

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector

Parish Council President: Ron Royhab



Sunday, October 24, 2021
Gospel: [St. Luke 16:19-31](#)

Tone 1

Epistle: [2 Corinthians 9:6-11](#)

18th Sunday after Pentecost
Martyr Arethas and 4,299 Martyrs with him
Recluses, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves). Bl. Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia

OCTOBER Bulletin Sponsor:

Fr. Andrew in memory of my Grandfather Steve

Liturgical & Events Schedule

- Sunday, October 24**
9:10 am Hours / Divine Liturgy / Social
- Thursday, October 28**
6:00 pm: Lions Club Meeting
- Saturday, October 30**
4:00 pm Great Vespers
- Sunday, October 31**
9:05 am: Hours / Divine Liturgy / Social

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

- Oct. 24:** Infant Sloane Swanton / Terri Lariccia
Oct. 31: Keith Lehnen / Judy Mazurik
Nov. 7: Protopresbyter Lawrence Barringer
Nov 14: Patricia
Nov. 21: Metropolitan Jonah from Uganda

NOVEMBER BULLETIN CANDLE SPONSORS

- Bulletin:** (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of his mother Dorothy
Chandelier: (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of his grandmother Mary Billy
Altar Candles: (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of Archbishop David from Alaska
Candles on the Tomb: (\$25) Fr. Andrew in memory of his family & friends reposed in November
Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25) Fr. Andrew in memory of former Pastors who reposed in November.
Candles @ the Cross: (\$15)
Candles @ Icon of St Tikhon: (\$15)

OCTOBER BULLETIN CANDLE SPONSORS

- Bulletin:** (\$50): Fr. Andrew in memory of my Grandfather Steve
Chandelier: (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of my deceased relatives in October / Beth Lehnen in memory of husband Keith Lehnen
Altar Candles: (\$50) From Kolberg family of (Nieces & nephews) James & Rita, Michael & Kathleen, Daniel & Claire & Barbara in memory of Theodore Barniak on his First Ann. Of repose / From Jean in memory of her mother Helen Pipenur / From Basil in memory of his father Anthony
Candles on the Tomb: (\$25) Fr. Andrew in memory of His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius and all former pastors of this parish in Oct.
Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25) Trudy in memory of Margaret (Mother) & Gori (Father), Fr. Justin Foster. / From Layne in memory of her Father Frank Flaherty
Candles @ the Cross: (\$15) Fr. Andrew for the health of Trudy on the occasion of her birthday
Candles @ Icon of St Tikhon: (\$15) For the health of Tim, safety of Nicholas, Tikhon and Gleice



OCTOBER CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Oct. 25-30 Bobbie

110 E Main Street, Marblehead, OH 43440
www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org

Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747
info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org

Expanded Joint Meeting of the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council to Convene in Cleveland, OH

The Holy Synod of Bishops and Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America will be convening in Cleveland, OH for their regular Fall Sessions in person, respectively on October 21-22 and October 18-19. On Wednesday and Thursday, October 20-21, the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council will meet in an expanded joint meeting which will also include Diocesan Chancellors, representatives from the three OCA Seminaries, and four Monastic Superiors.

This joint meeting will be an opportunity for the participants to come together in fellowship after a long hiatus due to the pandemic. Although the Holy Synod met in person in May 2021, the Metropolitan Council has not been able to have an in-person meeting for almost two years.

Along with fellowship, this joint meeting is intended to be a platform for the leadership of the Church to discuss and prepare for the upcoming 20th All-American Council which will take place in Baltimore, MD on July 18-22, 2022.

The work of the joint meeting will follow a workshop format in which the participants will be divided into 8 groups. Each group will be assigned a topic to discuss over three sessions. The topics and related questions will be considered and discussed within the framework of vocation and, particularly, along the theme of the upcoming 20th All-American Council, "Becoming Vessels of Grace."

