

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

10383 ALBION ROAD, N. ROYALTON, OH 44133

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

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cell: 440-539-1116 home: 440-826-0662 church: 440-582-5673

Website: www.stmattrovalton.org

SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m.

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

CONFESSION—after Vespers and during Sunday Matins (or appointment)

OUR REMAINING LENTEN SERVICES

(regular Saturday Vespers and Sunday Matins & Liturgy not included)

---AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS: Friday, April 1, 7 p.m. Preceded by potluck meal at 6, coordinated by Teen Group. 8 p.m.—“Saints Alive!” class in hall.

---GREAT COMPLINE: Monday, April 4, 6:30 p.m.

---LITTLE COMPLINE WITH CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE AND THE READING OF THE LIFE OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT: Wed., April 6, 6:30 p.m.

---PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY: Thursday, April 7, 6:30 p.m. Potluck afterwards.

---AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS: Friday, April 8, 7 p.m. Preceded by potluck meal at 6, coordinated by Sunday School. 8 p.m.---“Saints Alive!” class in hall

---GREAT COMPLINE: Monday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

---PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY: Wed., April 13, 6:30 p.m. Potluck after

OUR HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

---LITTLE COMPLINE WITH CANON OF RAISING OF ST. LAZARUS: Fri., April 15, 6:30 p.m.

---LAZARUS SATURDAY: April 16--Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m. Potluck brunch, 11:30

Grave Blessings: Noon (Contact Fr. Andrew to have a grave blessed).

Great Vespers: 6 p.m. (NOTE CHANGE FROM USUAL TIME)

---PALM SUNDAY: April 17—Matins, 8:50 a.m.; Liturgy with Palm Procession, 10 a.m.

FIRST BRIDEGROOM SERVICE, 6:30 p.m.

---HOLY MONDAY/SECOND BRIDEGROOM SERVICE: April 18, 6:30 p.m.

---HOLY TUESDAY: April 19 PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY: 10 a.m.

THIRD BRIDEGROOM SERVICE: 6:30 p.m.

---HOLY WEDNESDAY/UNCTION SERVICE: APRIL 20, 6:30 p.m.

--**HOLY THURSDAY:** April 21 **MATINS**, 8:30 a.m.; **LITURGY**, 10 a.m. Potluck brunch afterwards. **SERVICE OF THE 12 PASSION GOSPEL READINGS**, 6:30 p.m.
--**GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY:** April 22 **ROYAL HOURS:** 7 a.m., 9 a.m., Noon, 3 p.m.
GREAT VESPERS/TAKING DOWN FROM CROSS: 4 p.m.
LAMENTATIONS MATINS: 7 p.m.
--**GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY/HARROWING OF HELL LITURGY:** April 23, 10 a.m.
--**GREAT & HOLY PASCHA:** April 24
MIDNIGHT RUSH, MATINS, LITURGY: 10:30 p.m. (SATURDAY)
Pascha Potluck Feast right after Midnite service.
AGAPE VESPERS: April 24, NOON
BRIGHT TUESDAY VESPERS: April 26, 6:30 p.m. Potluck meal at 5:30.

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.

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

WOMEN’S PRAYER GROUP—Friday, April 15, 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, April 30, 6 pm at the church. Studying Wisdom of Sirach. *And some introduction to our next book—**I Corinthians**.*

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—Tuesday, April 5, 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 April 17.

ST. HERMAN’S MINISTRY TEAM—Sunday, April 17, 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 Sondra Palivoda for cooking the March meal and to those who served the meal: Deacon Basil, Mike & Rowan Musarra, Xenia Amer, Al Blazek & sons.

OUR PARISH’S MINISTRY OF DELIVERY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, ETC. TO THE HOMELESS ON THE STREETS OF CLEVELAND WILL BE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 10. Alms box to help fund is by hall entrance. Our teens will be preparing the lunches.

HOMESCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP---Friday, April 8, 9 a.m.

