

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST  
ANTIOCHIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH  
NOVEMBER, 2023, 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](http://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 IN NOVEMBER**

**SMALL COMPLINE**----Friday, 6:30 p.m. A layman-led shorter service of worship....

**AKATHIST TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST & PRAYERS FOR THE UNBORN**---

Monday, November 6, 6:15 p.m. ---on the eve of the Tuesday vote on Issue #1 to change our state constitution by greatly expanding legal abortion. This service is being hosted by the Orthodox Christians For Life ministry group at St. Matthew's and all Cleveland area parishes have been invited.

**ST. MICHAEL DAY** is Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m. Potluck lunch right after the service---fasting food, please. On this day we commemorate St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and all archangels and angels.

**PAN-ORTHODOX UNCTION SERVICE FOR BEGINNING OF ADVENT SEASON**---At St. Matthew's, Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30. It is our turn to host this annual service for all the area parishes. We will have refreshments after the service for our guests. Thank you to our Antiochian Women's Sisterhood for coordinating the refreshments. If you can bring something to help out, that would be great. Fasting food, please, as we will be beginning that day the Advent Fast.

**ST. MATTHEW DAY IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**. Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m. Please be here as venerate our parish's patron Saint! Potluck feast of celebration right after the service. Fasting food, please, due to Advent Fast.

**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21**----Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m. Potluck meal after the liturgy----fasting food, please, due to Advent Fast. On this day we celebrate that St. Mary, as a very young child, was blessed by God the Father to enter the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem temple.

**THANKSGIVING EVE AKATHIST OF THANKSGIVING TO CHRIST---WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 6:30 P.M.** Begin the holiday with what it is all about---thanking God.....

**AKATHIST OF ST. ANDREW, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 6:30 P.M.** A service of veneration for the First-Called of the 12 Disciples.

## **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, November 14, 11:00 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, November 25, 6 pm at the church. Studying I Corinthians.

**SOUTH BIBLE STUDY**—Tuesday, November 7 & 21, at Craig & Cindy George’s, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. All are welcome. The study will be on the first part of Genesis.

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY**---Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m., at the church. Bible, food, fellowship..... Beginning Gospel of St. Mark

**TEEN CLUB**—Monthly meeting after liturgy, Sunday, November 26.

**ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETING**—After liturgy, Sunday, November 12.

**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, November 26.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:oharmon15@gmail.com) or call (440)220-2624.

**CHESS CLUB**—After church, Sunday, November 19.

**KNIT/CROCHET GROUP**---November 18, 3:30. Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? Call Lisa Bowden, 440-667-2767, if you have any questions.

**OUR ADVENT PSALTER READING GROUP for this year will begin on November 15<sup>th</sup>, the first day of Advent season.**

During the 40 holy days of Advent leading up to the celebration of Christ’s birth, the members read all the way through the Psalms, reading an assigned portion of the Psalter each day. The reading is done individually at home.

Questions? Ready to sign up? Please contact group leader Colton Bose 440-567-6101 [coltonmichealbose@gmail.com](mailto:coltonmichealbose@gmail.com)

**MONTHLY DELIVERY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, ETC. TO HOMELESS ON STREETS OF DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND**---Sunday, November 26. Alms box to help this outreach is near hall entrance.

**ATTENTION: ALL MOTHERS, GODMOTHERS, AND GRANDMOTHERS:** During this Advent, there will be a chance to get together once a week to pray for your child, godchild, or grandchild that has fallen away from the Church. The Akathist to the Mother of God, Nurturer of Children will be prayed together, inserting those children you wish to pray for. This will be a lay service and held at the church. You can come to any amount of the 5 services that you are able. The dates are as follows:

Monday, November 20 11 a.m.

Wednesday, November 29 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 4 11 a.m.

Wednesday, December 13 6:30 a.m.

Monday, December 18 11 a.m.

The St. Matthew's Parish Bookstore has several copies of this Akathist for \$6 a booklet.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL IS GOING STRONG!**

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

Thanks to all who are teaching and helping!

The children head for their classes after venerating the cross following taking Holy Communion.

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](mailto:gailmeen@gmail.com)

Dawn Heatwole 304-995-7882 [dkheatwole@yahoo.com](mailto:dkheatwole@yahoo.com)

### **NEW PARISHIONERS IN OCTOBER**

#### **RICHARD & DEMA ESPER**

**Catherine, Anthony**

52 Timber Run Drive

Canfield, OH 44406

Home 330-533-2932

Dema 330-519-6860 [dhalasa\\_esper@yahoo.com](mailto:dhalasa_esper@yahoo.com)

Richard 330-518-8216 [rtesper@yahoo.com](mailto:rtesper@yahoo.com)

### **AND ALSO WELCOME OUR NEW CATECHUMEN IN OCTOBER---- D'Lorenzo**

*Thomas who received the blessing to become a Catechumen on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

**OUR CURRENT CATECHUMENS AS OF OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>.**—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.

