

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

FEBRUARY, 2017 NEWSLETTER

10383 ALBION ROAD

V. Rev. Father Andrew Harmon

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Website—www.stmattroyalton.org

SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—September-May, 9 a.m.

CONFESSION—after Vespers and 9:45 a.m., Sunday

SUNDAY MATINS—9 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY—10 a.m.

e-mail: fatherharmon@wowway.com

DEACONS---Rev. Deacon Macarius Tolbert; Rev. Deacon Basil Vazquez

HOLY DAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST HOLY DAY IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2---This is one of our Faith's 12 major holy days, so all should attend at least one service if at all possible....

VESPERS with Artoklasia-----Wednesday, February 1, 7 p.m.

MATINS---Thursday, February 2, 9 a.m.

LITURGY---Thursday, February 2, 10 a.m., with customary blessing of candles. Potluck lunch.

This holy day commemorates when our Lord Jesus Christ was "churched" in the temple at age 40 days---as recounted in Luke 2.

SOUL SATURDAY & MEMORIAL SERVICE---Saturday, February 18, 10 a.m. (Matins at 9). At this service, as part of our preparation for Lent, we pray for our departed relatives and friends. Please give Fr. Andrew a list of those you wish prayed for. Please let us show proper respect for our departed by being present to pray for them and not just turning in names. Potluck lunch afterwards.

LENTEN SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

FORGIVENESS VESPERS---Sunday, February 26, 7 p.m., preceded by potluck meal at 6. *This service, on the eve of the first day of Lent, is when Lent actually begins.* We will have our last pre-Lent meal together (actually meatless, though, but cheese, etc. okay) at 6 and then go into church for the first service of Lent. At the end of Vespers, we embrace each other and ask forgiveness from all as we start the holy season. It's a beautiful evening! Please attend!

GREAT COMPLINE WITH CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE---Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday, February 27, 28, & March 2---6:30, *EXCEPT 6 ON MONDAY.* Great way to start Lent!

ALSO: WEEKDAY VESPERS----Wednesday, FEBRUARY 15, 6:30 p.m.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS, STUDY GROUPS, & MINISTRY TEAMS

SHOEBOXES FOR KIDS ASSEMBLY DAY----At 9 a.m., Saturday, February 11, we will gather in St. Matthew's hall to prepare the shoeboxes for delivery to inner-city school children. *Your help is needed!* Please contact either Josie Katzbach, 440-668-9831, or Olivia Harmon, 440-220-2624, for more information.

ST. MATTHEW'S LADIES NIGHT OUT! Monday, February 13, 5 p.m. At Stancato's, 7380 State Road, Parma. RSVP ASAP to Susan Joseph at 440-895-9221 or KMUSIKSJ@AOL.COM Buffet night!

WOMEN'S SPEAKER MEETING-----Right after coffee time, Sunday, February 19 Featured speaker: Presbytera Lindsey Zobenica---She will speak on a spiritual topic and have a question & answer time. There will be refreshments---please join us! RSVP to Georgette Dye by Feb. 12---georgette.dye@gmail.com 440-429-5398

ORTHODOX FAMILY EDUCATION DAY----Saturday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m-noon, at St. George Antiochian Church, 2587 W. 14th St., Cleveland Topic: God's Love. Activities and fun for children ages 3-10! Little Johnnies Play Group will also meet at same time---for children under 3 and their parents. Please RSVP to Lea Khoury at lea.g.khoury@gmail.com by Feb. 22. Sponsored by St. John Orthodox Christian Academy.

"PATHWAY TO SANITY: ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY" DISCUSSION MEETING-----Sundays, 6 p.m., Feb. 5, 12, & 19. At the Vazquez's, 542 Lindberg, Berea. Call Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591 for more info. You're invited!

CHANTING CLASS BEGINNING----It will meet on Saturdays at 4 p.m. (before 5 p.m. Vespers), beginning on March 4. Speak with Anthony [Harmon---anthonysharmon@gmail.com](mailto:anthonysharmon@gmail.com) 440-228-8765 for more info.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP---Wednesday, February 8, 1 p.m. at Jean Fadi's, 477 Cranston Drive, Berea. All women are welcome! Call Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464, for more info.

WEST BIBLE STUDY—5:45 p.m., Saturday, February 11 (right after Vespers at 5)

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

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, February 7 & 21, at Dr. Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. We are studying the book of Romans—all are welcome!

