

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

110 EAST MAIN STREET,
Marblehead, OH 43440

V. Rev. Archpriest Peter Tomas, Rector

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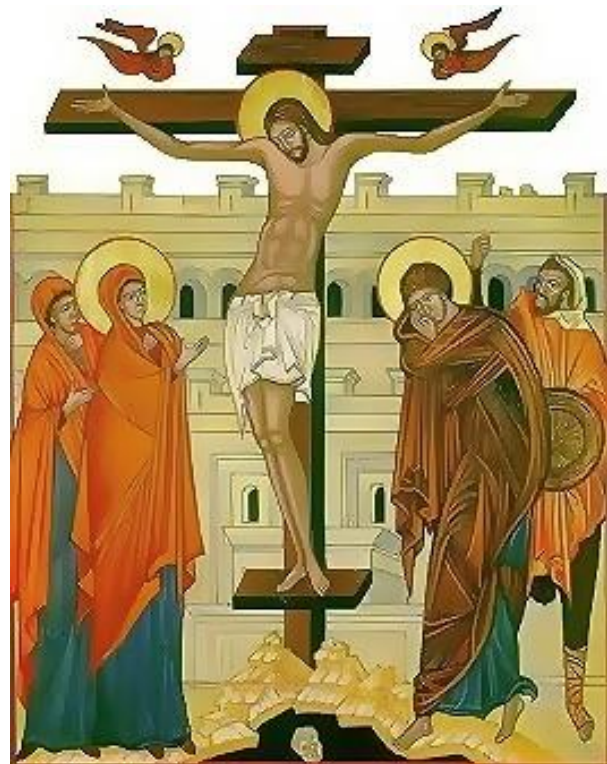
***Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest***

MARCH 15, 2026

**THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT LENT
VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

EPISTLE: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Bretheren: We have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek".



Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify.

“You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”.

GOSPEL: Mk 8:34-9:1

Jesus said, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MON. Mar 16	Martyr Sabinus of Egypt; Gen 8:21-9:7, Prov 11:19-12:6
TUE. Mar 17	Venerable Alexis the Man of God; Gen 9:8-17, Prov 12:8-22
WED. Mar 18	Saint Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem; Gen 9:18-10:1, Prov 12:23-13:9
6:00 PM	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY, Followed by Lenten soup social
THU. Mar 19	Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria; Gen 10:32-11:9, Prov 13:19-14:6
FRI. Mar 20	Martyred Holy Fathers who were slain at the Monastery of Saint Savva; Gen 12:1-7, Prov 14:15-26
6:00 PM	AKATHIST TO THE PRECIOUS CROSS, Followed by Book Club
SAT. Mar 21	Memorial Saturday , Saint James the Confessor; Heb 6:9-12, Mk. 7:31-37
9:10 AM	HOURS
9:30 AM	DIVINE LITURGY
4:00 PM	VESPERS
SUN. Mar 22	4th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 8, St. John Climacus
9:10 AM	HOURS
9:30 AM	DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee hour



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Tina Rindfleisch & Tony Monastra, 524 Woodshire Ln., Apt. E11, Naples, FL 34105; **Greg Twarek**, 117 Lucien Drive, Marblehead, OH 43440 **Patti Owens**, 311 Woodbridge Road Vermilion, OH 44089; **Irene Vangeloff**, 3580 Shaw Ave., Apt. 305, Cincinnati, OH 45208 Tel.: (513) 376-9693

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Greg Twarek / Amber Twarek / Richard Williams / Christine Twarek / Tony Monastra / Alvin Foland / Delaine Ward (Ron Royhab's sister) / Rachel and her newborn baby / Danielle and her unborn baby / Nikki and her unborn baby / Kristen Cassell / Laura DeKemper / Tom Hileman / Cliff & Kathy Ruggles / Sandra / Renee Haynal / Sharon Shaheen (Patti Owen's sister) / Heidi Golob / Ron & Bobbie Royhab / Rodney Clevenger / Jennifer Heffernan / Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed

Garrity / Patti Owens / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Helena Tomášová / Ruth Sheller / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Irene Vangeloff / Sonja Rose / James Bargdill / Carole Conaway/ Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, Sophie & Chloe / Carol / Nora.

Other Requests: Bob Stephenson / Jim Rinaldo / Roy / Greg / Patty Wandover / Russ M. / Suzeann / Laura Engler / Robin (Niece of Kathy Ruggles) / Catechumen Sessely / Catechumen Daniel / Catechumen Adam / Catechumen Joshua / Catechumen Stephanie / Catechumen Max / Catechumen Michael / Catechumen Sharon / Steve Rohweder / Nicole Williams / John Couture / Ann Turinsky / Marcia / Catechumen Blake Shoemaker / Linkoln Paull / Matushka Melania / Sharyn Osborne / Amy / Bill Byrnes / Susanne / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Anthony / Archpriest Ján Čizmár / Archpriest David Lis / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Robert Piznar / William / Rick Rowe / Chris.

