

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

THE HOLY SEASON OF PASCHA

Although Orthodox people in the West may sometimes use the Anglo-Saxon term "Easter", the proper term for this holiest of days is "Pascha" which is Greek for "Passover". The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Passover---our Lord Jesus "passed over" from death to life.

During this season (until Pentecost, June 4), we do not kneel to pray at home or at church----this is an expression of our joy at the Resurrection. We greet each other (especially during this week, Bright Week) with "Christ is risen!" and the response "Truly He is risen!". Wednesdays and Fridays (by Antiochian practice and ancient practice by all Orthodox) are not fast days until after Ascension Day, May 25.

Dear Parishioners,

*The Sisterhood would like to express our thanks and gratitude for the wonderful turnout we had for our Palm Sunday Bake Sale!!! Again, our table was filled with sweet, savory and Lenten deliciousness!!!! Your generosity was impressive and we couldn't be happier with the way it turned out. We would especially like to thank our new "Spinach Pie Baking Crew" for helping to restore our baking traditions!! This year our profits were \$1,390.00!!!! Again, many thanks to those who baked, bought and donated!!! Easter Blessings to you all!!!
The St. Matthew Sisterhood*

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

10383 Albion Rd, North Royalton, OH

April 16, 2023
Holy Pascha

His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY
Auxiliary Bishop of the Antiochian Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

V. Rev. Father Andrew Harmon
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

Phone: Fr. Andrew (h) (440) 826-0662; (c) (440) 539-1116

Email: fatherharmon@outlook.com

Website: stmattroyalton.org

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

Saturday Vespers 5:00 PM
Saturday Confessions 5:30 PM
Sunday Confessions during Matins

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 Josephine Katzbach for the health & salvation of her husband, Subdeacon Mark Katzbach, on his birthday; and is being offered by Father Andrew & Khourie Bonnie for the health & salvation of Jess Payne on her birthday.

During today's liturgy we will pray for the health & safety of:

Josephine Katzbach	Paraschiva Blaz	Jean Fadil
Justin Mosier	Phyllis Simmons	Marwan Kash
Tony Burhen	Nancy Yanik	Dolores Kaleal
Lucy Kinkaid	Jerry Morrison	Danielle
Marc Balke	Iliana Radivoj	Victoria Thorp
Christopher Samuel	Lena Batina	Constantine & Maria Kornea
Peter George	James Padzinski	Deacon Macarius
Pauline Hanna	Norman Fadil	Val & Al
Frank Popovich	Mary Malaniak	Cindy Spanos
Issa Zabora	Bob & Adrienne Andrews	Roza
Argie Katsaros	Charles & Judy Burhen	Amy & Mario
Joseph Watson	Ed Haddad	Angela
Jean Caldaroni	Michael Francu	Chris Solomon
	Virginia Sippola	Irene Vasilakis

And for the newly departed servants of God: Michael Perk, Michael Esber (son of deceased parishioners Ed & Joanne Esber), Archdeacon Joseph Harb

EPISTLE LESSON: Acts 1: 1-8 **EPISTLE READER:** Dan Patrick **GOSPEL LESSON:** John 1: 1-17

HOMILY: Pascha Homily of St. John Chrysostom (at end of Matins)

USHERS: Marianne Feuerstein & Kosta Bokjanc

PASCHA BASKETS WILL BE BLESSED AT THE END OF THE SERVICE

PLEASE STAY FOR OUR FEAST IN THE HALL RIGHT AFTER THE SERVICE-----NO CHARGE, OF COURSE!

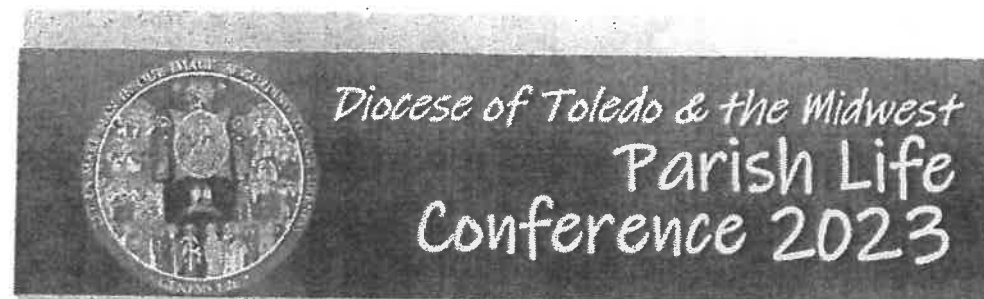
Our thanks to all who brought food, all who are helping in any way, and to our feast coordinators, Susan Blazek, Electra Floasiu, Tony Latina, and Sondra Palivoda; and to the men of the parish who will be doing the cleanup!

