The Holy Great Martyr Katherine was the daughter of Konstos, the governor of Alexandria, Egypt during the reign of Emperor Maximian. Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Katherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. Emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival and the cries of the sacrificial animals, the smoke and the smell of the sacrifices, the endless blaze of fires, and the bustling crowds at the arenas defiled the city of Alexandria. Human victims also were brought, the confessors of Christ, who would not deny Him under torture. They were condemned to death in the fire. Katherine's love for the Christian martyrs, and her fervent desire to ease their sufferings, compelled her to speak to the pagan priest and to Emperor Maximian. Introducing herself, the Saint confessed her faith in the One True God, and exposed the errors of the pagans. The beauty of the maiden captivated the Emperor. In order to convince her of the superiority of pagan wisdom, the Emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, but the Saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. Saint Katherine made the Sign of the Cross over the martyrs, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burnt alive by order of the Emperor. Unable to persuade the Saint, Maximian tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Hearing her angry refusal, the Emperor ordered his men to subject the Saint to terrible tortures, and then throw her in prison.

The Empress Augusta, who had heard much about the Saint, wanted to see her. She prevailed upon the military commander Porphyrios to accompany her to the prison with a detachment of soldiers. The Empress was impressed by Katherine's strong spirit, and her face was radiant with divine grace. The holy martyr explained the Christian Faith to them, and they were converted to Christ. On the following day, they again brought the martyr to the judgment court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, she was urged to renounce the Christian Faith and to offer sacrifice to the "gods." The Saint steadfastly confessed Christ and she was taken to be tortured on four wheels with sharp iron spikes, but an Angel smashed the instruments of execution, which shattered into pieces with many pagans standing nearby. After seeing this miracle, the Empress Augusta and the imperial courtier Porphyrios and 200 soldiers confessed their faith in Christ before everyone, and they were beheaded. Maximian tried again to entice the holy martyr, offering to marry her, and again he was refused. Saint Katherine remained faithful to her heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and after praying to Him, she laid her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword. The relics of Saint Katherine were taken by the Angels to Mount Sinai. In the VI century, the venerable head and left hand of the holy martyr were found through a revelation and transferred with honor to the newly-constructed church of the Monastery on Mount Sinai, built by the holy Emperor Justinian. Saint Katherine is called upon for relief and assistance during a difficult childbirth.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

2220 Reeves Road NE Warren, OH 44483 www.stjohnswarren.org

Friend of the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)



Sunday, November 24th, 2024Great Martyr Katherine of Alexandria

Fr. Brian Crivella, Rector	.330-372-3895 / BrianCrivella@gmail.com
Dn. John Tutoki, Hall Coordi	nator 330-720-3541
Nina, Prayer List Coordinator	treasurerstjohnsorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

Sunday, Nov 24th 22nd Sunday after PNTCST/Tone 5. Great Martyr Catherine 9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour

Wednesday, Nov 27th Greatmartyr James the Persian

5:00 pm AA Meeting

6:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy

Friday, Nov 29th Martyr Paramon and 370 Martyrs in Bithynia

6:00 pm Akathist of Thanksgiving - No Catechumen Class!

Saturday, Nov 30th Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called 5:00 pm Great Vespers Followed by *Game Night*

Sunday, Dec 1st 23rd Sunday after PNTCST/Tone 6. Prophet Nahum 9:30 am Youth Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour

Attendance/Stewardship November 17th

Attendance: 73 Adults and 25 children 98 Total
Weekly Stewardship Offerings: \$1,513.00
Weekly Candle Offerings: \$230.00
Charity of the Month (Inspiring Minds): \$35.00
YTD Other Receipts (Coffee Hour, Hall, Cemetery, Sausage) \$8,825.00
YTD Budget Inflows: \$158,986.43
YTD Budget Outflows \$171,150.61
YTD Surplus/deficit -\$12,164.18

Prayer Corner

Fr. Dcn. John Tutoki Sbdcn Joseph (Clyde)

Sbdcn George Kaschack Sarah Crivella Patty DiGiacobbe Sarah Crivella James Livermore

David Campbell Barb

Daniel Cassandra, Patrick, Elizabeth, Patrick

James Sr. & Karen Livermore Susan Wood Renee & Anna Benjamin

Laura & Roy Greg, Clara, Jeanie Azouria Catherine Wood

Jeff Tsipis Jennifer
Kathy Soltis Aiden Bowles

John Keaty

The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy

The Suffering Christians in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East

Newly Illumined: Kelly, Carter, Emma, & Bennett Worley & Kayla, Alexander, & Cesar Ventura

Newly Departed: Archbishop Peter of the Mid American Diocese of ROCOR (11/8) & Anna Mae Stehnach (11/6)

Catechumens: Lucian & Lilianna Vasil, Kayla, Donald, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Robert, Timothy, Melissa, Ian, Christohpher, & William Cunningham, Matthew Rose, Nicky Lewis, Alexander Mackey & Tristan Beil

Birthdays: Greg Zylka (24th), Mary Gearhart & Mary Kaschak (25th),

Darla Loychik (26th) & Thomas Malacky (30th)

Anniversaries: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Candle Commemorations

Theotokos For the Birthday of Thomas Malacky
Altar For the Health of the Saint John Parish
Christ For the Memory of George Tarchick

Announcements

NO Special Parish Meeting Sunday December 1st / Thank You!!

After Liturgy last week a number of parishoners donated the money needed for the light fixtures for the church, so the meeting to spend money on them is no longer needed. May God bless our parish for its generosity and loving stewardship for His Church!

A Gentle Reminder on Decorum in the Church

A gentle reminder to please keep conversation in the Nave of the church and in the Narthex near the candlestand to a minimum while our brothers and sisters are trying to pray before services. Another gentle reminder that no one should be departing early from the service after kissing the cross near the end of a service unless they have a particular blessing from Father for a pastoral or ministerial reason. Please return to your pews in order to sing the final "Lord have mercy" verses and receive the final benediction before departing for fellowship in the hall or your home. If you have questions, please see Fr. Brian.

Altar Donations in Memory of Barbara Datish

New candle holders, altar cloths, and icons for the Analogian have been purchased and will be arriving in the coming months thanks to a donation made in Barbara Datish's memory. May God bless her family and render her memory to be eternal!

Angel Gift List for Children Services

Unwrapped presents should be returned to the church by Sunday Dec 8. Please include the name tag with the gifts. Please sign your name to the list on the candle stand with the corresponding gift tag number. Gifts should be placed in a bag and *not wrapped*! See Carol Bobosh with any questions.

Mission & Outreach now Saint John's Parish Development Forum + Meeting

The Mission & Outreach team has decided to rename itself to the Saint John's Parish Development Forum. Although mission & outreach is still key, it is only one part of serving our broader community and developing and growing our parish. The next meeting will be on *December 6th at 6:30pm (after the Akathist)*. All are strongly encouraged to attend! If you have questions, please see Fr. Brian, Mat. Deborah, Michael Stan, or Garrett Cogar.

Youth Ministry Training in Florida

There will be youth ministry training in Florida from February 5th-8th and our parish would like to send one or two people to attend. If you are interested, please see the flier and Michael Stan for more details!