Military: Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military



MARCH REPOSED

Michael Elchisko (1909) No date provided; Helen Millie (1910) No date provided; George Danchisen (1912) No date provided; **1-** George Danchisen (2018); **3-** Anna Stoyka (2018); **4-** Andrew Mazur (2001); **4-** Maria Pitts (2025); **6-** Frank Guzy (2002); **6-** Robert Haynal (2022); **8-** Mat. Sonya Tutko (2021); **11-** Ella Mazur (1918); **13-** Richard Michael Benya (1983); **17-** Frank Holodnak (1961); **23-** Eva Pondillo (2001); **23-** Ella Mazurik (1985); **23-** Francis Mitchell (2008); **23-** Barbara Ann Wasylenko (2017); **29-** Todd Pollack (2019); **29-** Carolyn Woodward (2000); **30-** John Rofkar (2019)



VIGILS FOR March 8

Susan Guzy 1 Special intentions

Jean Hileman 4 In memory of Lester Hileman, In memory of Jane Hammelrath, special intentions, Health of Tom

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Heidi G., Tina R., Greg T., Lindsay & Janet, Jerry Z., Patti O., Deb F., Tony M., Russ M, Burt K., Bobbie & Ron R., Peggy S., Brenda T., Betty K., Margaret M., Mark M., Dana M., Bodi C.

Memory eternal to Lori Ronk

Safe travels for family

Sandy Martin 1 For peace for Penny & family, Special intentions

Natalie Twarek 9 Birthday blessing to Ruth, In loving memory of Dad/grandpa George(18 years), For the health of Nikki and unborn baby, Health and recovery of Greg, Amber, Tina and Dina , For the health of Fr Peter & Matushka Michelle, For the health of Matushka Melania, For the health and recovery of Richard, Patty, Cathy, Patti, Laura, Kathy & Cliff, Irene, Ron & Bobbie, Rodney, Betty, Carol, Kayla, Heidi, Wayne, Peggy, Marcia, Health and healing for Father's parents Michal & Helena and Matushka's mom Barbara, and Walter, For the health of Mimi ,Elaine, Christine, Jen, Tony, Father David, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Sonya, Margi & Joe, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, Special Intentions



MARCH CANDLE SPONSORS

Altar Candles: Fr. Peter and Mat. Michelle, For Health and God’s Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, and Michal & Helena Tomáš **(\$50)**; **Chandelier:** Available **(\$50)**; **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Jean Hileman, In memory of infant Henry Dunlap **(\$25)**; **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Greg and in memory of Russ **(\$20)**; **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** Available **(\$20)**



READERS LIST

Sunday Mar 15 – Joe
Sunday Mar 22 – Tim



ATTENDANCE

03/07 Vespers, **9** attending; **03/08** Divine Liturgy, **29** attending (3 guests); **03/11** Presanctified Liturgy, **13** attending; **03/13** Akathist to the Passion of Christ **5** attending; **03/14** Divine Liturgy, **7** attending



MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

15 – Blake Shoemaker; **19** - Jose Colon Delgado; **20** – Josh Bundren; **23** – Wrenley Paull (3); **27** – Josh & Danielle Paull Anniversary; **29** – Donna Schoonmaker; **30** – Bobbie Royhab; **30** – Fred Cassell; **31** – Greg Mazur



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Danbury Food Pantry” is the charity we donate to for the month of March



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Tithe	\$1,587.00
Donations	\$ 25.00
Candles	\$ 110.00
Vigils	\$ 80.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 25.00
Flowers Donations	\$ 280.00
Danbury Food Pantry (Mar)	\$ 125.00
Incense & Charcoal Donation	\$ 20.00
Building Restoration Fund	<u>\$ 740.00</u>
Total:	\$2,992.00

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

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Mar 21st** Memorial Saturday (*Saturday*)
- Apr 5th** Palm Sunday (*Sunday*)
- Apr 12th** HOLY PASCHA (*Sunday*)
- Apr 25th** Visit from St. Tikhon Seminary (*Saturday*)





CLEANING SCHEDULE

Mar 16, Jean
Mar 23, Stephanie
Mar 30, Tim
Apr 6, Greg



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

Mar 15 – Mka. Michelle
Mar 22 – Danielle & Josh (Wren's 3rd Birthday)
Mar 29 – Jean
Apr 5 - Available

Please sign up to host coffee hour. Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall



FLOWERS DONATIONS FOR THE CROSS - THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincere thank you to the following parishioners for their generous donations for the flowers that adorn the cross:

1. Sue Guzy Flowers for the cross, In memory of Guzy, Felenchak, Szoldra, Gulla family members and for the health of Gary, Russ, Heidi and Irene; **2. Natalie Twarek** Flowers for the cross, in memory of departed family and friends. *May our Lord and God reward them abundantly for their care and generosity!*



FLOWERS DONATIONS FOR PASCHA

We would like to offer you an opportunity to sponsor the lilies and other flowers which will beautify our church for the Paschal 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!



