

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

10383 Albion Rd, North Royalton, OH

January 5, 2024

Eve of, & Sunday Before, Theophany of Christ

**His Eminence Metropolitan SABA
Archbishop of New York and Antiochian Metropolitan of all North America**

**Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy Davis
Archepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of Toledo and Midwest**

**V. Rev. Father Fred Shaheen, Pastor
V. Rev. Father Andrew Harmon, Retired
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)**

Phone: Fr. Fred (c) [\(319\) 651-6452](tel:319-651-6452)

Email: shaheenf@hotmail.com

Website: stmatroyalton.org

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

Saturday Vespers 5:00 PM; Confessions after Saturday Vespers or by appointment

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 Jeb & Irene Brooks for the return to health of Irene, and for the health & salvation of Kalliope & Helen; and by the Amer family for the health & salvation of Julianna on her name day; and by Larry & Gail Malaniak for the health and salvation of their grandchildren, Jemma & Jacob, on their birthdays; and by Fadia & Tony Abdul Karim for the health and safety of their granddaughter Corina on her third birthday; and by the St. Matthew Antiochian Women Sisterhood in memory of their departed members (list on the following page).

During today's liturgy we will pray for our catechumens:

Charles Bossart, Dean Albashani, Zachary Beltz, Nizam Jawhari, Andrew Richards, Maria Sagi

And for the health & safety of:

Justin Mosier	Jean Fadil	Fr. John Henry	Leigh Frank
Lucy Kinkaid	Victoria Thorp	Metropolitan LONGIN	Grant Oberlin
Marc Balke	Argie Katsaros	Constantine & Maria Kornea	Jenna Bshara
Christopher Samuel	Theodore Bunevich	Tony Branson	Lori Davidson
Peter George	Donald Glaser	George & Christine Simon	Catherine Morton
Frank Popovich	Mary Violanti	Michael & Marilyn Francu	Sam Shaheen
Issa Zaboura	Jerry Morrison	Christian	Alexis Borovlak
Corrine George	Danielle	Charlotte Shaheen	Christine Hudacek
James Padzinski	Roy	Jared Johnston	Harold Tolbert, Sr.
Josephine Katzbach	Susan Joseph	Christine Bossart	Rosalinda Bacus
Elias Karam	Ann Ghianni	Olivia Harmon & baby	Carole George
Fr. Don Shadid	Julie Dunn	Tatiana Santiago	baby Michael
Judy Yanik	Don Ambrose	Tamara Derosset	Diana Popa
Nancy Yanik	Judy Burhen	Sharon Mack	Marianne Feuerstein
Ed Haddad	Michael DeFilippo	Alfred & Rita Blazek	Wanda Patchin
Protinicia Lindsey	Samuel Harmon	Alexander N. Olhovsky	Victor Kourey
Baby Dhillion	Tom Baker	Rosemary Sahley	

And for the newly departed servants of God: Rodica Iancu, Priest Epiphanius, Samira Hanna,

Mother Apolinaria, Metropolitan Timotej, Angeliki Vasilatos, Christian Melik, Pauline Hanna, Steven Milner, Bishop Elijah of Tartu, Fr. Vyacheslav Zernov, the victims of recent mass shooting in Montenegro

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 **EPISTLE READER:** Reader Anthony Harmon

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:1-8 **HOMILY:** "Just News"

USHERS: Fred Bourjaily & Kosta Bokjanc

ALTAR BOY TEAM 1---Caleb Blazek, captain; Christos Allen, Cosby Hunter, Phillip Roach

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

PLEASE STAY FOR COFFEETIME TODAY AFTER LITURGY!

Thank you to the Parish Council for hosting today!

CATECHISM- will meet at 1pm

TEEN SOYO CLUB- *today* elections for 2025 officers Jan 5th after liturgy.