Although not unprecedented, an expanded joint meeting comprising of various leadership bodies in the Church has not taken place in decades. To know more about this meeting and the conciliar work and process inherent to the very structure of the Orthodox Church in America, all the faithful are invited to join His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon on Tuesday, October 19 at 9 PM for a live-conversation with Archpriest Thomas Soroka. Father Thomas will host His Beatitude and other participants of the expanded joint meeting at his weekly Ancient Faith Live show to discuss "The Church Working in Council."

Among the items on the proposed agenda for this

session, both the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod will receive reports at their regular sessions from His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, OCA Primate; Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor; Priest Alesandro Margheritino, Secretary; and Mr. Andrew Smith, Treasurer. In addition there will be updates on the OCA Departments, the All-American Council, Property Committee, Communication, and Pension Plan, amongst others.

November Retreat Registration Open for St. Tikhon's Monastery Music Program

Registration is now open for the November retreat of the Saint Tikhon's Monastery Music Program. The retreat will begin with a presentation of the fundamental principles of vocalization, including a sequence breathing and warm-up exercises that singers can take home to use in their routine practice. Participants will experience how pitch is used expressively in English through an exploration of conversation, poetic and dramatic reading, and finally chanting. Then participants will receive individual coaching on how to apply those principles to various kinds of church singing or chanting.

Coaching will address balancing the needs of the ensemble with the health of your individual voice, while creating a beautiful worship experience for listeners. During coaching sessions participants may bring prepared solo repertoire or select from a provided set of hymns that represent a range of vocal demands present in contemporary Orthodox liturgical practice. The retreat will conclude with a showcase recital where participants can share what they've learned and enjoy a reception and fellowship.

In-person tuition \$275; audit virtually \$150; students \$75.

NOTE: If anyone is interested the church will pay any fees. Please contact Fr. Andrew ASAP

For Your Prayers
Diane Tryon
109 Joslyn Street
Arcadia, OH 44804



READERS

Sunday, Oct. 24	Joe
Sunday, Oct 31	Tim

LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE

OCTOBER

Saturday, 10/2: 6 attended Vespers

Sunday, 10/3: 22 attended Liturgy (7 were guests) /
13 Communicants

Sunday, 10/10: 166 attended liturgy (1 was a guest) /
11 Communicants

Saturday, 10/16: 5 attended Vespers

Sunday, 10/17: 14 attended Liturgy / 9
Communicants

OCTOBER: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

Goal Pledged per month: \$4,825

Oct. 3: \$1,538

Oct 10: \$1,285

Oct. 17: \$ 623

Monthly Total: \$3,446

OCTOBER: OTHER INCOME

Goal for the month in this category: \$2,670

Oct 3: \$37 Candles; \$175 Vigils; \$11 Anonymous
\$100 Donations; \$50 Bulletin; \$100 Chandelier;
\$25 Candles on the Tomb; \$125 Altar Candles

Oct.10: \$35 Candles; \$80 Vigils; \$10.05 Donations;
\$50 Altar Candles

Oct. 17: \$12 Candles; \$130 Vigils; \$10 Donations

Monthly Total: \$950

BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125th Anniversary is coming!

Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.

Please consider contributing generously to the
Building/Restoration Fund.

VIGILS- OCTOBER 17

Dan Elchisco (1) For health and recovery of Marg

Laura Kovach(4) Birthday blessings to Margi; For health of Betty K., Ben F., Earl R., Mary P., Andrea J., Wendy R., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Hattie K., Molly K., David M., Marguerite B., Judy W., Stephanie R., Christi S., Kathie J., Margi and Joe. Safe travels for family. Memory eternal to my father-in-law, John, Uncle Alex, Mel Hurley, and Barry Millinger

Sandy Martin (2) For health and recovery of Marg

Royhab (1) For health of Stephanie Royhab

Janice Timko (3) In blessed and loving memory of my precious parents, Sophia and Peter Monak. "Vechnaya Pamyat!", In blessed and loving memory of my precious son Phillip "Andy". "Vechnaya Pamyat!", God's blessings and good health for daughter Rebecca and grandchildren, cousin in law Suellen Surman and family. "Mnohaya Leta!"

