

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

January 2025 Newsletter

10383 ALBION ROAD, N. ROYALTON, OH 44133

P.O. Box 33183, N. Royalton, OH 44133

Father Fred's Contact Info: shaheenf@hotmail.com Cell: 319-651-6452

Church: 440-582-5673 Website: www.stmattroyalton.org

SATURDAY VESPERS—5 p.m.

SUNDAY MATINS—8:50 a.m. SUNDAY LITURGY—10 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sept-May 11:15 AM

CONFESSION—after Saturday Vespers and by appointment

January Services Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Dec 29 <i>8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy</i>		31 Circumcision and Feast of St. Basil <i>5pm Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great</i>			Jan 3 <i>9am Royal Hours of Theophany</i>	Jan 4 <i>5pm Great Vespers</i>
Jan 5 <i>8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy</i> <i>5pm Great Vespers with Litiya</i>	6 Theophany <i>8:50am Festal Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy</i>					11 <i>5pm Great Vespers</i>
12 <i>8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy</i>					17 <i>6:30pm Great Vespers</i>	18 Ss. Athanasius & Cyril <i>9am Orthros; 10am Divine Liturgy</i> <i>5pm Great Vespers</i>
19 <i>8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy</i>						25 <i>5pm Great Vespers</i>
26 <i>8:50am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy</i> <i>6pm Akathist to Jesus w/ Prayers for Unborn</i>						Feb 1 <i>5pm Great Vespers</i>

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 for you to place your gift in.

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

HOUSE BLESSINGS--- will begin on Jan 6 and run through Mar 1.

To schedule look for the link on our parish website or 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.

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP:

Resumes on Jan 5th. There will be regular classes every Sunday in January.

This year's theme verse: "Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

MEETINGS

YOUNG ADULT GROUP—January date to be announced. 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 and Tues, Jan 21, 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).

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

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— Meets every Sunday at 1pm alternating Scripture track and The Orthodox Faith. These sessions are open to anyone, not just catechumens!

TEEN SOYO CLUB- elections for 2025 officers 1/5 after liturgy; they meet the first Sun of every month.

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 date to be announced. 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. They will go to St. Herman's Homeless Shelter this month.

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 NEEDED—St. Matthew's needs a representative to the Cleveland chapter of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). The group meets about four times a year to plan their two fundraising events. This is a wonderful opportunity to do something to help suffering people in Greece, Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestine, Uganda, Ethiopia, and elsewhere. For more information, please see Camille Patrick.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY BREAD OBLATION SIGN-UP—*If you would like to add an oblation for next Sunday, please contact Olivia Harmon (oharmon15@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, just 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 parish flower fund (or provide flowers) to decorate our church for one of our many feast days, please contact Lisa Amer 216-415-9126 or 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.

CHURCH FAMILY HAPPENINGS:

❖ OUR CONDOLENCES TO-

- The family of Pauline Hanna on her falling asleep in Christ on Nov 23.

❖ OUR CURRENT CATECHUMENS ARE:

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

We pray for them at every liturgy.....please also pray for them in your own prayers as they prepare to join the Orthodox Church.

❖ WE THANK THE SECRET ST. NICHOLAS GIVER WHO BROUGHT MUCH JOY TO THE CHILDREN ON ST NICHOLAS DAY BY STUFFING THEIR SHOES WITH CANDY!

❖ WE THANK EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED AND ASSISTED WITH THE ST. NICHOLAS WORKSHOP ON DEC 7.

❖ THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WAS HELD ON SUN, DEC 8 AFTER LITURGY. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED AND HELPED TO CHART OUR COURSE FOR 2025!

- The “Rental House” is now called the “Parish House.” It is now vacant with plans to move the conference room to the parish house and convert the current conference room into an expanded library, bookstore, gift shop, and reading room. The hope is that this conversion will take place before Pascha! If you wish to help please contact Kendra Hunter or Fr. Fred.
- The Archdiocese now has an updated Youth Protection Policy which will require all adults working with our youth to be background checked and to have them complete training courses online. You will hear from someone at the church if you need to complete these steps.
- Our iconography project continues! The festal panel for the north apse will be the Ascension. That panel along with 2 panels of saints will, God willing, be installed by Pascha 2025. The panels of saints will go above the festal icons to join the line of communion with the apostles. 2 more panels are already planned for late 2025. There are 2 panels of saints that have yet to be decided. While it can't be guaranteed that every desired saint will be depicted, there is a desire for your opinion to be heard and considered. Please contact Fr. Fred to share your input.

❖ THE CHILDREN GREATLY ENJOYED PUTTING ON THE ANNUAL NATIVITY PLAY ON DEC 22. THANK YOU TO ALL THE ADULTS WHO HELPED WITH THE PLAY AND TO ALL WHO CAME TO WATCH!

❖ THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED AND THOSE WHO DECORATED THE CHRISTMAS TREE!

❖ THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED FOOD BAGS, GIFT CARDS, TURKEYS AND HAMS AT THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS! THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DELIVERED THE BAGS TO THOSE IN NEED. MANY FAMILIES WERE BLESSED BY OUR HOLIDAY FOOD BAG MINISTRY.

❖ THE SISTERHOOD THANKS ALL WHO BAKED, DONATED, AND BOUGHT AT THEIR CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE. AND TO ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER.



Antiochian Village
WORSHIP | FELLOWSHIP | EDUCATION | LOVE
231 SAINT IGNATIUS TRAIL, BOLIVAR, PA 19023 | 724.238.9565

SUMMER CAMP 2025

REGISTRATION OPENS
SUNDAY,
***JANUARY 5 AT 5pm
EST!***

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!

All proceeds
benefit our
15
Antiochian
Village
Campers!

FREE-WILL
admission!
Vote with
Cash!

Invite
Friends &
Family!

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

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
1					
2					
3	Wednesday	1			
4	Thursday	2			
5	Friday	3			
6	Saturday	4			
7	Sunday	5			
8	Monday	6			
9	Tuesday	7			
10	Wednesday	8			
11	Thursday	9			
12	Friday	10			
13	Saturday	11			
14	Sunday	12			
15	Monday	13			
16	Tuesday	14			
17	Wednesday	15			
18	Thursday	16			
19	Friday	17			
20	Saturday	18			
21	Sunday	19			
22	Monday	20			
23	Tuesday	21			
24	Wednesday	22			
25	Thursday	23			
26	Friday	24			
27	Saturday	25			
28	Sunday	26			
29	Monday	27			
30	Tuesday	28			
31	Wednesday	29			
32	Thursday	30			
33	Friday	31			

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>

St Matthew Church can now accept donations online:

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



**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

St. Matthew Orthodox Church
10383 Albion Road
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