

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith

110 EAST MAIN STREET,
Marblehead, OH 43440

Rev. Peter Tomas, Rector



Liturgical Schedule

SUNDAY - JUNE 11

**1st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

**9:10 AM HOURS, 9:30 AM DIVINE
LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour**

**MONDAY - JUNE 12 *Apostles Fast
begins***

SATURDAY - JUNE 17

VESPERS, 4 PM

SUNDAY - JUNE 18

**2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ALL
SAINTS OF AMERICA**

**9:10 AM HOURS, 9:30 AM DIVINE
LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour**



All Saints Icon

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mocking and scourging, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for

us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Therefore, whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?" So, Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS



Subdeacon Roger Pinta, P.O. Box 39, Middle Bass, OH 43446; Diane Tryon, 109 Joslyn Street, Arcadia, OH 44804; Ed & Irene Vangeloff, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Carol / David Martin / Jim Twarek / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Subdeacon Roger Pinta / Tony Monastra / Tina / Ed Vangeloff / Irene Vangeloff / Diane Tryon / Sonja Rose / David Mazurik / Ron Royhab / James Bargdill / John Beadle / Carole Conaway/ Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Elaine Hileman / Betty Kovach / Helen Lis / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / Elaine Libb / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Stephanie Royhab / Stacy Kaplan / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Nikki Williams & Brexly / Gleice & Chloe / Natalie & newborn Caleb / Gabrielle and her unborn child / Carol / Debbie & Marco / Nora. **Other Requests:** Archpriest David Lis / Bishop Matthias / Marge Dziama / Child Ezra / Kurt Franck / Ben Franklin / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Marsha / Mark Masica / Robert Piznar / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Sandy Scafaria / Chuck Wiedenhoft / Chris / David Warner / Tamman Haddad. **Military:** Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military

JUNE CANDLE SPONSORS



Altar Candles: Fr. Peter & Matushka Michelle, Birthday blessings for their son Peter Alexander (6/20) and Helena Tomášová (6/14) **(\$50) Chandelier:** Basil Glovinsky, In loving memory of wife Jean **(\$50) Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Tamara Rentz Blackford, In loving memory of William Rentz, Rob Blackford, JR and Rob Blackford, SR. (father-in-law) **(\$25) Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Stephanie and in memory of John Kovach **Candles at St. Tikhon's Icon:** For Safety and Health of Nicholas, Tikhon, Gleice, & Chloe **(\$15)**

JUNE REPOSED

4- Alex Sennich (1994); **4-**Victoria Guzy (1965); **6-**Matthew Gould (2020); **8-**Mary Hunt (2003); **9-**Cristina Rindfleisch (2006); **9-**Charles Hagmaier (2018); **16-**Verona Pich (2010); **17-** Archimandrite Luke Sirkun (1956) Former Pastor; **17-**Mitered Archpriest John Gratson (1965) Former Pastor; **20-**Jean Frances Glovinsky (2016); **20-**Dan, Karen's Cousin 2019; **21-**Mary Elchisco Migala (1983); **22-**Archpriest Kyrill Hartman (2010) Former Pastor; **23-**Ruth Benya (1995); **26-**George Millie (1974); **27-**Anna Ignatenkoo (1969); **29-**Stephen Millie (1988)



VIGILS FOR MAY 28

Susan Guzy 1 For health of brother Gary, In memory of grandmother Victoria. Vichnaya Pamyat!

Laura Kovach 2 For health and/or healing of Kathie J., Roger P., Diane T., Irene V., Ed V., Robin C., Betty K., Ben F., Earl R., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Sharon D., John D., and Karen D. Safe travels for family

Sandy Martin 1 God's blessing to Fr John and Matushka Melania on their 50th Anniversary, Many Years! Special intentions

David & Roddie Mazurik 3 Peace, Health of mom, Carol, Health of sister, Debbie

Tamara Rentz Blackford 1 In memory of Rob Blackford

Diane Tryon 1 Birthday blessing to Kathryn Tryon (6/1)

Natalie Twarek 9 In loving memory of mom and dad's anniversary(6/4), 50th Anniversary blessing to Fr. John and Matushka Melania, Birthday blessings to Lily(6/7) and Brooks(6/10), Safe travel for the Kent anniversary group, Health and recovery of Carol Clevinger, Health and recovery Roger, Health and recovery of Tony, Irene, Father David, Diane, Marilyn, Pauline, Sandy, Don & Judy, Mimi, Health and recovery of Heather, Stephanie, Arrianna, Keyondrea, For the health of Tina, Robin, Ed, Ron, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Kurt, Leslie, Health of Amber, Zach, Dottie, Jamie, Ezra, David, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Tom, Loren, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Chuck, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, Karen,



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

St. Tikhon's Seminary is the charity we donate to for the month of June.



