

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
SEPTEMBER, 2022, 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.

EXTRA SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (Birthday of St. Mary) IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8. Our schedule:

---Wednesday, September 7---Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

---Thursday, September 8---Matins, 9 a.m.; Deacon Typica Service with Holy Communion reserved from Sunday, 10 a.m. Potluck brunch after service.

THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14---Our schedule:

----Tuesday, September 13----Vespers with Artoklasia, 6:30 p.m.

-----Wednesday, September 14---Matins, 9 a.m; Liturgy with Procession of Cross, 10 a.m. This is an especially strict fast day, so no regular potluck. You can bring in some nuts and fruit to have a bite to eat in the hall afterwards and a chance to visit.

**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.

NORTH BIBLE STUDY---Wednesday, September 21, at Elle Parker's, 1350 Elmwood Ct., Rocky River, 6:30. Studying Isaiah.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP—Friday, September 23, 1 pm. All women welcome! The location is at Tara Reidy's, 274 Elmwood, Berea. For more info, call Sandy Tolbert, 440-773-9162.

WEST BIBLE STUDY—Saturday, September 24, 6 pm at the church. Studying I Corinthians.

SOUTH BIBLE STUDY—Tuesdays, September 6 & 20, 6:30 p.m. at Craig & Cindy George's, 9451 Sherwood Trail, Brecksville. All are welcome. The study will be on the book of Ephesians.

ATTENTION TEENS (and almost teens)---

---Do you like bowling? Come bowl with us Sunday, Sept. 4, after Coffeetime. Starting at 12:30 sharp at T & M Lanes, 1480 Pearl, Brunswick. Just bring yourself--- the cost of bowling & shoe rental covered by Teen Club? Questions? Call Mr. or Mrs. Blazek.

--Come join us for some good FREE Fall fun at Princess Ledges, 4361 Spruce Avenue in Brunswick, followed by apple cider and donuts at Mapleside Farms right next door. We'll get together after Liturgy on Sunday, September 25 and head over for a nice 45 minute walk on the beautiful Princess Ledges Nature Reserve trail, followed by tasty cider, hot chocolate and donuts. Sponsored by the illustrious St. Matthew's Teen Club. Please RSVP to Mr. or Mrs. Blazek, and feel free to ask them any questions. We hope to see you there. Bring a friend!

ST. HERMAN'S MINISTRY TEAM—Sunday, September 18, 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 Jon Scordos, 216-618-8007. Thank you to Dn. Basil, Matt Roach and Samir Amer for cooking the August meal and to the Blazek family for serving it.

MONTHLY DELIVERY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, ETC. TO HOMELESS ON STREETS OF DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND---Sunday, September 18. Alms box to help this outreach is near hall entrance.

HOMESCHOOL SUPPORT GROUP---September 9 & 23, 9 a.m.

CHESS CLUB—After liturgy, Sunday, September 11.

MEN'S MEAT FEST---Big meat cookout, Saturday, October 1, 6 p.m., right after 5 p.m. Vespers. Details later...

ST. MATTHEW ANTIOCHIAN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2023 is underway. Only 3\$ dues per year. All women in parish who are not yet members are encouraged to join! Either see Electra Floasiu, Georgette Dye, or Camille Patrick or just leave in church office or mail it in.

Sunday School Information

2022/23 Important dates:

September 11- Open house/Visit classrooms/Meet the teachers

September 18- Classes begin

Parents/ grandparents: Please respond to Gail Malaniak if your child/grandchild will be attending Sunday School so we can be sure to have enough materials.

Include full names, ages, and birth dates. (Ages 3-18 are welcome!)

Send the information to gailmeen@gmail.com by September 1. Thank you!

OUR CONDOLENCES---

---to Elle Parker on the falling asleep in Christ of her husband, Ralph Parker.
May his memory be eternal!

CONGRATULATIONS---

--to Laura Allen and her son, Leonidas, for their 40-day Churching on August 7th!
--to Lindsey Katsaros and her son, Peter, for their 40-day Churching on August 28th!

NEW PARISHIONERS

Michael & Marilyn Francu
17934 Cliffside Drive
Strongsville, OH 44136
Michael—440-269-0316
Marilyn—440-454-4802
MMVJ1985@gmail.com

Jason & Linda Bowden
Augustin
9190 Wilson Mills Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
Lisa—440-667-2767
lisaqbowden@gmail.com

AND A NEW CATECHUMEN---Westly Collado received the blessing to become a catechumen on August 7th.

Please welcome them all to our parish family and add them to your phone list.

THANK YOU----

---to the men of the parish for hosting the wonderful annual picnic on August 28th.
---Stephanie Speck for teaching our children and teens the Kolo Slavic dancing on August 21st.

