

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST  
ANTIOCHIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
FEBRUARY, 2022, NEWSLETTER**

**10383 ALBION ROAD, N. ROYALTON, OH 44133  
P.O. Box 33183, N. Royalton, OH 44133**

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**SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m.  
SUNDAY MATINS—8:50 a.m. SUNDAY LITURGY—10 a.m.  
CONFESSION—after Vespers and 9:30 a.m. on Sundays**

**EXTRA WORSHIP SERVICES IN FEBRUARY**

**---PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE—One of the 12 Great Holy Days—FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 (for eve of the feast), Vespers with Artoklasia, 6:30 p.m. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 (the actual feast day), Matins, 9:00 a.m. Liturgy with blessing of candles, 10 a.m. Potluck lunch at 11:30.**

**---SATURDAY OF SOULS LITURGY & MEMORIAL SERVICE—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 10 a.m. (Matins at 9) with Memorial Service for all the departed Christians. As part of our preparation for the upcoming Lenten service we gather to pray for all our departed loved ones and all departed Christians from all the ages.**

**2022 HOME BLESSINGS----** The annual blessing of homes will for the most part take place between Theophany, January 6 and the start of Great Lent, March 7. If needed (commonly it is) some more can be done after Pascha. Due to the increased size of the parish in the last couple of years (lots more homes to bless!) and also due to the hesitancy of some (due to COVID) to have visitors in their home, it will be up to parishioners (except our shut-ins) to specifically request a houseblessing. Generally speaking, you won't be contacted but will have to request it. Houseblessings will have to be shorter (like in 2021) than they often were in past years when there were less homes. Visits will be only 15-30 minutes long. If you wish to have me over for more time than that, your home can be scheduled late in the houseblessing season when things are slowing down. *(go to next page---*)

You are welcome to have a bowl of water out to be blessed---if not, I always brings holy water along. An icon and candle are good, but not required. I will wear a mask in your home if you request, but not during the actual ceremony. There is certainly no obligation or expectation of food or coffee. *Remember, please, no sweets!* I look forward to being with you in your home soon! ---Father

Andrew

## **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.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (usually once a month)—**February 20, Bob Snyder, the regional Christian Education Coordinator for our archdiocese, will speak on the Prodigal Son.

**NORTH BIBLE STUDY---**Not meeting in February—because host family, the Parkers, will be out of state.

**WOMEN’S PRAYER GROUP—**Friday, February 4, 1 pm. All women welcome! The location is at Tara Reidy’s, 274 Elmwood, Berea. For more info, call Sandy Tolbert, 440-773-9162.

**WEST BIBLE STUDY—**Saturday, February 26, 6 pm at the church. Studying Wisdom of Sirach.

**SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—**February 16, 6:30 pm at Craig & Cindy George’s, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. All are welcome. The study will be on the book of Ruth.

**NEXT TEEN CLUB MEETING---**After liturgy on February 27.

**ST. HERMAN’S MINISTRY TEAM—**Sunday, February 20, is our parish’s next monthly turn to provide a meal to the poor at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter in Cleveland. If you can help with either the providing or cooking or serving of the meal, please contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591. Thank you to Deacon Basil and Samir Amer for cooking the January meal and to those who served the meal: Jonathan and Stephanie Tartara, Veronica Scanlon, Colton Bose, and Michael and Gianna Musarra

**OUR PARISH'S MINISTRY OF DELIVERY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, ETC. TO THE HOMELESS ON THE STREETS OF CLEVELAND WILL BE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20.** Information will be forthcoming soon about how you can help in making the lunches.

**INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY is February 13.** Our parish will be participating in this national event to help the poor in two ways: 1---Please bring in non-perishable that day which will be distributed through St. Herman Shelter. 2.----We will have a special collection for the overseas work of IOCC at the liturgy.

**HOMESCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP---Friday, February 11, 9 a.m.**

**ANOTHER MISSION TO HELP THE POOR WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 5.** The plan is for lunches, food, etc. to be given to the homeless in both Cleveland and Akron, helping various homeless shelters in their work. You can donate either directly through St. Matthew's or through a Go Fund Me that John Scordos will be setting up. And we will need volunteers for making the lunches. More details soon.....

**NEW PARISHIONERS IN JANUARY**

**GINO & JESSICA KARIM**

19101 Turkey Meadowlane

Strongsville, OH 44136

Gino—330-388-5131 [ginotherealtor@gmail.com](mailto:ginotherealtor@gmail.com)

Jessica----440—454-3588 [jfrancu651@gmail.com](mailto:jfrancu651@gmail.com)

**COLTON BOSE**

6022 Collins Road

Mentor, Ohio 44060

[coltonmichaelbose@gmail.com](mailto:coltonmichaelbose@gmail.com)

440-567-6101

**DAVID & DAWN HEATWOLE**

**Adam, Ethan, Asa**

49 Jacqueline Drive

Berea, OH 44017

David—304-283-1902 [westvirginiaarts@gmail.com](mailto:westvirginiaarts@gmail.com)

Dawn—304-995-7882 [dkheatwole@yahoo.com](mailto:dkheatwole@yahoo.com)

*Please welcome them to our parish and add them to your directory.*

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO----**

---Colton Polycarp Bose who entered the Orthodox Church by Holy Baptism on January 8.

---Liam James Bunch, Matrim Luke, Nolan Moses, Oaken Silas, and Phaedryn Elias (5 brothers) entered the Orthodox Church by Holy Baptism on January 29.

**OUR CURRENT CATECHUMEN LIST----We pray for them at each liturgy. Please pray for them during the week as well as they prepare to enter the Orthodox Church.**

Mariya Butt

Jamie & Lucas Domonkos

Stephen Kulchar

Michael Palmer

Victoria Thorp

Victoria Shaker

## **ST. MATTHEW'S MESSAGE BOARD**

*Contact Bonnie Harmon if you wish to submit a message.*

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY MEET-UP**

On March 5, 1942, Barbara Lee Grabowski was born at a hospital in Cleveland. She was named after her mother and father. When the baby was taken home from the hospital, the grandmother (who was of German descent and very superstitious) told her daughter-in-law that the baby would surely die before her first birthday. It was a bad omen to name your first born after yourself. Shaken by this pronouncement, the baby's mother took the birth certificate, crossed out the name Barbara Lee and changed it to Judith Ann. It wasn't until Judy was 19 when she needed to find her birth certificate at the hall of records that the clerk could not find it. The only Grabowski found for that birth date was for Barbara Lee. That's when her mother told her the story.

Judy's parents divorced when she was quite young. She lived with her mother until she was 7. She then lived with her grandma for two years and at the age of 10, she moved in with her father and stepmother who she loved very much.

When Judy was 19 she got married. Her husband turned out to be not-so-nice a man and their marriage lasted only a year.

In 1965, Judy began working for General Electric which was a very good job that paid well. The day she started work, another worker, Anthony Yanik, noticed her and told a co-worker, "That's the girl I am going to marry." Judy

remembers at first thinking that Anthony was a hillbilly because he would go around singing Johnny Cash songs. When she got to know him though, she was impressed by how kind he was and that he was always a gentleman.

Anthony was brought up in a strict Catholic home. So, when he wanted to marry Judy, his mother was firmly set against it because Judy was divorced. Anthony and Judy did not know what to do so they sought advice from various priests. Finally, one priest had advice they felt was right. He said, "The priest in me tells you to go your separate ways. But the man in me sees so much love. Go and find another faith and be happy and strong in it."

Judy's mother who was part Syrian and part Greek was Orthodox and that is what Judy was baptized as. Anthony and Judy decided to take the priest's advice. They joined St. George Orthodox Church in Cleveland. Father Gibran was the priest at that time and they really liked him. He married them on November 25, 1967. Not many from Anthony's family attended, but they did warm up to Judy once the babies started coming.

