

# The Archangel

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.StMichaelsCleveland.org | 5025 E. MILL ROAD | BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO 44147 | 440.526.5192

January 2024

***“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”***

(Psalm 127:1)

By Very Rev. Fr. John Memorich

This verse reveals the key to all success stories regarding any endeavor and reminds us that God holds absolute sovereignty over every person, place, and event. All activities require God's support and blessing, otherwise our efforts and earthly accomplishments will be for naught if the Lord is not in it. We can "build," but it is the Lord who grants success. And this is especially true with regards to Christ's Church.

Obviously, this verse does not imply that the Lord actually has hammer and nails and performs construction work; rather, it speaks metaphorically of the Lord's direct involvement in our lives. The Hebrew word for "house" appears nearly a thousand times in the Bible. It is used literally to refer to temples, palaces, and homes, and figuratively to refer to households and families – all of which are important structures in a person's life. The word represents not only a primary dwelling place but also one's sense of self-identity, security, and place in this world. We cannot reasonably hope to have a fulfilling, truly successful life without our heavenly Father's help, guidance, and protection over our "house."

No matter how skilled or diligent the workers are, if the Lord is not in it, the work of the builders is "wasted." Christ, even by His most early profession, is the master carpenter of our lives. He is the source of wisdom, which is the most valuable building material: ***“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”*** (Proverbs 24:3-4)

This is an extremely important detail because, most parishioners, especially those who are business-minded, often try to utilize business sense, and incorporate business strategies into the life of the Church, as if following such earthly-minded ventures could "build" or grow the Church. Man's "best-laid plans" are NOT God's plans. In fact, Holy Scripture consistently states that Man's way is incongruent with God's way, for God's way is inverted to man's: ***“God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”*** (1st Cor. 1:27-29)

Proof of this is often found when we supplant our own vision and listen to the voice of God – even when what He is telling us seems irrational, counter-intuitive, or ludicrous. Noah built the ark believing God's word that an unprecedented flood would come even when all his friends thought he was crazy. Noah listened to God's real-time words, heeded what He said, and kept hammering together pieces of wood to build a huge boat while the sun shone. Sure enough, the rains began, and the ark was launched in a great flood that destroyed all life on shore. Noah's family and the animals in the ark were saved (Gen.6:5-9:29). Thus, Noah, following God's plan, found success.

On the other hand, the narrative of the Tower of Babel reveals how God foiled the building plans of proud, ancient engineers. People in this story strived to reach heaven by building a tall tower. God does not want people to reach for heaven on their own strength. God kept these people grounded by breaking down the builders' communication, creating separate languages among people. Inability to communicate halted the building project of the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9). Humans' plans and any expectation for success failed without the approval of God for the project.

Therefore, the best way for us to build the Church is to adhere to Christ's Gospel and teachings; to live our Faith and to practice what we preach. To love, honor, worship, and reverence God by our day-to-day actions. To read His Word committedly and with joy. To pray, fast, practice humility, respect others, and obey the Commandments; not because we "have to," but because we "want to." Then, and only then will we see any successes whatsoever. For if we are not willing to abide in God's House, how else can it grow?

**Unless the Lord  
builds the house  
they labor in vain  
who build it.**

**PsaIm 127:1**





**ARCHANGEL MICHAEL  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**Metropolitan Tikhon  
Primate**

Orthodox Church in America

**Archbishop Daniel  
Diocese of the Midwest**

**V. Rev. Fr. John Memorich**  
Rector  
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Administrative Assistant  
info@stmichaelscleveland.org

**Ben Wharton**  
Choir Director  
benwharton19@gmail.com

**Angelika Mindala**  
Sunday School Director

**Greg Mindala**  
Woodside Board President

**Joan Benny, Helen Gaborick, &  
Patricia Patrick**  
Labeling

## From The President

### Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Now may You rule and bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever. For You are the Lord my Lord; You spoke, and with Your blessing, let the house of Your servant be blessed forever. 2 Samuel 7:29

Woodside hosted a New Year's Eve gala and SOLD OUT the event! It's exciting to see the support and participation and I'm grateful that Len and I were able to attend and welcome the New Year!