READERS LIST

Sunday June 11 - Joe;
Sunday June 18 - Tim;
Sunday June 25 -Ron;
Thursday June 29 - Laura



ATTENDANCE

6/3 Vespers, 10 attending (1 guest); 6/4 Divine Liturgy, 25 attending (5 guests)



JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

25-Fr. Peter Tomas; **26-**Jim & Laura Kovach Anniversary

SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, June 4



Tithe	\$ 655.00
Candles	\$ 70.00
Vigils	\$ 121.00
Donations	\$ 120.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 175.00
Chandelier	\$ 50.00
Total:	\$1,191.00

May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!



CLEANING SCHEDULE

June 12, Tina;
June 19, Laura;
June 26, Natalie

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

- 1—Your help is needed today after the Divine Liturgy with scooping dough balls for the baking on Monday
- 2—The group baking days are: Monday June 12 at 8 AM, making nut horns, and Tuesday June 13 at 8 AM, making nut horns as well.
- 3—Weeding/trimming/planting around the church continues.
- 4—Please consider sponsoring a Sunday coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy.



KOLACHE BAKING PROJECT

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the following parishioners who came last Monday, June 5th to help with Kolache: Basil, Tina, Bobbie, Kathy, Roddie, Fred, Natalie, Gabe, Laura, and Mat. Michelle; and to Basil, Tina, Kathy, Bobbie, Roddie, Fred, Natalie, Sandy, Gabe, and Laura who came to bake Kolache again on Tuesday, June 6th. May our Lord and God reward you all for your hard work and love for our church, and grant you long life, good health, peace, and happiness for Many Happy and Blessed Years!



NEW CATECHUMEN IN OUR PARISH

We wish to express our best wishes and ask Our Lord to Bless our new Catechumen Angela who was received to the Catechumenate today before the Divine Liturgy. May Our Lord and God grant her long life, good health, peace, and happiness for Many Happy and Blessed Years! Na Mnohaya i Blahaya Lita!



SINCERE THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Jim Kovach and Cliff Ruggles for helping to put beds together and moving some furniture at the rectory. Our thanks are extended also to Basil for helping Father to change all the candles and altar linens for the gold color for the Summer Season; and to Greg and David for changing the light bulb in the bell tower that illuminates the stained-glass window of the eye of God. May Our Lord and God bless you and grant you Many Happy and Blessed Years!



MARKET DAY

Sincere thank you to all who came and helped with our Market Day on Saturday, June 10th. Our special thanks are extended to the following parishioners and friends: Tina, Sue, Greg, Mat, Michelle, Kathy, Basil, Tim, David, Roddie, Sandy, Bobbie, Mimi, and Laura. The gross income from the sale was **\$2,400.28**. May Our Lord reward you all for your sacrifice and grant you Many Happy and Blessed Years!

Our next Market Day will take place on Saturday, June 24th starting at 9:00 AM until sold out. We will have perohi, kielbasa and kraut, spanakopita, and a large variety of baked goods. Your help is greatly appreciated!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit. The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost. This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him. St Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology. St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28. The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...." Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. St Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint. The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world. The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death. Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament. The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example. The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote

themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, St John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31). The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Sts Joachim and Anna, St Joseph the Betrothed, St Juliana of Lazarevo, and others. The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful. Even before the death of St. Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

THE FAST OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

According to the ancient tradition of the Orthodox Church there is a period of fasting before the celebration of the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. This fast begins on the Monday after the Sunday of All Saints and continues until the feast itself. Since the celebration of All Saints depends on when Easter is observed, the fast for Sts. Peter and Paul vary from a couple of weeks to a month or more. This year the fast starts on June 12th and is kept until the 29th, about three weeks.

The Fast of the Holy Apostles is dated back to early years of the church. The first evidence of this fast is found in the writings of St. Athanasius the Great (373). In his letter to Emperor Constance, he writes: "During the week following Pentecost, the people who observed the fast went out to the cemetery to pray." Some 20 years later, St. Ambrose (397) writes: "On the days following his ascension into heaven, however, we again fast". Later on, St. Leo the Great (461) writes: "After the long feast of Pentecost, fasting is especially necessary to purify our thoughts and render us worthy to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit ... Therefore, the salutary custom was established of fasting after the joyful days during which we celebrated the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, and the coming of the Holy Spirit."

Until the second half of the 3rd century, the Fast of the Holy Apostles was linked to Pentecost. Later on, when the commemoration of the death of Saints Peter and Paul took place amongst the faithful, around the year 258, the Apostles Fast became linked to the feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29. Consequently, it became a fasting period of preparation for the celebration of the feast of the great apostles. St. Symeon of Thessalonica (1429) explains: "The Fast of the Apostles is justly established in their honor, for through them we have received numerous benefits and for us they are exemplars and teachers of the fast ... For one week after the descent of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution composed by Clement, we celebrate, and then during the following week, we fast in honor of the Apostles."