TODAY---GREAT & HOLY PASCHA, SUNDAY, APRIL 16---Agape Vespers, noon

AND ALSO---LAMB ROAST PICNIC AT OUR SHELTER-----1:30 P.M.

Please bring side dishes, dessert, or drinks

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 23---ANNUAL CHILDREN'S EGG HUNT AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL *If you can donate candy or money for candy or those little plastic eggs, see Teen Advisor Jay Amer or one of the teens.*



June 28th - July 2nd
Hosted by St Mary Orthodox Church
Palos Heights, IL

Double Tree - Oak Brook, IL
Book your \$99 room today!
(+ Free parking!)

Scan here
to book your room!



Join us for a conference
filled with fellowship and
spiritual growth for the entire family!



Keynote
Speaker:
Fr. Jeremy Davis



Teen
Speaker:
Mother Gabriela



Young Adult
Speaker:
Fr. Joseph Hunequitt



Women's
Speakers:
Cynthia Damaskos
Molly Sabourin

St. Luke the Evangelist Antiochian Orthodox Church

Presents a free public lecture series:

"I Believe..."

A series of four presentations that explore the foundational statement of the Christian faith as given in the Nicene Creed. All presentations by Fr. Matthew Thurman

Dates:	Time: 7:00 p.m.
April 20, 2023:	"God the Father, God the Son"
May 4, 2023:	"God the Son (cont.)"
May 18, 2023:	"God the Son (cont.), God the Holy Spirit, the Church"
June 1, 2023:	"Baptism, Resurrection, the Last Things"

All sessions are in person at:

St. Luke the Evangelist Antiochian Orthodox Church
18046 Chillicothe Rd
Bainbridge, OH 44023

For more information:

Email: info@stluke.us or call (440) 384-3285

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES

VERSES OF THE FIRST ANTIPHON

- Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.
- Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High.
- Glory... Both now...

VERSES OF THE SECOND ANTIPHON

- May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.
- That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee.
- May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him.
- Glory... Both now... O only begotten Son and Word of God...

VERSES OF THE THIRD ANTIPHON (Refrain: "Christ is risen from the dead...")

- Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.
- As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.
- So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.
- This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE FEAST

In the congregations bless God, the Lord from the wellsprings of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE 5

Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death He has trampled death; and unto those who are within the tombs, has He granted life! (ONCE)

HYPAKOE OF PASCHA IN TONE 4

When they who were with Mary came, anticipating the dawn, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard the Angel: "Why seek ye among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him Who abideth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath put death to death. For He is the Son of God, Who saveth the race of man."

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE 8

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, "Rejoice," and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

- Instead of "Holy God," sing "As many of you" (p. 81 in Liturgy book)

THE EPISTLE

*This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: "Rejoice, rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again I say, rejoice! Thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead." Rejoice, rejoice, O ye people!

Shine! Shine! Shine, O new Jerusalem: the glory of the Lord has shone on thee. Exult now: exult and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection: the Resurrection of Thy Son.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA

Receive the body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality. Alleluia.

- Instead of "We have seen the true light," sing "Christ is Risen" ONCE.
- Instead of "Blessed be the Name of the Lord," sing "Christ is Risen" THRICE.

