

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

110 EAST MAIN STREET,
Marblehead, OH 43440

Rev. Fr. Peter Tomas, Rector

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***Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest***

DECEMBER 10, 2023

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EPISTLE: Ephesians 6:10-17

Brethren: Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;



Healing of the Ten Lepers

GOSPEL: Luke 17:12-19

At that time as Jesus entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So, when He saw them,

He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

Liturgical Schedule

MON. Dec 11	Venerable Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople
TUE. Dec 12	Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus
WED. Dec 13	Repose of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America
THU. Dec 14	Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios, and Kallinikos
FRI. Dec 15	Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, his mother, Martyr Evanthia, and Caribus the Eparch
SAT. Dec 16	Holy Prophet Haggai
4:00 PM	VESPERS
SUN. Dec 17	28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST <i>Sunday of the Holy Forefathers</i>
9:10 AM	HOURS
9:30 AM	DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Tony Monastra, 2119 Willow Cove Marblehead, OH 43440; Patti Owens, 311 Woodbridge Road, Vermilion, OH 44089; Basil Glovinsky, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; 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



DECEMBER CANDLE SPONSORS

Altar Candles: Fr. Peter & Mat. Michelle, For Health and God’s Blessings of Barbara Wroblewski, Matushka’s mother and Michal Tomáš, Father’s father (**\$50**); **Chandelier:** Jean Hileman – For safe travel home for the Issler family (**\$50**); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Jean Hileman - In loving memory of my father, William Pipenur (**\$25**); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Ben (**\$20**); **Candles at St. Sophia Icon:** For Safety and Health of Nicholas, Tikhon, Gleice, & Chloe (**\$20**)



DECEMBER REPOSED

1- Helen Elchisco (1990); **3-** Mary Hubicki (2013); **8-** Mary (Marika) Lefas (2019); **12-** Anna Bretz (2002); **13-** Joseph Mazurik (1986); **13-** Archimandrite Seraphim Oblivantseff (1954) Former Pastor; **15-** Michael W. Belenky (1971); **20-** Julia Brosojah Millie (1953); **20-** John Mazurik (2017); **20-** William Pipenur (2003); **21-** Mary Sennich (1985); **22-** Antonima Vecsey (1972); **23-** Steven Danchisen (1982); **24-** Alexandra Turkul (1980); **24-** John Bird No year Provided; **29-** Alexandra Dotsenko (1980); **30-** Rita Felenchak (1996); **31-** Jevgeny Cernonok (1980); **31-** Janice Timko (2021)



VIGILS FOR DECEMBER 3

Susan Guzy 1 Special intentions

Laura Kovach 3 Birthday blessings to Ben, George, and Yvonne.

For health and/or healing of James W., Beverly S., Patti O., Tony M., Matushka Michelle, Hannah S., Barbara D., Pauline O., George K., Joe H., Margi H., Betty K., Ben F., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Sharon D., John D., and Karen D.

Memory eternal to Fr. Gerald and Mary Ann Brown

Sandy Martin 3 Special intentions

Darlene & Gabe Mazurik 1 Happy names day to Nicholai (12/6) and Happy Birthday to Gabe (12/13)

Diane Tryon 4 Birthday blessings to cousin Mary Jean (12/10), Anniversary blessings to Greg and Kat (five years), Holiday Blessings to family and friends, In loving memory of departed family and friends

Natalie Twarek 8 In memory of MaryAnn Brown, For the health of Ruth, Health and healing for Father's dad Michal and Matushka's mom Barbara, Health of Bobbie, For the health and recovery of Basil, Diane, Tony, Patti, Tom, Don and Rick, For the health of Bev, Health of Roger, Ed, Irene, Father David, Marilyn, Pauline, Judy, Mimi, Tina, Ron, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Kurt, Leslie, Amber, Zach, Dottie, Jamie, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Tom, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Chuck, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, Karen, special intentions

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Patti Owens / Tony Monastra / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Don Kiser / Ruth / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Jeanne Smith / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Subdeacon Roger Pinta / Ed Vangeloff / Irene Vangeloff / Diane Tryon / Sonja Rose / 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 / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Stephanie Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, her unborn baby & Chloe / Gabrielle and her newborn Josey / Carol / Debbie & Marco / Nora. **Other Requests:** Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Sidharth Bijilani – friend of Subdeacon Roger and Debbie Pinta / Anthony / Archpriest David Lis / Bishop Matthias / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Marge Dziama / Kurt Franck / Ben Franklin / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Marsha / Mark Masica / Robert Piznar / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chuck Wiedenhoft / Chris. **Military:** Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military