Diane Tryon (3) Birthday memory of Uncle George, Birthday Blessings to Tim, Many more, Special intentions

Twarek (10) Wedding Blessing to Heidi and Eric, Wedding blessing to Haley and Jacob, For the health and recovery of Zach, Health and recovery of Jim Viets, Health and recovery of Marguerite, God's blessing & strength to Sarah, Mat and family, Health and recovery of Bobbie and Stephanie, Ron, Laura, Ezra, Health of David, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Matt, Tom, Loren, Joe, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Judy, Chuck, Bohdi, Diane, Stella, Jake, Cheryl, Special intentions

RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS

OCTOBER

Oct 3: \$25 Support the Seminarians; \$60 Holiday Bureau; \$1,726 for Fr. Richter's Family

Oct. 10: \$25 Cemetery; \$100 Holiday Bureau; \$100 Support our Seminarians

Oct. 17: \$360 Building Restoration

PRAYER LIST- UPDATED OCTOBER 19

HIERARCH'S / CLERGY: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman; Archbishop Benjamin from San Fransico; John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Berry; Gregory Grivna; Emilian Hutnyan; Joseph Von Klarr; Michael Kuzara; Michael Macura; Basil Stoyka, Peter Tutko; Andrew Yarvonitsky; John Zabinko / Deacon Paul Gansle, Deacon Peter Rentsch, / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

MATUSHKII: Pani Patricia Duranko; Virginia Lecko; Maura McCarnthey; Trudi Richter; Margaret Zabinko

PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES: James Bargdill (Schutt); John Beadle (Elchisco); Kristen (Cassell); Marguerite Bird; Maryann Cook (Twarek); Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Ben Grosik (Hritsko); Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Ellie Hritsko; Charisse (Hileman); Betty Kovach; David LaValle (Fr); Helen Lis; Child Stephanos (Loizos); Scott Lucas (Father); David Mazurik; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); Nancy Naiser (Royhab); Earl Rindfleisch; Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Roberta Royhab; Stephanie Royhab; Gordon Schutt; Christi Soski; Joe Schutt; Valerie Schutt; Steven Schirtzinger (Soski); Dacia Snider (Hileman); Doris Toth (Hritsko); Diane Tryon; Greg Tyron; Tom Twarek; Zach Twarek; Tim; the child Bodhi (Cassell); Elinor Williams (Golob); Kathryn Tryon & her unborn baby

OTHER REQUESTS: Child Ezra; Mark Britton (Hritsko); Ernest Cornwell (Hritsko); James Crane (Hritsko); Layne Demkosky (Fr); Paul Demkosky (Fr); Baby Finn (Cassell); Marge Dziama; Ruthe Flewelling; Ben Franklin (Kovach); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Andrea Joy (Kovach); Ann Marie Krynock (Timko); Maria (ABP); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath (Fr); Karen Muzyka (fr); Michal Richter (ABL); Sara Richter (ABL); Anika Richter (ABL); William Romanchak (Fr); Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); Janice Timko; George Timko; Loren Welch (Fr); Chuck Wiedenhof (Twarek); Sara (Jake); Chris Quotap (Fr)

MILITARY: Alex, Nathan Brown, Craig Cassell, Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton, Alena Grabavoy, Nicholas & Tikhon

CAPTIVES: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo), Archbishop John Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo, The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world



NOTE: ABL (Archbishop's request) / Please let FR. Andrew know who can come off the list or be put on.

CATASTROPHIC RELIEF FUND

Purpose of fund: To provide some small financial assistance to a parishioner, family member or community member who has suffered a catastrophic event.

Funds will be offered at the discretion & blessing of the Rector and the discretion of the Board.

This money can also be used for outreach programs in the parish.

Thank you and God bless!



CATASTROPHIC RELIEF FUND UPDATE

Currently two (2) people have received support from this fund. One (1) person from the Diocese and one (1) person from the Village.

The fund needs replenishment. Please prayerfully consider helping to achieve that goal.

Thank You and God Bless your generosity. Thank you for all those who have contributed in the past.