Their firstborn was Christopher, born in 1968. Michael appeared in 1970, David in 1973, and Timothy in 1976. The family was regular attenders at St. George and all four boys served as altar boys.

After Judy gave birth to her first son, she was scheduled to return to work at General Electric after 8 weeks of maternity leave. Shortly before the end of the leave, she fixed Steton (as Judy always calls her husband) a dinner filled with all his favorite foods because she wanted to talk to him about going back to work and she knew he would not agree with her. He asked her what would make her happy and she said that she wanted to go back to work. He told her that he had promised always to do whatever made her happy and if that's what she wanted, then she could go back to work. That night while lying in bed, Anthony told Judy to reset the alarm for a half hour earlier. She wondered if he had to work overtime and he said no, that he was going in early to quit his job. Judy was horrified. He explained that someone had to stay home with their baby. He was not going to raise his son like she was raised, going from one place to another. She consented then to stay home since Anthony made more money than she did. That same night as she was going into the baby's room, she caught sight of a vision of Jesus entering the baby's room. This gave her peace that they made the right decision.

Anthony worked for 46 years as a mechanic for various trucking companies. He retired in 2002. After the children got older and in school, Judy started a catering business from her home. She mostly catered mercy meals. She did this for 4 years and then worked in the same business for her neighbor. Cooking and baking were always a love of hers. She learned from her mother, her stepdad and her grandmother. After the catering work, she worked for 22 years for a hospital

billing service. Then after retiring, she worked part time as a receptionist at East Park Retirement Home which she did for 12 years.

It was in 1990 when the Yaniks started coming to St. Matthew's. They wanted a church that had services in English. They are members who, unless they are sick or out of town, are in church every Sunday. Judy has served on the parish council and has been active in the Sisterhood, serving as president for 5 years. The Yanik family was the one who donated the cross over the entry way to the main hall. They wanted everyone to know that the building was an Orthodox church. And this very cross survived the fire and still serves its purpose today!

I asked Judy what were her hobbies. She enjoys gardening, reading, and likes writing in her journal. When she was in school, she loved being in plays. She was told that she was a talented actress.

Judy has gone through many hard things in her life. Although she knew her parents loved her, she was forced to move back and forth between them and her grandmother. Then she married an abuser and had to go through divorcing him. She spent 11 years taking care of her mother, her stepfather, her father and her stepmother until each one passed away. Then in 2019 they lost their second son, Michael. Judy said to me, "Michael is still the light of my life."

In spite of the hard times, Judy has kept her faith in God. In it, she finds strength to go on. She has been a witness to me of how God is close to those who are broken-hearted (Psalm 34:18).

On the other hand, God has showered Judy with many blessings. She has a wonderful husband who has always treated her like a treasure. Her children are all successful men. Chris owns his own tree removal company. Michael was gifted with computers and worked for AT&T for 24 years. David is very talented and successful in his home improvement business. Tim is a captain in the U.S. Navy and still climbing the ladder. God has blessed her with 6 grandchildren: Leah, Rebecca, and Jessica from Christopher; and Nicholas, Matthew, and Harry from Timothy. Judy repeatedly expressed thankfulness to God for these blessings.

St. Matthew's was blessed to have Judy and her family here since the start of this church. We thank God for their continued presence and steadfastness in our church.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Who: All St. Matthew parishioners, plus your family & friends (please invite them)!

What: The First Annual Chili Cook-Off, Bake Sale, and Silent Auction Fundraiser for Campers

When: Saturday, February 19, 2022

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm (after vespers)

Where: St. Matthew Parish Hall

Admission (includes chili tastings): Free Will Offering

Why: To raise funds for summer church camp tuition\* for St. Matthew's youth.

\* Note: A 2-week summer session at Antiochian Village is now \$950 per camper.

