

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
APRIL 2024, NEWSLETTER
10383 ALBION ROAD, N. ROYALTON, OH 44133
P.O. Box 33183, N. Royalton, OH 44133**

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**SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m.
SUNDAY MATINS—8:50 a.m. SUNDAY LITURGY—10 a.m.
CONFESSION—after Vespers and during Sunday Matins & by
appointment.**

REMAINING EXTRA WORSHIIP SERVICES FOR LENT

**GREAT COMPLINE (without Canon of St. Andrew of Crete)---Mondays, April 1, 8,
15, 22, 6:30 p.m.**

**PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGIES—Wednesdays, April 3, 10, & 24 and Thursday, April
18---6:30 p.m. Each followed by potluck
meal. Strict fasting food, please.**

**AKATHIST FOR THE THEOTOKOS---Friday, April 5, 12, & 19, 7 p.m. Preceded by
potluck meals at 6 p.m.—strict Lenten food, please.
Followed by layman led Saints Alive! classes in the hall at 8 p.m.**

**LITTLE COMPLINE WITH CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE & THE READING
OF THE LIFE OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT-----Wednesday,
April 17th, 6:30 p.m.**

**LITURGY FOR THE SATURDAY OF THE AKATHIST HYMN, 10 a.m., Saturday,
April 20th (Matins at 9). *This is not a Soul Saturday service,
but a Saturday commemorating the miracle in the 600's A.D that led to the writing of
the Akathist service that we pray on Lenten Friday
evenings.***

OUR 2024 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 26---Little Compline with Canon of Raising of St. Lazarus, 6:30 p.m.

LAZARUS SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH----Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m.; Potluck brunch, 11:30 a.m.
----GRAVE BLESSINGS START AT NOON (see elsewhere in newsletter for info on this);
----Vespers, 5 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH—Matins, 8:45 a.m.; Liturgy with Palm Procession, 10 a.m.;
----First Bridegroom Service, 6:30 p.m.

HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 29TH—Second Bridegroom Service, 6:30 p.m.

HOLY TUESDAY, APRIL 30TH---Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 10 a.m.;
----Third Bridegroom Service, 6:30 p.m.

HOLY WEDNESDAY, MAY 1---Unction Healing Service, 6:30 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY, May 2---Matins, 8:30 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m.; Potluck brunch after liturgy.
---Service of the 12 Passion Gospel Readings, 6:30 p.m.

GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY, May 3---
---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, May 4----Harrowing of Hell Liturgy, 10 a.m.

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA, May 5----
--Rush, Outdoor Procession, Matins, Liturgy service----10:30 p.m. (*Saturday night*) **THIS IS THE MAIN PASCHA SERVICE**
Followed by Parish Pascha Feast, approximately 1:15 a.m.
---Agape Vespers, noon, on Pascha Day

OUR CONDOLENCES TO---

---the family of parishioner Bud Linder who fell asleep in Christ on February 18th
---the family of parishioner Fay Farris who fell asleep in Christ on February 19th
---Dijana Bokjanc, daughter of parishioner Iliana Radivoj—Ileana fell asleep in Christ on March 18th
---parishioner Susie Palmer on the falling asleep of her father, George Tabanji
---parishioner Marianne Feuerstein on the falling asleep of her brother-in-law, George Spevoc
---parishioner Ginger DeFilippo, on the falling asleep of her brother-in-law, Eric Ghianni

CONGRATULATIONS----

---to Colton & Veronica on the birth of Anna Evangelia on April 1!
---to Constantine & Lindsey Katsaros on the birth of James on March 18th!

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS, STUDY GROUPS, MINISTRY
TEAMS**

WEST BIBLE STUDY—Saturday, April 6, 6 pm at the church.
Studying Revelation.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP—Tuesday, April 23, 10:30 a.m. All women welcome! The location is at Tara Reidy's, 274 Elmwood, Berea. For more info, call Sandy Tolbert, 440-773-9162. We're reading and discussing the book, "The Ascetic of Love."

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—Not meeting until after Pascha. At Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. All are welcome.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Saturday, April 13, 6 p.m., at the church. Bible, food, fellowship—Studying the Gospel of St. Mark.

TEEN CLUB—Monthly meeting after liturgy, Sunday, April 28.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING—After liturgy, Sunday, April 14.

MARTHA MINISTRIES IS NOW UNDERWAY—This is a ministry to provide meals for families in need of some help—new babies, illness, grieving, etc. If you can help, see/email/call Erin Musarra at 440-799-0838.

