

# ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, June 22, 2025

5025 E. Mill Road – Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147  
440.526.5192 - [info@stmichaelscleveland.org](mailto:info@stmichaelscleveland.org)

[www.StMichaelsCleveland.org](http://www.StMichaelsCleveland.org)

V. REV. FR. JOHN MEMORICH  
(C) 216.548.8757  
[frjohn@stmichaelscleveland.org](mailto:frjohn@stmichaelscleveland.org)

Our parish welcomes you and thanks you for joining us in worship this morning.  
If you desire any information about our parish, our diocese, or the Orthodox  
Church and Faith, please contact Fr. John Memorich. Check us out online or visit  
our Facebook Page which is updated regularly!



## CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!

All Saints of North America

All Saints of Russia

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 1.

### EPISTLE READING

Rom. 2:10-16

### GOSPEL LESSON

Matt. 4:18-23

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, June 22

9:30 am Divine Liturgy – LiveStream  
11:30 am Parish Mini-Golf Outing at Fore Corners

#### Tuesday, June 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

#### Wednesday, June 25

6:00 pm Vigil for The Feast of the Tikhvin Icon  
at Holy Trinity

#### Thursday, June 26

10:00 am Divine Liturgy – Cleveland Deanery –  
Liturgy for Tikhvin Icon at Holy Trinity

#### Friday, June 27 St. Joanna the Myrrhbearer

#### Saturday, June 28

5:00 pm Great Vespers/Confession

#### Sunday, June 29

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

### JUNE COFFEE HOUR

55+ Club - Week 4 & 5 (June 22 & June 29)

### Glorification of the Righteous Olga of Kwethluk

Attached is a link for the Livestream Services for the  
Glorification of the Righteous Olga of Kwethluk which  
occurred on Friday, June 20. Primatial Divine Liturgy for the  
Glorification of Saint Olga – Kwethluk, Alaska  
Livestream: <https://youtube.com/live/S53n8pgekLI?feature=share>

Also, included in this week's bulletin is her life story.

## PRAYERS, CANDLES, 7-DAY VIGILS and FLOWERS

### FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF:

Nikolai Hanchuk (Birthday) ..... by Pat Hanchuk  
Greg Hanchuk (Birthday) ..... by Pat Hanchuk  
Sarah & Dakota Page (Anniversary) ..... by Mom & Dad  
Kim (Birthday; 7-d) ..... by Mom  
Donna Cirino (Health; 7-d) ..... by Phil & Judi Wienclaw  
Mike Conroy (Health; 7-d) .....  
..... by Helen Sekerak, Natalia Boyd, and Lisa Lyon

### FOR THE REPOSE AND BLESSED MEMORY OF:

Archpriest Jason Kappandaze

Annette Lapso (Departed; 7-d) ..... by Dennis Lapso  
Michael Trush (Departed; 7-d) by Muzic & Ramsay Families

### Sunday, June 22 - Altar Servers & Readers

**Altar Servers:** Michael Gaborick, Kai Tesar, Nicholas Gaydos,  
Joshua Gaydos, Lance Louie, Joseph Deyling, Danny Reilly,  
Augustin Mindala

**Reader:** Judi Wienclaw

### Sunday, June 29 - Altar Servers & Readers

**Altar Servers:** Jacob Kormos, Justin Kormos, MJ Herzak,  
Charlie Herzak, Gavin Lynagh, David Visocky, Thomas Visocky,  
Xavier Visocky

**Reader:** John Mindala, Sr.

### PROSPHORA BAKING

Monday, July 7 – 10 AM

Join us!

Homemade Pizza lunch to follow!



### KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED

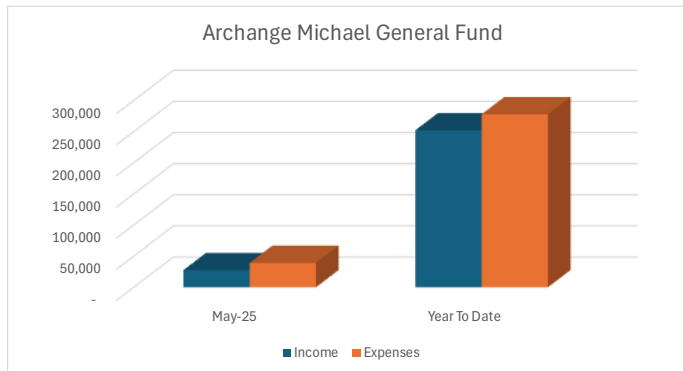
- Andrew Buswell – UH/Portage Medical Center, Ravenna, OH

## St. James Prayer List – June

*"The prayer of the righteous has great power in its affects"*  
(St. James 5:1)

For the complete St. James Prayer List,  
please see the most recent issue of the Archangel.

### Month End May 2025 – YTD



|                            | May         | Year-to-Date |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Collected                  | \$ 27,595   | \$ 252,166   |
| Required for Expenses Paid | \$ 39,179   | \$ 277,827   |
| Surplus/(Short)            | \$ (11,594) | \$ 25,661    |

The month of April continues to experience a shortfall and a transfer of \$10,000 was made from the Endowment Fund.

Our Improvement fund is short \$1,000 which is necessary to complete payment for the air handling unit installed in the basement of the church.

As summer commences, our operating funds are short by almost \$30,000. We usually experience a shortfall in the summer, but this summer the financial need is earlier and larger than what we've experienced in the past. While we forecasted this shortfall as part of the approved operating budget, it isn't easy to experience and constantly work to find the funds to pay our bills. Much like life and maybe a direct comparison to our personal financial matters. Our monthly collections do not cover our monthly expenses : our parish staff (priest, secretary, custodian, choir director), our utilities and our administrative expenses (insurance, Diocesan Assessment, etc.). We are grateful to have some savings to rely on but drawing on those funds means putting future projects at risk. This is where you can make a significant difference. Your contributions not only sustain our church but also build a vibrant community. Your contributions are not only financial - they are also your time (your ministry) to this parish. We deeply appreciate your stewardship and commitment. Together we can ensure the continued success and vitality of this parish. Thank you for your support!

### SOLOS – UPCOMING EVENTS

**July** – Sun, Jul 6 – Carole King Show

**August** – Weds, Aug 6 – Music Cruise/Dinner, Portage Lakes

**September** – TBD – Covered Bridge Tour

Contact Jackie Sipko – 330-322-8601 for details.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Weds, July 2 – Balalaika Virtuoso from Siberia
- Mon, Jul 14 – St. Herman's Golf Classic & Auction
- July 17 – 20 – St. Paul GOC Festival
- July 24 - 27 – Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Festival
- August 22 - 24 – St. Mary Romanian Festival

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Last Sunday we honored the graduates of the parish – Joseph Deyling, Joshua Gaydos, Joey Hornik and Branden Otero, but inadvertently missed another graduate - Elise Miklos, who graduated from Walsh Jesuit, she will be attending Miami University for Nursing – CRNA Anesthesiology – Congratulations!

### CHARITY RAFFLE /

#### BENEFITING ST. THEODOSIUS FIRE RESTORATION

Next drawing is Sunday, July 6th.

June's winner is Jim & Jean Mehalik! Congratulations!

### St. Vladimir's Designer Purse Bingo – see flyer

Sunday, October 5

### CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Our church scholarship application for 2025-2026 is available on the church website. In order to access the application:

1. Follow the direct link to the application:  
<https://forms.gle/T61sHGgwZv8P7kn67> , OR
2. Follow the link to the Scholarship Program page on the church website:  
<https://stmichaelscleveland.org/scholarships/>

All eligible full and part-time students attending an accredited post-secondary school (vocational school, business school, college, university, medical school, Orthodox seminary) are encouraged to apply. The **deadline is June 30, 2025** for students beginning school in August/September 2025, while the deadline varies if a student begins school at a different time. Please note that applicants are required to complete a church service project that must be coordinated with Fr. John. If you have any questions, please contact either one of the Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs: Natalie Boyd at 440-463-6604 or [nboyd615@gmail.com](mailto:nboyd615@gmail.com), or Nick Rolin at 440-552-2369 or [nrolin3@gmail.com](mailto:nrolin3@gmail.com).