SPECIAL MISSION TO HELP THE POOR WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30. Lunches and more will be distributed to the needy on streets of Cleveland and several homeless shelters. Here are the specific items needed: hygiene products, clothes, socks & undergarments, bologna, bread, cheese, chips, lettuce, bananas, bottled water, empty boxes, Bibles, blankets, lunch bags. Grocery gift cards are great! ***Volunteers needed to make lunches and assemble everything---at the church, Saturday, April 30, 10:30 a.m. And volunteers needed in afternoon to assist in delivery to the needy.*** **TO DONATE AND/OR VOLUNTEER, CALL OR TEXT JON SCORDOS, 216-618-8007.**

NEW PARISHIONERS IN MARCH

NICHOLA AMALAS
4308 W. 192nd Street
Fairview Park, OH 44126
440-334-8679
Nick.almalas@hotmail.com

STEPHEN KULCHAR
4487 Grand Lake Drive
Apt. 312
Brunswick, OH 44212
330-241-3806
sbroburg@gmail.com

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

NEW CATECHUMEN--- Lindsey Katsaros received the blessing on March 20 to become a Catechumen in preparation to later entering the Orthodox Faith.

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

Michael Palmer

Jamie & Lucas Domonkos

Victoria Shaker

Lindsey Katsaros

CONGRATULATIONS----

---to Stephen Kulchar who entered the Orthodox Church by Holy Chrismation on March 13.

---to Jessica Karam and her son Luca on their 40 Day Churching on March 20.

---to Samantha Eadeh and her son Elias on their 40 Day Churching on March 27.

---to Woody & Rebecca Aboumrad on the birth of their son, Noah George, on March 25.

OUR SYMPATHIES----

---to the family of Cindy Retzler who fell asleep in Christ on March 10. (Cindy, Katarina Zaboura's mother, entered the Orthodox Faith by Holy Chrismation a few days before her death)

--to the family of Michael Vovos who fell asleep in Christ on March 31.

PASCHA PARISH POTLUCK FEAST-----After the Midnight Pascha Service Please stay after the liturgy for the Potluck of Potlucks as we break the Lenten Fast and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! Three coordinators so far--- Electra Floasiu, Jon Scordos, Tony Latina. More would be good.....

TOMB DECORATING AND EGG DYING will take place during the day in between services on Holy Friday, April 22. Come and pray at the services and help and enjoy some good fellowship.

RETREAT

at St. Matthew the Evangelist
Antiochian Orthodox Church

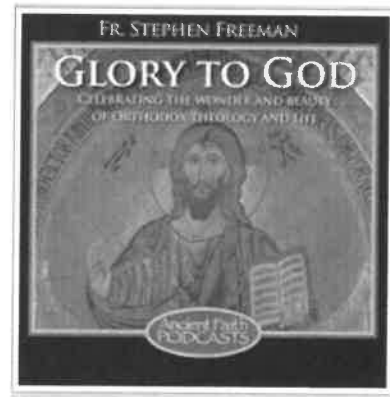
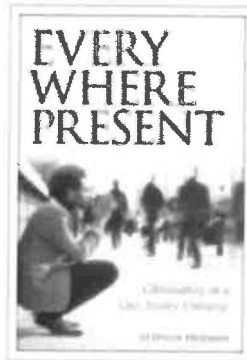


Guest Speaker, **Fr. Stephen Freeman**

Author, *Everywhere Present, Christianity
in a One-Story Universe*

Podcast (Ancient Faith Ministries) and
Weblog Host, *Glory to God for All Things*

Sponsored by:



RETREAT DETAILS

Friday & Saturday, May 6-7, 2022
10383 Albion Rd, North Royalton 44133

Friday, 6 pm to 8 pm

Saturday - Doors Open, 9 am; 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Lunch provided between sessions

Saturday, 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Vespers to follow at 5:00 pm

Admission - Free Will Offering

Please RSVP by April 30th: Contact Cindy George – (330) 309-9491, cindygeorge127@gmail.com,
or Gloria Zabala— (440) 897-5052, gabala104@gmail.com.

ST. MATTHEW'S MESSAGE BOARD

Contact Bonnie Harmon if you wish to submit a message.

This message board can be used for various situations. For instance, if your child (or you) are going to be in a school play or concert or even a big sporting event, you can inform the church of the details through this message board so that whoever is interested, can come to the event.

