

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

November 2024 Newsletter

10383 ALBION ROAD, N. ROYALTON, OH 44133

P.O. Box 33183, N. Royalton, OH 44133

Father Fred's Contact Info: shaheenf@hotmail.com Cell: 319-651-6452

Church: 440-582-5673

Website: www.stmattroyalton.org

SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m.

SUNDAY MATINS—8:50 a.m. SUNDAY LITURGY—10 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sept-May 11:15 AM

CONFESSION—after Saturday Vespers and by appointment

November Services Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					Nov 1 6:30pm Great Vespers	2 <i>St. Raphael</i> 8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy 5pm Great Vespers
3 8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy				7 6:30pm Great Vespers	8 St Michael & Synaxis of the Archangels 8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy	9 5pm Great Vespers
10 8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy					15 Advent Fast Begins 6:30pm Great Vespers	16 St. Matthew (our patron) 8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy 5pm Great Vespers
17 8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy			20 6:30pm Great Vespers	21 Entrance of the Theotokos 8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy		23 NO VESPERS AT ST. MATTHEW'S Everyone is encouraged to attend vespers at St. George in Cleveland to pay respects to Metropolitan SABA who will be visiting there.
24 8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy						30 5pm Great Vespers

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP:

Classes for children ages 3.5-19

11/3 Regular Class

11/10 Regular Class

11/17 Regular Class

11/24 Christmas Play Rehearsal

If you are interested in assisting with the children's Christmas program, please see Dawn Heatwole.

This year's theme verse: "Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

MEETINGS

CATECHISM—Scripture track will meet on Nov 3 and Nov 17 at 1pm in the meeting room at Church. These sessions are open to anyone, not just catechumens!

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—date to be announced. Meets one Sat a month, 6pm at the church. Studying 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--- Tues, Nov 5 and Tues, Nov 19, 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---Sat, Nov 9, 6pm. They meet monthly at the church after Sat Vespers. They are studying the Book of Revelation. All are welcome!

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP— Tues, Nov 19, 10:30 am at Tara Reidy's house (274 Elmwood Dr., Berea, OH 44017) For info, call Sandy Tolbert, [440-773-9162](tel:440-773-9162).

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S SISTERHOOD—Meeting Sun Nov 10 after liturgy.

TODDLER TIME AND HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP--- will resume in January. Contact Olivia Harmon for more information: oharmon15@gmail.com

TEEN CLUB—next meeting Nov 3 after liturgy.

CHESS CLUB--- Nov 17. Meets monthly in the hall after liturgy. If you don't know how to play, they will teach you!

PATHWAYS TO PEACE- Mon, Nov 25, 7pm. Meets monthly 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

MINISTRY NEWS

USHERING MINISTRY--- An opportunity has opened up in the ushering ministry. Ushers currently 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-----Nov 17. 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 NOV 17 is our next monthly date to provide, cook, and serve a meal to the poor at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter in Cleveland. If you can help in any way, please talk with Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591

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--- *will meet after coffeetime on Nov 3 to discuss our upcoming Christmas letter-writing event.* 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 of 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—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, just 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!

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.

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

A REMINDER ABOUT LEAVING ITEMS AT CHURCH:

Do not leave any items 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)

We often have weekday events and hall rentals. Piles and boxes get in the way and are sometimes taken to the dumpster. **Please help us to keep our hall presentable!**

Fraudulent Email Alert---There have been emails going out purporting to be from Fr. Fred. Do not respond to them. Remember that all official correspondence from him will come from his personal email (shaheenf@hotmail.com) or through the St. Matthew mail chimp list. Any other addresses claiming to be him are fake.

CHURCH FAMILY HAPPENINGS:

- ❖ Sami Conrad wishes to thank everyone for all of the help she has received. Especially for help with funding needed car repairs. She is also seeking work in ways that may be of assistance to you! Please contact her if you need child care, house cleaning, or help with errands.
- ❖ Jay Amer is available to help with your lawncare needs. If you need your grass mowed or a fall clean up, please contact him! He is also setting up routes for next spring, so please let him know if you may be interested!

- ❖ **Reflections on the retreat with Fr. Josiah Trenham:**

This September, we were blessed to have the Very Reverend Father Josiah Trenham visit us and lead a wonderful retreat on Godly Marriage and Virginity. Fr. Josiah is known as a Godly man and a gifted speaker, and his visit fully demonstrated both. He relayed much wisdom and quite a few personal anecdotes, including a Cleveland connection he has through his beloved Deacon Elie Khouri. He concluded his weekend by celebrating Divine Liturgy with us and giving a powerful Homily on the need for evangelization.