## OUTREACH – COOKING & SERVING MEALS

We will be cooking and serving dinner at St Herman's the 3rd Monday of every month. If you can donate a few hours each month to cook and/or serve dinner for the men at St. Herman's, please contact Kathy Kovalak, 440-842-6639.

Also we will be starting a list of people willing to cook a meal or 2 for one of our parishioners who might be ill, in hospital, wonderful it would be to help each other. Please contact **Kathy Kovalak** at 440-842-6639 if you are interested.

## GREETERS MINISTRY

Although we do a very good job of welcoming guests into our church, we are looking to expand this parish ministry by adding more volunteers, especially families. This would not simply be opening the door and welcoming, but also taking the time to introduce yourself to our guests, offering to sit with them, help them follow along in our service books, and escorting them to Coffee Hour and help introduce them to others in the parish.

If you would like to participate, please contact Ryun Louie as he will be heading up this ministry.

## ST. VLADIMIR'S SUMMER CAMP

SUMMER CAMP for 2025 is right around the corner!

- Session 1 – June 29 – July 5 - Ages 8-12
- Session 2 - July 6 - 12 – FOCA "Sports Week" - Ages 10-17
- Session 3 – July 13 – 19 - Ages 13-17

Contact Ptdn. Dan or Mat. Catrina Kovalak (Camp Directors) with any questions –  
[stvladimirscampohio@gmail.com](mailto:stvladimirscampohio@gmail.com); or you can also visit  
[www.stvladimirscampohio.com](http://www.stvladimirscampohio.com) for more information!

## COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS – 2025

Thank you to those who have sponsored a coffee hour!

|                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| June – 55+ Club - Week 4 & 5 | September – Samaritans             |
| July – Senior 'R' Club       | October – HALOS                    |
| August – Junior 'R' Club     | November – Sunday School           |
|                              | December – BOT (Board of Trustees) |



Please join our **GroupMe Chat** and check out our Amazon Supplies List, as well!  
<https://bit.ly/AMOCSSGroupMe>

## CANDLES & PRAYERS

Have your loved one(s) remembered or prayed for during the Liturgy by requesting Candles & Prayers. Each request includes a listing in the bulletin, the name read during the service and the specific candle you would like. A \$3 candle burns during the service; a \$15 Seven-Day candle burns all week. There are specialty candles as well (i.e., Tetrapod Candles, High Place, Altar Table, etc.). Prices for those range from \$20-\$30. Call or email the church office to submit your request – or leave it in the collection basket, or at the candle desk. Call the church office with any questions!

### Health & Well-Being

Health \* Birthdays \* Anniversaries \* Name Day \* Traveling

### Repose & Blessed Memory

Newly Departed \* Death Anniversary \* Birthday of the Departed

### *Happy Birthday to those celebrating this week in June*



|                 |    |                        |    |
|-----------------|----|------------------------|----|
| Dan Bohurjak    | 24 | Robert (Bobby) Reilly  | 27 |
| Lara Svihlik    | 24 | Malia Tesar            | 27 |
| Nikolai Hanchuk | 25 | Gregory Gaydos         | 28 |
| Greg Lucak      | 25 | Veronica Lynagh Kormos | 28 |
| Greg Hanchuk    | 27 | Anastasia Mindala      | 28 |

### *Happy Anniversary to those celebrating this week*



Dakota & Sara Page 25

*May God grant you many years!!*

## Balalaika Virtuoso from Siberia

Join the Independence Library on **Weds, July 2** at 7 pm for a fun-filled and fascinating program of Russian music and anecdote. Oleg Kruglyakov will play classical and folk music using a balalaika. **Registration is required.** Visit [cuyahogalibrary.org](http://cuyahogalibrary.org) or call 216-447-0160.

