

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

APRIL, 2017 NEWSLETTER

10383 ALBION ROAD

V. Rev. Father Andrew Harmon

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Website—www.stmattroyalton.org

SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m. (except 6 p.m., 3/18)

SUNDAY SCHOOL—September-May, 9 a.m.

CONFESSION—after Vespers and 9:45 a.m., Sunday

SUNDAY MATINS—9 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY—10 a.m.

e-mail: fatherharmon@wowway.com

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

REMAINING LENTEN SERVICES

GREAT COMPLINE ---Monday, April 3, 6:30 p.m.

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGIES---Wednesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. The “sermonettes”---
“Glimpses Into Galatians”. “Black Fast” potluck meals afterwards.

OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

EVE OF LAZARUS SATURDAY, APRIL 7—Little Compline with Canon of Raising of St.
Lazarus, 6:30 p.m.

LAZARUS SATURDAY, APRIL 8---Matins, 9 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m.

---Breakfast, 11:30 a.m.; Grave Blessings begin about noon.

---Vespers for Eve of Palm Sunday, 6 p.m. (*note later time than usual*)

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9----Matins, 8:45 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m.

----1st Bridegroom Service, 7 p.m.

HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 10---2ND Bridegroom Service, 7 p.m.

HOLY TUESDAY, APRIL 11---Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 10 a.m.

---3rd Bridegroom Service, 7 p.m.

HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12---Unction Healing Service, 7 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 13----Matins, 8:30 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m.

----Potluck brunch, 11:30 a.m.

----Service of the 12 Passion Gospel Readings, 7 p.m.

GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 14---Royal Hours: 7 a.m, 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m.

----Great Vespers (Taking Down From Cross), 4 p.m.

---Lamentations, 7 p.m.

---Vigil at Christ's Tomb---begins at 9 p.m.

GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15---Liturgy, 10 a.m.

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA, APRIL 16—Midnite Service (Rush, Matins, & Liturgy), 10:30 p.m.

(Sat. night), followed by blessing of baskets & potluck feast

----Agape Vespers, noon

BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 17—Pascha Matins, 10 a.m

Home Alms Boxes----Giving to the poor is one of the main Lenten spiritual disciplines. Please take an alms box home (on long table in narthex) and fill it with money to be brought back to church at Pascha, which will then be distributed by the Archdiocese to the needy around the world.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS, STUDY GROUPS, & MINISTRY TEAMS

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP---Tuesday, April 18, 1 p.m. at Jean Fadi's, 477 Cranston

Drive, Berea. All women are welcome! Call Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464, for more info.

WEST BIBLE STUDY—5:45 p.m., Saturday, April 22 (right after Vespers at 5)

We are studying the book of Daniel---all welcome!

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, April 4 & 18, at Dr. Craig & Cindy George's,

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

NORTH BIBLE STUDY---Thursday, April 20, 6:30 p.m., at Marianna Russyn's, 27001 Knickerbocker Rd. Bay Village (in apartment building social room—1st floor). We are studying the book of Revelation---please come!

TEEN GROUP -----Teen/Parent Bible Study---after church, Sunday, April 30---**Location to be announced.**

BROTHERHOOD MEETING---After church, Sunday, April 2

SISTERHOOD MEETING---After church, Sunday, April 30

ST. HERMAN'S MINISTRY TEAM---Our usual monthly cooking and serving of a meal to the poor at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter will not take place in April. If you can help in a future month, either by cooking or serving the meal, please contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591. Thank you to those who cooked the March meal---Michael Lieberman & Deacon Basil---and to those from our new Young Adults group who served the meal: Wesam Alsaifi, Kyle Martin, Ashley Longa, & Samuel Harmon

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 6 weeks or so, contact Joanne Vazquez, 440-239-9464 Training available!

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 **Sunday, April 23**. 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 a new 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.

PARISH FOOD PANTRY----We are now preparing for Holy Week deliveries to the needy. Please bring in, by April 9, non-perishable food & household items and leave them on table right outside first door after kitchen. Hams & turkeys needed---they go in kitchen freezer. And grocery gift cards also needed. Josie Katzbach & Florentina Popa are now heading up our Food Pantry Ministry Team, so feel free to get more info from them.

CHANTING CLASS ----It meets on Saturdays at 4 p.m. (before 5 p.m. Vespers). Speak with Anthony [Harmon](mailto:anthonysharmon@gmail.com)---anthonysharmon@gmail.com 440-228-8765 for more info. *It will meet later, 6 p.m., on April 8.*

YOUNG ADULT GROUP HAS BEGUN---Interested? Need info? Contact the leaders: Wesam Alsaifi, 440-502-7780 & Samuel Harmon, 216-598-9230

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING---Monday, April 24, 7 p.m.

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

---**HOLY WEEK ITEMS**----Lilies, carnations, congregational candles, large decorated Pascha candles, eggs, palms, etc.