Deceased Sisterhood Members

Elinor Bourjaily, Past President

Evelyn Adamany

Sylvia Audey

Terry Betor

Audrey Bourjaily

Norma Buettner

Pat Crawford

Mouna Drozdowski

Joanne Esber

Amelia Fadil

Nazha Fadil

Evelyn Farage

Caroline Fish

Ardelle George

Rosalee Haddad

Jean Hakaim

Christine Huckaby

Dolores Kaleal

Mary Eunice Kirkwood

Mary Malaniak

Ruth Meena

Eileen Orfala

Linda Piotrowski

Lila Saah

Margaret Sabrey

Elizabeth Sahley

Rosemary Salem

Sophie Salem

Mary Simon

Minerva Simon

Irene Tuma

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

TONE 3 / EOTHINON 6

PARAMON (EVE) OF & SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

Martyrs Theopemptos the bishop of Nicomedia and Theonas the former magician;
Venerable Syncretica of Alexandria; Venerable-martyr Romanos of Athos

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE (p. 12)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE PARAMON (EVE) OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

(Special melody "Joseph was amazed")

River Jordan was turned back by Elisseus' mantle once, * when the fiery man of zeal Elias had been taken up; * then were its waters divided hither and thither. * The running streams became dry passage unto him, * truly as a sign and type of Baptism, * whereby we pass to the other side of * the shifting stream of this fleeting life. * Christ hath appeared in the Jordan River, to sanctify the waters.

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 FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

(Special melody "On this day Thou hast appeared")

In the running waters of * the Jordan River, * on this day the Lord of all * crieth to John: Be not afraid * and hesitate not to baptize Me, * for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

My child Timothy, be watchful in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the season of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, and I have guarded the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will reward me at that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved His appearing.

THE GOSPEL (for the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sat, Jan 11 *5pm Great Vespers*

Sun, Jan 12 *8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy*; The holy bread of oblation will be offered by the Blazek family for the health & salvation of Caleb Blazek on his 21st birthday; and by the DeFilippo family for the health & salvation of Vincent DeFilippo on his birthday; Jeb & Irene Brooks for the return to health of Irene, and for the health & salvation of Kalliope & Helen; and by Polycarp & Veronica Bose in memory of Polycarp’s grandmother, Madeline De Maria. And the memorial will be held for Madeline De Maria.

Friday, January 17 – *6:30 pm Vespers*

Saturday, January 18 – *9am Orthros and 10am Liturgy for St. Athanasius*

HOUSE BLESSINGS--- will begin on Jan 6 and run through Mar 1.
To schedule use the QR code to the right or the link below to access Calendly.

Should you have any trouble with the app, please contact Fr. Fred directly.

You can also access this link from our parish website!

<https://calendly.com/fredshaheen01/30min?month=2025-01>



ANNUAL GIFTS FOR JESUS OFFERING-----

Since our early years at St. Matthew’s, we have had a “Gifts For Jesus” offering at Christmas time. It is an opportunity to give a Christmas present to emphasize our love of God and thanks to Him for giving us the greatest gift—His Son, Jesus Christ.

We ask that you generously gift to Jesus this Christmas so that our giving of gifts to others will become more meaningful and delightful. Your gift will go to the parish general operating fund. However, if you wish to designate it for another purpose, you may do so.

There will be a special offering box in the narthex from now until Jan 12.

Or you can mail it in any time before January 12----St. Matthew’s , P. O. Box 33183, North Royalton, OH 44133

Sunday School Schedule:

Sunday School will not meet today, but will resume next Sun, Jan 5. Every Sun in Jan will be regular classes.

MEETINGS

YOUNG ADULT GROUP—Jan date to be announced. 6pm. Meets monthly to study the Gospel of St. Mark. Bible, fellowship, food....For more info, contact: Subdeacon Samuel Harmon, 216-598-9230, samuelharmon15@gmail.com or Colton Bose, 440-567-6101

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY--- Tuesday, Jan 7, 6:30pm at Craig & Cindy George's, house---4414 Brookhaven Drive, North Royalton. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Studying the Servant Songs in book of Isaiah---all are welcome!

WEST BIBLE STUDY---January 18, 6pm. They meet monthly at the church after Sat Vespers. They are studying the Book of Revelation. All are welcome!

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP—Jan 21, 10:30am. They meet monthly at Tara Reidy's house (274 Elmwood Dr., Berea, OH 44017) For info, call Sandy Tolbert, [440-773-9162](tel:440-773-9162).