OUR CURRENT CATECHUMEN LIST We pray for them at each liturgy. Please pray for them during the week as well as they prepare to enter the Orthodox Church----

Mariya Butt	Victoria Rodgers
Jamie & Lucas Domonkos	Lena McCoy
Mikaela Cihon	Westley Collado
Lindsey & Peter Katsaros	

OUR CHURCH FAMILY MEET-UP

This month I decided to interview someone I didn't know well, but really wanted to get to know better. I chose Betty Kovach, one of the gems we got from Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church two years ago. Here's what I found out.

On May 5, 1939, Elizabeth Ann Mosorjak was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She was the youngest of five children. Her father worked in the mines and then the steel mills and consequently, died early from an industrial caused disease.

Betty graduated from high school in 1957, and then gave college a try. However, she was too homesick and ended up coming home. Instead she went to business school in Johnstown for a year. Because there were no jobs for her in her hometown, she moved to Washington, D.C. There she worked as a secretary for the Navy Department. Betty met Richard Kovach who was in the army. They were married and moved to Cleveland in 1962. They had three children—David in 1962, Richard in 1964, and Karen in 1968.

In 1969 Betty's husband moved out and eventually they divorced. Betty looks back on that time as being very hard. She said, "I don't know how I did it. If it wasn't for my mother, my sister, and my God—and God is the most important—I wouldn't have made it." She said

that her ex-husband left her with three small kids (the youngest being 18 months), a just acquired mortgage she had to pay for, no car, no job. But God took care of her and always provided for her needs. Her mother bought her a car and her girlfriend taught her how to drive. She got a job at the Board of Elections for a while and then went back to work for the Navy, only this time in Cleveland.

After she raised her family, she sold her house and in 1989 bought a smaller house on Kenmore in Parma where she lives now.

A highlight in her life was when she went to school with her grandson for an entire school year. Karen's son, Nicholas, was diagnosed as autistic. When he was 3 or 4, he was sent to the Early Intervention Center in Cleveland. Betty would go to school with him every day. She would work with the others kids at the school and the other parents would work with her grandson. She said it was highly successful.. Nicholas is a grown man today and is driving, cooking for himself, and has a job. Betty chose to retire from her job so she could be there for Nicholas. It appears this decision made a huge difference for the well-being of her grandson.

Betty grew up attending the Carpatho-Russian cathedral in Johnstown. Her parents were immigrants from Czechoslovakia. When Betty moved to Cleveland, she tried all kinds of churches. Finally, she found out from the Johnstown priest about Father Jula starting Christ the Saviour Church in North Royalton. She started going there and became an active part of the parish. She also attended Holy Trinity Orthodox Church for a few years, but ended up back at Christ the Saviour with the parishioners she loved.

About two years ago when Christ the Saviour closed its door, she joined us at St. Matthew's. Her church gave us their beautiful iconostasis which we now are using. Betty was amazed when she saw it for the first time in our church. She wanted to know if we re-painted it because it looked so bright to her.

Today Betty enjoys doing Sudoku puzzles. She's worked out a clever deal with John Bazilewich who likes Sudoku as well. She only does the easy and medium puzzles and John only does the difficult ones, so they give the other the books they finish after doing the ones they like to do.

Betty also likes to crochet. She got started crocheting baby blankets for Providence House at the suggestion of an acquaintance. Now she crochets for Zoe House. If you have any yarn you'd like to get rid of, you can ask Betty if she could use it for making the baby blankets.

Betty has one grandchild who lives near her. She is 14-year-old Emma who is the daughter of David and his wife Eva. Richard and son live in Georgia. Karen and son live in California.

When asked what her goals are, she listed the following: to be healthy, to go to church, and to stay independent. She especially wanted me to mention those people in her life who have helped her and are still helping her today. They are Ted and Eileen Bunevich, Paulette and John Bazelwich, and Nila and Arthur Woods.

We, at St. Matthew's, are very happy to welcome her to our family!



“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.”

Genesis 1:26

This verse is the theme for the 2022/23 liturgical year across our Archdiocese. The Sunday School teachers will be referring to this verse often throughout the year. This will also be the topic for the Creative Festivals and the Oratorical Festival.

The more we, as a church family, can model this verse in our own lives, the more our children will be able to understand the meaning. If we make it real to them all year long, it will be more than another bible verse to memorize. It will be more than a topic to write or draw about. It will be planted in their hearts forever.

God calls us to be “living icons,” our words and actions always reflecting His likeness. This applies not only when we are in church. But wherever we are, at home, at work, at school, socializing with friends, or enjoying refreshments at coffee hour. Let someone in your family know when they are reflecting God’s image. (By being loving, showing forgiveness, being helpful, compassionate, etc.)

There is nothing more joyous than seeing our children living the faith, receiving the sacraments, enjoying fellowship with each other, and being excited to come to church and Sunday School. Those are true examples of reflecting the image of God. In addition to those examples, we can help them develop respect for the church and for each other.