Another example is let's say you have a passion to go hiking, but don't have anyone to go with, you can advertise for a hiking partner through this message board.

Thanks! I hope to hear from more of you.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY MEET-UP

Thank you to an anonymous parishioner for writing the following article.

The Angel in a Tow Truck

Sunday of Orthodoxy at St Matthew's

It was an amazing evening of worship and fellowship as we celebrated the return of the icons to the Orthodox Church. As the clergy and children processed with their favorite icon and His Eminence, the Most Reverend Michael, Archbishop of New York and the OCA Diocese of New York & New Jersey shared his dream of a unified Orthodoxy in America, God's presence was evident in big and small ways. It was such a glorious time that it is not surprising that God showed up in this service. Yes, God is always everywhere present. But did you know that He demonstrated His presence in ways great and small throughout this special evening?

First, consider that our beautiful new Church, designed to hold 220 people, somehow managed to hold at least 280 that evening. Add to that was the reality that everyone was thrilled to be there. No grumbling, complaining, or criticizing about the cramped quarters. Nothing but gratitude and appreciation for the beautiful surroundings and bigger than average turn out.

Frequent exclamations such as: "This is wonderful!" "I cannot believe the turnout!" "This is the first time I have been here since you rebuilt. What a beautiful church!" "The church community just seems to envelope you when you walk through the doors." were heard throughout the evening.

By the time the service began not only was the apse overflowing with clergy, but every pew, every chair, and every available standing space was filled and overflowing into the Narthex. We even seated people in the guardian angel room. Praise God there were no crying children, not even grumbling adults!

Then consider that everyone who came to the celebration of our Orthodox faith, arrived in vehicles and needed to be parked in our lot. We thank God for the creative and tireless work of all the parking volunteers who somehow managed to put 140 cars in a lot designed to hold 70! How did that happen, you ask? Again, God's presence in great and small ways-----

First, the family who rents our house graciously agreed to allow cars to park in their driveway. As it quickly became evident that we were running out of room our western neighbor, Joe, came over to tell us we could use his driveway. An amazing act of generosity. But the lot was still over-full with every spot double parked, so we began parking outside of the lot. On a nice dry

day this would not be a problem. But on *this* day, our lawn was mud. We knew it would be a challenge getting those cars out, but we were more concerned with getting people in. That problem would be tackled after the celebration.

When the service concluded and the crowd of Orthodox faithful began filing into our hall, the reality that 280 people (give or take) might be a bit tight for a hall designed for 148 became evident. And again, the sense of camaraderie and conviviality overcame any anxiety or worry we may have had. As someone excitedly explained, “This is like the fishes and the loaves. Our space seemed to grow to fit the space and we had plenty of food!”

Now to get everyone safely out of the overpacked lot. As Suzie Harmon would routinely yell out or speak through the microphone the make and model of cars that needed to be moved so others could leave, the other volunteers were pushing and praying as they forced vehicles out of the mud. Just when you thought things couldn’t get more challenging, a car traveling past the church on Albion loses its wheel – right in front of the Church!

The frustrated driver had to call a tow truck. Wouldn’t you know that when the tow truck driver arrived and saw all the cars wheel-deep in mud, he very graciously observed, “I can pull these cars out.” Which he proceeded to do, one by one until all those who were stuck were freed. God continues to manifest His presence in and through our St Matthew parish and The Sunday of Orthodoxy was one more example of His abundant blessings.



Dave Glaser and Jon Scordos who put his whole self into getting stuck cars out of the mud!

“SAINTS ALIVE” MEETINGS AGAIN ON FRIDAYS IN LENT

We will again have this Lent our “Saints Alive” meetings on the first 5 Friday evenings in Lent. They will be in the hall at 8 p.m after the 7 p.m. Akathist services. These meetings are led by a lay person who teaches about a Saint of their choice. And then we have questions & answers and discussion.

Here is the list for the two Fridays of Lent in April::

April 1—Catherine Morton teaching about St. Xenia

April 8—Agni Wagner teaching about St. Mamas

PARISH MEALS ON LENTEN FRIDAYS

There will be parish potluck dinners on the first Fridays in Lent. They are held at 6 p.m. before the 7 p.m. Akathist service. Strictly Lenten fasting food, please.

