

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
SEPTEMBER, 2023 NEWSLETTER
10383 ALBION ROAD, N. ROYALTON, OH 44133
P.O. Box 33183, N. Royalton, OH 44133**

**Father Andrew's Contact Info: fatherharmon@outlook.com
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Website: www.stmattroyalton.org**

**SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m. SUNDAY MATINS—8:50 a.m.
SUNDAY LITURGY—10 a.m. CONFESSION—after Vespers and
during Sunday Matins & by appointment.**

EXTRA WORSHIP SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (Birthday of St. Mary) IS SEPTEMBER 8TH

Our schedule---Thursday, September 7th---Vespers with Artoklasia, 6:30 p.m.

---Friday, September 8th---Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m. Potluck lunch after liturgy. (Being it's Friday, it is a fast day so no meat or dairy, please. Fish, wine, & oil are allowed because of the holy day).

THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS IS SEPTEMBER 14TH Because Father Andrew will be gone to a wedding in Wisconsin, we will have a simpler schedule than usual—on Thursday, Sept. 14th, there will be a Deacon's Typica Service with reception of pre-sanctified Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. No potluck.

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS, STUDY GROUPS, MINISTRY
TEAMS**

**PATHWAYS TO PEACE—BOTH IN PERSON AT CHURCH AND
BY ZOOM—Each Monday, 7:15 pm. “A gathering place for those who
are broken from hurts, hang-ups, or habits. Join us as we renew our
minds and encourage each other through the love of Christ.” Call
Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591, for Zoom information.**

**WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP—Tuesday, September 12, 1 p.m. All
women welcome! The location is at Tara Reidy's, 274 Elmwood, Berea.
For more info, call Sandy Tolbert, 440-773-9162. We're reading and
discussing the book, “The Ascetic of Love.”**

WEST BIBLE STUDY—Saturday, September 9, 6 pm at the church. August meeting to be announced. Studying I Corinthians.

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—Tuesday, September 5 & 19, at Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. All are welcome. The study will be on the first part of Genesis.

TEEN CLUB—Monthly meeting after liturgy, Sunday, September 10.

MARTHA MINISTRIES IS NOW UNDERWAY—This is a ministry to provide meals for families in need of some help—new babies, illness, grieving, etc. If you can help, see/email/call Erin Musarra at 440-799-0838.

ST. HERMAN'S MINISTRY TEAM—Contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591 to help with our monthly meal serving at the shelter on Sunday, September 17.

MONTHLY DELIVERY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, ETC. TO HOMELESS ON STREETS OF DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND---Sunday, September 17. Alms box to help this outreach is near hall entrance.

HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP---It has resumed for the new school year. It will meet every Friday, (except Sept. 8) from 9:30-1:30 at St. Matthew's. For more info, contact Olivia at oharmon15@gmail.com or call (440)220-2624,

MOM AND TOTS GROUP—A new group for moms with babies and toddlers has begun. Will meet every Friday (except Sept. 8) around 10:45 a.m. during Homeschool Enrichment Group. Contact Oliva at oharmon15@gmail.com or call (440)220-2624.

CHESS CLUB—After church, Sunday, September 17.

KNIT/CROCHET GROUP---September 9, 3:30. Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? We meet once a month before Vespers on 2nd Saturday of month at 3:30 p.m. Next meeting---September 9. Call Lisa Bowden, 440-667-2767, if you have any questions.

PARISH LANDSCAPING WORK DAYS---After liturgy on Sunday, September 24. Text or call (and leave voicemail) to Sondra Palivoda, 216-973-7537.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Will not have their regular meeting in Sept instead they will join in a Pan Orthodox Young Adult Social in Akron on Sat, Sept 16, 5pm at 376 Hallandale Dr, Akron, OH 44333. Burgers and dogs provided, please bring a side. For more info, contact: Sbdcn Samuel Harmon, 216-598-9230, samuelfharmon15@gmail.com or Colton Bose, 440-567-6101 or contact the priest who is hosting the event:

NEW PARISHIONERS IN JULY AND AUGUST

Tony & Fadia Karim
13534 Sheldon Blvd.
Brookpark, OH 44142
216-267-2561
Tonykarim@aol.com

Adam & Susie Palmer
Lily and August
7318 Liberty Ave.
Parma, OH 44129
STPALMER85@hotmail.com

Emerson & Nancy Sirilla
Thomas
1443 Fox Drive
Brunswick, OH 44212
330-225-5262

AND ALSO WELCOME OUR NEW CATECHUMEN-----*Tiara Robinson who received the blessing to become a Catechumen on August 27th.*

OUR CURRENT CATECHUMENS---We pray for them at each liturgy. Please pray for them also during the week as they prepare to enter the Orthodox Faith by either Baptism or Chrismation.