## Save the Date

Sunday, June 22



ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

# MINI GOLF OUTING

FAMILY EVENT

Sunday, June 22, 2025  
Fore Corners Mini Golf  
12890 W Sprague Rd.  
(Corner W 130 & W Sprague Rd)  
Parma, OH

\$6 per person  
Event Starts: 11:30 am

Wednesday, June 25/Vigil; Thursday, June 26/Liturgy



### CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE MOTHER OF GOD OF TIKHVIN SOVEREIGN LADY, QUEEN, AND PROTETRESS OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST

On Wednesday & Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> the Cleveland Deanery of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest will celebrate the Feast of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God. Services will be held at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Parma, OH. All are invited to come and join us in prayer.

Wednesday  
June 25, 2025

6:00pm Vigil

Holy Trinity Orthodox  
Church  
6822 Broadview Road  
Parma, OH 44134

Thursday  
June 26, 2025

Divine Liturgy &  
Moleiben 10:00am

Holy Trinity Orthodox  
Church  
6822 Broadview Road  
Parma, OH 44134

A Festal meal will  
follow

All Welcome

Questions

clevelanddeanery@gmail.com

Sunday, September 21

Event starts at 2 pm – cars may arrive starting at noon. Potato pancakes, piergoi, food trucks, raffle basekts, 50/50 and more!

### CRUISE-IN CAR SHOW



2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *St. Nicholas*  
**CAR SHOW**  
Sunday September 21  
(RAIN DATE OCTOBER 5)  
Cars arrive starting at Noon. Show open 2-6PM

FOOD TRUCKS  
ETHNIC FOODS  
50/50 RAFFLE  
RAFFLE BASKETS

755 S. Cleveland Ave. Mogadore, OH 44260

QUESTIONS:  
330-858-4716

FREE REGISTRATION:  
marketplace.stnickoca.org

Sunday, October 5



# BINGO

St. Vladimir's Camp  
Designer Purse

Join us for an exciting afternoon of fun and the thrill of the win at Designer Purse BINGO! Each of our 10 games will feature a different designer purse for the winner.

Sunday  
October  
5

Lunch 1pm  
Games 2pm

Brooklyn Heights  
Community Center  
225 Tuxedo Ave.

Tickets: \$35  
16 and older please

Purchase tickets at:  
<http://stvladscamp.betterworld.org/events/purse-bingo-2025>  
Questions: Melissa mjetesar@gmail.com

July 14, 2025

12TH ANNUAL

ST. HERMAN HOUSE—FOCUS CLEVELAND

# GOLF CLASSIC & AUCTION



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### ▶ GRAND BENEFACTOR | \$5,000

Signage at Registration/Dinner  
Sign on Tee or Green  
Reserved Table at Dinner  
Event/Program Recognition  
One Foursome

### ▶ BENEFACTOR | \$2,150

Sign on Tee or Green  
Event/Program Recognition  
One Foursome

### ▶ DINNER SPONSOR | \$2,750

Reserved Seating & Signage at Dinner  
Event/Program Recognition  
One Foursome

### ▶ LUNCH SPONSOR | \$1,750

Sign at Lunch  
Event/Program Recognition  
4 Dinners

### ▶ REGISTRATION SPONSOR | \$1,500

Sign at Registration  
Event/Program Recognition  
2 Dinners

### ▶ BEVERAGE SPONSOR (2) | \$1,000

Sign on Beverage Cart  
Event/Program Recognition

### ▶ CART SPONSORS (2) | \$1,000

Logo/Name on Cart Signs  
Event/Program Recognition

### ▶ HOLE SPONSOR | \$350

Sign on Tee or Green

### ▶ PROGRAM AD SPONSORSHIPS

Full Page Ad | \$250  
1/2 Page Ad | \$125  
1/3 Page Ad | \$75

## GOLF CLASSIC

### 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE

- 18 Holes of Golf w/Cart, Lunch, Beverages, & Dinner
- Dinner Ticket Only | \$75

