

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

MARCH, 2023 NEWSLETTER

10383 ALBION ROAD, N. ROYALTON, OH 44133

P.O. BOX 33183 North Royalton, OH 44133

Father Andrew's contact info: fatherharmon@outlook.com Cell: 440-539-1116

Home: 440-826-0662 Church: 440-582-5673 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 and by appointment

**DUE TO VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES THIS NEWSLETTER IS SIGNIFICANTLY LATE! IT
WILL ONLY COVER THINGS FROM MARCH 10TH ON.....AND IS BRIEFER THAN
USUAL**

EXTRA WORSHIP SERVICES FOR LENT

SOUL SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH---Matins, 9; Liturgy, 10. Memorial service after liturgy. You may bring names of your departed loved ones.....

GREAT COMPLINE---6:30 p.m., Mondays, March 13, 20, 27

AKATHIST FOR THE THEOTOKOS---Fridays, March 10, 17, 31---7 p.m. Preceded by potluck meals at 6 p.m. After the service, at 8 p.m., Saints Alive! classes taught by lay people.

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGIES----6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 15 & 22; Thursday, March 30.

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION IS MARCH 25—Our schedule: Vespers with the 4th part of Akathist hymn---7 p.m., Friday, March 24th. Preceded by usual Lenten potluck, 6 p.m. Vespers followed by Saints Alive! class. Saturday, March 25th—Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m. Celebration lunch afterwards being

coordinated by our parish's Orthodox Christians For Life Ministry. Fish is allowed on Annunciation Day.

LITTLE COMPLINE WITH CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE AND READING OF LIFE OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT---6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 29th. *No meal.*

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS, STUDY GROUPS, MINISTRY TEAMS—from
March 10th on-----**

PATHWAYS TO PEACE---Mondays, 7:30 p.m. At church or by zoom....contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591

WOMENS' PRAYER GROUP---Friday, March 31, 1 p.m, at Tara Reidy's, 274 Elmwood, Berea. Call Sandy Tolbert, 440-773-9162, for information.

WEST BIBLE STUDY---Sat., March 25, 6 p.m. On the book of I Corinthians.

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY---Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 p.m., at Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. On the book of Genesis.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Sat., March 18th, 6 p.m. On the book of James.

TEEN CLUB—Monthly meeting after liturgy, Sunday, March 26th. Helping with meal at St. Herman's Shelter, Sunday, March 19th

ST. MATTHEW'S WOMEN'S GROUP—Meeting after liturgy, Sunday, March 12.

ST. HERMAN'S MINISTRY TEAM---Sunday, March 19th is this month's day to serve a meal at the shelter. Contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591, to help.

MONTHLY DELIVERY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, ETC. TO HOMELESS ON STREETS OF DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND—Sunday, March 19th. Alms box to help this outreach is near hall entrance.

HOME SCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP—Friday, March 10th, 9 a.m.

CHESS CLUB---After church, Sunday, March 19th

MARTHA MINISTRIES is under way to provide meals for families in need of some help---new babies, illness, grieving, etc. To help, see or call Erin Musarra: 440-799-0838

CONGRATULATIONS--- to Samer & Samantha Eadeh on the birth of their new son, Isaiah!

OUR CONDOLENCES—Florentina Popa on the falling asleep in Christ of her father, Mitica; and to Khourie Bonnie on the falling asleep of her sister-in-law, Hazel. May their memories be eternal!

NEW PARISHIONERS IN FEBRUARY

ANNA GALITA 9241 Highland Drive Brecksville, OH 44141
agalita5105@gmail.com

ROBERT WILLIFORD Scenic Pointe Nursing Home 8067 Township Road 334
Millersburg, OH 44654 330-674-0015

ELIE & CHRISTINE ZOGHEIB (just moved back from Rhode Island!) 4937 Coe
Road, North Olmsted, OH 44070 440-835-1427 pdcinc@sbcglobal.net

PLEASE WELCOME THEM TO OUR PARISH AND ADD THEM TO YOUR DIRECTORY

NEW CATECHUMEN—Tammy DeRossett received the blessing to become a catechumen at our March 5 liturgy.

