**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN**

**ORTHODOX CHURCH**

***JULY/AUGUST, 2017 NEWSLETTER***

**10383 ALBION ROAD SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m. (except 6:30 p.m., 7/29 & none 7/1)**

**V. Rev. Father Andrew Harmon SUNDAY SCHOOL—September-May, 9 a.m.**

**440-582-5673/440-826-0662 CONFESSION—after Vespers and 9:45 a.m., Sunday**

**FAX—440-582-8565 SUNDAY MATINS—9 a.m.**

**Father’s cell phone—440-539-1116 DIVINE LITURGY—10 a.m.**

**Website—www.stmattroyalton.org e-mail: fatherharmon@wowway.com**

**DEACONS---Rev. Deacon Macarius Tolbert; Rev. Deacon Basil Vazquez**

**HOLY DAY SERVICES IN JULY & AUGUST**

**ST. ELIAS DAY VESPERAL LITURGY—**Wednesday, July 19, 6:30 p.m. Followed by potluck dinner (not a fasting meal). The “blessing of the vehicles”, traditionally done on this holy day, will take place in the parking lot after the service. So bring your chariot, even if it’s not fiery!

**THE FEAST OF THE TRANFIGURATION IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 6-Our schedule for this Great Holy Day:**

Saturday—Vespers with Artoklasia, 5 p.m

Sunday---Festal Matins, 8:45 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m. *Grapes are always blessed at this liturgy, so bring some if you like*

Please make this a double priority day to be in church—as it’s both a Sunday and one of our 12 Great Feasts.

**PARAKLESIS SERVICES FOR THE DORMITION FAST**-----Wednesday, August 2; Friday, August 4; Monday, August 7; Wednesday, August 9. All at 6:30 p.m. *After the first Paraklesis, Wednesday, August 2, we will have a Fasting Fellowship coffeetime----coffee and light Lenten snacks and a chance to visit. Bring anything (strict fast) that you wish.*

**THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS-***--*Vespers with Artoklasia, Monday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, August 15---Festal Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy,10 a.m. Potluck lunch afterwards to break the Fast. *It is customary on this day to bring flowers and fragrant greenery and herbs to be blessed at the end of the service----so please bring some if you can. You can either put them in vases or hold them during the blessing with holy water.*

**BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**—Monday, August 28—Vespers with Artoklasia, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, August 29---Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy, 10- a.m. Potluck lunch afterwards---strict fasting food, please, as this day is a very stict one-day fast.

**DEACON VESPERS**----Wednesday, July 26 and Wednesday, August 23. Both at 6:30 p.m.

***THE DORMITION FAST***

**We fast August 1-14** to show our love and veneration for the Holy Theotokos as we prepare to celebrate her Dormition (Falling Asleep) on August 15.

**The recommended fasting is like that in Great Lent---**no animal products except shell fish. Wine and olive oil are also given up except on Saturdays, Sundays, and Transfiguration Day, August 6. And fish is eaten on Transfiguration Day.

**This two-week period is like a “little Lent” and can be of great spiritual value to us.**

In addition to the fasting, there are quite a few extra worship services (see above), and, if you haven’t been to confession very recently, this is the time to come---- it one of the customary times of year to go to the Sacrament of Confession. ***Make use of these 2 weeks to draw closer to God, while thanking the Lord for His holy Mother…..***

***THE GREAT HOLY DAYS OF OUR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH---*** We have services for many Saints Days and holy days. But the most important extra services are for the Great Holy Days of our Church---there are 13, counting Pascha, the greatest of all. All believers should make attending for these special days a top priority. Usually, there are both evening and morning services for these days---so everyone should be able to attend one or the other (of course, both is great!). *2 are coming up---Transfiguration of Christ, August 6; and Dormition* *of Theotokos, August 15*. Please arrange your schedule now to be able to attend at least one of the services for each of these two Great Feasts. Schedule details are above……

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

**TEEN/PARENT BIBLE STUDY/LUNCH----**after church Sunday, July 16. At the Saada & Yared families’ home, 1347 Belle Avenue, Lakewood. Food, fellowship, Bible---*parents and siblings are encouraged to attend*. Deacon Basil will be leading the Bible discussion. August Bible Study date---tentatively August 13. Location TBA.

**WOMEN’S PRAYER GROUP---**Tuesday, July 11**,** 7 p.m., at Jean Fadil’s, 477 CranstonDrive, Berea**.** All women are welcome! Call Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464, for more info. *August date to be announced*.

**SISTERHOOD MEETING---**after liturgy, Sunday, August 27.

**WEST BIBLE STUDY—**at the church**,** 5:45 p.m., Saturdays, July 15 and August 12 (right after Vespers at 5)

We arestudyingthe book of Daniel---all welcome!

**SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—***6:30 p.m*., Tuesdays, July 4 & 18 and August 1 & 15, at Dr. Craig & Cindy George’s,

9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. We are studying the book of Hebrews—all are welcome!

**NORTH BIBLE STUDY---**Tuesday, July 18, 6:30 p.m., at Ralph & Elle Parkers, 1350 Elmwood Court, Rocky

River.We are studying the book of Revelation----please come! *August date to be announced.*

**CHAT AND CHEW DISCUSSION PARTY---**Friday, August 11, 6:30 p.m., at Beth Snyder’s, 9314 Towpath Trail, Seville. Com enjoy snacks (Lenten please as we will be in Dormition Fast), fellowship, & discussion. The topic will be “The Physical Side Of Being Spiritual”, led by Deacon Basil.

***YOUNG ADULT PICNIC AT ST. MATTHEW’S WITH YOUNG ADULTS FROM ALL PARISHES BEING INVITED***

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27---MORE INFO SOON…..**

**Post-High School age through 39**

**MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS-**---Some of our parishioners will be delivering personal necessity bags, sandwiches, clothes, water, socks, etc. to the homeless on the streets of Cleveland after church on **Sundays, July 16 & August 20.** If you can help by donating items, let Josie Katzbach 440-668-9831. ESPECIALLY NEEDED NOW***---- SOCKS*** (see big box on table in hall) **AND WATER**. *And please remember the need for cash funding----please put your donations in the alms box in church narthex.* And another need---we are “adopting” some folks in need of tents. Can you donate a tent?---any size is fine. Either new or used but in good shape and ready to use…Just let Josie know.

**ST**. **HERMAN’S MINISTRY TEAM---**Our monthly cooking and serving of a meal to the poor at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter will be on Sunday,July 16 and Sunday, August 6. Scott & Simona Palmer will be cooking the July meal and Rajka Ries and Josephine Vuich the August meal. We will need volunteers to help with the 5:30 p.m. serving of the meals. If you can help, please contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591. *Thank you to those who took care of the meal in June-----our cooks John Scordos, Sarah Phillips, and Matt and our servers Florentina Popa and Craig & Cindy George!*

**HOLY BREAD BAKING MINISTRY TEAM--** We have a rotation of bakers who prepare the bread for the Divine Liturgy. If you would like to be one of them and bake about once every 5 weeks or so, contact Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464 Training available!

**PARISH FOOD PANTRY----**Nine homes were helped by Holy Week deliveries to the needy. We now need to build the pantry back up. It is in metal cabinet in first room after kitchen. Please bring in non-perishable food----you can leave it on table near room entrance.

**CHANTING CLASS** ---- It meets on Saturdays at 4 p.m. (before 5 p.m. Vespers). Speak with Anthony Harmon---anthonysharmon@gmail.com 440-228-8765 for more info.

***MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCH***

After liturgy on Sunday, July 27-----hosted by Ralph & Elle Parker and Jean Fadil and Marianna Russyn. Come enjoy some good food and good fellowship!

We do not yet have a host for our August Community Lunch. If you can do it, please speak with Father Andrew. And it’s fine for 2 or 3 families to host together.

***E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED* We are now e-mailing most of our parish newsletters to save on paper, copying, and mailing. If you received this copy by regular mail, but *do* have e-mail, please get your address to us. Just send a quick e-mail to** **fatherharmon@wowway.com** **or call 440-582-5673 *THANK YOU!***

***DONATIONS NEEDED*----**

---copy paper, either 8 x11 or 8 x 14

---stamps for church mailings

***NEW PARISH MEMBERS***

**Daniel Samson Al & Susan Blazek**

1757 Hanover Street Paul, Caleb, Josiah, Xavier, Gregory, Sebastian, Anastasia

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221 1498 Oak Tree

Dansamson@hotmal.com Brunswick, Ohi 44212

 Al—440-799-2487 Susan---440-799-2488

 Al.blazek@gmail.com susan.blazek@gmail.com

*Please add them to your phone list and welcome them to our parish family!*

**JULY/AUGUST ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE**

**TEAM A, 7/9, 8/6 TEAM B, 7/16, 8/13 TEAM C 7/23, 8/20 TEAM D 7/2, 7/30, 8/27**

Gregory Tolbert, captain Fuad Zogheib, captain Justin Nassif, captain Shadi Zogheib, captain