### FOURSOME

- Foursome | \$1,100
- Limit 10, In Addition to Sponsorships

## ONLINE AUCTION

### AUCTION OPEN TO EVERYONE!

- Begins: Sunday, July 6th at 8:00 AM
- Ends: Monday, July 14th at 9:00 PM
- Link to Auction Site:  
[www.32auctions.com/SaintHermans2025](http://www.32auctions.com/SaintHermans2025)

## MORE INFORMATION

### CONTACT & REGISTRATION

- [golfsthermans@focusna.org](mailto:golfsthermans@focusna.org)
- Kirk Ries: 216-973-9391
- Register: [www.sainthermans.org/golf](http://www.sainthermans.org/golf)

### WE'RE RETURNING TO:

ELYRIA COUNTRY CLUB  
41625 OBERLIN ELYRIA RD.  
ELYRIA, OH 44035



### EVENT SPONSOR:



# ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

## June - 2025

| Sunday                                                                                                                                               | Monday                                                                             | Tuesday                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                     | Thursday                                                                             | Friday                                      | Saturday                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fathers of First Ecumenical Council</b> 1<br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy                                                                                | 2                                                                                  | 3                                                                          | 4<br><br>SOLOS – Amish Country Tour                                           | 5                                                                                    | 6                                           | 7<br><br>5pm – Vespers/Confession                                                    |
| <b>Pentecost</b> 8<br>9:30am-Festal Liturgy<br>Fast Free Week                                                                                        | <b>The Day of the Holy Spirit</b> 9<br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy @ Holy Trinity        | 10<br><br>6pm-Woodside Bd Mtg                                              | <b>Holy Apostle Bartholomew and Barnabas</b> 11<br>9:30am/Molieben/Samaritans | 12                                                                                   | 13<br><br>SS Teachers * Appreciation Dinner | <b>Prophet Elisha</b> 14<br>10am – St. Vlad's Camp Clean Up<br>5pm – Vespers at Camp |
| <b>All Saints</b> 15<br><br><b>FATHER'S DAY</b><br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy<br>Honoring Father's & Grandfathers<br>Father's Day / Grads Picnic @ Shanty | 16<br><br><b>Sts. Peter &amp; Paul FAST</b><br><br>5pm-Dinner/Serve @ St. Herman's | 17<br><br>11am-55+ Club Meeting                                            | 18<br><br>7pm – BOT Meeting via ZOOM                                          | <b>Holy Apostle Jude</b> 19                                                          | 20                                          | 21<br><br>5pm – Vespers/Confession                                                   |
| <b>All Saints of America</b> 22<br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy<br>11:30am-Parish mini-golf @ 4Corners                                                      | 23                                                                                 | 24<br><br><b>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</b><br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy | 25                                                                            | 26<br><br>10:00am- Cleveland Deanery- Divine Liturgy for Tikhvin Icon @ Holy Trinity | 27<br><br><b>St. Joanna the Myrrhbearer</b> | 28<br><br>5pm – Vespers/Confession                                                   |
| <b>Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</b> 29<br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy<br><br><b>CAMP SESSION I</b><br>June 29 – July 5                                            | 30<br><br><b>Synaxis of 12 Apostles</b>                                            |                                                                            |                                                                               |                                                                                      | *Sunday School Teachers                     |                                                                                      |

# Righteous Mother Olga of Kwethluk–Tanqilria Arrsamquq–Wonderworker, Matushka of All Alaska

Commemorated on October 27

## A Real Person in the Eyes of God and Man

In the wide stillness of the Alaskan tundra—where the sky stretches open like a prayer and the rivers flow between worlds—God planted a soul full of hidden beauty. On February 3, 1916 (January 21, Julian Calendar), in the village of Kwethluk, at the meeting of the Kwethluk and Kuskokwim rivers, a daughter was born to the Native Yup'ik people. Her name in the Yup'ik language was Arrsamquq, a name meaning lowly, hidden, or unadorned—like the seed sown quietly in the earth. It was a name that would prophetically mark her life, for she lived not in boastfulness or acclaim, but in humility, reverence, and love.

