

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

10383 Albion Rd, North Royalton, OH

January 14, 2024

Leave-taking of the Theophany of Christ

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

Archbishop of New York and Antiochian Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY

Auxiliary Bishop of the Antiochian Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

V. Rev. Father Andrew Harmon

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)

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Email: fatherharmon@outlook.com

Website: stmattroyalton.org

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

Saturday Vespers 5:00 PM

Saturday Confessions 5:30 PM

Sunday Confessions during Matins

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 Craig & Cindy George for the health & salvation of Leigh Frank on her birthday and Saint’s Day (the Chains of St. Peter); and is offered by the Blazek family for the health & salvation of Caleb on his 20th birthday; and by the Paraskevi family and Maria Simescu for their own health & salvation and that of Electra Floasiu, Ann Marie, Ourania, and Elaine Nasser; and by George & Christina & Justin Nassif in memory of Adeeb Nassif (George’s father) & Thomas Simmons (Christina’s father); and is offered by Nadia Chahine in memory of her brother, Tony Chahine and his daughter, Rita Chahine; and is offered by Sandy Tolbert for the health & salvation of Deacon Macarius on his Saint Day (St. Macarius of Athos) and for the health & salvation of all the members of the Tolbert family and in memory of his ancestors.

During today’s liturgy we will pray for the health & safety of:

Justin Mosier	Nancy Yanik	Danielle	Mary Violanti
Tony Burhen	Jerry Morriston	Veronica & child	Father John Henry
Lucy Kinkaid	Iliana Radivoj	Father Basil Caldaroni	Glenn Feuerstein
Marc Balke	James Padzerski	Charles & Judy Burhen	Val & Al
Christopher Samuel	Mary Malaniak	Constantine & Maria Kornea	Paraschiva Blaz
Peter George	Julie Dunn	Christine Simon	Elias Karam
Pauline Hanna	Ed Haddad	Adrienne Andrews	Bud Linder
Frank Popovich	Michael Francu	Deacon Macarius Tolbert	Jason Malaniak
Issa Zaboura	Faye Farris	Father Moses Berry	Dolores Kaleal
Argie Katsaros	Jean Fadil	Dan Galita	Corrine George
Josephine Katzbach	Victoria Thorp	Carmen Maria	

And for the newly departed servants of God: Gina (fiancée of Christopher Bokjanc), Mae Joseph (Jeff Joseph’s mother), Emile Nassar

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 4:7-13	EPISTLE READER: Reader Anthony Harmon
GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 4:12-17	USHERS: Tony Latina & Anthony Yanik
HOMILY: “Matthew 4:17—The Kingdom of Heaven Is At Hand At Every Liturgy”	
ALTAR BOY TEAM 1: Caleb Blazek, captain; Christos Allen, Cosby Hunter, Phillip Roach	

PLEASE STAY FOR COFFEETIME RIGHT AFTER THE LITURGY!

SUNDAY SCHOOL RIGHT AFTER THE LITURGY!

For ages 3-19 Parents, please have your children attend. If they haven’t attended before, today is a great day to start!

THE ST. MATTHEW’S WOMEN’S SISTERHOOD WILL MEET AFTER LITURGY TODAY---SEE INFO ELSEWHERE IN BULLETIN ABOUT GUEST SPEAKER

2024 CHURCH CALENDARS

They are in the narthex for you to pick up. A great way to keep track of holy days, Saints’ day, and fasting days (they are in pink). Our thanks to Mallchok’s Funeral Home for providing them.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

VERSES OF THE FIRST ANTIPHON

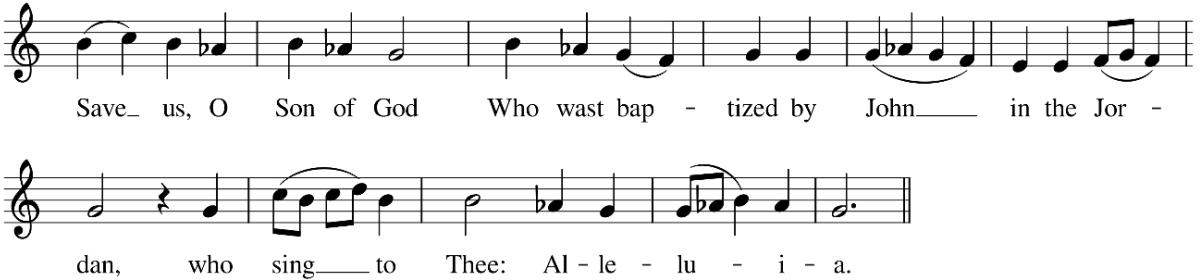
When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people; Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.

