

# ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

## *JANUARY, 2017 NEWSLETTER*

10383 ALBION ROAD

V. Rev. Father Andrew Harmon

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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](mailto:fatherharmon@wowway.com)

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

### HOLY DAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST/ST. BASIL DAY/CIVIL NEW YEAR---Sunday, Jan. 1, 10 a.m.

### OUR THEOPHANY (Epiphany) SCHEDULE

HOURS SERVICE---Thursday, January 5, 9 a.m.

**EVE OF THEOPHANY VESPERAL LITURGY with Great Blessing of Water—**

Thursday, January 5, 6 p.m., followed by potluck meal (meatless, please). Khourie Bonnie and Georgette Dye are coordinating the meal.

**THEOPHANY DAY, FRIDAY, JANUARY 6---Matins, 8:45 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m.,** followed by outdoors Blessing of Water ceremony (a very brief service) at small lake just south of church property. (If you don't wish to make the walk to the lake, you are still welcome to the liturgy!)

**HOUSE BLESSINGS BEGIN ON JAN. 6 AND CONTINUE ON INTO FEBRUARY---**you may either contact Fr. Andrew to schedule or he can contact you. Please remember that Fr. Andrew has given up eating sweets!

**AKATHIST FOR ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT DAY---on the eve--**Monday, January 16, 6:30 p.m.

**AKATHIST TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST---**Sunday, January 22, 6 p.m. See elsewhere in newsletter for more details about this evening.....

**ALSO: WEEKDAY VESPERS---**Wednesday, January 11, 6:30 p.m.

### PARISH ORGANIZATIONS, STUDY GROUPS, AND MINISTRY TEAMS

**SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—**6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, January 3 & 17, at Dr. Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. We are studying the book of Romans—all are welcome!

**WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP---** Tuesday, January 10, 1 p.m. at Jean Fadil'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, January 21 (right after Vespers at 5)

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

**NORTH BIBLE STUDY---**Thursday, January 26, 6:30 p.m., at Marianna Russyn's, 27001 Knickerbocker Rd. Bay Village (in apartment building social room). We are studying the book of Revelation----all welcome!

**TEEN GROUP -----MONTHLY TEEN/PARENT HOME BIBLE STUDY—after church on Sunday, January**

22. Location to be announced.....Food, games, Bible discussion. Rides available.....

**ST. HERMAN'S MINISTRY TEAM---**We will be cooking and serving meals for the homeless at St. Herman Shelter on Sunday, January 15. Can you do the cooking? Contact Fr. Andrew for details.....thank you! And if you would like to help with the serving of the meal at 5:30, please let Fr. Andrew 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 December meal---Jack & Lisa & Alicia Palivoda for cooking the meal, Ralph & Elle Parker for providing the desserts, and Scott, Simona, Rachael, & Alexandria Palmer and Florentina Popa for serving it.

**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 Father Andrew. 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, January 15. If you can help by donating items, let Josie Katzbach 440-668-9831, or contact Fr. Andrew. **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.

**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](mailto:fatherharmon@wowway.com) or call 440-582-5673 **THANK YOU!**

**NEXT PARISH NEWSLETTER** will be printed the week of January 29. Please give any info for it to Father Andrew by then.

#### **JANUARY ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE**

<b><u>TEAM A, 1/22</u></b>	<b><u>TEAM B, 1/1, 1/29</u></b>	<b><u>TEAM C, 1/8</u></b>	<b><u>TEAM D, 1/15</u></b>
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

#### **JANUARY GREETERS SCHEDULE—**

**1/22—**Georgette Dye, Judy Yanik **1/1, 1/29--**Fred Bourjaily, Penny Sent  
**1/8---**Scott & Simona Palmer **1/15---**Ralph & Elle Parker

#### **JANUARY USHERS SCHEDULE**

<b><u>January 8</u></b>	<b><u>January 15</u></b>	<b><u>January 22</u></b>	<b><u>January 1 &amp; 29</u></b>
Sam Daher	Anthony Yanik	Jeff & Susan Joseph	The Handmaidens
Gail Malaniak	George Nassif		
Cody Krakowski	Nicholas Katsaros		