Ryan Cobb

Tiara Robinson

Jamie & Lucas Domonokos

D'Lorenzo Thomas

Adam, Stevi & Liv James

### **ST. MATTHEW'S WOMEN'S TRIP TO MONASTERY----submitted by Lisa Bowden**

A couple of weeks ago on October 11, ten of us ladies over the age of 50 traveled to the Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood, Pennsylvania for a day long retreat. We met at the church a little before 7 a.m. and traveled in 3 cars. It only took us about an hour and 45 minutes and the drive was lovely as the leaves were starting to turn fall colors.

When we arrived, we were lovingly welcomed by the sisters and attended Divine Liturgy. After Liturgy, we had a coffee time during which Mother Christophora gave us a talk. We were given a tour of the monastery and then was treated to a delicious and filling lunch during which Mother Christophora read to us about Confession from a book by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware.

After the meal, we saw a video about Mother Alexandra (Princess Illeana of Romania) who founded the monastery.

After all this, we were welcome to walk around and enjoy the spacious and beautiful grounds. Some of the ladies chose to walk down to the cemetery (where Fr. Tom Hopko is buried). We were also able to shop at their bookstore.

We left around 2:45 p.m. and arrived back at the church around 4:30. It was a wonderful day! Below are some of the favorite parts of the trip:

"I enjoyed this trip a lot since it had been a while since my last trip to this monastery. Since the monastery was founded by Mother Alexandra, former Princess Ileana of Romania, I have a very strong connection to it. I pretty much enjoyed every part of the pilgrimage and trip to the monastery, but especially the fellowship of the ladies, the lecture at lunch time and the beautiful grounds." - Florentina

"I had 2 favorite parts of the trip. One was spending time with my traveling companions. It is very rare to get that kind of quality time with busy women. Riding a total of 3 hours or so to and from the Monastery was a great way to do that. My other favorite part was the sanctity of the space we were in and the people with whom we visited. I honestly felt as if the weight of the glory of God remained with me long after our visit - it is, over a week later, still with me." - Cindy

I was very moved by the two sisters who shared their journey to monasticism with us at lunch. Also, Mother Christophora's picture of how the nuns have grown together as a family over the years. - Tara

To visit a monastery is like taking a break from life in the hectic world. The first thing I notice is a feeling of peace and love. I especially enjoyed this visit because there was another group of women there visiting from Shreveport, Louisiana. There were about 10 young women in their 30's and 40's, all converts and all excited and living fully in their faith. They said that Orthodoxy is growing strongly in their state. Because there were two large groups of women there, I felt like Mother Christophora went all out to make our visit there interesting and of value to our spiritual lives. - Khourie Bonnie

I think my favorite things about our last trip to the monastery was the open discussion of current issues between the other guests and Mother Christophora, and the 2nd thing was the size of the guest list and the stories the nuns got to share about their path to monastic life. I usually go on feast days when there are hundreds of people present, and we never get a chance to do this type of discussions/sharing of information. - Electra

**FOCUS**

ST. HERMANS + CLEVELAND

St. Herman House FOCUS Cleveland Presents

# ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

*On Our Daily Pilgrimage*



His Eminence

ARCHBISHOP

DANIEL



**EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD  
OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
UNITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION**

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107:1*

Theotokos of Vladimir

**Saturday, November 11, 2023  
10:00 A.M.**

**St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church  
22909 Center Ridge Road  
Rocky River, OH 44116**

- ▼ Fellowship and Refreshments
- ▼ Distribute gifts for Nursing Home and shut-in parishioners
- ▼ Speaker and Topic - Joanne Stoyka - Touring the Eastern Orthodox Churches in Eastern Europe



**MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 13**

**630-730, Appetizers  
730-830 Program**

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
6822 Broadview Rd, Parma, OH 44134

**TICKETS \$30** <https://tinyurl.com/3zp8738m>

## Fill a Thanksgiving Box! November 2023

Every year for Thanksgiving we provide and deliver boxes for the needy in our area. We need about 20 filled boxes. Would you like to help with this valuable ministry and provide a box?

If you can, thank you! It is a great help! Please bring your box to the church by November 19.

**Please fill each box to be donated with the following items:**

- Stuffing
- Instant potatoes
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned pumpkin or yams
- Evaporated milk
- Bag of sugar
- Bag of flour
- Cream of mushroom soup
- French's dried onions
- Corn muffin mix

Please put all items into 1 box, able to be carried from a car to a front door by 1 person.

Feel free to add additional items (if scented, please place in plastic bag).

We also need turkeys and grocery store gift cards.

(If you would like to deliver a box, please let us know!)