The True Cross: History of Loss and Acquisition. Part 2 by Maria Tsyrlina

What Happened to the Cross after the Crucifixion?

A long staircase leads today's pilgrims down to the Church of the Holy Queen Helena built in the place where the True Cross was found. Today it is a side altar of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and belongs to the Armenian Church. The very place where the Cross was found is marked with a reddish marble slab.

Why is this place so deep below ground and much lower than the floor in the tomb of Christ? According to legend, there was an old quarry near Calvary previously used for mining stone for building houses and paving streets in the city. This quarry (or rather the old water cistern carved into its rock bottom) was where the Romans threw the heavy crosses together with the nails and the tablet.

Calvary was a permanent place of execution, and it was not the first time that the Roman soldiers did this. After the crucifixion of Christ, executions continued here for about forty more years, until the fall of Jerusalem in 70. If we try to realistically imagine the whole picture of the excavation, it would be a huge pit with many logs, not resembling crosses in any way, since the vertical pillars of the crosses were used several times.

How was it possible to find the three crosses that the hagiographic literature tells us about?

The Three Crosses

The Roman soldiers dealt very unceremoniously with the sentenced prisoners throwing their bodies down into the quarry together with the crossbars, to which their hands were nailed. As we know from the Gospel, the rich and influential man Joseph of Arimathea, together with a member of the Sanhedrin Nicodemus had to get an appointment with the ruler to obtain the body of Christ. It was then washed, anointed with fragrant oils, carefully prepared for burial and placed in a rich tomb. Taking advantage of the situation, Joseph and Nicodemus piously removed the other two crucified prisoners from their crosses in fulfillment of the Jewish law. In all likelihood, these were the only three crossbeams without bodies found by the expedition.

The Nails

The archaeological expedition of Queen Helena found four nails (or perhaps two, if the vertical pillar was left at the place of execution). They were identified as nails from the True Cross of the Lord. How did that become clear and why weren't these nails lost among hundreds of others?

Long bronze crucifix nails were bent tightly on the reverse side of the cross, leaving no way for the crucified person to free himself from the cross, or to take them out after the execution. "Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him" (Matthew 27:42). The Jews were mocking the Crucified, realizing that this was impossible. All the nails remained in the wood and were carefully removed by Queen Helena, when it became clear on which of the crosses Christ was crucified.

Crosses of the Two Thieves

According to legend, the True Cross was brought near a deceased person, making him rise again. The archaeologists then began to argue which of the two remaining crosses belonged to the repentant thief, honored by the church as a saint and the first man to enter paradise. These disputes resulted in nothing, so both crosses were divided in half and new crosses were made to make sure that a half of each cross belonged to the repentant thief.

The queen sent one of the two crosses to Cyprus, inserting a nail from the True Cross into it. According to legend, a drought immediately ended on the island after the cross was received there. The rest of the nails (or one remaining nail) and the second robber's cross she sent to Constantinople together with a small part of the True Cross. The queen placed the main part of the Cross in a silver ark and handed it over to the Jerusalem patriarch with the instruction to preserve it for future generations.

How did the Cross Fit into the Ark?

The mention of the ark is another argument in favor of the idea that only the crossbar of the True Cross was found. The queen detached a part of it to take it to the capital of the Byzantine Empire and the spiritual center of Christianity at that time. The remaining part was small enough to make the idea to put it in an ark for storage quite natural.

Today, only a modest fragment of the Cross is kept in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Pilgrims can venerate it in the cave under Mount Golgotha, where, under the glass, there are also particles of relics of saints and the alleged head of Adam.

Where has the Shrine Disappeared?

The Jerusalem Cross was carefully guarded (a dedicated position existed called the keeper of the Cross), and yet it did not escape kidnapping. During the raid of the Persian king Chosroes II in 614, it was taken to Persia, where it stayed until 628, when it was returned to the Byzantians in exchange for their promise to help in the Persian internal turmoil. However, after 10 years, in 638, Jerusalem surrendered

to the Arab army. The defenders of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher fled to Byzantium, trying to take away all the shrines with them. Despite the strict prohibition to fracture the Cross, there was no other way to discreetly evacuate the shrine.