NORTH BIBLE STUDY---Thursday, February 21, 6:30 p.m., at Marianna Russyn's, 27001 Knickerbocker Rd. Bay Village (in apartment building social room—1st floor). We are studying the book of Revelation---please come!

TEEN GROUP -----**Officer election & planning meeting**---after liturgy, Sunday, February 5.

---Cosmic Bowling---Friday night, February 10---Details later.....

---Teen Bible Study *may or may not meet this month*—if it does: after church, Sunday, Feb. 26.

ST. HERMAN'S MINISTRY TEAM---We will be cooking and serving meals for the homeless at St. Herman Shelter on **Sunday, February 19. Can you do the cooking? Contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591, for details.....thank you! And if you would like to help with the serving of the meal at 5:30, please let Deacon Basil know.** If you can bring desserts to St. Matthew's that morning, we can bring them to serve. *Thank you to those who worked the January meal---Michael Farris, Florentina Popa, and Presbyteria Lindsay Zobenica.*

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 6 weeks or so, contact Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464 Training available!

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, February 19.** 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 new need---we are "adopting" some folks in need of tents. Can you donate a tent?---any size is fine. Either new or used but in good shape and ready to use...Just let Josie know.*

PARISH FOOD PANTRY----**Thank you to all who helped with** our Christmas food deliveries and toys for needy children ministry---to those who donated, those who "packed up", & those who delivered! 17 homes received help and 27 children received gifts. The food pantry was totally literally cleaned out---so now we need to build it back up. If you can help, please bring in non-perishable food---you can put it on table in hall by door to room next to kitchen.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP IS BEGINNING---Interested? Need info? **Contact the leaders: Wesam Alsaifi, 440-502-7780 & Samuel Harmon, 216-598-9230**

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!**

NEXT PARISH NEWSLETTER will be printed the week of February 26. Please give any info for it to Father Andrew by then.

CAMPER LUNCH

Our children (and their families) who will be attending the Antiochian Village Camp this summer will be serving us a lunch after liturgy on Sunday, February 12. There will be a free-will offering to help them with their tuition for the summer camp.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP AND TO HELP THE KIDS!

DONATIONS NEEDED----

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

---stamps for church mailings

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!

ANNUAL MIDWEST DIOCESE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT----It was held in Canton, January 14. We had 2 teams participating. *Our junior level team, coached by Rachid Zogheib, won! Congratulations!* Our senior level team, coached by Adam Daher & Samuel Harmon, did not win----but there's always next season. Thank you to all who came down to cheer our players on.

FEBRUARY ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

<u>TEAM A, 2/19</u>	<u>TEAM B, 2/26</u>	<u>TEAM C, 2/5</u>	<u>TEAM D, 2/12</u>
Gregory Tolbert, captain	Fuad Zogheib, captain	Justin Nassif, captain	Shadi Zogheib, captain
Jacob Kash	Samir Amer	Joseph Ibrahim	Eli Haddad
Joseph Mozden	Ricky Farris	Grant Johnson	Nicholas Katsaros
Edward Sevastos	Evan Sevastos	Jed Zogheib	Emad Zogheib

FEBRUARY GREETERS SCHEDULE---

2/19---Georgette Dye, Judy Yanik **2/26**---Fred Bourjaily, Penny Sent
2/5---Scott & Simona Palmer **2/12**---Ralph & Elle Parker

FEBRUARY USHERS SCHEDULE

<u>February 5</u>	<u>February 12</u>	<u>February 19</u>	<u>February 26</u>
Sam Daher	Anthony Yanik	Jeff & Susan Joseph	The Handmaidens
Gail Malaniak	George Nassif		
Cody Krakowski	Nicholas Katsaros		

FEBRUARY EPISTLE READERS SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS--- **February 5**---Susan Joseph **February 19**--- Ryan Johnson
 February 12---Jasmine Zogheib **February 26**--- Gabriel Kirsch
Presentation of Christ liturgy-----**Thursday, February 2**-----Michael Lieberman
Soul Saturday Liturgy----**Saturday, February 18**----Judy Yanik

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!