ATTENDANCE



12/2 Vespers, 8 attending; 12/3 Divine Liturgy, 24 attending (5 Guests); 12/5 Vespers, 10 attending; 12/6 Divine Liturgy, 18 attending (4 Guests)

READERS LIST



Sunday Dec 10 – Natalie
Sunday Dec 17 – Jake
Sunday Dec 24 – Tim
Sunday Dec 25 – Subdeacon Roger
Sunday Dec 31 – Ron



CLEANING SCHEDULE

Dec 11, Sandy
Dec 18, Roddie
Dec 26, Natalie



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Tithe	\$ 540.00
Candles	\$ 12.00
Vigils	\$ 80.00
Donations	\$ 90.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 150.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 420.00
Liturgical Item Donation	\$ 20.00
Altar Candles	\$ 50.00
Candles at St. Tikhon	\$ 20.00
Total:	\$1,382.00

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



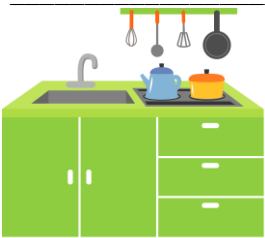
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

11 – Tina Rindfleisch; **13** – Gabe Mazurik; **17** – Tim Heffernan *; **21** – Ed & Irene Vangeloff Anniversary; **23** – Teri Cassell *; **25** – Darlene Mazurik *; **31** – Fred & Christi Soski Anniversary *



CHRISTMAS CONFESSION

During this Holy Season of the Nativity Fast we are asked to follow the disciplines of fasting, repentance, and almsgiving. As we are doing our best to take care of our bodies by fasting from certain foods, and our neighbor by offering our alms, we should not forget to prepare our souls by good confession, so we may welcome Our newborn King with our clean conscience. Therefore, we are inviting each of you to the Mystery of confession which is usually offered after each service of vespers, but we encourage you to make your confession anytime that is more convenient for you. Fr. Peter is available any day and any time of the day, or if you prefer, every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy. Just let Fr. Peter know when would be most the most convenient day and time for you.



KITCHEN REPAIR

As we are planning to make some necessary repairs and updates to our kitchen, we are looking for some volunteers who would be willing to serve as “Kitchen Repair Committee.” If you have some good ideas about the repair, please see Fr. Peter or Ron Royhab and volunteer for the position on the committee. Thank you in advance for your consideration!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS

During this time of preparation for the glorious feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, we would like to offer you an opportunity to sponsor the poinsettia plants which will beautify our church for the Nativity Season. We also kindly ask for your prayerful consideration to sponsor liturgical wine, incense, and charcoal that we use during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The forms for sponsoring are located in the vestibule of the church. Thank you in advance for your generosity and care!



CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Part of our church property is our cute cemetery, where many of our relatives and friends are buried. To keep our cemetery well maintained and beautiful, we must use our church resources to pay for the maintenance and upkeep. Our Parish has a separate “Cemetery Account” that we use for that purpose, but it came to our attention that very few donations are made throughout the year. Therefore, we would like to ask you to consider to donate for the maintenance of our cemetery for the future. Kindly use your envelope marked “CEMETERY” to make your donation. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity!



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Bistro 163” is the charity we donate to for the month of December.



OTTAWA COUNTY HOLIDAY BUREAU

The Ottawa County Holiday Bureau – Danbury Unit will be helping those in need in our Community. Vouchers will be issued instead of distributing boxes of food. To help with these expenses please send financial support with a check made out to Danbury Holiday Bureau and mailed to 4941 East Harbor Rd. – Port Clinton, OH 43452.