For flowers—contact Beth Farage Snyder 216-970-7160 bdfarage@gmail.com

For other items—contact Subdeacon Richard Sahley 216-749-1695/216-513-9738

FIRST CONFESSIONS---Five of our young children have been attending a special class to prepare to make their First Confession. They will make their First Confessions during the 9 a.m. Matins service on Lazarus Saturday, April 8. They will be honored in the church at the end of the liturgy and at the brunch we will have in the hall right afterwards.

GRAVE BLESSINGS----Lazarus Saturday, April 8, is one of the customary days for the blessing of the graves of our departed loved ones. This will start about noon that day, right after the breakfast following the 10 a.m. liturgy and brunch. Let Father Andrew know if you would like some graves blessed that afternoon.

CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT----After Liturgy on Sunday, April 23. Sponsored by our Teen Club---rain or shine! Any donations of candy you can make will be greatly appreciated—see any teen!

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!

APRIL ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

<u>TEAM A, 4/16</u>	<u>TEAM B, 4/23</u>	<u>TEAM C, 4/2 & 4/30</u>	<u>TEAM D, 4/9</u>
Gregory Tolbert, captain	Fuad Zogheib, captain	Justin Nassif, captain	Shadi Zogheib, captain
Jacob Kash	Samir Amer	Estephan Saada	Eli Haddad
Joseph Mozden	Ricky Farris	Grant Johnson	Nicholas Katsaros
Saba Saada		Jed Zogheib	Emad Zogheib

APRIL GREETERS SCHEDULE—

4/16--- Fred Bourjaily, Susie Harmon	4/23--- Penny Sent, Rachael Palmer, Alexandria Palmer
4/2 & 4/30--- Scott & Simona Palmer	4/9--- Georgette Dye, Judy Yanik

APRIL USHERS SCHEDULE

<u>April 2 & April 30</u>	<u>April 9</u>	<u>April 16</u>	<u>April 23</u>
Sam Daher	Anthony Yanik	Jeff & Susan Joseph	The Handmaidens
Gail Malaniak	George Nassif	Gail Malaniak	
Cody Krakowski	Nicholas Katsaros		

APRIL EPISTLE READERS SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS--- April 2— Samuel Harmon	April 23--- Maggie George
April 9--- Cindy George	April 30---- Justin Nassif
April 16 (midnite service)---- Dan Patrick	

Lenten Pre-Sanctified Evening Liturgies—Wed., April 5—Lisa Palivoda

Holy Tuesday Pre-Sanctified Liturgy---Tuesday, April 11---Rose Sahley

Lazarus Saturday morning liturgy----April 8---Judy Yanik

Readers will be contacted by e-mail about readings at other Holy Week services

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!

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 meal will be Sunday, April 30, 3-5 p.m., at St. Albert Catholic Church on Wallings Road. If you can help in any way, contact Father Andrew.

THANK YOU -----

- to Beth Farage Snyder for donating the flowers for Veneration of the Cross Sunday.
- to the Handmaidens for the beautiful decorating for Annunciation Day.
- to Mike Vovos for his special help for our St. Herman Shelter meal ministry.
- to the groups who coordinated our Lenten Friday potlucks---the Teen Club, the Sunday School, the Sisterhood, the Women's Prayer Group, & the Brotherhood.
- to the teachers of our Saints Alive! classes on Lenten Friday evenings: Tara Reidy, Peggy Latina, Cindy George, and Florentina Popa. We all learned a lot and had a great time!
- to Bill Studeny for copy paper

SAINTS DAY PRAYERS---Children whose Saints Days fall in April will be honored and prayed for after the liturgy on Sunday, April 30.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday & Many Years to-----

- 5---Rick Farris, John Palivoda
- 7---Sondra Palivoda
- 8---Ardelle George, Jack Palivoda
- 9---Khourie Bonnie Harmon, Lisa Palivoda, Maggie George
- 10---Irene Tuma
- 12---Hiam Haddad
- 14---Donna Wakeland
- 16---Yoanna Tsokantas
- 23-- Kim Billings, Ed Haddad
- 26---Ava Gribble, Kelly Lieberman
- 27---Craig George, Cristian Kornea
- 30---Damien Dusek, Joanne Vazquez

Wedding Anniversaries

- 5---Pierre & Tamina Hadad
- 19---Sava & Lucy Dragos
- 25---Jack & Lisa Palivoda
- 30---Charles & Judy Burhen

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!

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

All Orthodox Christians should go to the sacrament of Confession during Lent or Holy Week. At St. Matthew's, confessions are heard after Saturday Vespers and at 9:45 a.m. Sunday; or before or after other services---or by appointment at other times. If you have questions about the details, just call or e-mail Father Andrew.

NEXT PARISH NEWSLETTER will be printed the week of April 30. Please give any info for it to Father Andrew by then.

GREAT FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

During the day on Great & Holy Friday, April 14, in between the brief Hours services, we will decorate the tome and dye eggs. If you can help with the tomb, let Beth Farage Snyder [know----
bdfarage@gmail.com](mailto:know----bdfarage@gmail.com) 216-970-7160 Or just show up to help and enjoy the fellowship!

PASCHA MIDNITE FEAST----Right after the Midnite Pascha service and blessing of baskets---the potluck of potlucks! Please stay to celebrate as a church family **THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST** and the **BREAKING OF THE FAST**. When dropping off food in the kitchen, please put a note on it stating if it needs to be warmed up or not.