Artefact Ensemble to perform at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Artefact Ensemble is pleased to announce its New York debut on October 31 and November 1 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Artefact Ensemble and artistic director Benedict Sheehan will join the GRAMMY® Award-winning Experiential Orchestra and conductor James Blachly in “Celebrating Arvo Pärt at the Met”, a program of masterpieces from the revered Estonian composer’s seven-decade career.

The program will include the world premiere of Pärt’s O Holy Father Nicholas (2021), performed by Artefact Ensemble under the direction of Benedict Sheehan. Co-commissioned by Nektarios S. Antoniou and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the new a cappella choral work commemorates the re-dedication of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine which was destroyed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Other highlights of the program featuring Artefact Ensemble include performances of The Deer’s Cry, Salve Regina, Da Pacem Domine, and Vater Unser, with Eric S. Brenner, countertenor.

Benedict Sheehan is Director of Music at Saint Tikhon’s Seminary and Monastery in South Canaan, PA, and artistic director of the Saint Tikhon Choir. He has been called “a remarkable musician... one of the most important voices in American Orthodox choral music” (Choral Journal) and his work has received widespread acclaim, including a GRAMMY® Nomination for “Best Choral Performance.”

Artefact Ensemble is a new collaborative project from Benedict Sheehan and Stephen Jacobs, Music Director of Saint Michael Orthodox Church in Louisville, KY. Bringing together leading vocal artists from around the country, Artefact Ensemble combines world-class choral performances with curated, designed environments to create one-of-a-kind immersive concert experiences.

Partnering with schools, community organizations, and religious institutions, Artefact Ensemble also offers workshops, master classes, and co-operative music-making experiences free of charge to students, teachers of music, music ministers, and underprivileged audiences who might not otherwise have access to high-level ensemble music. Learn more at artefactensemble.org.

17th Annual Meeting of the Saint Irenaeus Joint Orthodox-Catholic Working Group

The Saint Irenaeus Joint Orthodox-Catholic Working Group gathered for its seventeenth annual meeting from 6 to 10 October 2021 at the Institute for Ecumenical Studies of the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. The 2021 meeting was chaired by the Orthodox co-president Metropolitan Serafim (Joantă) of Germany, Central and Northern Europe (Romanian Orthodox Church) and by the Catholic co-president Bishop Gerhard Feige of Magdeburg. The meeting was preceded by a pre-conference at the Angelicum discussing the group’s common study “Serving Communion: Re-thinking the Relationship between Primacy and Synodality” (2018). The Working Group was warmly welcomed by Pope Francis, who at the audience expressed his gratitude for its work on synodality and announced that he would be proclaiming Saint Irenaeus of Lyons as a Doctor of the Church.

Dr. Paul Meyendorff, Emeritus Professor of Liturgical Theology at Saint Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, has been a member of the group from its inception in 2004. The Saint Irenaeus Working Group, an unofficial dialogue assembling 13 Orthodox and 13 Catholic theologians, was founded at a time when the official international Orthodox-Catholic was experiencing difficulties. The Orthodox side includes representatives from Antioch, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Russia, and the United States.

A photo gallery can be viewed on the OCA website.

A decorative graphic with the words "Save the Date" in a stylized, cursive font. "Save" is the largest word, with "the" in a small circle to its left, and "Date" below it.

- Sunday, January 23, 2021 @ 1:00pm - Local March for Life in Port Clinton. The March is about an hour (about a mile) followed by a reception at Knights of Columbus. If one can’t walk, prayers will be offered at the Knights until the March is completed
- Saturday, December 25- Free Christmas Dinner
- Wednesday, January 5- Theophany Holy Night Supper
- Saturday, January 8- Blessing of the Lake
- Sunday, January 30- Annual Church Meeting