The New Year also brings the Annual Parish meeting scheduled for February 25. We have one open Trustee position to fill. Trustees attend meetings, provide their input, and share their thoughts on matters brought before the Board. We generally meet once a month. Meetings are either virtual or in person and are often complete within an hour depending on the agenda. Our parish is growing and vibrant and new voices to our Board and Committees add different perspectives and help us align activities to the needs of the parish. Please consider accepting a position to serve.

As we start this New Year, let us renew our commitment to God and schedule a time when Holy Water will be brought to your home to personally bless you and each of your family members and renew the awareness of God's presence in your home.

In Christ,  
Darlene

### The Gifts of the Magi: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

According to the Scripture, the Wise Men (Magi) specifically brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to present to the Christ Child (Matt. 2:11). Besides their intrinsic value, these gifts were both symbolic and prophetic. St. John Chrysostom preached that these gifts were not only fit for a king, but for God Himself, suggesting that even the Magi were worshiping Jesus not as king, but as God.

The early Christian writer, Origen, links the Magi's gifts as being prophetic: "gold, as to a king; myrrh, as to one who is mortal; and incense, as to a God." This interpretation is even alluded to, in the popular Christmas carol, We Three Kings, in which the Magi glorify the Christ Child as "King and God and sacrifice."

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#### RECEIVE IMPORTANT PARISH UPDATES VIA TEXT

In an ongoing effort to keep our parish community informed and up-to-date with very important information, you can now receive TEXT MESSAGE updates from the church. These updates are not sent frequently, but rather when there is information that needs to be distributed quickly.

## TEXT AMOC TO (833) 455-0695

You'll receive a confirmation text message. Standard message and data rates apply. The church cannot add your number, you need to "opt-in" to start receiving the messages.

# Continuing Orthodox Religious Education (CORE)

## Why are We Censed during Divine Services ?

Incense symbolizes prayer.

That incense symbolizes prayer is pointed out in the Sacred Scripture:

*"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps and golden bowls full of incense which are the prayers of the saints."* (Revelation 5:8).

As sweet-smelling smoke lightly rises up, so true prayer coming from a purified heart, should rise up to God. As incense has a pleasant aroma, So prayer, done with love and humility, is pleasing to the Lord. The Holy apostle Paul says:

*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children: and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us as offering and a sacrifice to God, for a sweet-smelling savour* (Ephesians 5: 1-2).



We find that censuring in the Old Testament prefigured the sweet-savor of the passion of the Savior of the world. Because of complaints by the people of Israel, God struck them with plagues, Aaron the High Priest went into the midst of the congregation, and offered incense in atonement, and God's wrath abated (Numbers 16:41-48). Their sins were forgiven.

While the Prophet Zechariah was censuring in the Temple, he received news from the Angel of the Lord, about the coming birth of his son, the Forerunner of the Lord, St. John the Baptist (Luke 1:11).

When holy things, such as icons and the church are censed, that censuring is directed toward God, giving Him due honor and glory. When the censer is turned toward the people, it bears witness to the fact that the Holy Spirit is poured out onto all the faithful, for they have within them the image of God. It is tradition that in response to being censed, people bow.

Before beginning to cense, the priest says the following prayer:

*"Incense do we offer unto Thee, O Christ our God, as an order of spiritual fragrance, accepting it upon Thy most heavenly altar, do thou send down upon us the grace of Thy Most Holy Spirit"*

## The Gifts of the Magi: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

**Gold**, being a very regal gift, is offered to Him Who one day would be proclaimed the "King of the Jews," but more importantly is the King of this world and the world to come.

**Frankincense** was also a noble gift, but one that is closely connected to priestly worship. This, too, was prophetic in the fact that Christ is not only our High Priest, but also God; to Whom is due all glory, honor, and worship.



**Myrrh**, however, is vastly different from the other two gifts and far more mysterious. Although it came from the same family of bush as frankincense, its resin was extremely bitter. And because it was routinely used in embalming, it was a strange gift to offer a newborn infant. Therefore it prophetically alludes to Christ as the "suffering servant" Isaiah depicted in chapter 53, as well as Jesus' actual Passion and Crucifixion.