In a more peaceful time, one part was returned to Jerusalem. The need to protect it became the reason for the crusades, now known to every schoolchild from history textbooks. Despite all the efforts of the Crusaders, the Jerusalem part was lost in the 12th century Battle of Hattin. Frank Ernul, a participant in the battle, reports that the templar who took the shrine out of the temple buried it in the heat of the battle to hide it, and then he could not remember where exactly.

The Constantinople part of the Cross was stolen in 1204 by the crusaders who attacked Byzantium. It was fractured to become the source for many particles of the Life-giving Cross in Western Europe.

True Cross of Christ in Russia



The Polotsk princess Euphrosyne brought a particle of the Cross and other relics from Jerusalem in the 12th century. The shrine was placed in a reliquary known as the “Ark of Dionysius”, which has since been inherited by the Moscow princes. The ark with a particle of the Cross was one of the main shrines of the Annunciation Cathedral between the 17th and the early 20th centuries. Today it is kept in the Moscow Kremlin Museum.

The second known shrine was the Kiy cross, a reliquary made in the 17th century, containing, besides a particle of the Life-giving Cross, 108 particles of relics of saints and 16 stones from the sites of biblical events. Today it is kept in the church of St Sergius of Radonezh in Krapivniki (Moscow).

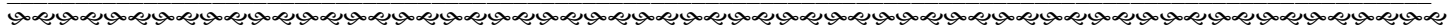


Despite the loss of the main part of the shrine, there are still many known particles of the Cross in the world. According to scientists, their total weight is about 1.7 kilograms.



Some researchers believe that most of the particles are in Ukraine and Russia. From the early 19th century, eminent Russian pilgrims to the Holy Land have received from the Patriarch of Jerusalem particles of the True Cross as a blessing, and later as a reward.

To this day, the Order of the True Cross with a particle of the True Life-giving Cross is the highest award of the Jerusalem Church. It becomes more and more honorable every year, as the fragment of the True Cross kept in Jerusalem depletes.



**ST. TIKHON'S SEMINARY MISSION CHOIR VISITS
HOLY ASSUMPTION CHURCH SATURDAY APRIL 25**

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2026

**DIVINE LITURGY AT 9:30 AM AT HOLY ASSUMPTION ORTHODOX CHURCH,
114 EAST MAIN STREET, MARBLEHEAD, OH 43440**

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2026

**VESPERS AT 5:30 PM, FOLLOWED BY A LITURGICAL CONCERT,
"MEET AND GREET" AND H'ORDERVES AND COCKTAILS,
AT SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH, 2238 EAST 32ND STREET,
LORAIN, OH 44053**

SPEAKER: FR. JOHN PARKER III, DEAN

SUNDAY APRIL 26, 2026

**DIVINE LITURGY AT 9:30 AM, AT SS. PETER AND PAUL, RESPONSES
SUNG BY ST TIKHON SEMINARY MISSION CHOIR**

ST. TIKHON'S MISSION CHOIR

St. Tikhon's Mission Choir, a choral group of St. Tikhon's Theological Orthodox Seminary in Waymart, PA, is dedicated to God through the Church's primary evangelistic and teaching tool, Her Liturgical worship. The Mission Choir strives to bring life, invigoration, and inspiration to the parishes which are visited throughout the year.

Not only do parishioners interact with and see seminarians who are attempting to follow the call of the Lord, but this interaction puts a real human face with an institution that has been providing the Church in America with Her clergy and many lay leaders for over 80 years. The Mission Choir also teaches, preaches, and provides animated, interesting presentations about the work of the St. Tikhon's Seminary and nearby St. Tikhon's Monastery.

The Mission Choir raises funds for the work of the Seminary, which primarily relies on donations from the Church and Her faithful, to continue its work for the Orthodox Church in America. Our goal is to raise \$12,000 to help our seminarians and support our church; 100% of all money raised goes to the Seminary. They need your help and support. The seminarians today are our Priests of tomorrow.

A program booklet will be passed out at the events:

Sponsorships available:

Bronze: up to \$150.00
Silver \$150.00-\$250.00
gold \$251.00-\$500.00
Platinum Over \$500.00

Gold and Platinum donors will be invited to Lunch and a private concert following Divine Liturgy.

Sponsorships: Mail your sponsorship form and check to:

SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church,
2238 East 32nd Street
Lorain OH 44053
Attention: Samuel Jacob

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bronze: up to \$150.00
Silver \$150.00-\$250.00
gold \$251.00-\$500.00
Platinum Over \$500.00

Make checks out to "St. Tikhon's Seminary"

100% of the proceeds will be given to the Seminary.

Please come and show your support!

Questions? Contact Samuel F Jacob at 440-724-9189.

Yours in Christ.

Samuel F. and Katherine Jacob