Paschal Retreat

St. George
Antiochian
Orthodox Church
Canton, Ohio



Friday, May 5
Saturday, May 6

Mother Gabriella

Abbess of The Dormition of the Mother of God
Orthodox Monastery-Rives Junction, Michigan



Retreat Topics:

Preserving the Temple of the Holy Spirit

Maintaining the Joy of the Resurrection

Friday, May 5:

Akathist to St. George: 6:30pm

(Followed by Dinner and Teen/Youth Discussion with Mother Gabriella)

Saturday, May 6:

Retreat (Session 1): 10:30am-12:30pm

Lunch: 12:30pm

Retreat (Session 2): 1:30pm-3:30pm

Great Vespers 4pm

Online Registration



Please RSVP by May 1

1118 Cherry Ave. NE Canton, Ohio 44704 330-455-8482

stgeorgecanton@sbcglobal.net

UPCOMING SERVICES

BRIGHT WEDNESDAY VESPERS---Wednesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m. Potluck meal right afterwards.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22---Vespers 5pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 23---Matins, 8:50 a.m.; Liturgy, 10 a.m. The holy bread of oblation will be offered by Cindy George for Craig's birthday.

MEETINGS

PATHWAYS TO PEACE--- Mondays at 7:15pm, at church & by Zoom. "A gathering place for those who are broken from hurts, hangups, or habits. Join us as we renew our minds and encourage each other through the love of Christ." Call Dcn Basil, 440-665-3591, for zoom info. See flier in this bulletin.

WEST BIBLE STUDY---Sat, Apr 29, 6pm (meets at church after Vespers) Studying I Corinthians

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY---Tues, Apr 18, at 6:30pm at Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trl, Brecksville. Regularly meets the 1st & 3rd Tues of the month. Studying Creation and the Fall in Genesis.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY---Apr 22. Meets one Sat a month at 6pm. Studying the book of James----Bible, fellowship, food...For more info, contact: Sbdcn Samuel Harmon, 216-598-9230, samuelharmon15@gmail.com or Colton Bose, 440-567-6101

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP--- Fri, April 28, 1pm at Tara Reidy's 274 Elmwood, Berea; For more info, call Sandy Tolbert, 440-773-9162.

HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT GROUP---Fri, Apr 28 at 9am; regularly meets in the morning on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at the church. Contact Olivia Harmon for more information.

TEEN CLUB---Monthly meeting after church Sunday, April 30. Teens are in charge of the St. Thomas Sunday, April 23 children's egg hunt

MINISTRY NEWS

OUR NEXT GIANT MISSION TO THE HOMELESS---(usually about every 3 months)-----**SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH**

Lunches and more will be distributed to the needy on streets of Cleveland and at homeless shelters. And cooked meals will be distributed at 2 shelter locations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on both April 28 and 29

ITEMS NEEDED -Hygiene items, sleeping bags, blankets, spring jackets, socks, new underwear, tampons, razors, clothes (only men and women, not children's), Bibles, Orthodox religious pamphlets. Bologna, cheese, bread, chips, lettuce, bananas, bottled water, empty boxes, lunch bags

MONEY DONATIONS TO CHURCH for this mission are, of course, very helpful!

TO GET MORE INFO, TO DONATE, TO VOLUNTEER----Call or text Jon Scordos, 216-618-8007 *Volunteering as early as possible helps!*

MARTHA MINISTRIES---seeking parishioners to 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 at 440-799-0838 or Erin.musarra@gmail.com.

OCLife ST. MATTHEW CHURCH--- officially affiliated with the national group 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." Please contact Lisa Palivoda at LDPAL1703@outlook.com or Cindy George at cindygeorge127@gamil.com with any questions.

STREET DELIVERY TO THE HOMELESS----- Sun, Apr 23 ---parishioners delivering food, clothing, etc. to homeless in downtown Cleveland. The alms box to help fund the lunches is near main hall entry doors. **WHITE SOCKS NEEDED**---box is by main hall entry doors.

MEAL SERVING AT ST. HERMAN ORTHODOX HOMELESS SHELTER--- Our next monthly serving day is Sunday, May 21 Please contact Deacon Basil, 440-665-3591, if you can help in May
CURRENT NEEDS FOR ST. HERMAN ORTHODOX HOMELESS SHELTER---
There is a large, marked box by coat rack in hall to leave donations. Help if you can!