**PARISHIONERS LIVING IN NURSING HOMES & INDEPENDENT LIVING**  
 Please see the list below of our parishioners living in nursing home facilities.

|                             |   |                                       |                                |              |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Joan Benny.....             | Vista Springs Ravinia Estate .....      | 6046 Brecksville Road Room 104.....   | Independence, OH 44131.....    | 216.232.4793 |
| Marie Bartlett.....         | The Renaissance .....                   | 26376 John Road, Apt #227 .....       | Olmsted Township, OH 44138     |              |
| George Chernesky.....       | Vista Springs Ravinia Estates.....      | 6046 Brecksville Rd.....              | Independence, OH 44131         |              |
| Mary and Helen Ksenyak..... | Danbury Senior Living.....              | 9500 Broadview Road.....              | Broadview Hts., OH 44147       |              |
| Marge Kormos.....           | Danbury Senior Living.....              | 9500 Broadview Road #102.....         | Broadview Hts., OH 44147 ..... | 440.262.2617 |
| Alexandra Mikulicz.....     | Independence Village Senior Living..... | 505 S. Chillicothe Rd., Apt. 265..... | Aurora, OH 44202.....          | 330.995.3712 |
| Walter Dimitrijevs.....     | Vitalia - North Royalton.....           | 8239 York Road, Apt 120.....          | North Royalton, OH 44133       |              |



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Anna Hayes         | 1  |
| Nina Kovalak       | 2  |
| Susan Rigby        | 2  |
| Bill Zubenko       | 2  |
| Carol Milla        | 2  |
| Jared Hahn         | 4  |
| Catrina Kovalak    | 6  |
| Glenn Foster       | 6  |
| Joachim Wyslutsky  | 6  |
| Patricia Gaborick  | 7  |
| Justin Kormos      | 7  |
| Rosemary Antel     | 9  |
| Helen Gaborick     | 9  |
| Dave Harpley       | 9  |
| Daniel Hornik      | 9  |
| David Hornik       | 9  |
| Elizabeth Miklos   | 9  |
| Jim Kormos         | 10 |
| Isaac Foster       | 10 |
| John Sabo          | 11 |
| Steven Visocky     | 11 |
| Nikolas Ulinskas   | 11 |
| Sandy Turk         | 12 |
| Alex Foster        | 12 |
| Heidi Kirsh        | 12 |
| Thomas Herberth    | 13 |
| Anysia Wharton     | 14 |
| Maureen Naymik     | 15 |
| Laurie Cook        | 16 |
| Olivia Louie       | 16 |
| Andrew Ropchock    | 16 |
| Johnny Svihlik     | 16 |
| Paige Merrill      | 18 |
| Thomas Foster      | 18 |
| Joanna Farragher   | 19 |
| Kristy Herzak      | 20 |
| John Memorich      | 20 |
| Anastassia Hardy   | 20 |
| Cheryl Andrews     | 22 |
| Jarrett Mehalik    | 25 |
| Liz Pfeiffer Baker | 25 |
| Andrew Kovalak     | 26 |
| Hope Nestor        | 27 |
| Philip Quidort     | 28 |
| Joel Neilsen       | 28 |
| Nicky Memorich     | 29 |
| Kinsley Johnson    | 29 |
| Jerry Yurch        | 30 |
| Daniel Henry       | 30 |
| Raymond Kogler     | 31 |
| Vladimir Idov      | 31 |

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Fritz & Catherine Radwanski       | 1  |
| Joseph & Helen Sekerak            | 10 |
| Theodore Zajac & Deborah Klembara | 11 |
| Thomas & Charity Hanchuk          | 13 |
| Michael & Lora Strongosky         | 18 |

## Around the Parish

### Yolka – Thank you

Thank you to all of our Staff and Students for a delightful close to the first half of our school year! We say hello to 2024 reinforcing what we've learned while looking forward to all the fun to come! Our children performed beautifully during our Yolka; showcasing their talents in the retelling of the Nativity. Fr. John saved a delay by getting us started with some Carols then we had a delicious brunch prepared by Joe and Nate Verba, coordinated with the help of Marge Dzmura, Kathy Mindala, Sharon Glagola, and served by our High School Students, Parents and Teachers! We look forward to this event, where we can truly celebrate and share our blessings with our church family.

### Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



For more photos, visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stmichaelscle/>

### 2024 R CLUB DUES

Dues for 2024 are \$60 and are being collected. Please pay your dues promptly to Karen Visocky, you have three options:

1. Venmo: @Cleveland-RClub
2. Give cash or check directly to Karen on Sunday's
3. Mail checks payable to CLEVELAND R CLUB to Karen Visocky, 115 Valley Brook Blvd, Hinckley, OH 44233

### Parish Transitions

# Around the Parish

## Halos Christmas Party

Our Halos youth group gathered for an evening of food and fun at its annual Christmas Party. Fr. John offered a glimpse of the life of Saint Mother Olga of Alaska, one of the newest North American saints, and also discussed Alaskan culture with items shared from our own parish member, Cindy Henry. The children later enjoyed games and ended the evening singing carols around the neighborhood. Donations were brought for Zoe for Life and more can be dropped off at the church for our Christmas Charity. If you would still like to donate we are collecting diapers, wipes, gently used clothing, and toys up to age two. A big Thank you to Danny and Kristy Herzak for opening up your home to 58 members of our Halos family.



## January Halos Event

Friday, Jan 5 – 5:45 pm to 8:00 pm

Get Air Trampoline Park located at 7204 Pearl Road, Middleburg Hts.

Jump into the New Year – feet first at our annual Get Air Event.

- RSVP by Jan 2nd so we can order enough pizza, etc. Our Party Area is scheduled from 6-8 pm, but feel free to arrive 15 minutes early!
- \$10 per Jumper (includes: socks, pizza; and adults can jump too, if so inclined). Let Sarah Mindala know the number of jumpers and non-jumpers when you RSVP.
- Go online to complete the release waiver at [www.trampolineparkclevelandoh.com](http://www.trampolineparkclevelandoh.com) (Waivers need to be updated annually).

## Stewardship

Below is the list of parishioners who have returned their 2024 Pledge Card to the church office, as of December 22, 2023. If you feel there is a mistake, please contact the church office at **440.526.5192** or email **info@stmichaelscleveland.org**.

**2024 PLEDGE  
CAMPAIGN**  
156 Pledge Units  
\$257,787.00 Total Pledged  
As of 12/22/23

Katherine & Christopher Ahrens  
Russ & Laura Alford  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Allen  
Patricia & Mark Andrasek  
Cheryl Andrews  
Rosemary Andrews  
Christine Arkutik  
Terri Baranich  
Marie Bartlett  
Joan Benny  
Michael & Patricia Bittner  
Sarah & Joshua Blum  
Dan & Therese Bohurjak  
Michael & Sandra Bohurjak  
Natalie & Jeffrey Boyd  
Nancy Bruno  
Lisa Burton  
Candace Carter  
Mihai & Sonja Cojocar  
Lois & Leonard Colagrossi  
Laurie & John Cook  
Len & Darlene Dimitrijevs  
Walter Dimitrijevs  
Kristen & Ron Dotson  
Andrea & Mark Dwenger  
Marge Dzmura  
Jane Fedonhk  
Barbara & Raymond Fetcenko  
Fran Foster  
Helen Gaborick  
Patricia Gaborick  
W. Gaborick  
Gregory Gaydos  
Michael Gaydos

Nicholas & Jessica Gaydos  
Tim & Paula Gaydos  
Sharon Glagola  
Greg Hanchuk  
Pat Hanchuk  
Anna & Andrew Hayes  
Thomas & Elizabeth Herberth  
Dan & Kristy Herzak  
Lara Herzak  
Michael & Paula Herzak  
Linda Hilbert  
George & Sandra Hornfeck  
John & Darlene Hudeck  
Nancy Jackson  
Mike & Erma Kalinich  
Anne Kallay  
Kathryn Kallay  
Chad Karnes  
Sandy & Ronald Klein  
Deborah Klembara & Theodore Zajac  
Noah & Jennifer Klembara  
Tim & Pat Klembara  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Klich  
Raymond Kogler  
Robert Kogler  
Dan Kormos  
Gregory Kormos  
Marge Kormos  
Matthew & Kendra Kormos  
Michael & Kathleen Kormos  
Peter Kormos  
Timothy Kormos  
Bob & Kathy Kovalak  
Nina Kovalak  
Steve & Kristy Kovalak  
Karen Kowalchik  
Helen Ksenyak  
Mary Ksenyak  
Irene Kuchta  
Dennis Lapso  
Kari Larson (Quistad) & Chad Quistad