#### **JANUARY EPISTLE READERS SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAYS---** **January 1----**Lisa Palivoda **January 22----**Gabriel Kirsch  
**January 8—** Jasmine Zogheib **January 29---**Judy Yanik  
**January 15—**Cindy George

**Theophany Eve Liturgy—January 5---**Liturgy epistle----Judy Yanik

Blessing of water readers: Lisa Palivoda, Rose Sahley, Cindy George, Samuel Harmon

**Theophany Day Liturgy---January 6—**Michael Lieberman

#### **DONATIONS NEEDED----**

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

---stamps for church mailings

**ANNUAL MIDWEST DIOCESE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT----**in Canton, January 14. We plan to have **2 teams participating. Come and cheer them on!**

**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 Father Andrew. Training available!

**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 -----**

- Olivia Harmon & Khouriyeh Bonnie for heading up our St. Nicholas Children's Party on December 3----and to Ted Bunevich for his very special help!
- to Elie & Christine Zogheib for hosting the Teen/Parent Lunch & Bible Study on December 11.
- Tom & Judy George for our beautiful Christmas tree----and to all who helped decorate it.
- George & Christina Nassif for their donation of the costs of Father Andrew's cell phone.
- to those who donated poinsettias for the church at Christmas time: Sam & LeeAnn Daher, Jean Fadil, Beth Farage, the Rick Farris family, the Mark Hoyt family, Michael & Kelly Lieberman, Larry & Gail Malaniak, Monastery Marcha, Dorina Popa, John & Jeannette Roma, and Richard & Rose Sahley  
And thank you to Beth Farage for coordinating it!
- Thank you to the Sunday School and all the others who "performed" for our parish Christmas party/program on Dec. 18. And to Dr. George & Anne Thomas and all others who brought food----a very nice day!
- Thank you to Mallchok's Funeral Home for the gift of church calendars for 2017
- Thank you to Yurch Funeral Home for coordinating our involvement in the Toy Soldier Christmas gift project

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Mrs. Rim Yared**  
Manar, Nawar, & Nawal  
1349 Belle Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107

**Housam Alsaifi**  
1349 Belle Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107

**Wesam Alsaifi**  
1349 Belle Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107

**Gregory Tolbert** (joining as adult)  
10057 Vista Drive  
North Royalton, OH 44133  
Home—440-582-9714 Cell—440-799-7021  
Gmtolbert16@gmail.com

**Susanna Harmon** (joining as adult)  
192 Prospect Street  
Berea, OH 44017  
Home—440-826-0662 Cell—216-744-0030  
susiegharmon@gmail.com

**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, January 29, 3-5 p.m., at St. Albert Catholic Church on Wallings Road. If you can help in any way, contact Father Andrew.

**SAINTS DAY PRAYERS**---Children whose Saints Days fall in January will be honored and prayed for after the liturgy on Sunday, January 29.

**PITA BREAD FOR SALE**

Our Sisterhood will be selling pita bread after liturgy in the hall during coffeetime on Sunday, January 29

### GIFTS FOR JESUS

Our annual special Christmas offering was taken at our Christmas services. If you could not be present and still wish to contribute, please or bring to church, clearly marked, by January 15. Your gift will do to the parish operating fund. However, if you wish to designate it for another purpose, you may do so.

### SHOEBOXES FOR KIDS

Collections of items for our annual outreach to inner city school children are now under way---

**NEEDED ITEMS**---- school supplies, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, #2 pencils, erasers, hygiene items, kids' toothbrushes, washcloths, bars of soap, deodorant, socks, underwear.