From childhood, she was formed both by the land and by the Church. Her hands learned the ancient skills of Yup'ik women—sewing, cooking, preparing food for winter, raising children, and keeping the home.



But her soul was formed by the divine grace that had come to Alaska with the Orthodox missionaries from Russia. The faith of Saints Herman and Innocent had taken root in her village, and in her heart. Her home life, the seasons, and the services of the Church were woven together, creating in her a seamless garment of earthly service and heavenly longing.

As she matured, she married Nicolai Michael, the village storekeeper and postmaster, who would later be ordained to the holy priesthood. In time, she would become known not only as Olga, but as Matushka Olga—a mother to thirteen children of her own, and a spiritual mother to an entire village. Quiet, gentle, and strong, she became a pillar of warmth and grace in Kwethluk.

In Yup'ik culture, to be called a real person—ella tanqilria—is the highest praise. It means one who lives in harmony with the land and with others, who does not set themselves above others, but who listens deeply, works quietly, and carries the burdens of others as their own. Matushka Olga was just such a person. She did not preach. She did not boast. She simply lived with such goodness that the land, the people, and the Church would not forget her.

## A Matushka in the Manner of the Saints

After her marriage to Nicolai Michael, Olga embraced not only the responsibilities of a wife and mother, but also the sacred calling of being a matushka—a priest's wife, a helpmate not only to her husband but to the Church. When Nicolai was ordained and began serving as the priest of the Church of Saint Nicholas in Kwethluk, she became the quiet heart of that parish community.

She raised thirteen children of her own in modest means and with deep love. Her home was open; her heart was larger still. She offered hospitality not as a performance, but as a way of life. Whether sewing warm clothes for those in need, baking bread for the altar, or comforting a grieving neighbor, she did all things without self-importance. She was known never to raise her voice, and to teach—like many Yup'ik elders—not with scolding but by example. Those who came into her presence often found themselves stilled, as if by a quiet flame.

Her life bore resemblance to the holy women of the Scriptures. Like Tabitha (Dorcas) in the Acts of the Apostles, she was “full of good works and almsdeeds which she did,” and like the Most Pure Virgin Mother of God, she treasured the mysteries of life and of God in her heart. She clothed the naked, fed the hungry, and helped bring new life into the world. As a midwife, she accompanied women through the dangers and blessings of childbirth; as a counselor, she listened to those suffering in silence, especially women who had suffered abuse. Her presence was maternal, unjudging, and deeply healing.

Though she lived in a land of long winters and hardship, she herself was a source of warmth. Her daily life—marked by prayer, labor, and service—became a hidden offering to Christ. Her prosphora was kneaded with prayers, her garments sewn with intention, her silence filled with watchfulness and love.

Those who knew her remember her not for speeches or public deeds, but for the realness of her presence. She was always there—praying quietly in church, listening without interruption, carrying burdens without needing thanks.

In the eyes of the world, she was not great. But in the Kingdom of God, where humility is greatness and the last are first, she walked with the saints.

### **Her Suffering and Repose in the Lord**

In 1978, Matushka Olga was diagnosed with cancer. By that time, she had already lived a full life of service and love. Yet, as with so many saints, her final chapter became her most luminous. She did not complain. She did not seek pity. She bore her affliction with the same humility and quiet strength that had defined her life.

When doctors could do no more, she did not despair. She continued to labor gently for those around her, even as her body grew weak. Her children and neighbors recall that she remained peaceful and kind, never bitter or afraid. Her illness became a cross, and she bore it without fanfare, entering more deeply into the sufferings of Christ.