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- Dec. 15th** Nut and Poppysed Rolls Baking (*Friday*)
- Dec. 24th** Sunday before Nativity – Christmas Eve (*Sunday*)
- Dec. 25th** NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (*Monday*)
- Dec. 31st** New Year’s Eve (*Sunday*)
- Jan. 1st** New Year 2024; Circumcision of Our Lord; St. Basil the Great (*Monday*)
- Jan. 5th** Eve of Theophany (*Friday*)
- Jan. 6th** THEOPHANY (BAPTISM) OF OUR LORD (*Saturday*)
- Consider sponsoring a Sunday coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy



ST. NICHOLAS VISITED OUR PARISH

On Wednesday, December 6th we celebrated the feast of St. Nicholas the wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia. The Holy Day was celebrated with vespers on Tuesday evening and the Divine Liturgy in the morning.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy this year, our parish was honored to welcome in our midst St. Nicholas who brought the gifts to all the children who were present in the church. He also left the small presents to all the parishioners of the Holy Assumption parish, which will be distributed at the end of the Divine Liturgy today.

We are very grateful to St. Nicholas for his visit to Marblehead and we hope that he will visit us again next year. “O Holy Father Nicholas pray to God for us.”



MARBLEHEAD PENINSULA COFFEE HOUR



You are invited to participate in a new Marblehead Peninsular Coffee Hour, held the third Friday of each month, from 10-11 a.m., beginning January 19.

The idea behind the coffee hour is to give Peninsula residents and organizations and employees a chance to talk with each other in a comfortable and civil setting. This is an open, free-form conversation. Meet your neighbors! Network with other organizations! There will be someone serve as "Special Guest" each month; the first guest will be Marblehead's new mayor, John Starcher. Along with making this open to the community as a whole, the organizers are going to invite folks from local governmental and other organizations.

They hope you'll be able to join them for some of the upcoming coffee hours. Here are the dates:

January 19, February 16, March 15, April 19, May 17, June NO Coffee Hour, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20.

DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR THE NATIVITY SEASON – THANK YOU!

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the following parishioners for coming this Saturday and decorating our church: Natalie, Roddie, David, Tina, Jean, Sandy, Bobbie, Susan, Tim, Kathy, Natalia, Ryan, and Mat. Michelle. *May Our Lord reward you all with his special blessings throughout this Holy Season of the Nativity of Our Lord and grant you good health and happiness in the New Year!*





Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eustrachios, of Alexandria

Commemorated on December 10

The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eustrachios suffered for their faith in Christ under the emperor Maximian (305-313).

Saint Menas was sent by the emperor from Athens to Alexandria to suppress the riots that had arisen between the Christians and the pagans. Distinguished for his gift of eloquence, Menas instead openly began to preach the Christian Faith and he converted many pagans to Christ. Learning of this, Maximian sent Hermogenes to Alexandria to place the saints on trial. Moreover, he gave orders to purge the city of Christians.

Hermogenes, although he was a pagan, was distinguished by his reverent bearing. And struck by the endurance of Saint Menas under torture and by his miraculous healing after the cruel torments, he also came to believe in Christ. Maximian himself then arrived in Alexandria. Neither the astonishing stoic endurance of Saints Menas and Hermogenes under torture, nor even the miracles manifested by God in this city, mollified the emperor. Instead, they vexed him all the more. The emperor personally stabbed Saint Eustrachios, the secretary of Saint Menas, who had declared himself a Christian upon witnessing the endurance of Saints Menas and Hermogenes; and then gave orders to behead the holy Martyrs Menas and Hermogenes.

The relics of the holy martyrs, cast into the sea in an iron chest, were afterwards found (see February 17) and transferred to Constantinople in the ninth century. The emperor Justinian built a church in the name of the holy Martyr Menas of Alexandria. Saint Joseph the Hymnographer (April 4) composed a Canon in honor of these holy martyrs.



The History of the Christmas Tree and Christmas Tree Decorations in Russia

by Anastasia Parkhomchik

Today it seems hard to imagine Christmas holidays without a Christmas tree, decorating which has become a heartwarming family tradition.

Where has the tradition of decorating Christmas trees come from, and what decorations is it associated with?

Christmas Tree in the West

The Christmas tree comes from Germany, where evergreen spruce has been revered as a symbol of unfading nature and immortality since pagan times. On New Year's Eve, the best spruce in the forest was decorated with patches and candles, and made a center of celebration, with round dances performed around it. This tradition was abandoned for a long time after the Baptism of Germany that took place in the 8th century.