TODDLER TIME AND HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP--- Will resume Jan 10 at 9:30am. Contact Olivia Harmon for more information: oharmon15@gmail.com

PATHWAYS TO PEACE- Jan 27 at 7pm in the church conference room. The meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month. "A gathering place of Orthodox Christians who seek to live in the fullness of life as promised by Jesus Christ." Contact Deacon Basil for more information: 440-665-3591

CHESS CLUB- Jan date to be announced. If you don't know how to play, they will teach you!

CATECHISM- The class will meet every Sun at 1pm, alternating The Orthodox Faith & Scripture Track. These sessions are open to anyone, not just catechumens!

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S SISTERHOOD MEETING—Jan 12 in the board room after liturgy.

MINISTRY NEWS

USHERING MINISTRY--- Ushers rotate once every other month and are vital to the welcoming ministry of our Church. If you would like to be added to the rotation or have any questions about this, please let Cindy George know. cindygeorge127@gmail.com

STREET DELIVERY TO THE HOMELESS----- Jan 19. One Sunday a month 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.

MEAL SERVING AT ST. HERMAN ORTHODOX HOMELESS SHELTER Jan 19 is our next monthly date to provide, cook, & serve a meal to the poor at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter in Cleveland. If you can help in any way, please talk with Dcn Basil, 440-665-3591 or sign up in the hall

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--- It is possible to help with prison ministry even without ever going inside a prison. For more info, contact our local leader, Vincent Defilippo, 330-352-6678 vdefilippo@neo.rr.com

IOCC REP—congratulations and many thanks to Jasmine Zogheib for accepting the position of St Matthew's IOCC representative!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY BREAD OBLATION SIGN-UP—*If you would like to add an oblation for next Sunday, please contact Olivia (stmattroyaltonbulletin@gmail.com 440-220-2624).* For all other Sundays, please use the chart in the hall (chart is on the right wall by the counter) to sign up for which Sundays you wish to offer the oblation for the liturgy. *If you are not sure how oblations work, check with Father Fred.*

HOSTING COFFEETIME AFTER SUNDAY LITURGY- If you can bring food please sign up on the chart to the left of the counter in the hall! Questions? Contact Electra Floasiu 216-671-0743.

VACUUMING VOLUNTEERS-Sign-up sheet is in the narthex to vacuum the nave after liturgy!

FLOWER DONATIONS: If you would like to donate to the flower fund (or provide flowers) to decorate our church for one of our many feast days, contact Lisa Amer 216-415-9126 lisa.amer@att.net

A REMINDER: *Do not leave any items at the church to give away without permission from a Hall Committee Member:* **Electra Floasiu** [216-671-0743](tel:216-671-0743) **Gail Malaniak** [440-552-4586](tel:440-552-4586)

PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE- Do you have pictures or announcements you'd like to share on our public Facebook page? Contact Steve Morgan at (330) 524-0214, stevemorgx@pm.me or message the account directly.

NEW CONTACT:

Please email stmattroyaltonbulletin@gmail.com with any information that should be posted in the bulletin or newsletter. This includes prayer list requests, last-minute oblations, and group announcements. The goal is to keep the information organized and accessible for those who help with the publication of the bulletin. The deadline to submit requests for the Sunday bulletin is noon on Friday. Additions submitted after noon Friday cannot be guaranteed to be printed in the bulletin. Thank you!

**THE ZOE FOR LIFE
DIAPER DRIVE
JANUARY/2025**

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/OR a package of baby cleaning wipes and place them in the designated spot which will be located in the hall.

Any size diapers will be appreciated, although the smaller sizes may be more useful.

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

Make your check out to

"Zoe for Life"

and give it to Georgette Dye.

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



St Matthew, in cooperation with ZOE for Life!, will once again be hosting the Akathist to our Sweet Lord Jesus with special prayers for the Unborn. The service will be held on Jan. 26 at 6pm with our very own Fr Andrew Harmon as the speaker during the coffee time and light refreshments immediately following the service.

Please make plans to attend and prayer for those who have yet to be or were prevented from being born



Camper Fundraiser Raffle!

Throughout the month of January our campers will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win 10 AMAZING prizes!