The sea beheld and fled: Jordan turned back. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back?

Glory... Both now...

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him.



The pangs of death have encompassed me; the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord. (*Refrain*)

Merciful is the Lord, and righteous; and our God hath mercy. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. (*now sing the Apolytikion of Theophany*)

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THEOPHANY

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN (p. 15)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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 THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR (**The original melody**)

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

THE EPISTLE (For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL (For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

- *Today for the Cherubic Hymn we will use Alt. #1 (p. 31).*

MEGALYNARION OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THEOPHANY IN TONE SIX

O my soul, magnify the ever-virgin Maid, who from the curse hath redeemed us.

O all-spotless Bride, the wonders of thy childbirth surpass comprehension, O blessed Mother! Through thee have we found full and perfect salvation; and framing thee a fitting hymn of thanksgiving, we bring it as a gift as to a benefactor.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THEOPHANY (Titus 2:11)

The grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men hath appeared. Alleluia.

Instead of "We have seen the true light" sing the Festal Apolytikion: "When Thou, O Lord."

UPCOMING SERVICES

SAT, JAN 20-5pm Vespers

SUN, JAN 21- 8:50am Matins, 10am Divine Liturgy; The Holy Bread of Oblation will be offered by the Amer family for Marina's birthday and Xenia's Saint day; and will be offered by Elaine Nasser in memory of her husband, Emile; and the 40-day memorial service for Emile will be held. Also, it is Human Life Sunday and prayers for the unborn will be prayed at the end of the liturgy.

THE FEAST OF THE 3 HOLY HIERARCHS, Tuesday, January 30, 6:30 p.m.---*Compline service with Akathist prayers* (lay-led service)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: **Today-** regular classes **Jan 21-** regular classes **Jan 28-** choir

MEETINGS

TEEN CLUB MEETING---Sun, Jan 29th after liturgy

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Sat, Jan 20, 6pm Meets one Sat a month, 6pm at the church. Studying the Gospel of St. Mark. For more info, contact: Sbdcn Samuel Harmon, 216-598-9230, samuelharmon15@gmail.com or Colton Bose, 440-567-6101

WEST BIBLE STUDY--- at the church Saturday, January 27th (after Vespers) at 6 p.m.We are studying the book of Revelation. *PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE*

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY--- Next meeting Tues, Jan 16, 6:30pm; Regularly meets at 6:30pm on the 1st & 3rd Tues of the month at Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trl, Brecksville. Studying Genesis.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP— Tues, Jan 23, 10:30am. Meets monthly at Tara Reidy's (274 Elmwood, Berea). For info, call Sandy Tolbert, [440-773-9162](tel:440-773-9162).

HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP--- On break until Jan 12. Regularly meets at the church on Fridays from 9:30-1:30 (Aug-May). Includes classes for preschoolers & social time for moms. For info contact Olivia: oharmon15@gmail.com, [440-220-2624](tel:440-220-2624)

KNIT/CROCHET GROUP---Will not meet in January. Usually meets monthly at the church. Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? Please join us! Contact Lisa Bowden at [440-667-2767](tel:440-667-2767) for info.

CHESS CLUB--- Jan meeting already held, Feb date to be announced. Meets monthly at church.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S SISTERHOOD--- will meet today after liturgy. Charmaine Darmour will be a guest speaker at the meeting. She is currently serving as Public Relations Officer on the North American Board of Antiochian Women. She is a Past President of the Diocese of Los Angeles & the West and among other offices previously served, Charmaine also currently serves as the Membership Coordinator in the Diocese of the West. Please come hear her speak today!!

MINISTRY NEWS

STREET DELIVERY TO THE HOMELESS----- Sun, Jan 21 is the monthly day that 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. Herman's Homeless Shelter for the month of Dec.