The German reformer Martin Luther is believed to be the first to decorate a fir tree for Christmas. Returning home through a forest on Christmas Eve, he was struck by the beauty of the stars in the sky, reflected by snow on sparkling tree tops. That inspired Luther so much that he brought home a small fir tree, put it on a table and decorated it with candles. On the top, he placed a figure of an angel to signify the Angel who announced the birth of the Savior to the shepherds. The angel was later replaced by the Star of Bethlehem.



Luther amidst his family at Wittenberg, on Christmas Eve, 1536

In the 17th century, small table-top Christmas trees began to be replaced by large Christmas trees. Around this time, the tradition began to spread also to other countries in Europe and America.



Besides candles, Christmas trees were decorated with sweets, gingerbread, apples, vegetables and other treats. In wealthier families, toys, books and various gifts were also hung on Christmas trees. Christmas trees were usually secretly decorated by adults on the night before Christmas and served as the main Holiday gift for children.

Christmas Tree in Russia

Christmas trees first appeared in Russia in the 18th century. They were introduced by Peter I, inspired by the Christmas celebrations that he had seen in the West. According to his decree, decorating houses and streets with evergreen branches was associated with the New Year (so as not to cause unrest in the Orthodox Church). The same decree proclaimed the Nativity of Christ as the reference epoch in Russia (previously dating its calendar from the day of the Creation of the world) and made

January 1st the day the New Year celebration. After the tsar's death, however, the magnificent New Year's celebration ceased, and New Year trees appeared only in taverns. The tradition of decorating Christmas trees appeared in Russia only at the beginning of the 19th century, during the reign of Nicholas I, and his wife Alexandra Fedorovna, who was of German origin. At first, the royal family decorated a Christmas tree in their private chambers. On Christmas day of 1828, the Empress organized a children's holiday in a large dining room with several tables, on which there were Christmas trees decorated with candles, sweets, gilded apples and gingerbread. Under the trees there were toys, china, dresses and other gifts.

The fashion for Christmas trees quickly spread among the nobility. In the 1830s, confectionery shops began successfully selling Christmas trees, decorated with toys and sweets. By 1850, everyone who could afford it had Christmas trees in their homes. Wealthy people installed large Christmas trees outside, with toys and treats for all children.

Children's crafts made of paper and cotton wool have been popular decorations at all times. From the middle of the 19th century, dedicated workshops began to produce Christmas tree decorations, strings and thin foil tinsel. Around the end of the 19th century, imported glass toys appeared on Russian Christmas trees. At first, only rich people could afford them, but soon glass decorations (balls, beads, icicles etc.) began to be made in Russia.

Christmas tree of the late 19th century.
Post-revolutionary Time

Coming to power, the Bolsheviki tried to "reinvent" the Christmas tradition of the "Christmas tree", but finally banned it in 1924. The children's favourite tree returned only in 1936. All decorations symbolizing the Nativity were abolished. A red five-pointed star was placed on the top of the tree, while glass decorations reflected relevant topics and carried ideological implications of that time. For example, in the 1960s, toys were produced in the form of astronauts, rockets and communist symbols (red star, sickle and hammer etc.)



Handmade toys made of papier-mâché (a dense mass of paper, glue and plaster) were very common in the Soviet Union.

Embossed cardboard figures were made by gluing and painting two convex halves. Such figurines often represented heroes of fairy tales and also animals.

Christian symbols began to reappear on the Russian Christmas tree only after the official permission to celebrate Christmas in 1991. However, to this day the public attention in Russia is focused on the New Year celebrations, rather than Christmastide.

Christian Symbols

Christians have always assigned a symbolic meaning to Christmas tree decorations. The top is traditionally decorated with the Star of Bethlehem.

The angels symbolize the messenger to the shepherds. Christmas balls are a modern interpretation of apples, previously used to decorate Christmas trees in memory of the fall of Adam and Eve. Santa Claus or Grandfather Frost The prototype is St Nicholas the Wonderworker, known to secretly bring people gifts.



The traditional stocking comes from the version stating that St Nicholas brought his gifts to people in stockings.

Every great holiday in Orthodoxy is met with a solemn bell ringing, hence the traditional Christmas-tree bells.

The Nativity of Christ is a bright holiday bringing joy to millions of people. Exchanging gifts on this day is truly a wonderful tradition. However, as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of Christ, it is important not to forget to present Him with some pleasant gifts, for example, deeds of mercy and love for our neighbor.