ST. HERMAN'S MINISTRY TEAM—Contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591 to help with our monthly meal serving at the shelter on Sunday, April 21.

MONTHLY DELIVERY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, ETC. TO HOMELESS ON STREETS OF DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND---Sunday, April 24. Alms box to help this outreach is near hall entrance.

HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP---It meets every Friday from 9:30-1:30 at St. Matthew's. For more info, contact Olivia at oharmon15@gmail.com or call (440)220-2624,

MOM AND TOTS GROUP—A new group for moms with babies and toddlers has begun. Will meet every Friday around 10:45 a.m. during Homeschool Enrichment Group. Contact Oliva at oharmon15@gmail.com or call (440)220-2624.

CHESS CLUB—Meets after church on April 14.

KNIT/CROCHET GROUP—Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? Call Lisa Bowden, 440-667-2767, if you have any questions. Not meeting in April.

HOLY WEEK NEEDS

VARIOUS ITEMS ARE NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA

If you can help with any of the things below, please let Subdeacon Richard Sahley know---216-513-9738, richardsahley@yahoo.com
Lilies; palms; flowers & greenery for the tomb; large Paschal candles; smaller brown candles; olive oil; eggs for dying

ALL-NIGHT PRAYER VIGIL AT THE TOMB OF CHRIST---It starts at at about 9:15 p.m. after the Holy Friday evening service on May 3.....and continues until Holy Saturday liturgy at 10 a.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex when we get closer to the date.....

ANCIENT ORTHODOX TEACHING ON RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION FREQUENTLY

Written by St. John Cassian in approximately 425 A.D. Quoted in John Cassian, Owen Chadwick, Cambridge University Press, 1950—Pages 65-66

“We ought not to abstain from the Holy Communion because we know ourselves to be sinners. Rather, we ought with eagerness to come more and more in order to receive medicine and cleansing for our souls, recognizing in faith and with a humble heart that we are unworthy to receive so great a grace and that we need healing for our wounds. Otherwise, we could not worthily presume to receive the Sacrament even once a year, as is done by some..... But to partake every Sunday for the healing of our sickness, with the humility of heart by which we believe and confess that we can never on account of our merits come to these holy mysteries, is far better than proudly to believe even at the end of a year that we are worthy to receive.”

THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

Canon law does not permit celebration of the liturgy on weekdays in Lent due those days being so solemn and the liturgy being so joyful. However, due to increased spiritual struggle in Lent, Holy Communion is more needed than usual! Therefore, our Orthodox Tradition allows the receiving of Communion from the reserved host from the Sunday before. This beautiful and ornate service can be held on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The most common Antiochian practice is to have it on Wednesdays only due to the Friday Akathist services. We will be having at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. In order to receive Holy Communion, the minimal preparation is to fast after a light Lenten lunch if one is not able to fast from after breakfast or all day. After each of these services, there will be a strictly Lenten potluck meal.

THE AKATHIST SERVICE FOR THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

The Little Compline with the Akathist Hymn originated in Constantinople in the 600's A.D. The city was besieged by the non-Christian Avar barbarians. The people put their hope in the Protectress of the city, St. Mary. Through her prayers to God, the city was saved. The Akathist hymn of thanks to God and the Holy Virgin was written and the people gathered to sing it. It was customary, as a sign of joy, to stand for the whole service---“akathist” is Greek for “not sitting”. Antiochian practice is to have it on the first five Friday nights of Lent. St. Matthew's will have it at 7 p.m. those 5 evenings. It will be preceded by a Lenten community potluck meal at 6. And after the service at 8, we will have our Saints Alive! classes in the hall.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

All Orthodox Christians should go to the Sacrament of Confession during Lent or Holy Week. Confessions at St. Matthew are held at 5:45 p.m. most Saturdays (after 5 p.m. Vespers); during part of the 8:50 Matins service on Sundays; and sometimes (not always) before or after other worship services. And it is fine to make an appointment to come for Confession at other times. If you have questions about the sacrament, just contact Father Andrew.....

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS GOING STRONG!

The number of children has gone up this year and it is an exciting time for our education program.

Thanks to all who are teaching and helping!

There are classes for from age 3 through 19---parents, please have your child attend this Sunday!

For more info, contact our co-superintendants----

Gail Malaniak 440-552-4586 gailmeen@gmail.com

Dawn Heatwole 304-995-7882 dkheatwole@yahoo.com

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OUR CURRENT CATECHUMENS ARE: Michael Asta, Adam, Stevie, & Liv James, Tiara Robinson, D’Lorenzo Thomas, Zachary Beltz We pray for them at each liturgy----- please pray for them also during the week as they prepare to enter the Orthodox Faith by either Baptism or Chrismation.