Fasting Rules of the Fast of the Holy Apostles

The Fast of the Holy Apostles is not as strict as the Fasts of Pascha and the Nativity of Christ; rather it is more lenient in its duration and the rules. The current rules of fasting, during the Apostles Fast, were established first for the monks of the Monastery of the Kiev Caves by Metropolitan George of Kiev (1069-1072). These rules did not allow meat or dairy products to be eaten during the Apostle's Fast. On Wednesday and Friday, they prescribed dry vegetarian food. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday they permitted fish, wine and oil. These rules are still practiced today amongst most Orthodox Christians with minor variations, depending on the jurisdiction.

BEYOND THE PLATEAU: IS YOUR PARISH FOCUSED ON MISSION OR MAINTENANCE?

By Fr. Jonathan Ivanoff

Clergy and members of parishes that are beginning to decline will tend to notice something happening. At first, what begins to happen is very subtle, hardly noticed. It comes up during warm conversation, perhaps during coffee hour, and may even be, at the beginning of this period, something that is undertaken with joy and laughter as parishioners engage in it during their conversations with one another. It is nostalgia.

And it always begins with the words, *“Remember when...?”*

Nostalgia is a killer. Many people in our churches sometimes speak rhapsodically about those “good old days” in the forties, fifties, sixties, or whatever decade is in vogue. We reminisce about and yearn for full churches and full Sunday schools, but what we don't realize is that society itself has changed. We no longer live in the “churched culture” of many of our childhoods. A “churched culture” is not so much characterized by the numbers of those actively participating in the life of the Church, but rather by a very noticeable feeling throughout society that the Church is important, that it matters. To an awful lot of people today, the Church not only does not matter, it matters less and less as the years go by. It's not that they see the Church as harmful or hurtful; they see the Church as not really relevant or helpful.

Yet, many of us in the Church, at various levels of involvement and ministry, act as if nothing has changed. We continue to act as if the general population is seeking *us* out (churched culture, maintenance mindset) rather than acting like the Church we find in Acts, and seeking the world out (mission mindset). It is for this reason that we have as many declining and dying parishes as we do.

And why do we prefer to see one way over the other? Because the parish of a churched culture is calm, peaceful, organized. Think “Ozzie and Harriet.” (Anybody under 50 immediately is asking, “Who are they?” And that, in part, proves the point.) The parish of the mission mindset, however, is going to be none of these things. It is going to be hectic, challenging, disturbing even—not exactly everybody's cup of tea, which is why many people don't want it and why we have trouble seriously imagining what it would be like.

What the “maintenance” mindset leads to is a preoccupation with whether our churches are growing, rather than whether our mission to the world is flourishing; whether our churches are able to manage their accounts, rather than whether we can fulfill our God-given directives. We have been preoccupied with maintenance when we *must* be preoccupied with mission. But church growth is not about growth alone. As one church growth author has noted, “Our current problems cannot be conveniently reduced to whether the church membership statistics are growing or declining. Our current problems have more to do with mission than membership, more with service than survival, more with the planet than the church plant (i.e., facilities), more with the human hurts and hopes of the world than the hemorrhaging of a denomination.... We are called to share the Kingdom, not to grow churches.” We don’t grow churches, only God can do that. When we confuse the two, we get the problems with which we are now struggling.

So, maintenance or mission? Which is it? It can’t be both; this preoccupation with maintenance, with census numbers, is self-defeating. The more we are concerned with maintenance, the less we focus on mission; the weaker our mission, the more we decline; the more we decline, the higher our preoccupation with maintenance. This downward spiral ends when the remaining remnant can no longer afford to keep the enterprise together.

Focusing on maintenance can be depressing, tedious, dreary, and discouraging. Focusing on mission can be uplifting, visionary, joyous, and inspiring. And, it’s not difficult to change the parish’s focus from one to the other: what’s needed is a little trust (in God—this is what changes mere “belief” to active and powerful “faith”), cooperation (between priest and parish leadership; one or the other alone cannot do this effectively, let alone powerfully), education (on what can be done, as well as what shouldn’t be done), and training and equipping.

The good news is that turnaround ministry is possible and can happen, but only if a declining parish’s priest *and* parishioners are willing to commit themselves to the effort of turnaround ministry. Such an effort will require the entire parish working together as a team to turn the tide and make a full comeback to healthy witness and ministry. While moving forward often requires reflective moments of looking back, pure nostalgia for times gone by can slowly grind to a halt any efforts to move a declining church forward. Those wishing to move their churches to full health and growth must remember that memory of the past must be coupled with vision of the future and real mission in order to achieve a holistic approach to real church growth.