As you would expect, there were long lines to speak with Fr. Josiah after each session, and everyone went away inspired and enriched. It was easily the biggest retreat that we've ever hosted at St. Matthew's, with large numbers of people at each session and some coming from as far as Canada! Thank you to all who attended and helped make this retreat possible. May God continue to bestow His blessings on our parish and our family!

Ginger DeFilippo wrote: "The retreat with Fr Trenham was fantastic. He was dynamic and spoke with such imagery I felt transported. He helped me see the beauty of God's original design for marriage and humanity - the harmony and glory that existed before the fall, the brokenness from the fall, then the hope he offered by showing me how Christ came to restore and elevate marriage into something beautiful, filled with divine grace. He taught from the scriptures and brought in the church Fathers and Saints reinforcing his lessons on marriage. It was incredible. At the end of every lesson, and including church on Sunday, he spoke to everyone waiting in line, answering questions and was so very personable. He is truly a very caring and loving priest and it was an honor to have him at our retreat and church."

- ❖ **Review of Our Trip to Father Paul Abernathy's Church-St Moses the Black - October 5th**

On Saturday, October 5th, a group from our parish, led by Father Fred and Deacon Basil, visited St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, pastored by Father Paul Abernathy. The group consisted of the teen group, a few adults, and clergy, totaling 20 people. We met at our church at 7 AM, where we carpoled in three vehicles driven by Father Fred, Deacon Basil, and Vinny DeFilippo, setting off for Pittsburgh at 7:30 AM.

Along the way, we made a stop at the home of Rick and Deema Esper, who graciously hosted us for breakfast. Deema prepared a delicious spread of fresh fruit, bagels, eggs, ham, lox with cream cheese, nuts, coffee, freshly squeezed orange juice, and more. After enjoying this wonderful meal, we departed around 10:30 AM and arrived at St. Moses the Black.

Upon our arrival, we were welcomed by SubDeacon Bizrat, who gave us a tour of the church and its facilities. St. Moses the Black is part of a three-story building that serves the local community in multiple ways. The building houses a free medical and dental clinic, with two exam rooms and two dental rooms staffed by volunteer doctors and dentists. The Neighborhood Resilience Project, which operates from the top floor, provides essential services and support to the area. They even have two medical emergency vehicles that are dispatched during emergencies, often arriving on the scene before local authorities. It's truly a remarkable ministry.

Beneath the church is a food pantry and a clothing distribution area for those in need. Our group of 20 gathered here and worked together to assemble nearly 1,000 food bags for school children who rely on these meals over the weekends. The church distributes approximately 1,300 bags weekly to support the community.

After our volunteer efforts, we gathered on the top floor where Father Paul Abernathy spoke to the group about the deep needs within the neighborhood. He emphasized how placing altars in impoverished areas across the country could reduce crime and spread Orthodoxy. It was an inspiring message that truly resonated with us all.

We ended the day with pizza before joining in evening vespers. After vespers, we said our goodbyes and headed back home, arriving at St. Matthew's around 9:30 PM.

The trip brought the words of Christ to life:

“For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in” (Matthew 25:35).

Father Paul Abernathy's ministry beautifully embodies this call to serve the poor and the needy. Through our small efforts, we were able to witness firsthand the mercy, love, and support that Christ calls us to extend to our neighbors, especially those in need.












It was an incredible time filled with service, fellowship, and a deep sense of purpose, leaving us all inspired to continue helping those in need, both spiritually and physically.

- ❖ We are grateful to Rt Rev Archimandrite Jeremy for his visit to us on Oct 11-13 as part of his ministry as the Archbishopal Vicar of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest.

❖ Thanksgiving Pie Sale Fundraiser for Culinary School for St. Matthew's own Xander Conrad

Order online: <https://www.toasttab.com/catering/polariscentercafe>

Thanksgiving Pie Sale Fundraiser. These items will be ordered, and paid for in advance, for a pick up on Friday, November 22, 2024.

