

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
OCTOBER, 2023, NEWSLETTER
10383 ALBION ROAD, N. ROYALTON, OH 44133
P.O. Box 33183, N. Royalton, OH 44133**

**Father Andrew's Contact Info: fatherharmon@outlook.com
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 & by
appointment.**

EXTRA WORSHIP SERVICES

There are no major holy days in October, but we will have the following service.....
AKATHIST SERVICE FOR ST. LUKE DAY—6:30 P.M., Wednesday, October 18th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS RESUMED FOR FALL

The number of children have increased and it is an exciting new year!

Thanks to all who are teaching and helping!

The children head for their classes after receiving Holy Communion.

There are classes for all from age 3 through 19---parents, please have them attend
this next Sunday!

**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.**

**WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP—Tuesday, October 17, 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.”**

WEST BIBLE STUDY—Saturday, October 14, 6 pm at the church. August meeting to be announced. Studying I Corinthians.

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—Tuesday, October 17, at Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. All are welcome. The study will be on the first part of Genesis. No meeting on Oct. 3.

TEEN CLUB—Monthly meeting after liturgy, Sunday, October 29.

ST. MATTHEW'S WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING—After liturgy, Sunday, October 9th

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, October 15.

MONTHLY DELIVERY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, ETC. TO HOMELESS ON STREETS OF DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND---Sunday, October 22. Alms box to help this outreach is near hall entrance.

HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP---It has resumed for the new school year. It will meet 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—After church, Sunday, October 9.

KNIT/CROCHET GROUP---October 14, 3:30. Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? We meet once a month before Vespers on 2nd Saturday of month at 3:30 p.m. Next meeting---September 9. Call Lisa Bowden, 440-667-2767, if you have any questions.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Saturday, October 7, 6 p.m. on book of Daniel.

OUR CURRENT CATECHUMENS---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.

Jamie & Lucas Domonokos Ryan Cobb Adam, Stevi, & Liv James
Kyle McGregor Tiara Robinson

**BONFIRE ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS----SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
6 P.M. AFTER VESPERS
BRING FOOD (HOT DOGS, SNACKS, DRINK, ETC) A LAWN CHAIR, GAMES TO
PLAY IN SHELTER, ETC. AND INVITE A FRIEND!**

CONGRATULATIONS TO---

---Jeb & Irene Brooks who were married on September 2.
---Tony & Peggy Latina for their Orthodox wedding ceremony on September 10.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO---

--Debbie Farris on the falling asleep in Christ of her father, Jerry Soukal
--Leigh Frank on the falling asleep in Christ of her mother-in-law, Marilyn Frank.
May their memories be eternal!

NEW PARISHIONERS IN SEPTEMBER

CHADI & MARI-THERESE ABOUHAIIDAR

George, Lucas

20255 Birchwood Lane

Strongsville 44149

Chadi---440-870-1025 [Chadi h 11@hotmail.com](mailto:Chadi_h_11@hotmail.com)

Marie---440-613-9888 marietheresebadr28@hotmail.com

VINCENT & GINGER DEFILIPPO

Michael, Gina

776 Queens Gateway

Wadsworth, OH 44281

Vincent 330-352-6678 VEFILIPPO@NEO.RR.COM

Ginger 330-858-7541 GINGERD@NEO.RR.COM

Michael 234-249-8702

PLEASE ADD THEM TO YOUR DIRECTORY AND WELCOME THEM TO OUR PARISH FAMILY.

NEW MINISTRY BEGUN 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.

PARISH BONFIRE

6 P.M., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

(after Vespers)

ON OUR CHURCH GROUNDS

BRING WHATEVER YOU LIKE-----

SNACKS, POP/WATER, HOT

DOGS, MARSHMALLOWS, ETC.

BRINGING A LAWN CHAIR IS

GOOD

BRINGING A FRIEND IS EVEN

BETTER!

Revised



Theotokos of Vladimir

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD
OF GREATER CLEVELAND
Unity Through Participation

Thursday, October 12, 2023
Annual Fundraising Dinner



Holy Trinity Church Hall
6822 Broadview Road
Parma, OH 44134

- Enjoy appetizers at social hour with friends and family - All invited
 - Homemade dinner
 - Delicious Pastries
 - Auction Gift Baskets
 - Doors open at 6:00 PM / Dinner at 7:00 PM
 - Tickets: Adults - \$15 / Children 6-12 \$7.50 / Under 6 - FREE
 - See Parish Representatives for tickets or Helen Beverly (440-212-8545)
 - Reservations must be made by Monday, October 2, 2023
 - All proceeds will go to Orthodox Charities
- see list compiled by EOWG -- <https://www.eowgcle.org>



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 10363 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 12, 2023

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

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

October, 2023

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 form on the back of this letter and submit it as directed with your donation. However, if you are unsure of whom to sponsor, see Camille Patrick or ask Fr. Andrew for a recommendation.