THANK YOU -----

--to the Zoghaibs, Saadas, Alsaifis, and Yareds for hosting our January 8 Monthly Community Lunch!
--to Chris & Callie Solomon for their very special gift!
--Georgette Dye & Khourie Bonnie for coordinating our Theophany celebration meal!
----A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO REGULARLY HOST IN THEIR HOME SOME OF OUR STUDY GROUPS----Women's Prayer Group---Jean Fadil; North Bible Study---Ralph & Elle Parker and Marianna Russyn; South Bible Study---Craig & Cindy George; Sunday Evening Discussion Group---Deacon Basil & Joanne Vazquez. And to everyone else who occasionally host such things as Teen Bible Study, Chat and Chew Discussion Parties, etc. *Your hospitality is wonderful and very appreciated by all of us!*

NEW MEMBER

Mrs. Pauline Hanna
6256 Westminster
Parma, OH 44129

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

PITA BREAD FOR SALE

Our Sisterhood will be selling pita bread after liturgy in the hall during coffeetime on Sunday, February 26

SAINTS DAY PRAYERS---Children whose Saints Days fall in February will be honored and prayed for after the liturgy on Sunday, February 19.

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, February 26, 3-5 p.m., at St. Albert Catholic Church on Wallings Road. If you can help in any way, contact Father Andrew.

PARISH COMMUNITY LUNCH ----Right after liturgy on Sunday, February 5.

It is being provided by Anthony & Judy Yanik and Dolores Kaleal. Be sure to stay after church for good fellowship and good food and an opportunity, by free-will offering, to help the parish's general fund. *We hope to have a different family (or 2 families) or organization each month take on preparing such a meal for our church family. Can you take some upcoming month? Let Fr. Andrew know or check with him for more info.....*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday & Many Years to-----

2—Christopher Katsaros
3—Jean Fadil
4—Samanta Kornea
6—Sam Daher, Nicholas Jammal, Rami Rizk
7—Ruthe Patrick, Marianna Russyn
10—Rose Sahley
12---Katie Pappadakes
13---Jacqueline Jammal
15—Gail Malaniak
18—Simona Palmer, Rachid Zoghaib
19—Ashley Smith
20—Fuad Zoghaib
24—Bailey Lieberman
27---Jeb Brooks, Ted Campensa
28—Jennifer Holmes

Wedding Anniversaries

9---George & Christine Simon
18—Damian & Kim Dusek
20—Peter & Tonya Katsaros

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!

HOUSEBLESSINGS WILL CONTINUE ON UP TO THE START OF LENT--- As of February

1, about 80 have been done-----more to go..... Please contact Father Andrew if you haven't yet been scheduled.

THE GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE

The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete is a penitential canon of hymns written in the 600's A.D. by St. Andrew, bishop of the island of Crete. It is commonly served during the 1st week of Lent to assist us in our repentance as we begin this season of spiritual struggle and growth. Because it is quite long to do in one service, it is usually broken into sections on different nights. We will do it in 3 sections in conjunction with the service of Great Compline on 3 evenings in the 1st week of Lent---Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday, February 27 & 28 and March 2. IT WILL BE AT 6 P.M. ON MONDAY AND AT 6:30 ON TUESDAY & THURSDAY.

SAINTS ALIVE!

Once again, we will have presenters teach and lead discussion about various Saints on 5 Lenten Friday evenings---March 3,10, 17, 24, 31. Let Fr. Andrew know if you can present on one of these nights.

THE LENTEN FAST

Great Lent is a time to especially work on spiritual disciplines to help us grow in Christ. These disciplines include such things as extra worship services, beginning or strengthening the habit of daily prayer, going to Confession, more Bible reading, almsgiving-----and fasting. Fasting is a discipline meant to help us in several ways---learning self-denial, gaining in self-control, helping us to focus more on God, allowing us to spend less on food in order to give more alms, etc.

The Lenten fast involves both eating less and giving up certain foods. Throughout Lent, we should eat less and avoid snacks, in addition to abstaining from certain foods.

Lent this year is from February 27 to April 7. During Lent, we give up meat and animal foods (such as eggs, dairy products, & fish), wine, and olive oil. Shellfish are permitted. On Annunciation Day, March 25, wine, oil, and fish are consumed. And wine and olive oil are allowed on all Saturdays and Sundays. During Holy Week, April 8-15, the fast is the same as in Lent itself, except that wine, olive oil, and fish are allowed on Palm Sunday, April 9. Also, Holy & Great Friday and Holy & Great Saturday, April 14 & 15, are to be observed as especially strict fast days, with as little eating and drinking as possible.

As with all fasting, the Church's Lenten fast allows adjustments for children, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and those with health problems that require certain foods. Also, those who are new to fasting may need to begin with a less strict fast and then gradually get stricter year by year. However, we should remember that unless we strict fastly enough to make it hard, it will be of little use to us. One should always feel free to speak with one's spiritual father about how to personally observe, and make the best spiritual use of, the Lenten Fast.