Jamie & Lucas Domonokos Ryan Cobb Adam, Stevi, & Liv James
Kyle McGregor Tiara Robinson

CAMPER THANK YOU LETTERS—Antiochian Village, 2023

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for helping me go to camp! I had a lot of fun there. My favorite activity was Four Square. My favorite was service was Paraklesis because I really like the tone of the Odes. Thank you again for your generosity!

Sincerely,

Sebastian Blazek

Dear Supporters,

Thank you so much for everything you have done. I had a lot of fun at camp!!! My favorite activity was capture the flag! My faith really improved from all the church services and it was really beautiful! I loved having Orthros every morning and vespers every night. Thank you again for all your help!

Anastasia Blazek

Thank you so much for the help funding me and my siblings going to camp!

I was able to grow closer to God, meet many new friends, and get together again with an old friend I hadn't talked to for 4-5 years. Without your generosity, I know I wouldn't have been able to go, so I just wanted to say thank you very very much, and that your charity is greatly appreciated!

Xavier Blazek

Dear St. Matthew Parish Members,

Thank you for donating to our camper's fund in order for me to go to camp. I had a lot of fun at camp, and I appreciate that I was able to go. I really enjoyed the frequent church services we had while at camp, making new friends and meeting new people. I also enjoyed playing four square and swimming. I hope that I get to go to camp again to see my new friends and have a good time with them. Thank you again for your donations and for making it possible for me to go.

Sincerely,

Gianna Musarra

I would like to thank the church for giving me this opportunity to go and enjoy camp. Antiochian Village has helped me to learn so much more about my religion. It has helped me to grow closer to God and helped me to learn new prayers and more things about God and what we are supposed to do and be as Orthodox Christians. I also made a bunch of new friends who have taught me how to forgive and not hold grudges against the people who have wronged me. AV camp taught me how to love others more and more like myself. I would also like to thank the donators and the church family that made all of this possible. Thank you, Camper Nawal.

Dear St. Matthew's Parish Members,

Thank you for helping to pay for our camp fund. I have gone to camp for three consecutive years now and every time is better than the last. I have made so many memories and so many friends at camp. Thank you for making it possible for me and other campers to make more memories and friendships at Antiochian village! Sincerely, Rowan

PARISH RETREAT

As many of you are aware, our parish was blessed to host a retreat by Fr. Sergius Bowyer on August 18 & 19 based around his book *Acquiring the Mind of Christ*. He is the current Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery in Pennsylvania, the oldest Orthodox Monastery in America. (Reader Anthony Harmon was once a novice there.) Fr. Sergius made it even more of a blessing by bringing the wonderworking icon of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, as well as the relics of St. Anna, St. Joachim (the father of the Theotokos) and our own patron St. Matthew! God truly blessed us with an incredible weekend!

The retreat began on Friday the 18th with a Moleben service to Ss. Joachim and Anna, followed by the first of Fr. Sergius' three sessions. He began his first talk by discussing the history of the Orthodox Mission to North America led by St. Herman of Alaska, and how a big catalyst for it was the recently published Slavic edition of *The Philokalia* (now in English). He then began to recount numerous miracles he had encountered from the Saints, including a rather amusing story about how St. Nicholas helped save the Monastery by hooking up the electricity at 1 in the morning. He recounted the many miracles that the wonderworking icon of St. Anna has brought, how many children have been born as the result of her prayers, and how the icon is adorned with jewelry from grateful Orthodox faithful who had their prayers answered.

A common theme throughout the first session was the need for watchfulness in prayer and how we must cultivate prayerful thinking in order to grow in our faith. He talked about how we need to receive our cross in a prayerful way, and how to begin to cultivate the prayer of the heart. He used Ss. Joachim and Anna as an example of a prayerful heart, and how their holy petitions for a child lead to the birth of the Mother of God.

He discussed how there are actually three Liturgies in the life of the Orthodox Church: the Liturgy in heaven, which is always happening; the Liturgy in any given parish or monastery; and the Liturgy in our hearts, which we always have to cultivate and bring into union with the other two. We do this in part by leaving space for God in our prayers, and by being attentive to what He has to give us.

He also emphasized the age-old wisdom of working on our own salvation and how to avoid judging our brothers and sisters. "We don't have to fix people," he said. "We don't have to solve that problem; but we do have to love them and pray for them."

The second session began Saturday morning, with a large portion of it concerning humility. As he would state multiple times, love and humility are not something you earn. Rather, they are given by God. "Humility is only given. It's not something I do. It's something I receive."

