

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

10383 Albion Rd, North Royalton, OH

December 15, 2024

Hieromartyr Eleutherios & Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ

**His Eminence Metropolitan SABA
Archbishop of New York and Antiochian Metropolitan of all North America**

**Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy Davis
Archepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of Toledo and Midwest**

**V. Rev. Father Fred Shaheen, Pastor
V. Rev. Father Andrew Harmon, Retired
Rev. Deacon Macarius Tolbert • Rev. Deacon Basil Vazquez
Sub-Deacon Fred N. Bourjaily • Sub-Deacon Samuel Harmon
Sub-Deacon Mark Katzbach • Sub-Deacon Richard Sahley
Sub-Deacon George Simon • Sub-Deacon Samuel Snyder
Reader Anthony Harmon**

Church contacts:

**Hall rentals: Gail Malaniak [440-552-4586](tel:440-552-4586)
Coffee hour: Electra Floasiu [216-671-0743](tel:216-671-0743)
Kitchen use: Fred Bourjaily [216-219-4656](tel:216-219-4656)**

Phone: Fr. Fred (c) [\(319\) 651-6452](tel:319-651-6452)

Email: shaheenf@hotmail.com

Website: stmatroyalton.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 33183, North Royalton, OH 44133-3183

Saturday Vespers 5:00 PM; Confessions after Saturday Vespers or by appointment

Sunday Matins 8:50 AM; Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM; Sunday School 11:15 AM

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS! We are glad to have you praying with us. *The reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion* is limited to members of the Orthodox Church who are in good sacramental standing & have made proper preparation to receive. All are welcome to receive the blessed antidoron bread at the end of the service.

THE HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION is offered by Rudylin Glaser for the health & salvation of David on his birthday; and by Maria Simescu for the health & salvation of her friends, Rodica, Veronica, and Mihaela; and by the Blazek family for the health & salvation of Josiah & Caleb on their name's days; and by Father Andrew & Khourie Bonnie for the health & salvation of their son, Subdeacon Samuel on his birthday and for their granddaughter, Aglais on her saint day; and by Florentina Popa for the health & salvation of her godchildren, Aglais, Sara, and Stefan on their saint name days; and by George & Christine Nassif for the health & safety of Justin on his birthday; and by Jeb & Irene Brooks for the return to health of Irene, and for the health & salvation of Kalliope & Helen.

During today's liturgy we will pray for our catechumens:

Charles Bossart, Dean Albashani, Zachary Beltz, Nizam Jawhari, Andrew Richards, Maria Sagi

And for the health & safety of:

Justin Mosier	Jean Fadil	Fr. John Henry	Leigh Frank
Lucy Kinkaid	Victoria Thorp	Metropolitan LONGIN	Grant Oberlin
Marc Balke	Argie Katsaros	Constantine & Maria Kornea	Samuel Harmon
Christopher Samuel	Theodore Bunevich	Tony Branson	Jenna Bshara
Peter George	Donald Glaser	George & Christine Simon	Lori Davidson
Frank Popovich	Mary Violanti	Michael & Marilyn Francu	Catherine Morton
Issa Zaboura	Jerry Morrison	Christian	Sam Shaheen
Corrine George	Danielle	Charlotte Shaheen	Alexis Borovlak
James Padzerski	Roy	Jared Johnston	Christine Hudacek
Josephine Katzbach	Dana	Christine Bossart	Harold Tolbert, Sr.
Elias Karam	Susan Joseph	Olivia Harmon & baby	Rosalinda Baccus
Fr. Don Shadid	Ann Ghianni	Tatiana Santiago	Carole George
Judy Yanik	Julie Dunn	Tamara Derosset	baby Michael
Nancy Yanik	Don Ambrose	Sharon Mack	
Ed Haddad	Judy Burhen	Alfred & Rita Blazek	

And for the newly departed servants of God: Priest Epiphanius, Samira Hanna, Mother Apolinaria, Metropolitan Timotej, Angeliki Vasilatos, Christian Melik, Pauline Hanna, Steven Milner

EPISTLE LESSON: Timothy 1: 8-18

EPISTLE READER: Reader Anthony Harmon

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 14: 16-24

HOMILY: Father Fred: "Many Are Called"

USHERS: Marianne Feuerstein & Bonnie Harmon

ALTAR BOY TEAM 1---Caleb Blazek, captain; Christos Allen, Cosby Hunter, Phillip Roach

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY REHEARSAL TODAY AFTER COMMUNION

PLEASE STAY FOR COFFEETIME TODAY AFTER LITURGY!

Thank you to Group C (Ginger & Vinny Defilippo, Richard & Dema Esper, Wassim & Ornella Mahfouz, Jeffery & Lora Hanna, Helen Nassar & Elias Karam) for providing the food today!

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S SISTERHOOD MEETING—in the board room after liturgy.