OCTOBER Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES	BIRTHDAYS	
<p>10-1-2009: Archbishop Irenee of Canada 2- Fr. Matthew & Pani Eleni Stagon 3- Fr. Matt Stagon Priestly ordination 7- Fr. Eli & Mat. Larissa Bremer 9- Sub-deacon Wylie & Pauline Meath 19- Archpriest Retired Chancellor John & Mat. Cynthia Zidinak 23- Fr. Matthew & Mat. Jodi Moriak 31- Paul & Layne Demkosky</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NAMESDAY</p> <p>10-9: The Most Blessed Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington & Metropolitan of all America & Canada</p>	<p>1-Trudy Ellmore 2- Marguerite Bird 2- Tina Litzie 3- Ethan Chendorain 3- Alicia Calzone 4- Fr. Michael Macura 6- Brian Lariccia 6- Ron Royhab 10- Walter Litzie 10- Craig Cassell 11- Karen Muzyka</p>	<p>12- Fred Soski 13- Mary Hiser 14- Fr. Andrew Groom 16- Fr George Lardas 17- Tim Glovinsky 20- Matushka Jodi Moriak 20- Helen Lis 20- Hayden Issler 25- Sam Dardovsky 31- Fr. Peter Zarynow</p>

If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox



OCTOBER Reposed

<p>2- His Grace Bishop Antoun (2017) 3- Anna Tomko (1990) 4- William Peter Guzy (1974) 5- John Elchisco Sr. (1982) 5- Mark Conroy (2018) 6- Andrew Tomko (1970) 6- Helen Elchisco (1956) 7- Michael Gresko (1963) 8- Archpriest Michael Kostyk (1964) Former Pastor 11- Helen Pipenur (2009) 12- Pauline Mary Gresh (1981) 13- James E Jump (2011) 13- Tom Grgich (2018) 13- Mary Basala (2006) 13- Michael Mazurik (2018) 14- George Kaitsa (1991) 15- Michael Mazurik (1972) 15- John Kovach (1983) 16- Mary Kobb (2017)</p>	<p>16- Tom Wiseman (2020) 16- Frank Flaherty (1999) 18- Nadexda Kaitsa (1992) 19- Archpriest Sergei Garklavs (2015) 19- Gori Pietropolo (Trudy's dad) (2017) 19- His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius (2020) 21- Alex Mazur (1920) 21-Terry (Bobbie's cousin) (2017) 25- Serge Mihaly Jr (2019) 28- George Elchisco (1996) 28- Anthony Glovinsky (1946) 30- Joseph Malchisky (1993) 31- Margaret Basala (2002) 31- George Rusincovitch (1994) William Martin (1982) Joseph L. Mazurik (1944) Anna Mazur (1945) Anna Danchisen (1945)</p>
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VIGILS- OCTOBER 10

Basil Glovinsky (4) Loving memory of sister, Pauline, Loving memory of brother, George, Birthday blessings and good health to Timothy and to Karen Muzyka

Laura Kovach(4) For health and recovery of Zach T., Stephanie R., Christi S., Bobbie R., Kathie J., Missy S., Luke T., and Joe T. For health of Betty K., Ben F., Earl R., Mary P., Andrea J., Wendy R., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Hattie K., Molly K., David M., Margi and Joe. Safe travels for family. Memory eternal to Christi's mother Patricia and Anita Binaso.

Sandy Martin (2) Health of Marguerite, Health of Carol

Diane Tryon (1) Blessings to Greg and Kathryn and unborn child

Twarek (8) Safe travel for Laura and Jim, For the health and recovery of Zach, Health and recovery of Jim Viets, Health of Marguerite, God's blessing & strength to Sarah, Mat and family, Health and recovery of Bobbie and Stephanie, Ron, Laura, Ezra, Health of David, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Matt, Tom, Loren, Joe, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Judy, Chuck, Bohdi, Diane, Stella, Jake, Cheryl, special intentions

Archbishop Paul's Travel Schedule: October 23-November 15

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL,
October 23rd to 24th

St Nicholas, Pella, IA, October 29th to 31st

St. Elizabeth the New Martyr, St. Paul, MINN,
November 6th to 8th

**Visits to St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's
Seminaries,** November 9th to 11th

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL,
November 14th to 15th

Marblehead Community Remembers September 11

(this appeared on our Diocesan Website)

Archpriest Andrew Bartek commemorated the 20th Anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks with a public memorial service held at his parish, Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Marblehead, OH. A number of parishioners as well as village residents participated in the service.