How do we receive humility? As Fr. Sergius explained, we have to open ourselves to it by receiving all that comes to us, the good and especially the bad. He would go on to quote a brother monk on the matter, about how "you're only going to be humble when you're humbled." He tied this in with his previous talk about watchfulness, and how we must always be on guard so as not to be carried away by the passions.

He went on to explain how "the more you know about God, the more you know about yourself. The more you know about yourself, the more you know about God." He would further elaborate by showing how "all that God has and is He gave to us. And the greatest mystery is not what's in front of us, but what's inside us." In doing so, he

brought the session back to the discussion of how we must cultivate the Liturgy in our hearts so that we can participate in the Liturgy in Church and in Heaven.

The third session was an extended Q&A that covered a variety of spiritual topics. To hear the audio from all three sessions of the retreat, go to the St. Matthew website at www.stmattroyalton.org. Click on the "Events" tab from the top menu, then click "Past". All three sessions will be at the top of the page.

--Polycarp Bose



NEW MINISTRY BEGINNING AT ST. MATTHEW'S

St. Matthew's is now officially affiliated with OCLife, a "non-profit organization dedicated to equipping the Orthodox Christian community to strengthen its commitment to the sacredness of human life from conception to death, illuminating the Church's teaching on life issues through education and engagement." If you would like to get involved in this new ministry, please contact Lisa Palivoda at ldpal1703@outlook.com or Cindy George at cindygeorge127@gmail.com.

It looks like there will be an Orthodox Christians For Life group going to Columbus on October 6 for the pro-life march at the capital in opposition to the proposed pro-abortion amendment to the state constitution in November. To sign up to go, or get more info, please contact either Cindy George or Lisa Palivoda (see contact info above).

ST. MATTHEW'S MESSAGE BOARD

Contact Bonnie Harmon if you wish to submit a message.

Scaffolding for FREE

Four panels of 60" x 60" with cross braces and planks creates two levels high. No rust, stored in garage.
Debbie Geletka: 440-570-2375

LOOKING FOR A KEYBOARD

Call or text Bonnie at 216-258-4837 if you or someone you know wants to get rid of one.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY MEET-UP

One of our newer members (chrismated in June of 2022) is Michael Palmer. He is the brother of Scott Palmer who was formerly a member of St. Matthew's. Michael was born on September 24, 1969, in Cleveland. His father worked for Ohio Bell and his mother was a secretary for Kincua Environmental Company. Scott is his younger brother and he also has a younger sister. The family lived near Denison and 44th in Cleveland. That is still where Michael lived until a couple of years ago when his mother passed away. Less than a month later, he moved to an apartment in Berea where he is today.

Michael attended Padua High School and then Cleveland Central Catholic where he graduated in 1988. He then attended Tri-C for a year.

After finishing his education, Michael worked mostly in retail. Then in 2006 he got a job at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. He worked in visitor services greeting the guests, answering questions, and keeping an eye on the exhibits. He absolutely loved his job, probably partly because he loves rock & roll music. During the 14 years he worked there, he met Bruce Springsteen, Metallica; and he became friends with Alice Cooper who he says is a really nice guy. Also, Michael has seen many musicians as they were being given tours of the museum. One such was Bob Dylan. Sometimes they toured with body guards, sometimes incognito. He said that Bonnie Raitt toured disguised as a homeless person so that no one would bother her. When asked what his favorite group was, Michael answered Iron Maiden and, of course, his friend Alice Cooper.

You have probably noticed that Michael has orthopedic problems necessitating his use of a cane. It all started in August of 1997. He was working for the Cleveland Indians transporting merchandise at Jacob's Field. He and a co-worker were driving a cart around carrying merchandise from one place to another. On this fateful day, his co-worker was driving the cart with Michael sitting next to him. What happened was the driver turned a corner too fast, throwing Michael out of the cart. The cart skidded and ran into Michael, smashing his right leg. His leg was severely injured making him go in and out of consciousness. He was taken to the hospital and his broken bones treated. Eventually he began endless physical therapy. Since it was not a complete recovery, Michael has had to go on disability. To this day, he can only work part time.

Due to COVID layoffs, Michael lost his much loved job at the Hall of Fame in 2020. He now works at Malley's Chocolates in Strongsville. I can attest to the deliciousness of the chocolate he sells there!

Michael grew up going to Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church on 14th Avenue and Trowbridge which now has closed down. Michael says that he has always believed in God. A few years ago, his brother Scott brought him to St. Matthew's to visit. He liked the community feel of the church and he liked that it felt similar to the traditional Catholic. What he likes most about St. Matthew's is the feeling of closeness between the parishioners—like it's a really caring family. He likes that if he shares something, someone will listen. Someone is always willing to help out those who have needs.