On November 8, 1979, she reposed in the Lord, surrounded by her family in her home in Kwethluk. Her death, like her life, was not loud or dramatic—but it was accompanied by wondrous signs that revealed the hidden sanctity she had carried.

Though it was deep winter, and the land was locked in ice, the frozen river thawed, and the ice softened, allowing boats from nearby villages to arrive—a miracle of timing and temperature that no one could explain. Birds appeared in the sky, though they should have long since flown south. They circled above the village, as if bearing witness. Mourners gathered not only from Kwethluk, but from afar. The people knew—without being told—that a holy one had passed into eternal rest.

As the funeral began, there was a stillness in the air, the kind of sacred hush that often follows the repose of a saint. Those present wept, not with despair, but with awe. A mother, a matushka, a healer, a friend had been taken from them—but heaven received a quiet soul, adorned with the grace of her hidden love.

From the moment of her passing, the people of Kwethluk began to remember her not with mere affection, but with reverence. They spoke of her kindness with gratitude, and of her silence with wonder. Her name was whispered in prayer. And in time, those prayers began to be answered.

### **The Uncovering of Her Relics and the Spread of Her Veneration**

In the decades after her repose, Matushka Olga's memory did not fade. On the contrary, her presence deepened. Stories began to circulate—quietly at first, then more widely—of dreams, visions, and healings. Women in distress felt her nearness. Survivors of abuse spoke of being comforted in their sleep. Families troubled by sorrow found themselves praying to “Matushka Olga” as they would to a beloved elder or a wise grandmother. And she answered.

Many began to believe that she was not only a pious woman but a saint—that the Church had quietly received into heaven a protector of the suffering, a consoler of the afflicted, a mother to the motherless. Her picture began appearing in icon corners, and the faithful began to ask her intercessions in their time of need.

Then, in the year 2024, nearly forty-five years after her death, the Church undertook the uncovering of her relics. It was a sacred labor, carried out with prayer and reverence by clergy and faithful gathered in the village of Kwethluk. The day before, a blizzard had made travel nearly impossible. But on the morning of the uncovering, the skies cleared, the wind was stilled, and the sun broke through—as though creation itself made way.

As her coffin was raised from the frozen ground and reverently opened in the presence of Gospel readings, what was revealed became a quiet confirmation of sanctity. Her bones bore the golden, honey-colored hue often associated with the relics of the saints. Her headscarf, kasp'aq, and wedding veil—garments worn in prayer, in service, and in love—remained miraculously preserved. These sacred vestments stood as silent witnesses to a life clothed in humility and grace.

She was not found incorrupt in the full sense, but the presence of grace upon her relics was undeniable. Her sanctity was not in outward marvels but in the quiet transfiguration of a life lived entirely for God. She had not been exalted in the world, but now the Church beheld her as one glorified by heaven.

Pilgrims began to arrive. Prayers multiplied. Icons were painted. And the faithful across the land—from the tundra of Alaska to the deserts of Arizona, from the Orthodox heartlands of Ukraine to small mission chapels across North America and Canada—began to call upon her as Saint Olga Michael, the righteous mother and wonderworker of the North.

### **Signs and Testimonies of Her Intercession**

As the Church has always taught, God glorifies His saints not only in life but also after death, working through them to comfort the sorrowful, heal the wounded, and guide the lost. So it is with Saint Olga of Kwethluk, whose prayers have brought light into the darkest places, especially to women who have suffered abuse, to mothers in labor, to the grieving, and to all those in need of maternal tenderness.

Her intercession is quiet, but her presence is unmistakable.

### **Comfort to the Grieving**

One woman, originally from Kwethluk but living in Arizona, had a dream in which Matushka Olga appeared, telling her that her mother was being brought to a bright and joyful place. The woman awoke to news that her mother had been suddenly hospitalized and flown from the village to Anchorage. She traveled to be with her and was able to comfort her mother with the vision—and so the woman died in peace, free from fear, embraced by both her daughter and the hope that Saint Olga had brought.