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

Will Parker	Jamie & Lucas Domonokos	Steven Morgan & Bryson
Mariya Butt	Leigh Frank	Mikaela Cihon
Victoria Rodgers	Tammy DeRossett	

HOLY WEEK MAY SEEM FAR AWAY.....BUT LENT GOES FAST-----SO: HOLY WEEK DONATIONS NEEDED: Lilies, carnations, palms, congregational candles, olive oil, eggs, large Paschal candles, etc. Contact Subdeacon Richard Sahley—216-513-9738/440-457-7089

***PASCHA, THE CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
IS APRIL 16TH***

THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

Canon law does not permit celebration of the liturgy on weekdays during Lent due to the solemnity of those days and the joyous nature of the liturgy. However, due to increased spiritual struggle in Lent, Holy Communion is needed! Therefore, our Orthodox Tradition allows the receiving of Communion from the reserved Host (from Sunday) on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent, and occasional holy days. The most common Antiochian practice is to have it on Wednesday nights only due to our having the Akathist services on Fridays. This ornate and solemn service is one of the most beautiful of all. We will have it at 6:30 p.m. In order to receive Holy Communion, the minimal preparation is to fast after a light lunch if one is not able to fast from after breakfast or for the entire day.

THE AKATHIST SERVICE FOR THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

The Little Compline with the Akathist Hymn, commonly simply called "Akathist Service", was written in Constantinople in the 600's A.D. At that time the city was besieged by the non-Christian Avar barbarians. The people put their hope in the Protectress of the city, the Holy Theotokos. Through her prayers to God, the city was saved. This hymn of thanks to God and the Virgin was written and the people gathered to sing it. In joy, they stood for the whole service---thus, the name "Akathist", Greek for "not sitting." Antiochian practice is to have this beautiful service on the first five Friday nights of Lent. We will have it at 7pm with a black-fast potluck meal before hand at 6pm.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

All Orthodox Christians should go to the sacrament of Confession during Lent or Holy Week. Confessions at St. Matthew's will be held at 5:45 p.m. most Saturdays (after 5 p.m. Vespers), during Sunday matins before the liturgy, or before or after the many other services. And it is possible to make an appointment for confession at other times. If you have questions about the sacrament, please feel free to contact Father Andrew

Dear St. Matthew's Family,

At the direction of HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ANTONIOS, who has amended the 2023 Project, the Antiochian Women will focus on raising funds for DISASTER RELIEF instead of the Cathedral at Antiochian Village, in the light of the suffering of the people of Syria and Turkey.

- "Archpriest Thomas Zain, Vicar General of the Antiochian Archdiocese, has informed the AW-NORTH AMERICAN BOARD that if the Antiochian Women raise \$200,000 for DISASTER RELIEF by Palm Sunday, an anonymous donor will contribute an additional \$100,000! Fundraising by our local parishes should begin immediately, and these funds should be sent to your Diocesan Antiochian Women Treasurer by Palm Sunday (April 9, 2023)."

THEREFORE, St. Matthew Antiochian Women's Sisterhood will be hosting a Lenten coffee hour LUNCHEON on Sunday, March 19, for the benefit of this PROJECT. **Please join us and give generously to our free will luncheon to help ease the suffering of victims of this disaster.**



SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 18 & 19—PARISH RETREAT
Father Sergius Bowyer, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery in Pennsylvania, will be the speaker. Originally from California, Fr. Sergius was a convert to Orthodoxy. He graduated from St. Tikhon's Seminary, became a monk, and was ordained a priest in 2008. In 2010, he became the abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery which is the first Christian Orthodox monastery in North America, established in 1905.

Theotokos of Vladimir



**EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD
OF GREATER CLEVELAND
Unity Through Participation**

Saturday, March 11, 2023

10:00 A.M.

Memorial Service for Deceased EOWG Members

St. Sava Cathedral

6306 Broadview Road

Parma, OH 44134

Program following Memorial Service

- **Lenten Refreshments by Ladies of St. Sava**
- **Presentation by Josephine Vuich**
- **"Heavenly Worship in the Orthodox Church"**

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OCLife St. Matthew Church is sponsoring a booth at the "*Bringing America Back to Life*" Pro-Life Convention on March 10th and 11th, 2023 at the Embassy Suites in Independence, OH. We are looking for people – **ESPECIALLY TEENAGERS** – to represent St. Matthew Church at our booth. For more information and the open times, see Cindy George or Lisa Palivoda. To register to hear the speakers, pick up a flyer in the Narthex or register on-line at: www.bringingamericabacktolife.org/registration/