Remind them that the entire church building is a sacred place.

Help them to learn the appropriate times to leave a church service. (It’s disrespectful to leave during the Epistle or Gospel, the Small Entrance, Great Entrance, and the consecration, unless it’s an emergency.)

Children 10 and younger should always be accompanied by an adult when leaving a church service.

Encourage walking carefully, inside the church, breezeway, and in the hall. We have many elderly people that can easily fall if someone runs into them.

Parents- Enjoy your fellowship time! We also ask that you supervise your children in the food line, and while they are eating. (When they aren’t in Sunday School.) Children should not be eating in the board room. Our cleaning service doesn’t clean that room.

We often have weekly visitors who are observing us. Therefore, it’s important that we set an example of living in the likeness of Christ. Our church hall is for fellowship, and to gather as a body in Christ. We need everyone to help us keep that Christ-like atmosphere, rather than a “playground” atmosphere. Remind your children to use the beautiful outdoor space for running and being active. Please supervise young children outside as the parking lot is very busy during that time!

Working, living, worshipping, and cooperating as a family, to help our children experience the faith is a true example of living in the image of God.

Let us continually strive to be like God in all things!



Theotokos of Vladimir

**EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD
OF GREATER CLEVELAND
Unity Through Participation**

*"Make new friends but keep the old.
One is silver, the other gold."*

**Saturday, September 10, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

**St. Matthew the Evangelist Church
10383 Albion Road
North Royalton, OH 44133**

**BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW CHURCH YEAR
60th anniversary year**

- Installation of Officers with Father John Zdinak
- Welcome to new members and visitors
- Fellowship and refreshments
- 60th Anniversary Update
- IOCC School Bag Service Project



The Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild Membership Drive

Dear Ladies of St. Matthew,

September is the EOWG's annual Membership Drive for the New Church Year. EOWG is a Pan-Orthodox organization that joins women together from the Greater Cleveland area Orthodox Churches not only to socialize but also foster fellowship, propagation of our Faith and present a United Orthodox front when called upon.

Members who joined in previous years should receive their renewal reminder in the mail. For women who would like to join as a new member or those who want more information, please see Gloria Zabala.

ASK THE PRIEST

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR FR. ANDREW ABOUT OUR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH? JUST LET FR. ANDREW KNOW AND HE'LL TRY TO ANSWER IT IN THE NEWSLETTER SOME TIME.....

WHY SO MUCH EMPHASIS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ON A CHOSEN PEOPLE OF GOD?
It has everything to do with the later coming of Jesus Christ at the first Christmas. In order for the Son of God to come to our world as a human being, preparations had to be made. There had to be a mother to bear Him, someone of great holiness and obedience to God. Our Orthodox Fathers state that one of the main reasons for the whole Old Testament history was to make possible someone like St. Mary who would be able to be the God-bearer, the Theotokos, the Mother of God.

Also, it was absolutely needed that there be a people who firmly believed there was only one God. If we believe in many Gods (as did everyone back then except the Hebrews) then to say that God became man in Christ is no big deal---which god became man? What about all the other gods who didn't, etc.? But once we really believe there is only one God, then to say that the one infinite God became a man is a pretty incredible statement--and, of course, that's the whole basis of Christianity. To have a people who were, no matter their other failings, at least firmly monotheistic by the time of Christ's coming, was essential. And that was the reason for the efforts of God in the Old Testament to get the chosen people to believe in Him alone and stay separate from all the pagans around them.

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.

SPECIAL TEACHING EVENING—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 6 P.M.

What does our Orthodox faith say concerning the currently very controversial topic of abortion? A teaching evening to explain it all will be led by Paul Finley, the director of St. Herman FOCUS Orthodox Homeless Shelter in Cleveland. Teaching, discussion, refreshments, and fellowship... Please come and invite your friends!

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10383 ALBION ROAD
NORTH ROYALTON, OHIO 44133**

**PLEASE MARK THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 30 ON YOUR
CALENDARS----Bishop ANTHONY will be visiting our parish that weekend**

A NEW MINISTRY BEGINNING--

MARTHA MINISTRIES--"Whatsoever you do..."

We are seeking parishioners who like to cook or would be willing to deliver some meals to families in time of need. Families with brand new babies, parishioners who are recovering from illness or surgery, those grieving a loss.... Everyone could use a little help sometimes. Martha Ministries seeks to care for our brothers and sisters by preparing and delivering meals in difficult times. Can you help by cooking or delivering a freezer meal? Do you have other ideas for how we can concretely help each other as a parish family? Please see/email/call Erin Musarra at 440-799-0838 or Erin.musarra@gmail.com.

**THERE WILL BE A BRIEF MEETING OF MARTHA MINISTRIES AFTER LITURGY
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.**