese auction and vendors. Contact Cindy George for tickets----330-309-9491
Cindygeorge127@gmail.com Adults--\$30; Age 6-12--\$7.50; Under 6---free