Bus passes Toilet paper, 2 ply One size fits all men's belts

Hand warmers Heavy duty forks and spoons

ITEMS BELOW may be put in the same box and will be donated to St Mary of Egypt Food Pantry

Tuna canned stew or meat canned beans dried milk small or medium coffee cans

small box of tea low-sugar canned fruit

jelly canned vegetables

oatmeal and other cereals mashed potatoes

crackers egg noodles

brown and white rice spices, baking soda,

cornstarch, etc. toilet paper paper towels

St. John Chrysostom compares the church to a hospital... a place of healing.

Come and Experience

"Pathway to Peace"

A gathering place for those who are broken from hurt, hangups or habits

Pathway to Peace

is a group of Orthodox Christians

that meets for support in seeking practical solutions for problems and healthy spiritual fellowship.

Join us as we renew our minds and encourage each other through the love of Christ.

Mondays, 7:15 PM

10383 Albion Rd, N Royalton

*For more information: Deacon Basil
deaconbasil@stjohns.net or 440-665-3591*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBERING THE POOR IN LENT---**HOME ALMS BOXES**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR ALMS BOX BACK TO THE CHURCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

SO ALL THE FUNDS RECEIVED CAN BE FORWARDED ON TO THE ARCHDIOCESE TO HELP THE NEEDY ALL OVER THE WORLD

VACUUMING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED--- **SIGN-UP SHEET FOR VACUUMING THE CHURCH** (just the temple) **IN THE FIRST PART OF 2023 IS IN THE NARTHEX. CAN YOU TAKE A SUNDAY?**

COFFETIME HOSTING---Coffeetime after liturgy is

an important part of our parish life! We rely on parishioners to volunteer to take a turn to host. A new chart for 2023 is in hall on east side. Light refreshments is fine. Sign up by yourself, together with some one else, or as part of a coffeetime host group. Questions? Speak to or call, coordinator, Electra Floasiu--216-671-0743

HOLY BREAD OBLATIONS SIGN-UP for 2023 is in the hall to the right of the sink area. Please sign up for what Sundays you wish to offer an oblation.

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 was 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.

NEW BOOK BY PARISHIONER NOW AVAILABLE IN PARISH BOOKSTORE:

St. Theophan the Recluse says, "Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy." As Orthodox Christians we should be very interested in raising and educating our children in the faith. Lisa Amer (under the pen name Lisa Rose) has co-authored a book on this topic which explores what it means to educate our children, who are made in God's image. Written from the perspective of Orthodox homeschoolers, it is not only for those who are Orthodox or those who homeschool, but is for every parent, god-parent, grandparent, teacher, and adult interested in thinking about how to pass out faith on to our children and raise them in the way they should go.

MORE LAY VISITORS NEEDED

St. Matthew's has a Lay Visitors Ministry, in which parishioners make occasional visits to shut-ins from our parishes. Most commonly, this is in nursing homes. Such visits are a great blessing to the shut-ins....and also to the lay visitors!

Are you interested? Please contact David Glaser the head of this ministry--- 440-728-7309 daveglaser1@cox.net

SAVE THE DATE 2nd annual St Matthew's Family Camp Sat May 27-28. Join us on our beautiful church grounds for games, fellowship, cook-out, Orthodox programming, and more! Camp out overnight or just come when you can. Young, old, and everywhere in between are welcome! Text RSVP to Susan Blazek , 440-799-2488

REAL Cleveland Pan-Orthodox Young Adult Activities

2) **Bright Week Fellowship Picnic - Wednesday, April 19th.** We will meet at the Kiwanis Pavilion in Elmwood Park (6363 Selig Dr, Independence, 44131) @ 6:00 p.m. Participants are each asked to each bring something. Come and celebrate your Paschal joy with your Orthodox friends!

3) **St. Gregory Palamas Monastery Pilgrimage - Saturday, May 13th.** Fr. Joseph and the brotherhood will be welcoming us for a group visit. If you've never been there before: "*The Monastery [934 Cr. #2256 Perrysville, 44864] is located in the agricultural country of northeastern Ohio, about 15 miles east of Mansfield. The regular cycle of monastic worship services (conducted primarily in English) provides a traditional prayer experience which is only possible in a monastery.*"

We will arrive there at 2pm and have an audience with Fr. Joseph (the abbot of the monastery). Afterwards, we will take a tour of the grounds, have quiet time, and a time to visit the bookstore. Then we will attend Vespers and have dinner together at the monastery! We should be departing around 7ish! **Please respond if you haven't already and are interested in attending!**



ARTS and SPORTS Summer Camp

JUNE 5-9th, 2023 9am-noon

-choir for ages 8 and up

-music and movement for children under age 8

-drawing using the grid method -baking

-soccer -ballet

Tuition has been generously donated!