Michael's hobbies are chess (Of course! He is the leader of St. Matthew's chess club), reading books on history, Stephen King novels, Mel Brooks comedies, listening to music and going to concerts.

When asked what his goals are in life, he listed the following two: 1) Try to stay as physical and mentally independent as possible; and 2) try to start growing spiritually.

Michael not only started a chess club at our church, but he also started one at the Berea Recreation Center. He is not afraid to reach out to the community. Even though he does not drive a car and must depend on paratransit and the help of friends, that doesn't stop him from putting himself out there. Getting to know him better, I have found that he is always pleasant, never complains in spite of the pain he experiences.

One thing he made sure that I include in this article is an open invitation for anyone to participate in the St. Matthew's chess club. He stresses that you do not need to know how to play chess. He will teach you.

We are happy that you joined us at St. Matthew's, Michael, and we look forward to many years together!



A THANK YOU NOTE

A sincere thank you goes out to Hani Saddic for donating the new display cases with lights for our St. Matthew's Gift Store. And a huge sincere thank you goes out to Council President David Glaser for all of the work he did setting up the new cases and getting rid of the old ones. Thank you Hani and David, and I hope you know just how appreciative I am to both of you.

Please visit the Gift Store everyone. I try to keep it stocked with nice gift items and icons, and prayerful things - at good prices. That's getting harder and harder to do in this market, but I'll keep at it, as it's a ministry that I enjoy. I ask one more thing of all of you: Let's keep our new display cases looking as nice as they do now. Please refrain from putting food and drinks and other things on top of the cases. Thank you so much!

In Christ,

Susan Joseph 

**FUNDRAISER for our
Homeschool Enrichment Group-**
They will be selling oranges and
other citrus fresh from Florida
during the month of Sept. They will
have a table in the hall at
coffeetime for their fundraiser.
You may also order directly online
at
<https://shop.floridaindianrivergrove.com/e-commerce/1033058>
Cash donations also accepted.
All proceeds will go toward
subsidizing student tuition.

CONGRATULATIONS TO--

Mariya Butt who entered the Church by Holy Baptism on July 22.
Kyle & Renee Calvert on the Baptism of their child, James, on July 30.
Adam & Susie Palmer on the Baptism of their child, August, on August 6.
Anya Harmon and her daughter, Solomia, who were Churching on August 15.
Sam & Mariya Aude who were married on July 23.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO OUR PARISH BROTHERHOOD CLUB FOR HOSTING OUR ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC on August 27th. It was a great time!

OUR CONDOLENCES TO PARISHIONERS WITH CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY FALLEN ASLEEP IN CHRIST----

---to Rudylin Glaser on the falling asleep of her father in Christ, Rodrigo Bacus
---to Roger Aramouni on the falling asleep of his father in Christ, Emile.
---to Dan Patrick on the falling asleep in Christ of his brother-in-law, Robert Suchy.



Theotokos of Vladimir

Eastern orthodox women's guild
Of greater cleveland
Unity Through Participation

Isaiah 43:18-19

"Forget what happened long ago!

Do not think about the past.

I am creating something new.

There it is! Do you see it?

I have put roads in deserts,
streams in thirsty lands."

BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW CHURCH YEAR

**Saturday, September 16, 2023
10:00 A.M.**

**St. Matthew the Evangelist Church
10383 Albion Road
North Royalton, OH 44133**

- Welcome to new members and visitors
- Fellowship and refreshments
- October Fundraising Dinner - update
- Assembly of IOCC School Bags – Service Project



SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

To all the Ladies of St. Matthew..... Please join us!!

September is our annual Membership Drive!! We would love for you all to become a member of the St. Matthew Antiochian Women's Sisterhood. The Membership Drive will be held every Sunday in September and the yearly dues donation is still at only \$3.00 per year!!

Being a member of our organization promotes fellowship among our Ladies and helps our church in many different ways through our fundraisers. You can give your \$3.00 to Electra Floasiu, (Membership Chairman) Camille Patrick, (Treasurer) or Georgette Dye, (President) and we will put your name on our roster along with your email address so you can receive reminder emails of all our meetings and activities. We would also LOVE to see some new faces at our meetings which are held periodically on Sunday's after Liturgy. Please consider joining!!

Thank you!!!

Electra, Camille and Georgette

St. Matthew Orthodox Church

10383 Albion Road

North Royalton, OH 44133



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER!!!

OPEN HOUSE- Sept 10. The students and staff will be blessed at the end of the liturgy.

Classes begin-- Sept 17.

"All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)