CATECHISM- Scripture Track will meet at 1pm

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024
TONE 8 / EOTHINON 3; HIEROMARTYR ELEUTHERIOS, BISHOP OF ILLYRIA &
SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST
Martyr Anthia, mother of Eleutherios; Venerable Paul of Latra

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT (p. 15)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO

By faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforetime to the Church from among the nations. The Saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bare Thee seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ELEUTHERIOS OF ILLYRIA IN TONE FIVE

(Special melody "Let us worship the Word")

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes * and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, * thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; * hence never cease to intercede * for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, * thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST IN TONE THREE (p. 16)

With zeal you followed Christ the Master, Who in His goodness appeared to men on earth. He called you from the custom house, revealing you to be a chosen apostle, a trumpet proclaiming the Gospel to the whole world! Therefore, divinely eloquent Matthew, we honor your precious memory. Entreat the merciful God, that He may grant us remission of our sins.

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE THREE (p. 79)

Today the Virgin cometh, cometh unto the cave, to give birth to the Word Who was born before all ages, begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, if thou shouldst hear; and glorify with the Angels and the shepherds, glorify Him Who by His will shall become a newborn Babe, and Who is our God before all ages.

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Eleutherios)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.

What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:8-18)

Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

2025 CHURCH CALENDARS are available in the narthex. Thanks to Mallchok Funeral Home for donating them! Please take one!

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sat, Dec 21 5pm *Great Vespers*

Sun, Dec 22 8:50am *Orthros*, 10am *Divine Liturgy*; The Holy Bread of Oblation will be offered by Sam Snyder for the health & salvation of Lena Anastasia on her name day; and by the Dinu family for the health & salvation of Andrew on his birthday; and by the Roach family for the health & salvation of Phillip on his birthday; and by Jeb & Irene Brooks for the return to health of Irene, and for the health and salvation of Kalliope and Helen; and by the Amer family for the health & salvation of Deacon Basil and Lisa on their birthdays and in memory of Fr. Richard Peters.

Nativity of Christ (Christmas) services:

Tuesday, December 24

9am Royal Hours and Typica

4:30pm Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Wednesday, December 25

8:45am Festal Orthros

10am Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Tues, Dec 31 Circumcision and Feast of St. Basil the Great 5:00 pm *Vespertal Liturgy*

Fri, Jan 3 9:00 am - *Royal Hours of Theophany*

Sat, Jan 4 5pm *Great Vespers*

Sun, Jan 5 8:50am *Orthros*, 10am *Divine Liturgy*

5:00 pm - *Great Vespers for Theophany with Litiya*

Mon, Jan 6 Theophany 8:50 am - *Festal Orthros followed by Festal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great* and indoor service for the Great Blessing of the Waters.

ANNUAL GIFTS FOR JESUS OFFERING-----

Since our early years at St. Matthew's, we have had a "Gifts For Jesus" offering at Christmas time. It is an opportunity to give a Christmas present to emphasize our love of God and thanks to Him for giving us the greatest gift—His Son, Jesus Christ.

We ask that you generously gift to Jesus this Christmas so that our giving of gifts to others will become more meaningful and delightful. Your gift will go to the parish general operating fund. However, if you wish to designate it for another purpose, you may do so.

There will be a special offering box at our Christmas Eve evening and Christmas Day morning services for you to place your gift in.

Or you can bring it to church or mail it in any time before January 15----St. Matthew's , P. O. Box 33183, North Royalton, OH 44133

HOUSE BLESSINGS--- will begin on Jan 6 and run through Mar 1.

To schedule use the QR code to the right or the link below to access Calendly.

Should you have any trouble with the app, please contact Fr. Fred directly.

<https://calendly.com/fredshaheen01/30min?month=2025-01>



Sunday School Nativity program rehearsal schedule

TODAY: No Class. Full rehearsal with music

Saturday December 21, 3:45- Dress rehearsal

Sunday December 22- No Class- Final rehearsal

Sunday December 22- 4:30- Arrive at church. Program at 5:00.

EVERYONE IS INVITED to attend the Sunday School Nativity Program on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 at 5pm

The program will feature student performance of “A Christmas Miracle” as well as individual and small group musical performances by our talented students, teens, and adults. Light refreshments and fellowship will follow the performances.

Come and celebrate the Nativity season with us!

MEETINGS

YOUNG ADULT GROUP—Dec date to be announced. 6pm. Meets monthly to study the Gospel of St. Mark. Bible, fellowship, food.....For more info, contact: Subdeacon Samuel Harmon, 216-598-9230, samuelharmon15@gmail.com or Colton Bose, 440-567-6101

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY--- Tuesday, Dec 17, 6:30pm at Craig & Cindy George’s, house---4414 Brookhaven Drive, North Royalton. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Studying the Servant Songs in book of Isaiah---all are welcome!

