

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
FEBRUARY, 2023, NEWSLETTER
10383 ALBION ROAD, N. ROYALTON, OH 44133
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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.

SERVICES FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

The 40 day Churching of Jesus Christ as recorded in Luke 2-----

Wednesday, February 1, Vespers with Artoklasia, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 2----Matins, 8:45 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m.; Candle Blessing at end of liturgy: You can either bring candles from home or purchase them at church to be blessed. After the blessing, you can either have them burn here or bring them home. Lunch, right after the liturgy.

SPECIAL VESPERS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 5 P.M., at St. George Church, 2587 W. 14th St., Cleveland. Metropolitan Vicar ANTONIOS will preside. A meal will be served after the service. *NO VESPERS HERE.*

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

FORGIVENESS VESPERS ON EVE OF LENT: Sunday, February 26. 6 p.m.

Preceded by potluck meatless meal at 5. At this service, we ask God's forgiveness and also forgiveness from each other as the Great Fast begins.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 28, MARCH 2—6:30 p.m.

Great Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 6:30 p.m.: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. Followed by potluck Lenten meal.

AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS, FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 7 P.M. Preceded by potluck meal at 6. Followed by Saints Alive! class (taught by a layperson), at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX EVENING VESPERS: SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH, 5 P.M. At Holy Trinity Church, 6822 Broadview Rd., Parma.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY MEET-UP

Theodore (Ted) Bunevich came into the world on April 29, 1938. He was the youngest of seven children born to Anna and Carl Bunevich. Carl had immigrated from Belarus around 1913, already seeing the signs of the imminent 1917 Russian Revolution. In America, Carl worked hard at many different jobs throughout his years—house painting, working at a drill company, running a grocery store, and then a gas station. The family lived in a house on W. 11th and Castle in Cleveland. In the early 50's, they built a house in Parma.

If I had to say one thing about Ted, it would be that he was a born musician. When he was a small boy, he would take a pillow and pretend it was an accordion, squeezing it like you squeeze an accordion over and over again. Finally, when he was 8-years-old, his parents let him take accordion lessons. By the time Ted was 20, he had his own polka band. He did that for four years and then joined the Tom Mroczka Polish Polka Band. Tom happened to be the son of Ted's childhood accordion teacher. Ted played with this band until he was 70-years-old (for 45 years!) Some of you St. Matthew's early members may remember that this is the band who played for our first and only father/daughter banquet and dance close to 20 years ago.

At Parma High School, Ted played in the high school marching band and the orchestra. The accordion was not welcome in the orchestra, so a teacher who recognized Ted's musical talent, offered to teach him the French horn. Ted's future wife, Eileen, just so happened to be in the band also; she playing the cymbals. However, they did not get to know each other well at that time.

In 1961, Ted decided to join the army. He received basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and advanced infantry training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. For the next 6 years, he played French horn and tuba in the Ohio 83rd Army Reserve Band.

One day in 1958, Ted and his buddy decided to go to a polka dance at the German Central Farm. There he saw Eileen Lachner, who he recognized from the Parma High band he used to play in, sitting in a corner "like a little mouse." Ted went up to her and asked her to dance. She said no. Ted asked her why not. She told him she had a backache. Ted boldly declared, "Well, that's why your back hurts. You need to dance!" Eileen finally agreed and this was the start of their courtship. On February 9, 1963, they were married.

After marrying, Ted worked for Society National Bank, starting out as a teller and ending up an assistant manager. After 15 years, he switched to Banc Ohio (National City) to become their manager. After another 15 years, Ted went to work for General Awning. He worked there for 18 years and then retired. Other side jobs that Ted had were selling real estate, playing Santa Clause for the South Park Mall for 18 years, and volunteering to play our beloved St. Nicholas for several years at St. Matthew's.

Ted grew up being part of the St. Theodosius Orthodox Church. His parents were faithful members who brought their children to church every Sunday. Ted's father told him that if he didn't go to church on Sunday he could go nowhere else the rest of the day. I guess that there was pretty good polka music on Sunday nights in Ted's neighborhood, so this was a big motivation for Ted to not miss church on Sunday morning. He said that his mother always made her sons wear a suit and tie to church.