Please call or text Lisa Bowden 440-667-2767 or Louise Bouhasin 216-544-2319, to let them know you are filling a box by November 12. If something comes up or you need help or have questions, don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you SO much for your kindness!

Middle / Senior HS girls  
fellowship and devotional group

**Material: *Woven: An Interactive Book for the Modern Teenage Girl on Orthodox Christianity***

By the Metropolis of Atlanta's Family Life Ministry,  
available through Ancient Faith

**Starting November, 2023**

1<sup>st</sup> sessions Nov 13 and Nov 27, 6:30-7:30pm

Remaining dates TBD

**Location: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
6822 Broadview Rd, Parma, OH**

**Contact: Mat Jen Moore**

Jenlewis82@hotmail.com

765 480 8801

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>  
WE HOPE ALL THE CHILDREN WILL PARTICIPATE!  
FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT COLTON BOSE OR GAIL MALANIAK OR DAWN HEATWOLE**

**Practice schedule for Nativity program**

November 4- 4:00- Auditions/sign ups  
November 5- After Sunday School- Auditions/sign ups  
November 11-4:00 Practice  
November 18-4:00 Practice  
November 19- Practice after class  
November 26- Practice after Liturgy (No classes)  
December 2-4:00 Practice  
December 10- Practice after class  
December 16- 3:30- Dress rehearsal  
December 17-after Liturgy-Dress rehearsal (No classes)  
December 17-6:00- Nativity program

**ASK THE PRIEST**

**THIS SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER IS FOR QUESTIONS TO FR. ANDREW CONCERNING OUR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH---ANYTHING YOU HAVE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT CONCERNING OUR BELIEFS. SUBMITTED QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED EACH MONTH AS SPACE ALLOWS.**

***WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH ON RACIAL MATTERS AND INTER-RACIAL MARRIAGE?***

In a sense you could say that Orthodox Christianity has no position at all on racial matters. The reason I say this is that the Orthodox tradition recognizes only one race--the human race. As St. Paul said in his sermon in Athens, Greece in Acts. 17: 25-26--"He Himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. And He made-----  
from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth." St. Paul here, and all Christian teaching, is clear---God made all of humanity from one, we share one common blood, we are all of one race. Differences of color, language, etc. are of minor significance compared to this huge fact. Therefore, any prejudice or discrimination on the basis of so-called "race" is considered wrong by the Church. There is no reason whatsoever why those of different "races" should not be part of the same parish. And the Church has no problem with "inter-racial" marriage. Our concern is that the marriage be a Christian marriage---the color of skin is not an issue.

***WHY SO MUCH EMPHASIS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ON THERE BEING A CHOSEN PEOPLE SET ASIDE BY GOD?***

It has everything to do with the later coming of Jesus Christ at the first Christmas. In order for God the Son to come to our world as a human being, preparations had to be made. There had to be a mother to bear Him, someone of great holiness and obedience to God. Our Orthodox Fathers state that one of the main reasons for the whole Old Testament history was to make possible someone like St. Mary who would be able to be the God-Bearer, the Theotokos, the Mother of God. Also, it was absolutely necessary that there be a people who finally, after thousands of years of getting to that point, firmly believed that there was only one God. If we believe in many gods (as did everyone except the Hebrews) then to say that God became man in Christ is no big deal---which god became man? What about all the other gods, etc.? But once we really believe there is only one God, to say then that one infinite God became a man is a pretty incredible statement--and, of course, that's the whole basis of Christianity. To have a people who were, with all their other failings, at least firmly monotheistic by the time of the first Christmas, was essential---therefore, all the efforts of God in the Old Testament to get the Chosen People to believe in Him alone and to keep them separate from the pagans around them.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ----**

----Adam & Ashley Daher on the baptism of their daughter, Stella, on September 30<sup>th</sup>!

**OUR CONDOLENCES TO—**

---Christine Simon on the falling asleep in Christ of her mother, Mary Ameen.

---Anthony Yanik on the falling asleep in Christ of his brother-in-law, Paul

**A “THANK YOU” THAT CAME IN THE MAIL---**

Dear fellow workers in Christ at St. Matthew Church----

THANK YOU! For donation of \$600 on 7/31/23).....and please come visit the new St. Mary Chapel on any 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 9:30 for liturgy (check to be sure). We are grateful for your help!

With love in Christ.....

Tara Reidy on behalf of the St. Mary of Egypt Board and volunteers  
(St. Mary of Egypt Mission is an Orthodox outreach to the poor, giving out enormous amounts of food to those in need---*Father Andrew*)

**ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH  
10383 ALBION ROAD  
NORTH ROYALTON, OH 44133**

**NEW MINISTRY UNDERWAY 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](mailto:ldpal1703@outlook.com) or Cindy George at [cindygeorge127@gmail.com](mailto:cindygeorge127@gmail.com).