Please contact Olivia Harmon oharmon15@gmail.com to sign up



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan Saba

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Toledo and
The Midwest

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Great and Holy Pascha 2023: the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Midwest Diocese.

Christ is Risen! *Indeed He is Risen!*

المسيح قام! *خرق قبرا!*

This is the Day of Resurrection, be illumined, people; Pascha, the Lord's Pascha! From death unto life, from the earth to Heaven, hath Christ our God led us; singing the song of victory!

From the 1st Ode of the Paschal Canon

Today the clouds of darkness in this world, the booming thunder of tank canons cease, and the scream of jet engines looming of the lands move on. The brilliance of the never-ending day of Christ's Kingdom pours out of Heaven because Christ Himself, with raised hands at the crucifixion and then in His raised resurrected body, shines brighter than the sun.

Perhaps, as we enter the church flooded with Paschal Light, those flaming candles and burning chandeliers on walls and ceilings which reveal the Kingdom to us, cannot endure the full Glory of His Love. But even if we cannot take in the whole *New Day*, even if we cannot stay out in the sunshine at high-noon, even if in the frailty of our humanity, we need to put sunglasses on -- still we are bathed in the brightness and the beauty of the resurrected world. And our faces glow with a robust tan of a never-fading youth.

May the Light of His Empty Tomb always shine in our minds and hearts.

Yours in the Risen Christ,

+ Bishop Anthony

Bishop ANTHONY
Bishop of Toledo
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

Midwest Diocesan Chancery
5549 Ginger Tree
Toledo, OH 43623

FOCUS



St. HERMAN HOUSE - CLEVELAND

St. Herman House - FOCUS Cleveland Presents



*An Evening to Celebrate
Paul Finley*
(he's retiring!)

Saturday, April 22nd 6 pm

Woodside Event Center at St Michael's, Broadview Heights

Buffet dinner/open bar—Tickets \$125 per person

Net proceeds from the event will go to establish an endowment to benefit St Herman's in Paul's honor that will continue his legacy of service to the residents of St. Herman House and the ministries of FOCUS Cleveland

Become a Sponsor/Purchase an Ad/Monetary Contribution

*** Sponsorship Benefits**

- ◆ **Platinum Sponsor (\$10,000)** - Signage at Registration/Dinner, Platinum Listing in Banquet Program, Mention on Social Media, Reserved Table (8 seats) at the Banquet
- ◆ **Gold Sponsor (\$5,000)** - Gold Listing in Banquet Program, Mention on Social Media, 4 Reserved Seats at the Banquet
- ◆ **Silver Sponsor (\$2,500)** - Silver Listing in Banquet Program, Mention on Social Media
- ◆ **Bronze Sponsor (\$1,000)** - Bronze Listing in Banquet Program

*** Place an ad in the Commemorative Album**

*** Monetary Contribution**

- ◆ Half page—\$50.00 (4x5.5)
- ◆ Full page—\$90.00 (8x5.5)

Purchase dinner tickets, sponsorships, ads and donations at sainthermans.org or use your mobile camera to the right



A Message for Pascha

By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Pascha returns annually as a precious season that places us before the fact of that salvation given to us by Christ's voluntary death and glorious resurrection. Today is a day to renew our hope in the value of life. Today is a day to rectify our path towards true life. Today, we understand that eternal life is our goal and objective and that our life on earth—in all its joys and sorrows—only becomes a true life once we start approaching it as the beginning of our eternal life.

We must examine our faith, our conduct, and our life's path in light of the resurrection. Are these leading us to eternal life, the essence of which is God's active, living, and life-giving presence in our lives? Our Christ did not endure all these sufferings to grant us a happy life that just lasts for some years on earth, only to vanish and disappear. He fulfilled His divine dispensation so that life on earth might become our passage into life eternal. It is through us, the children of the resurrection, that the world passes into life eternal.