**Please put in or near collection box on table in hall.**

**PARISH COMMUNITY LUNCH** ----**Right after liturgy on Sunday, January 8.** It is being provided by the Zoghaib families. 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.....*

### **OUR CONDOLENCES TO----**

- Fuad Zogheib on the falling asleep in Christ of his sister, Khaythoum Zghib.
- Susan Nemes on the falling asleep in Christ of her sister-in-law, Nancy Nemes.
- to Mitri & Roger Aramouni on the falling asleep in Christ of their grandmother, Justine Abisamara.
- Katarine Retzler on the falling asleep in Christ of her grandfather, William Kays.  
*May their memories be eternal!*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Gabriel & Fida Kirsch on the birth of Michael Gabriel on December 6!

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **Happy Birthday & Many Years to-----**

- 1—Butch Drozdowski
- 2—Trip Haddad
- 4—Dimitrie Kornea
- 6---Mitri Aramouni
- 13—Margot Joseph Haddad
- 14—Abbey Joseph
- 17---Alicia Palivoda, Nellie Rizk
- 18---Pierre Haddad
- 20—Marina Amer, Justin Hoyt
- 22---Karen Krakowski
- 23---Nancy Donnelly
- 26---Ted Sevastos
- 28---Jeannette Roma
- 29—Larry Malaniak

#### **Wedding Anniversaries**

- 14—Mitri & Kathy Aramouni

*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!***

***SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY-----***

***JANUARY 22***

***PAN-ORTHODOX EVENING  
GATHERING HERE AT ST.***

***MATTHEW'S***

***SPONSORED BY ZOE FOR LIFE***

***AKATHIST TO JESUS CHRIST  
SERVICE-----6 P.M.***

***After the service: Refreshments in  
the hall and a brief presentation***

***Come pray with us for the lives lost to  
abortion and those who have suffered  
from abortion: Mothers, Fathers,  
Grandparents, Siblings, Aunts, Uncles,  
Friends, and the World***

## **SOME INFO ABOUT HOUSEBLESSINGS FROM FATHER ANDREW-----**

### ***WHY ARE HOMES BLESSED NEAR THE START OF THE NEW YEAR?***

The main season for blessing homes is during the time following Theophany (or Epiphany) on January 6, when we celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ. At the services for that feast, holy water is blessed. Then, in the days and weeks following, the priest goes to each home and blesses it and the family with that holy water. There are two main reasons for this: 1. To remind us of Christ's baptism and our own baptisms; 2. As a prayer for God's blessings on our homes and families in the new year.

God made our bodies as well as our souls and He is concerned about every aspect of our lives, not just "spiritual" things. Our health, our houses, our pets ( I have blessed everything from dogs to iguanas to pigs to horses to fish)---all are important to Him and so, at the houseblessing, we ask for His blessings on them all.

Houseblessings are usually done in the weeks following Theophany before the start of Great Lent, but can be done at other times of the year, such as when a family moves to a different home during the year or, if for some reason, it wasn't possible to have the home blessed in the Theophany season.

### ***HOW SHOULD A FAMILY PREPARE FOR A HOUSEBLESSING?***

The first thing is to get it scheduled! You can either contact me or I can contact you. I start on January 6 and go as long as needed---up to just before Lent if necessary. If possible, try to schedule it for when all family members can be present.

In terms of other preparations, it is very simple. It is best to have an icon and candle wherever the opening prayers will be said. I bring holy water along---if you would like to have some water blessed at your house to have a supply of holy water for your own family, then set out a bowl of water. I will add holy water to it during the ceremony and make your tap water to be holy water. After opening prayers, the usual procedure is for the priest to walk through the home and bless the various rooms and then return to the starting place to there sprinkle each person with holy water at the conclusion of the prayers. If you would like pets blessed, that is fine, too. Please have radio and TV turned off.

Being our parish is middle-sized, I guess, I don't have to rush along quite as much as pastors of very large churches. I have about 125 to do and this allows time to sit down and visit a while. So usually I will do that----this gives us a chance to "catch up with each other". *But, please, no sweets----I have given them up!*

I look forward to visiting your home in the next few weeks! I will contact everyone but feel free to already call or e-mail or text or speak to me at church to schedule before I call you.....

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