Our prizes:

- A Family Fun Bundle – hours of fun and games!
- Women’s Wellness Bundle – including a House of Colour color and style analysis
- Sips, Sweets, and Such – wine tasting, couples color analysis and more
- Men’s Leisure – round of golf, car washes, whiskey, cigars!
- Bath and Body Works Bundle – soaps, lotions, and perfumes
- Japanese Ramen Bundle – all the ingredients you need to make delicious ramen at home!
- Coffee Bundle – Keurig machine, mugs, and more!
- Clean House Bundle – let someone else clean your house for a change
- Greek Food Bundle – have your dinner cooked and served by Fr. Fred and Kh. Michelle!
- Gardening Bundle – including tickets to the Cleveland Botanical gardens

The drawing will be held at the Chili Cook-off on Saturday, February 8, 2025. You can purchase your tickets directly from our campers at our table in the hall, or scan the QR code to buy them online.

Calling all Chili Chefs and Bakers!

Do you have a famous or not-so-famous Chili recipe that you are willing to make for our 2025 Chili Cookoff for Campers?! Or a scrumptious baked good we can add to our bake sale? Please see Kendra Hunter in the hall after church to SIGN UP to bring a chili and/or a baked good. Don't let the competition intimidate you... it's all in fun! The Golden Ladle goes to the chili in each category that receives the most money in their bucket during our event on February 8, so bring your friends AND your cash! It's all for the worthy cause of helping to send our parish's 15 campers to Antiochian Village this summer! Thank you for your support - May God bless our efforts!

Who will win this year's Golden Ladle???

SAVE THE DATE!

4th annual

CHILI COOK-OFF FOR CAMPERS!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

6:00-8:00 PM

**Bake Sale
& Raffle!**

**FREE-WILL
admission!
Vote with
Cash!**

**Invite
Friends &
Family!**

All proceeds
benefit our
15
Antiochian
Village
Campers!

Chili Chef and Bake Sale Sign-Ups coming soon...
Contact Kendra Hunter or Lisa Amer with Questions

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

Adopt a Camper

Here's how:

- CHOOSE A CAMPER YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR. (SEE KENDRA HUNTER OR FR. FRED 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 1, 2025.

Cost:

- TUITION IS \$1,150 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!

2025 Campers

Updated 11/11/24

1. Xenia Amer
2. Marina Amer
3. Julie Amer
4. Gabriel Amer
5. Ana Blazek
6. Xavier Blazek (CIT hopeful)
7. Miles Hunter
8. Cosby Hunter
9. Isaac Kash
10. Christos Simmons
11. Brooke Musarra
12. Gia Musarra
13. Rowan McKinney
14. Nawal Alsafi
15. Eirene Shaheen
16. Harry Shaheen

.....

• CAMPER'S NAME: _____

• AMOUNT: _____

• SPONSOR'S NAME: _____

• DO YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS? _____

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 2025		
		Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Wednesday	1			
Thursday	2			
Friday	3			
Saturday	4			
Sunday	5			
Monday	6			
Tuesday	7			
Wednesday	8			
Thursday	9			
Friday	10	Homeschool Enrichment 9-noon		
Saturday	11			
Sunday	12			
Monday	13			
Tuesday	14			
Wednesday	15			
Thursday	16			
Friday	17	Homeschool Enrichment 9-noon		
Saturday	18		Bokjanc memorial lunch 12-4	
Sunday	19			
Monday	20			
Tuesday	21			
Wednesday	22			
Thursday	23			
Friday	24	Homeschool Enrichment 9-noon		
Saturday	25			
Sunday	26			
Monday	27			
Tuesday	28			
Wednesday	29			
Thursday	30			
Friday	31	Homeschool Enrichment 9-noon		

St Matthew Church can now accept donations online:

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/stmatthewchurch>

or use the QR code to the right



Saint Matthew now has a YouTube channel! Please subscribe to stay on top of our videos

<https://m.youtube.com/@saintmattheworthodoxchurch>

Additionally, you can subscribe to Fr. Fred's own YouTube channel, *A Light to the*

Nations <https://tinyurl.com/ALight2> and his podcast is available to listen to on multiple

platforms <https://tinyurl.com/ALightpodcast>