MEAL SERVING AT ST. HERMAN ORTHODOX HOMELESS SHELTER SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 IS OUR MONTHLY DATE to serve a meal to the poor at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter in Cleveland. If you can help by providing food, cooking, or serving the meal, please contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591.

OCLife ST. MATTHEW CHURCH--- is going to begin quarterly meetings, would those who have an interest in participating in these meetings please contact Cindy George at cindygeorge127@gamil.com

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 INITIAL MEETING will be next Sunday, January 21, after liturgy. In conjunction with the nation-wide Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry organization, we are about to begin a ministry in our own parish, hopefully in conjunction with other area parishes. Ministry to prisoners can be done either in the prison or from the outside. Come and learn about it all and see if it is something you wish to be part of.

THE NEXT PROJECT OF OUR ST. JOHN THE ALMSGIVER MISSION WILL BE ON THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 4TH. More details soon---This time, it will be the serving of hot meals—so actual food donations not needed, but donations of money are! You can start making donations now---please clearly mark for “St. John Mission)

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWO NEW CHARTS ON HALL WALL BY COUNTER

THE FIRST CHART, TO THE RIGHT, IS FOR HOLY BREAD OBLATION SIGN-UP—

Please 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 Andrew.*

THE SECOND CHART, TO THE LEFT, IS FOR HOSTING COFFEETIME AFTER LITURGY ON SUNDAYS.

Please take a turn! If you have questions, contact Electra Floasiu, 216-671-0743.

SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF- Fri, Mar 1, 6pm; features a bake sale and silent auction fundraiser for St. Matthew children to attend Antiochian Village Summer Camp.

VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION-begins Jan 7. This is a great opportunity for our children to grow in the Orthodox Faith. (Ages 8-17) Spots fill up very quickly so be sure to register early. If you have any questions contact Kendra Hunter or Gail Malaniak.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT- For ages 21+ will be held at St. George in Cleveland Feb 23-25. Early bird pricing until Feb 1! Join area young adults for presentations by Fr. John Chagan, Fr. Mark Hagan, and Fr. John Ojaimi, discussion, a service project, social events, and a hafle (music and dancing). Find more info on Instagram @stgeorgeyamcle. Register at <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/pre-lenten-yam>

Volunteers Needed:

VACUUMING VOLUNTEERS---Can you vacuum the church one Sunday after liturgy? A new sign up sheet for 2024 is in the narthex.

THEOPHANY HOME BLESSINGS ARE UNDERWAY



ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

10383 Albion Road

North Royalton, OH 44133

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 33183

North Royalton, OH 44133

Church Phone 440-582-5673

V. Rev. Andrew Harmon 440-539-1116 (Cell)

January 2, 2024

Good morning! Christ is born! I hope you are having a joyous 12 Days—we are now on the 9th day. I am writing about the blessing of homes this year. The most common time to do them is in between Theophany on January 6th and the start of Great Lent (March 18th this year). And they are also rather frequently done at other times of the year, although not commonly in Lent.

My usual practice has been to attempt to bless each parishioner's home before Lent—and up until about a couple of years ago, I usually came pretty close to succeeding. But last year, (and somewhat in 2021) it wasn't possible due to more homes—a wonderful problem! So some got done later in the year and, unfortunately, some didn't get done.

This year, the crunch has gotten more severe. Two reasons-----First---more homes than ever before: well over 200 homes to bless counting parishioners (including quite a few shut-ins), catechumens, frequent attenders, etc. And to really make it impossible to do it all before Lent is the fact that Khourie Bonnie and I will be in Taiwan for over 3 weeks right smack in the middle of houseblessing season (Jan. 29 through February 20) to see our son, Christopher, his wife Yun, and our new granddaughter, Xenia.

So....I am planning on using the following priorities, breaking the homes into 3 categories of priority.

First, I will start by blessing homes of the shut-ins, and people who are either new to the parish and so have never had a home blessing or who have new dwelling places not yet blessed.

Second, then I will bless homes of people whose homes were not blessed last year.

Third, then I will bless homes of people whose homes were blessed in 2023 and would like to have them blessed again this year.

I don't think I can get them all done, even though I can do some after Pascha up until whatever point in the summer my retirement goes into effect. Because the parish has grown quite a bit my pastoring work has become much busier than before, meaning that the time available for blessing homes has decreased.....but I will do all that I can.

