

**Cleveland Deanery Report
Diocesan Assembly
October 2-4, 2023**

Parish Reports

St Nicholas - Mentor, OH

Our 50th Anniversary Year

Monthly Events & Presentations during Coffee Hour

Jan - Anniversary Committee Presentation

Feb - Stewardship Fair (volunteer opportunities)

Mar - Talk on Ephraim the Syrian - Fr Andrew

Apr - Presentation on Miracles - Dr Michael Kellis

May - Orthodox Camping Programs - Sbdcn Dan Rausch

Jun - Parish Youth Programs - Church School, Youth Group,
Vacation Church School

Jul - Uganda Children's Fund - Peter & Sharon Georges

Aug - Icons in our Church - Dennis Bell

Sep - Project Mexico - Ken Walker & Anna Cunningham -
Parish Memorial Service

Oct - St Herman's House - Kirk Ries

Celebration Event - Sunday October 15 with Archbishop
Daniel - Grand Banquet

Hosting the Iveron Icon, Friday, Oct 20

Nov - Retreat with Fr Stephen Freeman

Dec - One Shoe Productions (our acting troupe) -
Laura Abernathy - Director

Parish Highlights

Monthly Youth Group Events

Weekly Church School - Children & Adults

St Nicholas Celebration & Childrens Play (One Shoe Productions) - Dec 4,
2022

Church School Picnic - June 4

Vacation Church School - July 24-28

Last Icon Phase begun

Advent Project - Purchased new outfits for children in Uganda
Lenten Project - Birthright of Geauga County
Served three lunches at St James's Soup Kitchen
Lenten Alms - St Herman's House, St James Soup Kitchen, Parish Charity
Fund Six Weddings
Baptisms
 5 Adult
 1 Child
 1 Infant
Eight Chrismations
Two Catechumens
Three Seekers

Fr Andrew Clements

St Theodosius - Cleveland, OH

Parish lenten retreats with Paul Finley (Beatitudes)
Wine tasting event
Altar server cookout
Hosting the Archbishop for St. Theodosius feast
Major cathedral and hall repairs started (roof, windows, iconography, etc.)
Participation of Tremont Arts Festival
Served as Priest-in-Charge at St Vladimir's Camp the first week

Fr Jan Cizmar

St Innocent - Olmsted Falls, OH

Completed work on drainage and totally repaved the parking lot. Completed project to place quartzite top on Holy Table, and granite tops on the Prothesis Table and vestry counters, including new sink and a boiling water faucet. Initiated three adults at Pascha and baptized about half a dozen infants throughout the year.

Fr Peter Simko

St Gregory - Columbus, OH

St. Gregory commissioned a lay chaplain, James Blackwell, who serves as a hospice Chaplain in Athens, Ohio. This is the first commissioning service offered at the parish.

His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel, visited St. Gregory's for the first time on the occasion of the parish's 40th Anniversary celebration and to ordain Sampson Nash to the Diaconate.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, served the funeral for ever-memorable departed founding pastor, Archpriest Daniel Rentel. His repose happened not long after being recognized by His Eminence and the Holy Synod for 60 years of priestly ministry and marriage to Matushka Elaine.

Drs. David and Mary Ford visited the parish for a Lenten retreat.

Fr Stephen Frase

Holy Trinity - Parma, OH

New Rector started in August 2022

Celebration of Services

Vigil & Liturgy for Major Feast Days

Nativity: Daily Vespers & Compline offered evenings during pre-feast, Royal Hours, Christmas Eve Vespers Liturgy, Vigil, Festal Liturgy

Theophany: Royal Hours, Vespers Liturgy, Vigil, Festal Liturgy.

House blessings from Theophany until Lent.

Lenten Services, Holy Week & Pascha

Church School

We began again in Fall 2022 after the break of a couple years during COVID Sunday classes, BONDfire event after Vespers in October, St Nicholas program, Confession Class, El Camino - Church School Presentation in April.

Meatloaf Dinner Fundraiser for St Herman's House in October Donations of items to Zoe House (December) & West Side Catholic Charities (February)

Retirement Party for Choir Director, Michael Pilat (48 years of ministry at HTOC)

Hosted Pan-Orthodox Vespers on Sunday of Orthodoxy March 2023. Bishop Andrei of the Romanian Diocese of the OCA was our speaker.

Hosted Parish Development Forum in July 2023

Celebrated Protodeacon Anthony Kall's 25th Ordination Anniversary

Annual Church Picnic celebrated in 2022 and 2023.

Archbishop Daniel visited for Vespers on Sept 8 2023 to award Reader Michael Pilat with the St Romanos Award, and Protodeacon Anthony with gramota

in recognition of his ministry. A reception followed.
Catechism: 2 catechumens began catechism and are expected to be into the church in late 2023 or early 2024. Two more young men are considering taking steps to become catechumens.