The Bible and the Saints are clear that fasting is not a way to earn salvation, but a tool to help us grow. We must guard against pride when we fast and concentrate most on fasting from sin---gossip, pride, lust, etc.

The prescribed Lenten Fast is sometimes called "black fast" to differentiate it from less strict fasting, such as just giving up meat. How strictly each person follows the recommended fast is not other people's business. We should only be concerned with our own fasting, not judging others for what they eat. However, when we gather together during Lent as a church family, we should abide by the Church's Lenten fast---therefore, we should keep all of our parish meals and coffeetimes during Lent "black fast."

THE APPROACH OF GREAT LENT

Pascha is April 16 this year. Lent starts on Monday, February 27.

The three weeks before Lent are set aside as weeks to gradually prepare ourselves for the Lenten season.

Here is the breakdown-----

---**Week of February 6-12:** No fasting, not even on the usual Wednesdays and Fridays. This relaxation from usual fasting days is to "give us a break" before Lent and also to remind us that fasting is just a spiritual tool, not a way to try to earn salvation.

---**Week of February 13-19:** A normal fasting week, with fasting on Wednesday and Friday. This week is a "step up" from the preceding no-fast week as we head towards Lent.

---**Week of February 20-26:** Cheese Fare Week. No meat all week, but cheese, dairy eggs, and fish (all given up in Lent) are eaten each day this week. A "half-way" fast to help us prepare.....

---**And then Great Lent itself starts on Monday, February 27**...more on that elsewhere in this newsletter.

MINISTRY TEAMS

St. Matthew Church has been busy establishing Ministry Teams. These teams are essential in making our church run more smoothly. If everyone can be a part of a team as a leader or as a helper, you and all of us in the church will greatly benefit. Please look on the wall in the hall near the water fountain to find a list of teams and of the people who have already signed up. Consider adding your name to the list as God leads you to do so.

We will have a meeting at the end of February for all those who have signed up as a kick-off for these ministries.

Some of the ministry teams that still need leaders are: 1. Coffeetime coordinator (can be done from your home); 2. Altar Guild; 3. Worship matters oversight---for readers, altar boys, Handmaidens; 4. Potluck coordinator---not to coordinate the meals, but to find individuals to be in charge of individual potlucks; 5. Pro-Life Ministry leader.

"Let all things be done decently and in good order"---I Corinthians 14:40

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING---Monday, February 27, 7:30 (later than usual due to Compline service).

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS TO COOK AND SERVE AT ST. HERMAN SHELTER

We would like to ask for 12 volunteers to cook meals in a year to help the poor. The goal is to have enough cooks so each only cooks once a year. This entails preparing our monthly meal at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter for about 125 people. *Please do not let this number intimidate you, because we will have simple recipes for you to use that work well for such a number.* You can also come up with your own recipe or buy prepared meals from GFS. It is a simple thing to do but goes a long way in ministering to those in need. It costs about \$100-\$125---you can be reimbursed by the parish or, if you wish, you can donate the meal. You can prepare it at home, or in our church kitchen, or at St. Herman's. Serving begins at 5:30 and you can stay to serve if you like.

We are also looking for volunteers to be servers of the meals. It is a wonderful way to express your care for others---you will be at St. Herman's about one hour to actually serve the meal to the poor.

The scriptures encourage caring for others as if we are caring for Christ Himself---Matthew 25:31-46. May God grant you guidance as you pray about and ponder this request. To get more information or to volunteer, please see me at church or call me at 440-665-3591-----*Deacon Basil*

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

All Orthodox Christians should go to the sacrament of Confession during Lent or Holy Week. At St. Matthew's, confessions are heard after Saturday Vespers and at 9:45 a.m. Sunday; or before or after other services---or by appointment at other times. If you have questions about the details, just call or e-mail Father Andrew.

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

2017 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman---Larry Malaniak
Vice-Chairman—Sam Daher
Secretary—Subdeacon Fred Bourjaily
Jay Amer
Adam Daher
Cindy George
Samuel Harmon
Simona Palmer
Elie Zogheib
Treasurer (not a Council member)---Lisa Palivoda

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are on table in hall for the Elinor Bourjaily Scholarships for college and Antiochian Village Camp. For more info, contact Gail Malaniak, 440-552-4586, gailmeen@gmail.com