The day started with Divine Liturgy followed by a memorial service in which 200 names of Ohio civilians and military personnel were read, accompanied by the tolling of the church bell for each name. Participants included Tod Kelly, President of the Marblehead Peninsula Lions Club; Debbie Garrard, local President of the VFW Post 7572 Ladies Auxiliary; John Starcher, President of the Village Council and Auxiliary Guard member; and John Engelbeck, Marblehead Peninsula Lions Club member, VFW Post 7572 Auxiliary member and former Marblehead fire fighter. Also present were local community members who had served in the military. At the conclusion of the service, Debbie Garrard played Taps.

Fr. Andrew is a member of the Lions Club, lifetime Auxiliary member and Chaplain for the Lions Club, the VFW Post 7572 and the Marblehead Police Department.

"May the memory of all who lost their lives during the September 11 attacks and those who succumbed to subsequent illnesses be eternal and their souls dwell with the blessed" prayed Fr. Andrew.



I am available 24/7. I do not keep formal "office hours."

Please do not sit alone while your loved one endures surgery or a medical procedure. I am happy to sit with you for as long (or as little) time as you wish.

Are you concerned about a friend or family member that is struggling during a difficult time in life? Call me! I am happy to visit with them (and/or you) for spiritual consolation and prayer.

However, I can't do any of this unless someone lets me know of the need. Call me. Please.

Archbishop Paul Participates in the Assembly of Bishops

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America convened in person for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Washington, D.C. October 2-5 for its 10th Anniversary Meeting. This is the first in-person meeting presided over by Archbishop Elpidophoros. Twenty-nine Hierarchs participated in-person and were joined by seven Hierarchs who participated virtually. In their opening session, they called to mind the losses suffered over the past year and a half, due to the global pandemic, and offered prayers for the continued health and recovery of the faithful and all people.

The events began on October 2nd with a meeting of the Executive Committee. Later that evening, all the Bishops gathered at Saints Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in Potomac, Maryland for Great Vespers, presided over by Metropolitan Joseph, Vice-Chairman of the Assembly. A reception hosted by the parish for local clergy and their families followed.

On Sunday, October 3rd, members of the Executive Committee – Archbishop Elpidophoros (GOA), Metropolitan Joseph (AOCA), Bishop Irinej (SOC), Metropolitan Nicolae (ROC), Bishop Saba (GOC), Metropolitan Tikhon (OCA), and Metropolitan Gregory (ACROD) – concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, D.C. This historic event was the first time the Assembly opened with a concelebration of the heads and representatives of the jurisdictions, fostering the bond of love and communion. The sermon was offered by Metropolitan Tikhon. After the liturgy, they engaged with the faithful during a reception hosted by the parish.

The Bishops then engaged the local faithful at a Networking Charity Event at the Museum of the Bible on Sunday evening, where a panel of youth and young adults presented challenges and opportunities facing the youth today as well as how the Church can support youth in remaining faithful. At the conclusion of the panel, all the participants joined the Bishops in assembling hygiene kits to

be distributed by IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) to those in need.

In his opening remarks on Monday, October 4, Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chairman of the Assembly, shared his joy that the Hierarchs were able to gather in person this year, continuing their 10th Anniversary Celebration. He also expressed sorrow at the falling asleep in the Lord since the last gathering of Metropolitan Theodosius of the OCA, Metropolitan Maximos of the GOA, and Archbishop David of the OCA; and joyfully welcomed the new members to their first Assembly meeting.

The Chairman spoke about unity in diversity: “Orthodoxy, as we all know, is not a federation of Churches, but a family – a very large global family.” He also spoke about the current climate in America and challenges posed by the culture, and the Assembly’s responsibility to be a unified voice defending the traditions of the Church, while being balanced and above all else pastoral.