Fr Christopher Moore

Archangel Michael - Broadview Heights, OH

By the grace of God, Archangel Michael parish continues to be a thriving, energetic community; and with over 100 children, we are seemingly bursting at the seams.

The year 2022 marked our parish's Centennial and we had a full year of activities and events aimed at honoring our past and reinvigorating ourselves for the future. Our anniversary weekend was presided over by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, and His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel, with the Cleveland Deanery and other noted and distinguished clergy concelebrating at both Hierarchal Liturgies. During said services, Deacon Daniel Kovalak was elevated to the rank of Protodeacon, Michael Herzak was tonsured a Reader, and a number of altar servers were blessed to wear the orarion. As part of the celebration, we presented each hierarch with a panagia in honor of their visit. We also had a number of specially written icons of the Holy Archangel Michael that included a rendering of our temple, which were given out to various dignitaries and honored guests.

We continue to excel in our charitable efforts by supporting a vast number of organizations, as well as collecting donations for such noted Cleveland Orthodox Institutions as St. Herman's House of Hospitality and Zoe House. We also prepare and serve meals at St. Herman's House on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. With over thirty altar servers, we found it necessary to supplement our stores, so an additional eighteen new robes were purchased in each liturgical color. Monies were also collected to purchase new liturgical items such as chalice sets, priest & deacon vestments, etc., but with the situation in Russia, we have not been able to procure many of these items as of yet.

Over the weekend of April 30, we were honored to host His Grace, Bishop Neofitos of Kenya, who is a long-time friend of our parish. Following the hierarchical liturgy, we presented His Grace with a check for over \$10,000 which we collected for the building of a new diocesan center.

In addition, as the Priest-in-Charge of St. Vladimir's Chapel and Camp, we had three well-attended weeks with a total of over 100 children participating.

Fr John Memorich

St John the Baptist – Campbell, OH

Our annual Advent Social was held prior to the Fast.

We held our inaugural Church picnic.

We re-established the blessing of emergency vehicles.

I was sworn in as the first fire chaplain here in Campbell, plus was asked by the mayor to be on the committee for the Christmas tree lighting.

We have started an "Orthodoxy 101" class as a parish/Bible study/religious book club.

Fr Andrew Bartek

St John the Baptist – Warren, OH

2 Baptisms with Chrismation

1 Funeral (Orthodox non parishioner)

4 catechumens (all of them since early last year; trying to encourage them without pushing them)

12 Inquirers

4 Seekers (hopefully to be made catechumens within the next month)

Started a Bible study that ran from spring until summer. I also taught a class from last fall until summer on the Divine Liturgy. I've continued to work with Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Academy in Warren: they visit our parish around once a month for weekday Liturgies, and I visit them on occasion, especially when a pastoral concern arises at the school.

At our Annual Meeting in February we addressed our post-COVID decline in membership & attendance. Since then I have formed a Mission & Outreach team that has met weekly over the past 3 months for training and brainstorming ideas to spread the faith and bring new converts. As part of that we invited Fr. Paul Abernathy to come and speak to our team/parish two weeks ago (which was outstanding), and we are planning to visit his Community Resiliency Project in Pittsburgh for some additional training for members of our team that are interested. By God's grace, through these efforts, our weekly attendance has risen from about 70 attendants for Sunday Liturgy to 85-90. I also attended the Parish Development Forum in Parma with 5 other parishioners. A parishioner

donated us the money to purchase streaming equipment which we got up and running last month.

We've also had 2 parish "movie nights" in the social hall that were well attended. We will continue to offer these as a way to build community outside of Liturgy & coffee hour. The parking lot was resealed this summer and we continue to discuss how we might use funds in our Icon Fund to paint and place icons/toweling in the hallway & narthex.

Financially, our giving is currently about \$2,000 ahead of what we budgeted, but expenses are also higher than our budget due to continued inflation and price increases. We're not in any immediate financial distress, but we have been slowly hemorrhaging funds since last year due to these increased costs and the poor performance of investments on some months. Still, our last two sausage sales were both successes, and I anticipate our next one will be as well.

Fr. Brian Crivella

Deanery Highlights

Transitions

Fr Andrew Bartek from Holy Assumption, Marblehead to St John, Campbell – Dec 31, 2022

Fr Peter Tomas to Marblehead - May 1

Fr John Kennerk from Holy Assumption, Canton to Christ the Savior, Chicago – Beginning of Great Lent

Fr Aaron Rutz to Holy Assumption, Canton – April 1

Anniversaries

100th - Archangel Michael, Broadview Hgts 11/4-5/22

125th - Holy Assumption, Marblehead - 9/23/23

50th - St Nicholas, Mentor - 10/15/23

Awards

Fr Basil Stoyka received the Mitre on 9/9/23

Respectfully submitted,
Fr Andrew Clements