The pains, fears, and dangers that surround us must drive us to search for the meaning of life and to place everything in its appropriate context. Sooner or later, the shape of this world will pass away. Why do we then reduce our aspiration to what is on this earth, forgetting the genuine life to come? We believers fear not death but sin. We do not fear losing our earthly life but rather losing life with God. With the power of the resurrection, we confront the different forms of death armed by the unconquerable hope that Life has defeated death.

The resurrection of Christ means that we Christians have no place for despair, regardless of tribulations and dark times. The guiding and directing light of the resurrection remains more powerful than anything. It is not a coincidence that Christ endured severe pains before He died and then arose. His resurrection occurred after He went through Golgotha in order to teach us that the pains of this life, as harsh as they might be, cannot be compared to the joys of the life to come, as the Apostle Paul teaches (2 Cor. 4:17).

We believe that we will witness our personal resurrection before the general resurrection—that is, of course, if we are fully purified from our passions. This is why we will never tire of rising after every fall until we achieve that great purpose.

We are certain that there is no salvation in the world except through this. The bigger the disappointments, the more we cling to our objective, for we have, in the resurrection of Christ, a hope and an energy that will never disappoint or be exhausted.

Let us, therefore, be armed with the resurrection as the cornerstone of our Faith, and let us also, through the resurrection, drive away every despair, fight every fear, and renew our determination to build a virtuous life. Let us couple our faith with works, unite our words to actions, and not be satisfied with pleasantries. Carry the splendor of your rituals of worship into your world and society. Never cease trying to live your Christianity, and you will see that the rest will be added to you.

On this feast, we must renew our love, which is tainted with fear, and look, not merely to ourselves, but to those who are in need of a breath of true life. Remember that man was created for endless love. In Christ, both God and our neighbor become close to us. I beg you to strive to discover that you are one family, responsible for each other, for you are brothers and sisters with one Father. It is proper to intensify our prayers and fasting in order to call upon God's mercy. If we are truly the children of the resurrection, we must become witnesses for life and persistence. This is what we hope for and work towards, for the sake of our country, our people, and all the people of the world. In this spirit, we will welcome the feast this year by lifting up together our thoughts, wishes, and desires and placing them at the feet of Him who rose from the dead, hoping for the resurrection of the entire world. Amen.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

A NOTE FROM

THE HALL COMMITTEE

(Electra Floasiu, Gail Malaniak, Fred Bourjaily, Mike Lieberman)

If your organization or family is planning to use the hall or kitchen for any purpose, please contact a member of the hall committee to be sure it's available.

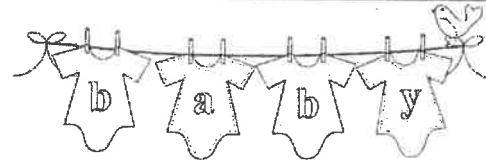
Thank you!

It requires \$750/day to operate our Church. Through your commitment and generosity, we *almost* meet that requirement. But we find ourselves with a budget shortfall of \$100/day. We ask that you consider adopting a day (or more) to help relieve this deficit.

Payments can be spread out over weeks or months.

If you are willing to do this, just cross through the day (or days) you wish to sponsor on the calendar in the hall, so we can begin to get an idea of our progress.

We have always been such a generous and giving Parish. Thank you for your continued generosity



All women of the parish are invited to join us for a baby shower to honor Sam & Anna Harmon and their baby girl. **Sat, May 6, 2023 11am** at St. Matthew's
Please RSVP to Olivia Harmon oharmon15@gmail.com 440-220-2624
Sam and Anna would love it if you could bring a picture book for their little girl! Feel free to sign the inside of the book instead of a card. Find their registry on Amazon.com

THE IOCC CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE

invites you to the

31st Annual Banquet

Monday, May 8, 2023

Dinner 6:00 pm

WOODSIDE EVENT CENTER
AT ST. MICHAEL'S

5025 E. Mill Rd. | Broadview Heights, OH 44127

Learn how your support is helping families in places like Ukraine, Greece, Syria, Ethiopia, and right here in the US.

Questions? Contact Diane Hastings at dianehastings3@gmail.com or 440.364.6045