Denise Louie  
Maribeth Lucak  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lucak  
Lisa Lyon & Sam Lyon, Jr.  
Amanda Malinowski  
Barbara & James Mates  
Daniel & Sandy Mehalik  
Jim & Lisa Mehalik  
William & Pauline Mehalik  
Alex Meklus  
Fr. John & Mat. Jani Memorich  
Michael & Megan Merick  
Paige & Thomas Merrill  
Carol Milla  
Greg & Sarah Mindala  
John & Angelika Mindala  
John & Kathy Mindala  
Nancy Misichko  
Elaina Muenster  
James & Maureen Naymik  
Barbara Neilsen & Joel Neilsen  
Tanya & Mike Niezgoda  
Marianne & Sam Noah  
Mary Jane Patrick  
Patricia Patrick  
Michael Petrisin  
David & Joy Pfeiffer  
Jason Pfeiffer  
Elizabeth Pishko  
Jennifer Pishko  
Vivian & Carlos Plaza  
Monica & Rick Polcen  
Irene Pollock  
Fritz & Catherine Radwanski  
Deborah & Andrew Ramsay  
Samantha Ramsay  
Stephen Ramsay  
Bob & Naomi Reilly  
David & Susan Rigby  
Peter & Stephanie Rivacuk  
Ralph Robinson  
Nicholas & Alyssa Rolin  
Mark Ropchock

Mr. & Mrs. John Sabo  
Olga Sabula  
Suzanne & Dennis Schlekic  
Christia Schutt  
Joseph & Helen Sekerak  
Joseph Sentelik  
Gerald & Beverly Severns  
Pat Sima  
Jackie Sipko  
Haralambos Steingass  
George & Ann Strongosky  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Strongosky  
Steve Strongosky  
Liz & Tim Sylvain  
Becky Tesar  
Donna Tesar  
Melissa Tesar  
Phil & Natalie Tesar  
Mr. & Mrs. David Thomas  
Cindy & Joe Tonic  
Christina Turk  
David Turk  
Gregory & Alexandra Turk  
Tammy & Peter Ubbelohde  
Martin & Sandra Uhrina  
Ed & Karen Visocky  
Steve & Monica Visocky  
Thomas Warholyk  
Jeff & Belinda Weaver  
Julie & Eric Weis  
Ben & Anysia Wharton  
Phil & Judi Wienclaw  
Julianne Wtulich  
Laura Wtulich  
Michael Wtulich  
Larissa & Ryan Young  
Kimberly Zacharyasz  
Bill Zubenko