Here is the list of the parish groups coordinating the Friday potlucks in April:

April 1—Teen Group

April 8—Sunday School

Adopt a Box Pascha Donation April 17th

Instructions

Just like we did at Christmas. Instead of the old way we are trying this way as a way of being more organized and allowing for more people to get involved, while also possibly having some uniformity and quality. Take the shopping list with you, fill your box and bring back to the church on April 15, 16, or 17th. Please no sooner than the 15th and no later than the 17th. Boxes will be passed out and delivered to homes on Palm Sunday. No food pantry donations besides the filled Pascha baskets you create at your home, and bring to church completed.

All items must be unopened and unexpired. Nothing can be homemade. Everything must be in its original packaging. Soaps and anything scented must be in original plastic packaging. Anything with a scent will scent and flavor the food around it, so it is very important these things be packaged correctly in original wrappers. Same goes for all personal items such as toothbrushes etc. Have fun packing and thank you! It is a great help!

Fill each box to be donated with the following items:

- 1 bag (5lbs+) of flour
 - 1 bag (4lbs+) of white granulated sugar
 - 1 container of table salt
 - 1 box or bag of white rice (1lb+)
 - 1 box (16oz+) pasta
 - 1 bag dry beans
 - 1 jar pasta sauce
 - 1 pack of toilet paper (4+rolls)
 - 1 bottle of dish soap (16+ oz)
 - 1-4 bars of soap
 - 1 container of laundry detergent (30+loads, "free & clear" preferred)
 - 1 bag of Easter candy such as chocolate eggs or bunnies
- Pascha greeting card

Please put all items in 1 box, able to be carried from a car to a front door by 1 person. We do 1 box per household.

Optional additions

If you are able and want to include more in the box to be donated you can add these items to the above items as well, or other things not listed you feel can be helpful to someone in need. Canned goods, Mac n Cheese, toothbrushes, toothpaste, band aids, and deodorant are some suggestions.

Contact Rebecca to let her know you are filling a box no later than April 10th. If something comes up or you need help or have questions don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you! Contact through email or text saying how many boxes you will be donating. We usually need around 15-19 filled boxes. 440-539-0083 (text or call) or rebecca.kubicek@mailfence.com. Thank you SO much for your kindness!

GROCERY GIFT CARDS ALSO NEEDED. AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AFTER PALM SUNDAY LITURGY TO PREPARE THE BOXES FOR DISTRIBUTION AND TO DO A DELIVERY. PLEASE CONTACT EITHER REBECCA OR FATHER ANDREW TO VOLUNTEER.

Sunday school families:

The Sunday School is planning to have a special Good Friday event for all families. Please see the information below and RSVP to Gail Mataniak if you can either volunteer or attend. We need to be sure we have enough materials for everyone, so please respond with the number of children in your family. Thank you!

Tentative Schedule for Good Friday

- 9:00: Hours Service
- 9:30: Children's activities- Session 1
- 10:15: Snack
- 10:30: Children's activities- Session 2
- 11:15: Outdoor recess or quiet reading/drawing/coloring
- 12:00: Hours Service
- 12:30: Prayer and Lunch
- 1:00: Choir Practice/Adults clean the hall
- 1:30: Children's activities- Session 3
- 2:15: Outdoor Recess or quiet reading/drawing/coloring
- 2:45: Snack
- 3:00: Hours Service

The activities will depend on how many volunteers we have. If we have enough help, we will be able to have 2 or 3 activities each session for children to choose from. Some ideas are: Candle decorating, Good Friday clock craft, Holy Week scavenger hunt, nature walk, singing Holy Week hymns, Holy Week mural, Making cards/crafts for the shut-ins, Pascha Escape Room for teens, (I purchased a packet for this activity. It would most likely take 2-3 sessions.) If you have any additional suggestions, feel free to let me know!

Please let me know if you can help with one or more of the following: (Each family will be asked to bring snacks and lunch items.)