### **Healing from Abuse**

Another woman, a survivor of childhood abuse, saw Matushka Olga in a dream—not as a distant figure, but as a mother and midwife who labored with her soul. In the dream, Saint Olga embraced her, anointed her, and gently removed the pain that had festered for decades. The woman awoke healed of her spiritual torment, no longer afraid of love, no longer ashamed.

A survivor of clerical abuse shared a similar vision: Saint Olga appeared silently, offering no condemnation but only pure maternal compassion, restoring the woman’s faith and helping her begin again.

### **Miracles of Healing and Protection**

- A priest, present during his daughter’s difficult labor, witnessed Matushka Olga standing beside them. The pain ceased, and the child was born in peace.
- A woman undergoing heart surgery reported a vision of Matushka Olga entering the room. She was filled with warmth and peace, and her recovery was swift.
- A young boy, unjustly detained by legal authorities, was released after his family prayed to Saint Olga. Their trust in her intercession did not go unanswered.
- A couple devastated by repeated miscarriages conceived and carried a healthy child to term after entrusting their sorrows to the prayers of the holy Matushka.
- In Ukraine, a man who had long suffered from a painful affliction was instantly healed after calling on her name in desperation.

### **Dreams, Consolations, and Signs**

- A woman grieving on Christmas saw Saint Olga seated beside Christ at a riverside, full of silent love. She awoke comforted.
- Another woman, plagued by traumatic nightmares, saw serpents tormenting her—until, in her dream, a woman appeared and they fled. When shown a picture of Saint Olga afterward, she recognized the face immediately, though she had never seen it before.

### **Reconciliation and Return**

- An Alaskan man, burdened for decades by shame after disobeying Matushka Olga as a child, found himself unable to hunt successfully ever since. After praying to her and asking forgiveness, he was reconciled—and his hunting, and spirit, were restored.

These are but a few of the countless stories whispered in homes and churches, written in journals, and shared among the faithful. They are not the loud wonders of empire or spectacle. They are the miracles of a true mother—small, profound, personal, and filled with grace.

Through her, the abused are comforted, the sick are healed, the lost are found, and the grieving are not left alone. She is a quiet flame in the northern land, a steady hand to the trembling, a living icon of maternal love transfigured by Christ.

### **A Saint for Alaska and for All the World**

In every generation, God raises up His saints—those who live not for themselves, but for others, and whose lives are transfigured by love. Some are prophets. Some are martyrs. Some are ascetics or bishops or missionaries. And some, like Saint Olga of Kwethluk, are mothers whose holiness is woven through the fabric of everyday life: in quiet prayers, in bread baked with love, in garments sewn for the cold, in the simple, unseen acts of mercy that echo in eternity.

She lived in obscurity, yet now her name is spoken in cathedrals and chapels, in villages and homes, in whispered prayers and joyous hymns. She did not study theology, yet she embodied the theology of the Incarnation: that God has taken flesh and dwells among us, and that holiness is not reserved for the few, but shines in every person who lives in Christ.

She is a saint of the Alaskan land, yet her love has crossed every border. Her spirit walks where the Yup'ik drum once sounded and where Orthodox chant now rises. Her prayers accompany survivors, mothers, widows, children, and all who suffer in silence. To the broken, she is a healer. To the forgotten, she is a friend. To the despairing, she is a light in the long night of the soul.

The Yup'ik elders say: *"A real person does not disappear, but remains in the hearts of those they have loved."* In the Church, we say more: A real person in Christ becomes a saint, and the hearts they have loved, in communion with the Lord, become the Church, the living body of Christ in the world.

Saint Olga Michael of Kwethluk—Tanqilria Arrsamquq, the Quiet One—has not left us. She remains, as she always was: praying, watching, guiding.

Righteous Mother Olga, Matushka of all Alaska,  
Refuge of the afflicted, comfort of the grieving,  
Intercessor for women, protector of the pure,  
Pray to Christ God for us, that our souls may be saved.