



Weekly Bulletin

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Ancient Faith in Trumbull County for over 80 Years

Father Brian Crivella, Pastor

2021

Number 27

The Friend of the Bridegroom: "He Must Increase and I Must Decrease."

Sunday	July 4th	<i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 1 / All Saints of America</i>
		Readings: Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Matthew 4:25-5:12
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	July 7th	<i>Holy Martyr Kyriake of Nicomedia</i>
		Readings: Romans 8:2-132 Matthew 10:16-22
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy
		6:00 pm Molieben
Saturday	July 10th	<i>Anthony of the Kiev Caves, Founder of Monasticism in Russia</i>
		4:15 pm Helen Bobosh Panakhida
		5:00 pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
Sunday	July 11th	<i>3rd Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 2 / Sts Euphemia & Olga</i>
		Readings: Romans 5:1-10 Matthew 6:22-33
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / June 27th

Attendance: (Adults: 59, Children 12)	71
Weekly Offering	\$1520.00
Candle Offerings	\$106.00
Saint Herman House	\$50.00
Sausage Sale	\$0.00

PROSPHORA BAKING CLASS

On Friday the 9th at 6:30pm there will be a prospora baking class with Fr. Dcn. John and Fr. Brian. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! The prospora bread made by those attending will be offered up to become Holy Communion during Divine Liturgy in the following weeks.

HAPPY 4th OF JULY!

May God bless and watch over each of us as we celebrate both our Nation's birth and her Orthodox Christian Saints!

ZOE FOR LIFE

Our charity for the month of July is Zoe For Life. Zoe for Life is a local Orthodox Christian charity that cares for women in crisis with unplanned pregnancies.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Fr. Mark Leasure / Fr. Ted Bobosh / Fr. Dcn. John Tutoki / Brother Andrew / Dana Ronyak/ Donnie & Cherie Davidson / Jennifer Brainard / Michael, Catherine, & Zoe Stan / Art Cogar Sr. / Dana Lutz / Ellen Marie / Leslie / Joanne Kaschak / Lilian / Alice & Matthew / Magie & Kenny Sanders / Bill Paluch / Nina Lowry / Alyssa Angle / Josephine Grabko / Peter Bolock / James Livermore / Helen Skovan / Sarah Crivella / Juliana and her unborn child (Fr. Andrew's Daughter) / Our Catechumen Christopher / The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy

Memory Eternal: Helen Bobosh (5/31) Phyllis (6/27)

Birthdays: Carly Koranda (Sun)

Anniversaries: Art & Connie Cogar (Mon), Mark & Ellen Malacky (Wed), Jedd & Christina Dellimuti (Thurs), Jason & Carrie Brown & Matt & Kara DiBattiste (Fri)

Candle Commemorations

Theotokos	For the Repentance of America
Altar	In Memory of Archimandrite Pitirum
Christ	For those Serving in the Armed Forces

Celebrating the Saints of North America!

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetov died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of

his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates (Byzantine Catholics) to Holy Orthodoxy.

Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness, spreading our faith to the rich mission field that is North America.