PASCHA BASKET MINISTRY TO SHUT-INS

This ministry has been a great success the last three years and a blessing to who received a basket of goodies, but even more of a blessing to those who participated by donating basket items and delivering them!

Some suggested basket items-----candy, meat, cheese, eggs, sweet bread, an Easter decoration, etc. If need be, you can check about dietary restrictions with the family of the shut-in.

Deliveries need to be made on Pascha Day or very soon afterwards.

If you wish to prepare and deliver a basket, please contact either Michael Farris, 440-465-2051, or Father Andrew, to see what shut-ins are still “open”, to get addresses, etc.

GREAT FRIDAY VIGIL—April 14-15 We will again have an overnight vigil at the tomb of Christ starting after Friday night Lamentations service and going up until Holy Saturday liturgy at 10 a.m. Can you sign up for a time slot to read scriptures and hymns for an hour? There is a sign-up sheet on long table in the hall.....

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

To bring you up to date on this program that started a few months ago: as of now, **20 lay ministry teams are in existence. However, 4 of them definitely need more volunteers to fully function--**these 4 teams are: Social Fellowship, Worship, Children’s Ministry, Parish Library. **And there are 2 teams we wish to have start, but no one has volunteered yet.** These 2 are: Potluck Meal Coordination (this team would not coordinate all the meals, but find coordinators for each meal); Altar Guild (this team would take care altar boy robes, altar cloths, etc.). **The other 16 teams do have enough volunteers and leadership to now be under way---**but if you would like to help on them, you can still sign up! *To see all the teams listed, and to sign up----please see the little charts near the water fountain in the hall.*

ASK THE PRIEST---Questions about our Orthodox beliefs and practices? Just let Fr. Andrew know and he can answer it in the newsletter-----

AT THE AKATHIST SERVICES ON FRIDAYS IN LENT, THE THEOTOKOS IS REFERRED TO IN THE HYMNS AS THE “BRIDE WITHOUT BRIDEGROOM”. ON SUNDAY, MONDAY, & TUESDAY NIGHTS OF HOLY WEE, WE HAVE THE “BRIDEGROOM SERVICES”. WHAT IS THE RELATION BETWEEN THE TWO?

Actually, there is no relation here---just the use in two different contexts of the same word, “bridegroom”.

In the Akathist service, the phrase “Bride Without Bridegroom” refers to the fact that St. Mary gave birth to Christ through a virgin conception and birth—no man, no “bridegroom”, was involved.

The Bridegroom services on Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday nights of Holy Week focus quite a bit on the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the world. The term “bridegroom” is used here to refer to Jesus Christ, taken from a parable the Lord told about His Second Coming in Matthew 25:1-13. In this parable and in these services, Christ is referred to as the Bridegroom who comes back at the end of time to be mystically married to His Bride, the Church. In these beautiful services, the “Bridegroom icon” is put in the center of the church. This icon, also known as the “icon of deep humility”, shows Christ in the midst of His sufferings before His crucifixion---He has been stripped of His clothing, whipped, and the crown of thorns is on His head which is humbly bowed. While we, in the Bridegroom Services, sing and read about Christ’s glorious Second Coming as King and Ruler of all, we gaze upon this icon of His suffering, remembering how it is one and the same Man who suffered in Holy Week and who will one day come back in majestic glory.

AGAPE VESPERS READERS NEEDED

At Agape Vespers at noon on Pascha Day, it is customary to have the gospel lesson read by different lay people in different languages. If you can be one of the readers, please let Father Andrew know.

LIFE LINE SCREENING IS RETURNING TO ST. MATTHEW'S HALL ON MAY 26----

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Matthew's hall on 5/26/17. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening for \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979**

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10383 ALBION ROAD
NORTH ROYALTON, OH 44133**

PARISH PRAYER GARDEN

Spring has come and so has the time for the next phase of the development of our parish prayer garden. Needed plants if you can donate-----trumpet vines (all colors), honeysuckle (all colors), lavender trees/shrubs (all colors), azaleas, full size roses. Please do not bring miniature roses, tea roses, grapes, plum & peach trees.

Plants need to be brought around April 25-30.

For more information and to volunteer to help, please contact our Prayer Garden Ministry Tree chairman, Hani Saddic, 216-712-9591.

SOME HOLY WEEK NOTES

1. If enough altar boys are available for the Holy Thursday 10 a.m. service, April 13, we will have the **footwashing ceremony**. If you can be present, please let Fr. Andrew or one of the deacons or subdeacons know ahead of time. If a letter to a school is needed, see Father Andrew.
2. During the day on Great & Holy Friday, April 14, we will **decorate the tomb and dye eggs** in between the brief Hours services. Please come and help and enjoy some "holy day fellowship"!
3. **Blessing of baskets:** Pascha baskets will be blessed at the end of our midnight Pascha service. It is traditional to include in the baskets food that you didn't eat in Lent----meat, eggs, cheese, wine, candy, etc. There will be a table in the church for you to put your basket on.