So, please, submit the Christmas card form on the back of this letter before the November 12th deadline.

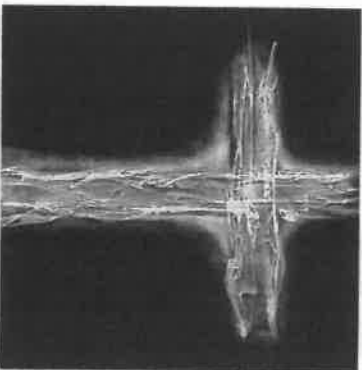
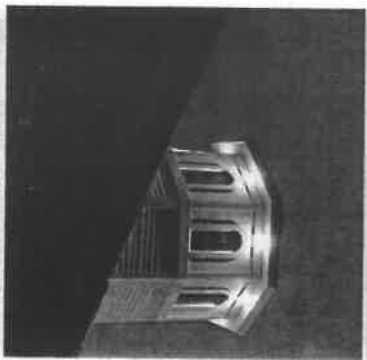
If you have any questions about the card itself, please see or call Camille Patrick (440-555-0236). I handle the subscriptions and Laura handles the design, layout and printing. We hope you will help us make 2023 the most successful Christmas card project EVER! May God bless you for all the support you 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

Beauty from Ashes



Please plan to stay for Coffee hour
Oct. 15 for a presentation by the
Stewardship Committee

ST. MATTHEW'S

HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT

PANORTHODOX HOMESCHOOL GROUP

FRIDAYS 9:30-1:30

Classes run August-April

Ages 0-10

Mommy and Me

Preschool

Primary School



Catechism

Science

Language

Arts and more

St. Matthew's Orthodox Church - North Royalton
Contact Olivia Harmon @ ocharmon15@gmail.com



Wine Tasting

TO BENEFIT IOCC

Monday, October 16, 2023

6:00 to 10:00 pm

Enjoy a four-course dinner with wine pairings, a silent auction, a wine cork pull for a chance to win an expensive bottle of wine, and learn how your gifts help families around the world.

St. Michael's Woodside Event Center
5025 Mill Road | Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Early Bird Tickets by September 30 - \$60

Tickets after October 1 - \$70

For tickets, see your parish representative or visit

iocc.org/Cleveland

Or, mail checks for IOCC to Julie Hall,
PO Box 560185 | Macedonia, OH 44056



Join Us For A Fundraiser

October
22, 2023



Free will offering
for the teens of
St. Matthew

Spaghetti
Lunch &
Bake Sale

After church in
the hall, during
coffee hour



ASK THE PRIEST QUESTIONS ABOUT ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY?

Just get them to Father Andrew and he will put them in newsletter as space allows.....

WHY ARE BREAD AND WINE AND WINE USED FOR HOLY COMMUNION? COULD OTHER THINGS, SUCH AS MILK OR FRUIT, BE USED?

Bread and wine are used in Holy Communion because Christ commanded they be used. So nothing else can be.

Of course, that raises another question.....why did Christ choose bread and wine? No actual explanation is given in the Bible, but some reasons seem fairly apparent. Bread and wine are substances that are both gifts from God and also the products of human work. God gives the seed, the sun, and the rain but the human race harvests the wheat, makes the flour, and bakes the bread. God gives us the grapes, the sun, and the rain but the human race makes the wine.

Therefore, the holy gifts in the liturgy are both a gift from God to us and a gift from us to God.. God gives us the wheat and grapes. We transform them into bread and wine and give them back to God on the altar. Then God, in the liturgy, changes them into the Body and Blood of Christ and gives them us to partake. Fruit and milk are, of course, also gifts from God, but not much human involvement there---we just eat and drink them. *---continued below---*

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NORTH ROYALTON, OH 44133

---continued from above..... This is all reflected in the Great Entrance in the liturgy. The priest and deacon walk out into the congregation and then return to the altar carrying the holy gifts of bread and wine. They do this to show that it is the people of God who are giving to him gifts-----bread and wine that humans have made. And that God will give back to us miraculously changed into Jesus' Body and Blood.

WHY DOES A PERSON BEING BAPTIZED HAVE A BIT OF THEIR HAIR SNIPPED OFF?

That part of the service is called the "tonsuring". Because our hair is on the top of our head, it is symbolic of our whole self. That is why hair is so important in several Bible passages----for example, the story of Samson. If a Christian becomes a monk or a nun, a tonsuring is also do then. Although a person, whether a baby or an adult, being baptized is not becoming a monk or nun, their whole life is being dedicated to Christ in Holy Baptism---thus, the tonsuring, the snipping of hair, is done to show this in a symbolic way.