WEST BIBLE STUDY---Jan date to be announced. They meet monthly at the church after Sat Vespers. They are studying the Book of Revelation. All are welcome!

WOMEN’S PRAYER GROUP—Dec 17, 10:30am. They meet monthly at Tara Reidy’s house (274 Elmwood Dr., Berea, OH 44017) For info, call Sandy Tolbert, [440-773-9162](tel:440-773-9162).

TODDLER TIME AND HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP--- Is on a break for the holidays. Will resume Jan 10. Contact Olivia Harmon for more information: oharmon15@gmail.com

PATHWAYS TO PEACE- Dec 23 at 7pm in the church conference room. The meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month. “A gathering place of Orthodox Christians who seek to live in the fullness of life as promised by Jesus Christ.” Contact Deacon Basil for more information: 440-665-3591

CHESS CLUB- already met in December. Jan date to be announced. If you don’t know how to play, they will teach you!

CATECHISM—Scripture track today at 1pm at Church. These sessions are open to anyone, not just catechumens! The class will meet every Sun at 1pm, alternating The Orthodox Faith & Scripture Track.

TEEN SOYO CLUB- elections for 2025 officers Jan 5th after liturgy.

MINISTRY NEWS

USHERING MINISTRY--- Ushers rotate once every other month and are vital to the welcoming ministry of our Church. If you would like to be added to the rotation or have any questions about this, please let Cindy George know. cindygeorge127@gmail.com

STREET DELIVERY TO THE HOMELESS----- TODAY. One Sunday a month parishioners deliver food, clothing, etc. to homeless in downtown Cleveland. The alms box to help fund the lunches is near main hall doors. **WHITE SOCKS NEEDED**—box is by main hall entry doors. Call Josie Katzbach, [440-668-9831](tel:440-668-9831), for information.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS- are being collected in the big wooden box under the coat rack. They will go to St. Mary of Egypt Food Pantry this month.

MEAL SERVING AT ST. HERMAN ORTHODOX HOMELESS SHELTER TODAY our monthly date to provide, cook, & serve a meal to the poor at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter in Cleveland. If you can help serve the evening meal, please talk with Dcn Basil, 440-665-3591 or sign up in the hall

MARTHA MINISTRIES--- We are a group of parishioners who cook or deliver some freezer meals to families in time of need (new babies, recovering from illness/surgery, grieving a loss...). Can you help by cooking or delivering? Please see/email/call Erin Musarra: [440-799-0838](tel:440-799-0838) Erin.musarra@gmail.com.

ST. MATTHEW'S PRISON MINISTRY--- It is possible to help with prison ministry even without ever going inside a prison. For more info, contact our local leader, Vincent Defilippo, 330-352-6678 vdefilippo@neo.rr.com

IOCC REP NEEDED—St. Matthew's needs a representative to the Cleveland chapter of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). The group meets about four times a year to plan their two fundraising events. This is a wonderful opportunity to do something to help suffering people in Greece, Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestine, Uganda, Ethiopia, and elsewhere. For more information, please see Camille Patrick.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY BREAD OBLATION SIGN-UP—*If you would like to add an oblation for next Sunday, please contact Olivia Harmon (oharmon15@gmail.com 440-220-2624).* For all other Sundays, please use the chart in the hall (chart is on the right wall by the counter) to sign up for which Sundays you wish to offer the oblation for the liturgy. *If you are not sure how oblations work, check with Father Fred.*

HOSTING COFFEETIME AFTER SUNDAY LITURGY- If you can bring food please sign up on the chart to the left of the counter in the hall! Questions? Contact Electra Floasiu 216-671-0743.

VACUUMING VOLUNTEERS-Sign-up sheet is in the narthex to vacuum the nave after liturgy!

FLOWER DONATIONS: If you would like to donate to the flower fund (or provide flowers) to decorate our church for one of our many feast days, contact Lisa Amer 216-415-9126 lisa.amer@att.net

A REMINDER: *Do not leave any items at the church to give away without permission from a Hall Committee Member:* **Electra Floasiu** [216-671-0743](tel:216-671-0743) **Gail Malaniak** [440-552-4586](tel:440-552-4586)

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE- Do you have pictures or announcements you'd like to share on our public Facebook page? Contact Steve Morgan at (330) 524-0214, stevemorgx@pm.me or message the account directly.

Please support
our
Antiochian Women's Sisterhood
CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Sunday, December 22, 2024
Right After Liturgy!!

We are asking everyone in our Parish Family
to please donate to our Bake Sale!!!

You can bring anything you like!!!
It can be any of your favorite and/or signature
Christmas specialties....sweet or savory!!!

Anyone can donate and if you prefer, you can also price your bakery.

*We do ask that your donation is wrapped, labeled and ready
to be placed on the table!!*

And remember.... Many items can be frozen for later!!