Jacob Kash Samir Amer Estephan Saada Caleb Blazek

Joseph Mozden Ricky Farris Grant Johnson Nicholas Katsaros

Saba Saada Paul Blazek Jed Zogheib Xavier Blazek

Josiah Blazek Gregory Blazek Emad Zogheib

 **JULY/AUGUST GREETERS SCHEDULE—**

**7/9, 8/6---**Fred Bourjaily, Susie Harmon **7/16, 8/13---**Penny Sent, Rachael Palmer, Alexandria Palmer

**7/23, 8/20---**Scott & Simona Palmer  **7/2, 7/30, 8/27---**Georgette Dye, Judy Yanik

 **JULY/AUGUST USHERS SCHEDULE**

**July 23 , August 20 July 2, 30, August 27 July 9, August 6 July 16, August 13**

Sam Daher Anthony Yanik Jeff & Susan Joseph The Handmaidens

Gail Malaniak George Nassif

Cody Krakowski Nicholas Katsaros

 **JULY/AUGUST EPISTLE READERS SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAYS--- July 2---** Katie George **August 6----**Gabriel Kirsch

 **July 9---**Michael Lieberman **August 13---**Marianna Russyn

 **July 16---**Lisa Palivoda **August 20—**Cindy George

 **July 23---**Susan Joseph **August 27---**Samuel Harmon

 **July 30—**Judy Yanik

**St. Elias Day Vesperal Liturgy, July 19---**Rose Sahley, Xenia Amer, Lisa Palivoda, Michael Lieberman

**Dormition of Theotokos Liturgy, August 15---**Judy Yanik

**Beheading of St. John the Baptist Liturgy, August 29—**Michael Lieberman

**OUR CONDOLENCES---**to Bud Linder on the falling asleep in Christ of his nephew, Douglas Montgomery. ***Memory eternal!***

 **CONGRATULATIONS TO----**

--Daniel Samson on being baptized into the Orthodox Church on June 18!

--and to Daniel Samson and Abbey Joseph for their wedding on July 1!

**MORE LAY VISITORS NEEDED**---Can you be one of our lay visitors? We need more! What lay visitors do is make occasional visits to shut-ins, either in nursing homes or in their own homes. It’s a very good way to serve Christ by bringing some cheer and fellowship to those parishioners who can’t come to church. If you wish to be a visitor, or need more info, please contact Jack Palivoda, the head of our Lay Visitors Ministry---216-235-2990 jack.palivoda@css-security.com

 **JULY BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

***Happy Birthday & Many Years to----- Wedding Anniversaries***

4—Jonathan Daher, Dylan Kaszas 3---John & Jeannette Roma

6---Claudia Roma 5—George & Christina Nassif

7—Michael Lieberman 7—Yousseff & Nellie Rizk

8—Andrew Nemes 12—Anthony & Olivia Harmon

10—Father George Saada, David Opincar, Nouhad Zogheib 18—Anthony & Jennifer Moujaes

11—Samir Amer, Jasmine Zogheib 27—Gregory & Christina Gasbarro

14—Elie Zogheib 31—George & Penny Sent

17—Emily George

20—Judge Mark Comstock

21—Dr. Irene Costaras-Vasilakis

22—Toby Areheart

23—Elie Jammal, Ramzi Jammal, Alex Katsaros, Anca Kaszas, Sarah George

24—Susan Joseph

25---Ricky Farris, Dolores Kaleal

27—Camille Patrick

28—Joe Haddad

30—Anthony Harmon, Mary Malaniak, Housam Alsaifi, Khouria Hanan Saada

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

1—Laura Gasbarro, Daniel Patrick 12—Michael & Lynn Rotundo

10—Anees Rizk 17—Tom & Judy George

11—Andrew George, Elie Haddad, Sandy Tolbert 19—Elie & Christine Zogheib

15—Sabeel Haddad 23—Roger & Lisa Aramouni

16—Hana Haddad, Gregory Tolbert 29—Edward & Margot Joseph Haddad

17—Marc Balke

18—Nicholas Katsaros

24—Chuck Pappadakes, Josiah Blazek

25—George Sent

26---Lucy Kincaid

27—Isaac Kash

30—Gary Wakeland

31—Roger Aramouni

*Send a card or make a call and make someone’s special day a little more special!*

***IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE PARISHIONER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST, CALL FR. ANDREW!***

**MORE MEMORIAL WHEAT PREPARERS NEEDED—We have several preparers who make the wheat for memorial services, but we need some more… If you would like to be a wheat preparer, contact Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464 Training available!**

**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! Just let Fr. Andrew know.**

***WHAT IS IT THAT WE CELEBRATE ON THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF ST. MARY ON AUG. 15?***

 The word “dormition” means “falling asleep”. Therefore, primarily what we celebrate on August 15 is the falling asleep in Christ of the Holy Theotokos. As usual, the main commemoration of a Saint takes place on the date of a Saints’ death. However, it also Orthodox belief that, shortly after her death, St. Mary was bodily “assumed” or taken up into heaven by her Son. This particular belief is called the Assumption of St. Mary. It is true the Church has never declared it as dogma but it is deep within the ancient Tradition of the Church---our hymns speak of it and we have churches named for it. The belief is that Christ granted His mother this special favor, of being taken up bodily to heaven after death, in anticipation of the general resurrection of the dead at the end of the world, when Christ raises all from their graves. Therefore, what happened to the Theotokos is what will happen to all believers at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. What is different is that Christ granted it to His mother ahead of time.