Ted and Eileen (who converted from Catholicism) were married at St. Theodosius. They were there until Fr. Jula, the assistant priest, left St. Theodosius to start Christ the Saviour Carpatho-Russian Church on State Road in N. Royalton. It started with around 125 founding members. Ted remembers that he was the one who came up with the name "Christ the Saviour."

Ted and Eileen were members there until it closed in 2020. They then joined us at St. Matthew's.

Ted has experienced miracles in his life, but his most dear miracle happened after the birth of their first child. The baby came 2 ½ months early, weighing in at 2 pounds, 3 ounces. The doctor, who was not a Christian, came out and said to Ted, "Congratulations, you have a son. But he won't live." Ted thought to himself, "Who are you to tell me he won't live. You're not God." So, Ted fervently began to pray and God heard his prayer and Theodore Carl is now a healthy, 6 feet, 200- pound man. Their second son, Mark William, was born 5 years later, followed by Robert John, and their daughter Natalie Ann. Ted and Eileen have 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren, so far. Their children all live in Ohio.

Some advice that Ted wants to give to young adults starting out in life is:

- Go to Church
- Tell the truth
- Believe in God
- Try to act like Jesus
- Get your wisdom from the Church and from the sermons
- If something bad happens, accept it. Don't question God. It's how you react and respond that's important.

Ted says that the goal he has yet in his life is to try to live to be 100 and still be healthy. However, first his goal is to live to be 85, which he can succeed at in 3 months. He says, "I want to stay with my Orthodox faith, with God and with my Christ, the Savior."

May God grant you many more years, Ted!



SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 18 & 19—PARISH RETREAT

Father Sergius Bowyer, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery in Pennsylvania, will be the speaker. Originally from California, Fr. Sergius is a convert to Orthodoxy. He graduated from St. Tikhon's Seminary, became a monk, and was ordained a priest in 2008. In 2010, he became the abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery which is the first Christian Orthodox monastery in North America, established in 1905.

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—Friday, February 17, 1 p.m. All women welcome! The location is at Tara Reidy’s, 274 Elmwood, Berea. For more info, call Sandy Tolbert, 440-773-9162. Beginning a new book, “The Ascetic of Love.”

WEST BIBLE STUDY—Saturday, February 25, 6 pm at the church. Studying I Corinthians.

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

TEEN CLUB—Teen evening at Dave & Buster’s in Westlake—Wednesday, February 8 (a fast-free Wednesday!), 7-10 p.m. Free of charge—contact Teen advisor Jay Amer, 216-415-9125, Jsam223amer@att.net Rides can be arranged.

ST. MATTHEW’S WOMEN’S GROUP—Meeting after liturgy, Sunday, February 12.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY —On the book of James. Saturday, February 11, 6 p.m., at the church. There will be refreshments! No RSVP needed, but if you want more info, please contact the study leaders: Subdeacon Samuel Harmon, 216-598-9230, samuelharmon15@gmail.com or Colton Bose, 440-567-6101, coltonmichaelbose@gmail.com

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. Cooking session at church, 10 a.m., Saturday, January 21.

ST. HERMAN’S MINISTRY TEAM—Sunday, February 19, is our parish’s next monthly turn to provide a meal to the poor at St. Herman Orthodox Homeless Shelter in Cleveland. If you can help with either the providing or cooking or serving of the meal, please contact Dn. Basil, 440-665-3591. Thank you to all who helped with the January meal—Dn Basil, Samir Amer, Ron Hakaim, Colton & Veronica Bose, Craig & Cindy George, and Lisa & Jack Palivoda.

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

HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP—Friday, February 10th & 24th, 9 a.m.

CHESS CLUB—February date to be announced.

WINTER SERIES ON MODERN SAINTS—A series of classes/discussions on modern Saints taught by Fr. Andrew. NEXT MEETING—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 6:30 P.M. AT THE CHURCH. It will be on Orthodox Saints martyred by Nazi Germany.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RIGHT AFTER LITURGY EACH WEEK

For ages 3-19—please bring your child! For more information, call Superintendant Gail Malaniak at 440-552-4586 or gailmeen@gmail.com.