Please help us make this Bake Sale a great success!!

~~~ **THANK YOU!!!** ~~~

**GIFT STORE ANNOUNCEMENT-**Please stop by our St. Matthew's Gift Store to check out everything there is to purchase! We have many new things for Christmas gift giving. Things large and small. Several items sold before the even made it into the cases this year, but there is still plenty to check out!

Our Gift Store will be open for business on 12/15 and 12/22 after Liturgy, so please stop by.

Susan also wants to extend a huge thank you to everyone for their well wishes and prayers and cards, etc. during her recent hospitalizations and ongoing (hopefully) recovery. May God bless us all!



# Fill a Christmas Box!

Thank you so much to all who donated a box, a turkey or a gift card to our Thanksgiving Box Ministry!! It was greatly appreciated! We were able to help many needy people/families.

We also do the same for Christmas. Would you like to help with this valuable ministry and provide a box?

If you can, thank you! It is a great help! Please bring your box to the church by December 22.

## **The following foods are examples of what you can put in your box:**

Scalloped potatoes in a packet or instant mashed potatoes

Pasta & sauce or macaroni and cheese

Small jars of applesauce

Mustard

Canned veggies, chili, stew or ravioli

Canned soups

Cake or brownie mix

Detergent (sensitive skin)

Toilet paper, 4 pack

Kleenex

Christmas candy or treats!

Peanut butter and jelly

Please put all items into 2 reusable grocery bags (easier for delivery) or one box. Feel free to add additional items (if scented, please place in plastic bag).

## **We also need hams and gift cards (grocery store and big box stores (Walmart, etc.).**

Please call or text Lisa Bowden 440-667-2767 or Louise Bouhasin 216-544-2319, to let them know you are filling a box by December 15.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you SO much for your kindness!



# SUMMER CAMP 2025

REGISTRATION OPENS  
SUNDAY,  
***JANUARY 5 AT 5pm***  
***EST!***

Who will win this year's Golden Ladle???

⚡ SAVE THE DATE! ⚡  
4th annual

# CHILI COOK-OFF FOR CAMPERS!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

6:00-8:00 PM

Bake Sale  
& Raffle!

FREE-WILL  
admission!  
Vote with  
Cash!

Invite  
Friends &  
Family!



All proceeds  
benefit our  
15  
Antiochian  
Village  
Campers!

Chili Chef and Bake Sale Sign-Ups coming soon...  
Contact Kendra Hunter or Lisa Amer with Questions

# Hall Use Calendar: (The hall and kitchen will be unavailable on the shaded days)

IF YOU ARE GOING TO USE THE HALL OR KITCHEN for any purpose...

you must first contact a Hall Committee member to make sure it is still available.

**Electra Floasiu** [216-671-0743](tel:216-671-0743) **Gail Malaniak** [440-552-4586](tel:440-552-4586)

|           |    | December 2024                     |                                   |                                  |
|-----------|----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|           |    | Morning                           | Afternoon                         | Evening                          |
| Sunday    | 1  |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Monday    | 2  |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Tuesday   | 3  |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Wednesday | 4  |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Thursday  | 5  |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Friday    | 6  |                                   |                                   | Set up for St. Nicholas Workshop |
| Saturday  | 7  | St. Nicholas Workshop 9-1         | St. Nicholas Workshop 9-1         |                                  |
| Sunday    | 8  |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Monday    | 9  |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Tuesday   | 10 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Wednesday | 11 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Thursday  | 12 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Friday    | 13 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Saturday  | 14 | St. John Mission kitchen use 9-12 | Program rehearsal 3:45            |                                  |
| Sunday    | 15 |                                   | St. John mission kitchen use 12-3 |                                  |
| Monday    | 16 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Tuesday   | 17 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Wednesday | 18 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Thursday  | 19 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Friday    | 20 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Saturday  | 21 |                                   | Program rehearsal 3:45            |                                  |
| Sunday    | 22 |                                   |                                   | Christmas program 5-7            |
| Monday    | 23 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Tuesday   | 24 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Wednesday | 25 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Thursday  | 26 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Friday    | 27 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Saturday  | 28 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Sunday    | 29 |                                   |                                   | Tolbert party 5-10               |
| Monday    | 30 |                                   |                                   |                                  |
| Tuesday   | 31 |                                   |                                   |                                  |

## St Matthew Church can now accept donations online:

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/stmatthewchurch>

or use the QR code to the right



## Saint Matthew now has a YouTube channel! Please subscribe to stay on top of our videos

<https://m.youtube.com/@saintmattheworthodoxchurch>

Additionally, you can subscribe to Fr. Fred's own YouTube channel, *A Light to the*

*Nations* <https://tinyurl.com/ALight2> and his podcast is available to listen to on multiple

platforms <https://tinyurl.com/ALightpodcast>