In 2020, the Hierarchs declared 2021 the “Year of the Youth.” Thus, a highlight of this gathering was the formation of two new transformational Assembly Agencies focused on serving youth and young adults to better address their needs. A pan-Orthodox Agency for Youth and Young Adults will prepare and provide effective resources, programs, tools, and gatherings to assist ministry workers, clergy, parishes and parents in order to form and strengthen future generations of engaged and faithful Orthodox Christians. The new Orthodox Volunteer Corps will respond to the deep desire of our Orthodox young adults to serve others, by providing year-long immersive service opportunities in nonprofit organizations. These two new Agencies will continue the Assembly of Bishops’ focus on youth and young adults.

The Assembly also reviewed the extensive work of its Committees and Task Forces undertaken over the past year and considered committee proposals. The Assembly approved the ongoing work of the Committee for Canonical Matters to continue developing a clergy database, the Committee for Youth’s upcoming Orthodox Camping and Youth Worker Conference to be held in the first quarter of 2022, and the Committee for Chaplaincy’s Institutional Chaplaincy Program. The Mental Health Task Force reported that it will continue its work having completed the Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey by developing program proposals based on the results.

Con’t Next Page

Archbishop Paul / Assembly of Bishops Con't

On their final day of meetings, the Hierarchs engaged in a thoughtful dialogue about their respective practices for the reception of converts into the Orthodox Church. As a result, the Assembly approved the formation of a Task Force, under the oversight of the Committee for Pastoral Practice, to examine the issue of the reception of converts into the Church.

The last session of the meetings examined the North American Orthodox-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation, looking at the past, present, and future of the historic and important ministry.

The Assembly of Bishops also introduced a new iPhone/Android App that will allow the Assembly to gather valid research in order to better meet the needs of the faithful. The App will also serve as a tool to enhance and promote communication among the Hierarchs and the faithful. The App will roll out in phases starting late 2021/early 2022.

As the meetings were underway in Washington, D.C., the Assembly acknowledged the joint statement of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Francis, Archbishop Justin of Canterbury, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Rev. Ioan Sauca, WCC Acting Secretary General, and other global faith leaders on the climate prior to the upcoming United Nation's Climate Conference (COP-26).

Before concluding, the Hierarchs agreed to convene again October 2-4, 2022. They regretted the absence of their Brother Hierarchs of the Moscow Patriarchate and reiterated their invitation to participate in the following Assemblies.

Local Priest Attends Annual Ohio Respect for Life Fundraiser

(this appeared on our Diocesan Website)

The Annual Respect for Life from the Catholic Churches of Port Clinton and Marblehead, Ohio (ICSJ) Immaculate Conception and St Joseph, held their annual fundraiser September 1, 2021. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector of Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Marblehead, OH participated in

Be Thou My Battle Shield

by Fr. Lawrence Farley

One of my favourite hymns from my old Anglican days is Be Thou My Vision. Based on a sixth century Irish poem attributed to Saint Dallan Forgaill, it was translated by Mary Byrne in 1905, and versified by Eleanor Hull in 1912. I was trying to find a version of the hymn to download, but had trouble finding the entire version which I used to sing from the Anglican Hymnal. There were a number of versions covering the hymn, including a lovely one by Audrey Assad, but all of them seemed to be incomplete, and the missing verse was always the same one. It seemed as if everyone loved the hymn, but thought this particular verse could well be omitted. The seemingly offending verse ran: "Be Thou my battle shield, sword for the fight. Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight. Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower. Raise Thou me heavenward, O power of my power."

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this important cause.

The event raises funds for travel and lodging for the annual Annual March for Life in Washington, DC. The money also assists in paying for local billboards which bring to surface life issues including suicide, euthanasia, drug abuse, pornography, abortion among others topics. The event was held at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Marblehead on September 1. Approximately 150 people attended from the local churches and communities. The main speaker was actress Sarah Hernandez who starred in the movie "Unplanned" (2019) and "Labor Pains" (2009).

The night prior to the event, Fr. Andrew and the Respect for Life Committee hosted Ms. Hernandez for dinner at a local restaurant. That evening, guests were invited by Fr. Andrew to tour Holy Assumption Orthodox Church where they discussed the history of the parish and Orthodoxy.