PRISON MINISTRY

This new ministry will be in conjunction with the national Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. It is possible to help with prison ministry even without ever going inside a prison. For more info, contact our local prison ministry leader, Vincent Defilippo at 330-352-6678, vdefilippo@neo.rr.com.

Pascha Food Box Ministry 2024

Can you help?

We are in need of about 20 Pascha boxes for needy homes!

If you are able to help us with this very important ministry, please bring your filled box to the church on Palm Sunday, April 28th. (Actually, we figured out that it's easier if you could put the food into reusable grocery bags - they are easier for the deliverers to carry).

Have fun packing and thank you so much! It is a great help!

Here are some suggestions, please feel free to add anything else you like!

Sugar
Easter chocolate/candy
Peanut butter
Jelly/jam
Canned tuna
Canned beans, soup...
Rice
Potatoes (fresh or boxed)
Pasta
Pasta sauce
Tea
Toilet paper
Dish soap
Laundry detergent

We will also need 20 hams and grocery gift cards!

This year we'd also like to offer the opportunity to help us fill a box — but you don't have to do the shopping! You give a cash donation (any \$5 amount is appreciated!!) and we will do the shopping for you! (Please bring your donation to church by April 21.)

Contact Louise Bouhasin 216-544-2319 or Lisa Bowden 440-667-2767 to let us know you are filling a box/donation, bringing a ham and/or grocery gift cards.

Please put hams in church freezer or refrigerator. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out! We usually need around 20 filled boxes.

We also need several people who can deliver a box - please let us know if you can help with that!

Thank you SO much for your kindness!



2024 Theme: ORTHODOXY AROUND THE WORLD

Join us as we explore the lives of saints, sacred arts, sports, and international foods!



June 3-7, 2024 9:30am-12:30pm

Manday: Romania, Kolyva, Iconography, Soccer

Tuesday: Russia/China/OCA,

Prophora, Woodworking, Martial Arts

Wednesday: Antioch, Prayer Rope Weaving, Basketball

Thursday: Serbia, Slava Bread, Candle Making, Dance

Friday: Greece, Icon Corners, Olympic Games

At St. Matthew's Antiochian Church

10383 Albion Rd., North Royalton, OH

Free! (Donations Accepted)

To register children ages 3-10 or to volunteer:

call, text, or email Olivia Harmon

440-220-2624, olivia.harmon15@gmail.com

By May 20th

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Adopt a Camper

Here's how:

- CHOOSE A CAMPER YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR. (SEE KENDRA HUNTER OR CALL MALANIAK FOR A LIST OF CAMPERS.)
- COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND TURN IT IN TO THE DONATION BOX WITH YOUR CHECK, IN AN ENVELOPE.

When:

- FROM NOW UNTIL APRIL 15, 2024.

Cost:

- TUITION IS \$1,100 BUT ANY AMOUNT TOWARDS THAT IS APPRECIATED.
- CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO "ST. MATTHEW CHURCH" WITH "CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND" IN THE MEMO

ON A RECENT SURVEY DONE BY OUR ARCHDIOCESE, ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE CAMP WAS FOUND TO BE THE LARGEST FACTOR THAT IMPACTED THE FAITH OF OUR YOUTH.

Thank you for your generosity!

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• CAMPER'S NAME: _____

• AMOUNT: _____

• SPONSOR'S NAME: _____

• DO YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS? _____

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY-----

THE NEXT ST. JOHN THE ALMSGIVER LARGE-SCALE PARISH OUTREACH TO THE HOMELESS WILL BE THE WEEKEND OF MAY 25TH----Making and delivering of many, many lunches, etc.....

DETAILED INFO SOON.

Dear Parishioners,

The Sisterhood will be having the coffee hour on Sunday, April 7th to raise funds for the NAB 2024 Project which is creating an Endowment Fund for our Widowed Clergy-Wives. A free-will basket will be placed on the buffet table for this purpose. Please support this worthy cause for the North American Board of the Antiochian Women. Thank you!!

The St. Matthew Sisterhood

ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH

10383 ALBION ROAD

NORTH ROYALTON, OH 44133

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ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT

**Led by Fr. Josiah Trenham of St.
Andrew Parish in Riverside,
California**

Weekend of September 22

**Please mark your calendars!
More details later**