CAMPER SPOTLIGHT---3 of the many going this summer....

Cosby Hunter

Cosby will be attending camp the first session. His favorite activity is evening program. Cosby's favorite camp memory from last year is partying at decades night. This year he is looking forward to seeing his old cabin mates and counselors.

Lily Scanlon

Lily is going to the third session of camp this year. Her favorite parts of camp are the evening programs and her cabin mates. Lily's favorite memory from last year is staying up forever with her cabin and sister cabin on camping night. This year Lily is looking forward to meeting more people and getting better at skills she started last year!

Xavier Blazek

Xavier Blazek, age 15, will be attending Byzantine Chant Camp during Session 1 this summer. This is his first year, although he really enjoyed Family Camp in previous years. He is looking forward to improving his chanting, singing with other chanters from around the country, canoeing, archery, and chronicling the adventures of Awesome the Possum at camp. He thanks you for your generous support and hopes to pay you back with chanting st services for many years to come.

NEW PARISIONERS IN JANUARY

LORA KHOURY

1248 Brockley Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44107 (as of May)
786-547-9696
JLHANNA2328@gmail.com

WILLIAM & GAIL FADEL

2475 Wellington Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
Home: 216-932-3881
Gail: 216-392-6787
gailfadel@yahoo.com

Please welcome them to our parish and add them to your directory.

OUR CURRENT CATECHUMENS

We pray for them at each liturgy. Please pray for them during the week also as they prepare to enter the Orthodox Faith by either Baptism or Chrismation.

Will Parker

Steven Morgan & Bryson

Mariya Butt

Leigh Frank

Jamie & Lucas Domonokos

Mikaela Cihon

Victoria Rodgers

NEW MINISTRY BEGINNING 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.

THE LENTEN FAST

Great Lent is a time to especially work on spiritual disciplines to help us grow in Christ. These disciplines include such things as extra worship services, beginning or strengthening the habit of daily prayer, Confession, more Bible reading, almsgiving, and fasting.

Fasting is a discipline meant to help us in several ways: learning self-denial, gaining self-control, helping us to focus more on God and less on food, allowing us to spend less money on food in order to give more to the poor, etc.

The Lenten fast involves both eating less and giving up certain types of food. Throughout Lent, we should eat less and avoid snacks, in addition to abstaining from some types of food.

Lent, this year is from February 27 through April 7. During Lent, we give up meat and animal foods (such as eggs, dairy, and fish) plus wine and olive oil. Shellfish are eaten. On Annunciation Day, March 25, wine, oil, and fish are consumed. And wine and olive oil are used on all Saturdays and Sundays in Lent. During Holy Week, April 8-15, the fast is the same as in Lent itself, except that wine, olive oil, and fish are used on Palm Sunday. Also, Holy & Great Friday and Holy & Great Saturday, April 14 & 15, are to be observed as especially strict fast days, with as little eating and drinking as possible.

As with all fasting, the Church's Lenten fast allows for adjustments for children, pregnant mothers, nursing mothers, and those with health problems that require certain foods. Also, those who are new to fasting may need to begin with a less strict fast and then gradually "tighten up" year by year. However, we should also remember that unless we fast strictly enough to make it hard, it will be of little value to us. One should always feel free to speak to one's spiritual father about how to personally observe and make the best spiritual use of the Lenten fast.

The Bible and the Saints are clear that fasting is not a way to earn salvation, but is a tool to help us grow. We must guard against pride when we fast and concentrate most on fasting from sin—gossip, pride lust, etc.

The prescribed Lenten fast is sometimes called “the black fast” to distinguish it from less strict fasting. How strictly each person follows the recommended fast is not anyone else’s business. We should be concerned only with our own fasting, not judging others for what they eat. *A good rule of thumb: fast yourself as strictly as you can; and pay no attention to what anyone else eats. However, when we gather during Lent as a church family, we should abide by the Church’s Lenten fast—so we should keep any parish meals or coffeetimes during Lent as “black fast”.*

St. Matthew Orthodox Church

10383 Albion Road

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