Fr. Andrew invited all of his guest to return in 2023 for the 125th Anniversary of the parish.

Fr. Lawrence Con't

I was trying to find a version of the hymn to download, but had trouble finding the entire version which I used to sing from the Anglican Hymnal. There were a number of versions covering the hymn, including a lovely one by Audrey Assad, but all of them seemed to be incomplete, and the missing verse was always the same one. It seemed as if everyone loved the hymn, but thought this particular verse could well be omitted. The seemingly offending verse ran: “Be Thou my battle shield, sword for the fight. Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight. Thou my soul’s shelter, Thou my high tower. Raise Thou me heavenward, O power of my power.”

One imagines that it was omitted because it seemed too warlike, with all its talk of swords and shields, fighting, and high towers. And calling God “power of my power” seemed a bit too pugnacious to be genuinely devotional. “Power of my power”? Who talks like that except someone obviously spoiling for a fight? Much better to give it a miss.

One can see their point, especially in our day when we have had more than enough of the horror of war. The reality of modern warfare with all its brutality has definitely taken the shine off any talk of the glories of war that might have inspired our ancestors. And Christians, though not committed to strict pacifism by our faith, are at least committed to lives of peace and forgiveness. Saint Paul says that the Lord’s servants must not be quarrelsome (2 Timothy 2:24), and Saint James tells us that the wisdom which is from above and which must inspire us is pure and peaceable, gentle, open to reason, and full of mercy. It is sown in peace by those who make peace (James 3:17-18). A warlike Christian is almost a contradiction in terms.

Granted all this—but what, we may still ask, about all that martial imagery in the same Saint Paul? He speaks of our warfare, waged with spiritual weapons, in which we destroy strongholds and take captives (2 Corinthians 10:3-5), and he speaks repeatedly of the armour and weapons we must strap on for our combat (Ephesians 6:11, 1 Thessalonians 5:8). He also speaks of our battle shield and our sword. What does all this mean?

The combat and warfare of which Saint Paul speaks is a spiritual combat, and our enemies are not flesh and blood people, but the spiritual armies of darkness in the heavens, those that inspire rebellion against God and His Christ and which seek to work in our own hearts as well. The shield on our arm is not made of wood and metal, but is the shield of faith; the sword in our hand is not a blade sharpened to shed blood, but the sword of the Spirit, which is the proclamation of the Gospel.

There is a time to use these weapons to speak the truth. This does not mean, let us hasten to add, that we must leap up on every possible occasion to assert our views. As Scripture reminds us, there is a time to keep silence and a time to speak (Ecclesiastes 3:7), and sometimes an eloquent silence can speak more loudly than many words. If we develop a reputation for annoying people by always arguing about the Christian faith, it is possible that we should return to that Scriptural counsel and consider keeping silence more often. No matter when or how often we speak, we must remember the Apostle’s counsel, “The Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome”.

But sometimes it is not a matter of quarreling but of defending truth when truth is challenged or under attack. One thinks of the words of that modern theologian Doug Bennett (founder of “Doug and the Slugs”) who sang, “I speak up when I feel it’s right; I jump up when I know that I got to fight. Until then I just take it day by day”.

It is a matter of discernment in the moment: is now the time to speak up? Would my silence in this moment be a guilty silence, born of selfish concern for my popularity? And if one decides that it is the time to jump up and fight, wielding the sword of the Spirit, one must still take care not to quarrel; one must remember that one’s aim is to win over the opponent, not to win the argument. In fact, better to lose the argument if by doing so one may win the heart of the person. Saint Peter gives specific instructions to us about how to speak at that time: when we make our defense and give an account for the hope that is within us, we must do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping our conscience clear (1 Peter 3:15-16). If we feel ourselves becoming agitated or angry, if we keep interrupting our opponent, if we lose our internal peace, then we are doing it all wrong. Sometimes we must speak up, but at all times we must be polite and calm. Here is a handy rule—if we feel ourselves losing our inner peace or becoming angry, it is time to shut up and keep silence.

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