- Lead one of the activities (I will provide most of the materials.)
- Snack
- Lunch
- Hall Cleaning
- Recess- I will bring some outdoor games if the weather cooperates.

Note: As Father Andrew has stated in a previous email, it will be a quiet, reflective day while everyone is inside the church and hall. It will be a great opportunity to teach the children about Good Friday. Children should be encouraged to save their extra energy for outside. Please do not bring games or electronics. Thank you for your cooperation.

HOME ALMS BOXES--- Giving to the poor is one of the main spiritual disciplines of Lent. To aid you in this, the archdiocese home alms boxes will be available in the narthex. Take one home, fill it with money (fasting should save some money from your grocery budget!), and then bring it back to church at Pascha—The monies will be distributed by our archdiocese to the poor around the world.

FAMILY CAMP OUT, SATURDAY, MAY 28 & SUNDAY, MAY 29

All are welcome! You can either come and go, or you can bring a tent and camp out at the church. Sack Races, softball, egg tosses, water balloons and more, combined with Orthodox talks and services. Ends with pizza after Sunday liturgy. NO COST. There will be a free will offering but only if you feel led by God to give. More details later.....

NOTE OF THANKS:

We would like to give a warm THANK YOU for your generous donation to our monthly Street Ministries. With your support we have been able to make special gift bags to pass out to the men and women on the streets.

Thank you again,

Mark & Josie Katzbach & Barb Aboid (St. George)

NEW MINISTRY BEGINNING AT ST. MATTHEW'S

St. Matthew's is now officially affiliated with OCLife, a "non-profit organization dedicated to equipping the Orthodox Christian community to strengthen its commitment to the sacredness of human life from conception to death, illuminating the Church's teaching on life issues through education and engagement." If you would like to get involved in this new ministry, please contact Lisa Palivoda at ldpal1703@outlook.com or Cindy George at cindygeorge127@gmail.com

DONATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK----Needed: carnations, lilies, eggs, large Paschal candles, etc. Contact Subdeacon Richard Sahley---216-513-9738/440-457-7089

LENTEN CONFESSIONS---All Orthodox Christians should go to the sacrament of Confession during Lent or Holy Week. Confessions at St. Matthew's are held at 5:45 p.m. most Saturdays (after 5 p.m. Vespers), during Sunday Matins before the liturgy, and before and after other services when possible. And you can make an appointment for other times. If you have questions, about this sacrament, just ask Father Andrew.

HOLY THURSDAY MORNING FOOT WASHING CEREMONY----This service, (if we have enough altar boys or male adults who wish to take part—12), takes place near the end of the 10 a.m. Holy Thursday Liturgy, April 21. If you wish to take part, please let one of the deacons or subdeacons or Father Andrew know....

PASCHA DAY AGAPE VESPERS MULTI-LANGUAGE GOSPEL READINGS---it is customary, for Agape Vespers, to have the gospel reading read by laypeople in various languages. If you can read in a language other than English, please let Father know---first come, first served! The service is at noon on Pascha Day, Sunday, April 24.

GREAT FRIDAY VIGIL--- April 22-23.... We will again have an overnight vigil at the tomb of Christ starting after Great Friday night Lamentations service and going up until Holy Saturday liturgy at 10 a.m. Can you sign up for a time slot to read scriptures and hymns for an hour? There is a sign-up sheet in narthex. For more info, see or call Michael Musarra, 216-559-7203

BLESSING OF BASKETS----Pascha baskets will be blessed at the end of our midnite Pascha service. It is customary to include in the baskets food given up during Lent---eggs, cheese, candy, wine, etc. There will be a table in church for you to put your basket on.

CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT----As they have for many years, the Teen Group will put on an egg hunt for the children after liturgy on St. Thomas Sunday, May 1. If you would like to help, please bring in candy or money for purchase of candy. *Especially needed if you can get some--
---those little plastic openable eggs!*

St. Matthew Orthodox Church

10383 Albion Road

North Royalton, OH 44133

ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY SISTERHOOD BAKE SALE

During Coffeetime on Sunday, April 17

Please help make the Bake Sale a success by both baking and bringing in baked items and, of course, by buying!

Thank you!