# ST. JAMES PRAYER LIST

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

## SPECIAL INTENTIONS & PRAYERS

Archpriest Daniel Kovalak ..... (Bob Kovalak's brother)  
Archpriest Myron Manzuk ..... (Fr. John's cousin)  
Sandy Abraham ..... (Mat. Jani's cousin)  
Mat. Anna Andrew ..... (Fr. John's cousin)  
Jamie Arrango ..... (Friend of many FOCA members)  
Bruce Baughman ..... (Vivian Plaza's father)  
Denise Bittner ..... (Mike & Pat Bittner's daughter)  
William Cook ..... (John Cook's brother)  
Panagiotis Delimaris ..... (Angel Mindala's father)  
Toinette Episcopo ..... (friend of The Schlekies)  
Michelle Zdinak Frampton ..... (friend of the parish)  
Jasper France ..... (friend of Joe/Cindy Tonic)  
Maria Horbath ..... (Terri Baranich's friend)  
Geraldine Irvin ..... (Donna Tesar's friend)  
Kathy Jacob ..... (friend of Kristen Dotson)  
Lorraine Jancik ..... (Kari Larson's grandmother)  
Philip Kall .....  
Michelle Karnes ..... (Friend of Tim/Paula Gaydos)  
Mat. Myra Kovalak ..... (Bob Kovalak's sister-in-law)  
John Kules ..... (Friend of Kathy Kovalak)  
Cindy Lazorik ..... (Former parishioner of Fr. John's)  
George Lazorik ..... (Former parishioner of Fr. John's)  
Judi Linden ..... (Jackie Sipko's neighbor)  
Christine Lynn ..... (friend of Dennis Lapso)  
Frieden – Christine's father ..... (friend of Dennis Lapso)  
Mary McDaniels ..... (Fr. John's cousin)  
Danette Mehalik ..... (daughter of Dan/Sandy Mehalik)  
Jill Olecki ..... (Sue Schlekies's niece)  
Mat. Theodora Ressetar ..... (Former Parishioner)  
Craig Richardson ..... (Friend of Candace Ropchock)  
June Sabo ..... (Granddaughter of John/Jacque Sabo)  
Julete Sabo ..... (Granddaughter of John/Jacque Sabo)  
Julina Sabo ..... (Daughter-in-law of John/Jacque Sabo)  
Joey Shaluha ..... (Ed & Karen Visocky's grandson)  
Christopher Sipko ..... (Jackie Sipko's son)  
George Takla ..... (Friend of Joe Sentelik)  
Janet Teebagy ..... (Friend of Fr. John)  
Ptdn. Michael Timko ..... (Mat. Ludmila's husband)  
Jon Ubbelohde ..... (Father-in-law of Tammy Ubbelohde (Kowalchik))

## WITH CHILD

Terry & Kathy Speth  
Elizabeth Pishko & Patrick Matyas  
Katie & Mike Roush

## PARISHIONERS

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Terri Baranich     | Kathleen Kormos     |
| Marie Bartlett     | Margaret Kormos     |
| Joan Benny         | Kathy Kovalak       |
| Sandy Bohurjak     | Mary Jane Lucak     |
| Andrew Buswell     | Robert Lucak        |
| George Chernesky   | Jean Mehalik        |
| Brett Deyling      | Sandy Mehalik       |
| Walter Dimitrijevs | Alex Meklus         |
| Jane Fedohnk       | Alexandria Mikulicz |
| John Gaborick      | Carol Milla         |
| Robert Glosik      | Jennifer Pishko     |
| Andrew Hanchuk     | Kristina Polcen     |
| Luke Hanchuk       | Candace Ropchock    |
| Timothy Hanchuk    | John Sabo           |
| Thomas Herberth    | Christia Schutt     |
| Danny Herzak       | Pat Sima            |
| Daniel Hornik      | George Strongosky   |
| Anne Kallay        | Edward Visocky      |
| James Kormos       | Monica Visocky      |

## SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Jon Farragher ..... (George & JoAnn Farragher's son)  
Richard Miller III ..... (Friend of St. Vladimir's Camp)  
Nicholas Polcen ..... (Parishioner)  
Jacob Stankiewicz ..... (Donna Tesar's neighbor)

## NEWLY DEPARTED

David Deyling (+12/13/23 MaryAnn Deyling's father-in-law)

# January

2024

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday                               | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| NO Meeting in January for 55+ Club  | 1<br>Happy New Year!<br>Circumcision of Christ | 2  | 3  | 4   | 5<br>Eve of Theophany<br>Strict Fast | 6<br>Theophany of Christ<br>9:30 am-Festal Liturgy<br>of Blessing of Water |
| 7<br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy<br>Sunday School   | 8<br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy<br>Sunday School    | 9<br>6pm – Woodside Hall Bd<br>Meeting<br>7pm- Adult Education | 10<br>9:30am – Mollieben /<br>Samaritans   | 11<br>Ven. Theodosius the Great                                     | 12<br>7pm – Vigil                    | 13<br>5pm – Great Vespers  |
| 14<br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy<br>Sunday School<br>Chili Cook-Off  | 15<br>10am – Prospora<br>Baking                | 16   | 17<br>Ven. God-bearing<br>Anthony the Great<br>7pm – Board of Trustees<br>/ ZOOM Meeting         | 18<br>Ven. Euthymius the Great<br>Pro-Life March /<br>Washington DC | 19<br>7pm - Book Club                | 20<br>5pm – Great Vespers  |
| 21<br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy<br>Sunday School<br>6pm – Pray for the<br>Unborn Children – St.<br>Paul GOC | 22   | 23<br>7pm – Adult Education                                    | 24   | 25<br>St. Gregory the<br>Theologian                                 | 26                                   | 27<br>5pm – Great Vespers  |
| New Martyrs and<br>Confessors of Russia 28<br>9:30am-Divine Liturgy<br>Sunday School                    | 29   | 30   | 31<br>Synaxis 3 Hierarchs; Basil<br>the Great, Gregory the<br>Theologian, and John<br>Chrysostom | 31  |                                      |  |