 Cranberry Orange Relish (Nov... 1 Quart. Prepared with fresh cranberries, Granny Smith Apples,... \$9.00	 Italian Wedding Soup (Novem... 1 Quart. Tiny meatballs simmered in home-made chicken broth with spinac... \$11.00
 Chicken Paprikash Soup (Nove... 1 Quart. Classic creamy soup with Hungarian Paprika, roasted chicken, an... \$12.00	 White Truffle Macaroni and Ch... Serves 6-8. Four cheese, White Truffle and Garlic Panko Crumb Topping. \$16.00
 The Pumpkin Roll (November ... Serves 12. Delicious pumpkin sponge cake rolled with a buttery cream chees... \$16.00	 Peanut Butter Pie (November ... Serves 8. Creamy peanut butter whipped into a decadent cream chees... \$18.00
 French Silk Chocolate Pie (Nov... Serves 8. Our version of the sinful classic pie featuring dark chocolate... \$18.00	 12 Inch Dutch Apple Pie (Nove... A 12 inch goliath of a pie. Serves 8-12. A traditional apple pie with a buttery... \$22.00
 Chocolate Chip Pecan Pie (Nov... Serves 8-12. The southern classic with the added decadence of semi-sweet... \$24.00	 Blueberry Crumb Cheesecake ... Serves 12. Buttery shortbread crust, plump blueberries and that classic Ne... \$24.00
 No Bake Nutella Biscoff Chees... Serves 12. Biscoff cookie crust, Nutella, Biscoff cookie cream glaze, and more... \$35.00	

Contact Xander Conrad at (216)727-6121 if you have any questions.

NEW MEMBER:

Miriam Smiley
214 Elmwood Drive
Berea, OH 44017
480-665-7978 alexis.smiley84@gmail.com

OUR CONDOLENCES

--to the family of Charles Burhen who fell asleep in Christ on Sept 29.

OUR CURRENT CATECHUMENS ARE:

Charles Bossart, Dean Albashani, Zachary Beltz, Nizam Jawhari
We pray for them at every liturgy.....please also pray for them in your own prayers as they prepare to join the Orthodox Church.

ADOPT A POINSETTIA

If you would like to offer a poinsettia to beautify our church for the Christmas season, please fill out the form below and submit it to the church office with your donation.

Offered by:

For the health & safety of:

In beloved memory of:

Poinsettias will adorn the church beginning on December 23. The deadline to order is **Nov 10**. The donation amount is \$20 per poinsettia. Attach cash or check and submit to the church office via mail or the offering box. See Lisa Amer if you have questions.

October, 2024

Dear St. Matthew Parishioners and Friends:

It is once again time to subscribe to our annual Christmas card. The card has become a project of the St. Matthew's Antiochian Women's Sisterhood and we need your support now more than ever to make it a successful endeavor. The parish council generously turned the project over to us a few years ago to help us help others. Between now and the end of the year, we will be making contributions to the Children's Relief Fund for our adopted child (\$400), to Gifts for Jesus (\$500), to Christmas Gifts for the needy (\$250), to our Midwest Antiochian Women's dues (\$200), and to St. Matthew's needs throughout the year.

Continuing a tradition for this year... We are looking for about ten people who would like to sponsor a Christmas card for one of our shut-ins. If you know of a particular shut-in you would like to sponsor, just complete the Christmas card form and submit it as directed with your donation. However, if you are unsure of whom to sponsor, see Camille Patrick or ask Fr. Fred for a recommendation.

So, please, submit the Christmas card form on the back of this letter before the November 10th deadline.

If you have any questions about the card itself, please see or call Camille Patrick (440-655-0236). I handle the subscriptions and Laura handles the design, layout and printing. We hope you will help us make 2024 the most successful Christmas card project EVER! May God bless you for all the support you have given us in the past. You have been most generous.

Yours in Christ,
Camille Patrick and Laura Gasbarro

The Antiochian Women's Sisterhood Christmas Card Committee



DEAR FRIENDS AND PARISHIONERS:

Christmas is just around the corner and a special time to join us in extending a holiday greeting through our St. Matthew Community Christmas Card and to support the ministries of our Antiochian Women's Sisterhood. Please complete the form below and return it with your \$20.00 donation to: St. Matthew Sisterhood 10383 Albion Rd. North Royalton, OH. 44133-1408.

You can also give your form to Camille Patrick or Laura Gasbarro, co-chairs.

Each subscriber will receive a card with the names of every participant, sending their Christmas greeting of love and friendship at this holy season!

(Please print your name(s) as you wish it to be printed.)

(address)

(city)

(state)

(9 digit zip)

(phone)

(email)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH, PLEASE.

DEADLINE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

\$20.00 donation enclosed (please check) _____ cash OR check # _____

IF YOU ARE SPONSORING A CARD FOR A SHUT-IN, PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE FORM.

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)

November 2024			
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29		Abdelkarim birthday party 3-8	Abdelkarim birthday party 3-8
30		Grigson baby shower 11-4	

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>

St Matthew Church can now accept donations online:

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



St. Matthew Orthodox Church
10383 Albion Road
North Royalton, OH 44133