**CALLING ALL CHILI CHEFS AND BAKERS!**

Do you have a secret or not-so-secret chili recipe you'd be willing to make for a good cause?

Or do you have a baked good you enjoy making and sharing with others?

This is your chance!

We are in need of volunteers to make Chili and/or

Baked Goods for our "First Annual Chili Cook-Off,

Bake Sale, and Silent Auction Fundraiser for

Campers." Sign up in easy - simply use these links!

**Chili Chef Sign-Up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4BAAA42EA02-chili>

**Bake Sale Sign-Up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4BAAA42EA02-bake>

You could alternatively sign-up directly with Kendra Hunter at [brianandkendra2004@gmail.com](mailto:brianandkendra2004@gmail.com) or 708-369-8448.

During this chili cook-off fundraising event, attendees will vote with \$\$ for their favorite (anonymous) chilis, and the creators of the chilis that raise the most money in each category (white, red, veggie) will each win the **2022 Golden Ladle (plus bragging rights)**! The more pots of chili the better, so please consider signing up SOON!

Notice at our church this year  
GREATER CLEVELAND COUNCIL OF  
**Orthodox Clergy**

22 January 2022

Beloved Friends in the Lord,

Greetings! The Orthodox Christian Community of Greater Cleveland and Lorain will soon be honoring the Sunday of Orthodoxy, the first Sunday of the Great Fast. A celebration of this triumph of our Faith will take place on the evening of 13 March 2022, at 5:00pm. This service of Great Vespers will be hosted by Saint Matthew the Evangelist Antiochian Orthodox Church, located at 10383 Albion Road, North Royalton, Ohio 44133. His Eminence, the Most Reverend Michael, Archbishop of New York and the Diocese of New York & New Jersey (OCA) will preside as well as offer the homily.

Each year, the Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy (CCCOC) solicits donations to help underwrite this celebration of our Faith, as well as to support the various Orthodox ministries and charitable organizations of our local area. We humbly ask that you consider providing a contribution to the CCCOC; in return, you will be listed as a "patron" within the handout at this special service.

If you wish to donate, we ask that you make checks payable to the "Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy," or simply the "CCCOC." Checks can either be given to your parish priest, or they can be mailed to the address below no later than 05 March 2022.

In Christ,

>>>Father Peter Simko

CCCOC Treasurer

2022 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY | PATRON DONATION

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR PARISH NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

CCCOC, c/o St. Innocent Orthodox Church, PO Box 38208, Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44138

**PRE-LENTEN PERIOD**---Lent begins this year Monday, March 7. Pascha is April 24. There is a 3 week pre-Lenten period---it's a way of preparation for the Great Fast of Lent itself.....

Monday , February 14 through February 20---No fasting at all, including none on Wednesday & Friday.

Monday, February 21 through February 27---Regular fasting this week-----on Wednesday & Friday.

Monday, February 28 through Sunday, March 6---Cheesefare Week-----meat is given up , but cheese, dairy, eggs, fish are still eaten.

Then the Great Fast begins as Lent begins on Monday, March 27

### **ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**10383 ALBION ROAD**

**NORTH ROYALTON, OH 44133**

**PARISH MEN'S LUNCH**---Sunday, February 13---following liturgy and after coffeetime winds down some..... At Luna Restaurant on State Road in plaza southeast of intersection with Royalwood Road. For details, call Jack Palivoda, 216-235-2990 [jack.palivoda@keyfactor.com](mailto:jack.palivoda@keyfactor.com)

**SAINTS ALIVE CLASSES** will again be held on the Friday evenings of Lent after the Akathist service. A class on a Saint led by lay person. Still a ways off, but time to start signing up to lead. Priority will be given to those who didn't lead last year..... The dates are March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8. Please contact Father Andrew.

**LENTEN FRIDAY NIGHT POTLUCKS BEFORE THE AKATHIST SERVICE**—Again, a ways off, but time to schedule----- Always coordinated by either a parish organization or a family (or families). The dates are March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8. Please contact Father Andrew