***WHAT SACRAMENTS & PRAYERS ARE DONE FOR A DYING ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN?***

 Three sacraments are done for a dying Orthodox Christian.

 **Holy Unction**, anointing with holy oil, is done. (The term “extreme unction” is a Roman Catholic term, not an Orthodox term.) The sacrament of Holy Unction given at the time of death is actually the same sacrament we receive if we are sick or on Wednesday evening in Holy Week. Of course, when a person is at the point of immanent death, the intent of the sacrament is different. Although a miracle of healing to get the person up from the deathbed would be wonderful, the main intent of anointing at this time is to prepare the Christian for his journey into God’s presence, and for the final and total healing of the life to come.

 The sacrament of **Confession** also takes place—the dying person is given his or her last opportunity to confess any sin on their conscience and to hear the comforting words of absolution & forgiveness by God pronounced by the priest.

 And the sacrament of **the Eucharist**, Holy Communion, is given to the dying Christian. What better way to prepare to stand before the Judgment Seat of God than by receiving one last time, in faith and repentance, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

 Also, there are special prayers prayed for the soul of the person nearing death. If there is a long and difficult time of struggle, there are prayers prayed asking God to quickly and peacefully take the soul of the dying one. And, following, the death, the Trisagion memorial service is prayed over the body.

 These sacraments and prayers, all combined together, are what are done for us when we die. It is a great blessing to receive such spiritual help when we die. Therefore, family members should always do all possible to contact the priest to come to the side of the departing Christian, no matter what time of day or night. Priests do not consider this a nuisance, but a joy and privilege to be able to help usher someone into the life to come.

**WHY IS OUR CHURCH CALLED “ORTHODOX”?**

The word derives from the early centuries of Christianity. It was used to distinguish the true Church from various heretical groups which denied certain aspects of the Apostolic Faith handed down from Christ through the Apostles. The word is of Greek origin and literally means “straight worship” or “true worship”. It also came quickly to mean “true belief”.

 When we call our Church “Orthodox” we are saying it has true worship and true belief and is the actual Church begun by Christ and the Apostles. What a blessing and what a responsibility to be part of it!

**THANKS!**

--to Kosta & Dijana Bokjanc for a case of copy paper.

--the Sisterhood for the delicious Father’s Day lunch

**NORTH ROYALTON MINISTERS’ ASSOCIATION---*COMMUNITY MONTHLY MEAL***

This ministry has been organized with Orthodox (2 parishes), Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Nazarene, & Methodist participation. The basic plan is for the parishes to go together to serve a hot meal to all who can come----the target group originally was the needy, but all are welcome! The next meals will be Sundays, July 30 and August 27, 3-5 p.m., at St. Albert Catholic Church on Wallings Road. If you can help in any way, contact Father Andrew.

**SAINTS DAY PRAYERS**---Children whose Saints Days fall in July will be honored and prayed for after the liturgy on Sunday, July 9. And in August it will be on August 27.

**NEXT PARISH NEWSLETTER** will be printed the week of August 27. Please give any info for it to Father Andrew by then.

**ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**10383 ALBION ROAD**

**NORTH ROYALTON, OH 44133**

**TWO BIG EVENTS THIS FALL-----**

**----BISHOP ANTHONY WILL BE WITH US FOR OUR ST. MATTHEW DAY WEEKEND----**

 **NOVEMBER 17-19**

**---OUR ANNUAL CLAMBAKE (our only general parish fundraiser) WILL BE SEPT. 23**

***More details on both soon……***

**NEWS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH-------**

**Archdiocese Convention----**July 24-30 in Miami. See church bulletin board or go to [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org) for all the details. ***Can you be a delegate from our parish?***

**International Orthodox Christian Charities Baseball Night-*--***Progressive Field, July 22. See flier for details….

***CAN YOU SPONSOR A MEAL FOR THE POOR?***  It costs about $100 for us to serve our monthly meal to the poor at St. Herman’s. Would you like to help in a very special way by sponsoring one meal by donating $100? You can do this either by yourself or together with another family or families. Please mark your donation clearly!