ALSO A NOTE CONCERNING REFRESHMENTS-----My doctor has banned sweets for me and also discourages salty food, so please obey him! I will try to do that, too! Just coffee or water is fine! Meals are fun, of course, but time (and health!) don't allow many.....If you do wish me to have a meal with you, please let me know ahead of time---440-539-1116 fatherharmon@outlook.com

Thanks be to Christ who lowered Himself to be baptized in the Jordan River for our salvation. I look forward to celebrating that with you in your home!

In Christ,

Father Andrew

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S SISTERHOOD VALENTINE'S DAY SOCIAL 2024

FEBRUARY 13TH – 6:00 P.M.

(Please RSVP to Susan Joseph @ kmusikwsj@aol.com or
at St. Matthew's before or after Liturgy)



TAVOLO
72

LOCATED ON THE GROUND LEVEL
CROWNE PLAZA CLEVELAND
AIRPORT

7230 ENGLE ROAD - MIDDLEBURG
HEIGHTS - 44134

THE ZOE FOR LIFE
DIAPER DRIVE
JANUARY/2024

The St. Matthew Sisterhood will be holding our annual

Zoe for Life Diaper Drive

all Sunday's in January!!

Please bring a package of disposable diapers and place them in the decorated boxes which will be located in the hall.

The smaller sized diapers may be more useful, although any size will be appreciated!!

If you wish to make a monetary donation,
it would also be much appreciated.

Please make your check out to

"Zoe for Life"

and place it in the box or give it to Georgette Dye.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping those in great need!!



***Please join ZOE for Life!®
and
St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church
for a Prayer Service as we
Pray for the Unborn
Children***



Sunday, January 21, 2024

6:00 pm

***4548 Wallings Road
North Royalton 44133***

***Prayer Service & Presentation will also be Live
Streamed***

Guest Speaker Presentation Follows – 6:45 pm

***Father Costas Keares
St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church***

***Registration is Free, but required in order to receive a
Zoom link. If attending via zoom, please register using
the link or QR code below before January 14***



[ZOE for Life!® 2024 Google 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)

January 2024				
		Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	1			
Tuesday	2			
Wednesday	3			
Thursday	4			
Friday	5			
Saturday	6			
Sunday	7		Karim Party 2:30-6:00	
Monday	8			
Tuesday	9			
Wednesday	10			
Thursday	11			
Friday	12	Homeschool Enrichment 9-2		
Saturday	13			
Sunday	14			
Monday	15			
Tuesday	16			
Wednesday	17			
Thursday	18			
Friday	19	Homeschool Enrichment 9-2		
Saturday	20			
Sunday	21			
Monday	22			
Tuesday	23			
Wednesday	24			
Thursday	25			
Friday	26	Homeschool Enrichment 9-2		Hall not available
Saturday	27		Gloria Zabala-Baby shower for Veronica	12-4
Sunday	28			
Monday	29			
Tuesday	30			
Wednesday	31			

ST. NINA, EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES, ENLIGHTENER OF GEORGIA

In the late 200's A.D. St. Nina was captured by invaders of the Roman Empire and sold as a slave in Georgia in the Transcaucasian area. She was a Christian and a very holy one. Her miraculous healing of a sick child led to the queen of Georgia, who was very ill, having Nina visit her. Nina prayed long and hard and blessed the queen with a cross made of reeds----and she was healed and came to faith in Christ. The resulting fame led many to seek Nina's prayers and led many to come to the true God. After King Mirian converted, he contacted Roman Emperor Constantine to send bishops. By the time St. Nina fell asleep in Christ on January 14, 338, Georgia had become a mainly Christian nation--- and always has remained one, although falling under Communist rule from about 1920 to about 1989.

GIFTS FOR JESUS OFFERING

Since our first years of St. Matthew's history, we have had a Christmas time "Gifts For Jesus" offering. It is an opportunity to give a Christmas present to God to thank Him for His most generous gift----His Son Jesus Christ. As we give in thanksgiving to the Lord, it makes our own exchanging of gifts with family and friends more special!

Your gift will go to the parish operating fund. There will be a special offering box in the narthex/entry area at our Christmas time services. Or you can bring it in or mail it any time before January 15----St. Matthew Church,
10383 Albion Road, North Royalton, 44133