## What Were Houses Like at the Time of Jesus?

As we enter the Theophany Season and the blessing of houses, it might be interesting to note what homes were like in the time of Jesus:

The smallest homes of the very poor might be little more than a square, stone structure, covered with a whitewashed sort of stucco. There would typically be one larger multi-purpose room and a smaller back room for the animals. Some houses in hilly regions were partial cave dwellings, built up against the limestone rock face, perhaps with the front section built on to it. The traditional site at the house of the Annunciation (in Nazareth) seems to have been built this way. However, we need not conclude from this that Joseph and Mary were destitute. Many homes employed the hillside strategy that made use of hollowed out caves. Such structures were easy to build and there was a certain natural coolness to them.

**Another sort of house**, also common among the working poor and typical village-dwellers, was one built around a central open court with small rooms opening on to it. Because the central court had no roof, this kind of building had the advantage of needing only short beams for the roof structures. The open concept retained the coolness by allowing air to move freely through-out. Cooking could also be conducted in this area.

Families, sometimes including several generations, tended to live under one roof and had little or no privacy. If the family had some animals, they were often kept in this part of the house at night.

**The roof was of real importance in everyday life.** It was flat, with just enough slope to drain off the rainwater. In the relatively arid climate of the eastern Mediterranean, rainwater was precious; therefore, it was carefully collected into cisterns or large containers. The roof of the house was flat and sturdy, enabling people to go up on it. Because roofs were used so often, the Law of Deuteronomy required guard rails to be installed to prevent falling.

**The roof areas provided an open second floor.** On it, tools could be stored, and laundry put out to dry. Scripture also speaks of it as a place to retire and pray. In the evening, when it was cool, people often sat there and talked; they would even sleep there when the weather was good. The climate of the Mediterranean provides an ideal setting for this at most times of the year. Some also placed tents and other coverings on the roof to increase its usefulness during inclement weather.

**Except for the roof structures, which included wood timbers, the basic building material in Palestine was stone.** Limestone is an excellent building material, and as the stones were fashioned into a wall they would be coated with a stucco-like material and smoothed over. Foundations were dug with great care (Jesus said that we should build upon rock rather than sand). The mortar used to bond the stone was made of clay mixed with shells in potsherds.

**Wooden trusses were necessary for the structure of the roofs**, since they would be used as a kind of second floor. Then a firm lattice of straw mats would be added; covered and smoothed with hard clay. Yearly repairs were made just prior to the rainy season.

**Most of the inner doors were narrow.** Only the door facing the street was wider and had a hinged door that could be secured. In poorer homes the floor was simply pounded earth. The more affluent might have had pebbles or tiles made of baked clay. Wooden floors were only an option for the affluent.

**Only the very wealthy could have water piped to their house. Ordinary people went to the well or spring-fount**, or perhaps to a local stream, and collected water with skins, jars, and all manner of pitchers. Some larger towns had conduits or aqueducts that brought water into certain public areas. The washing of clothes was done away from the main house lest water run back in.

**There was little need for much heating, except** in the cooler months of the year. Most of the houses, therefore, had no fireplace. If it did grow cold, there were charcoal braziers in which small fires would be kindled.

**Lighting was not very abundant. Small oil lamps were used.** Because much time was spent out-of-doors, interior lights were not an absolute necessity.

**Furniture was extremely simple.** The most important pieces in the home were chests. There were chests for provisions and chests for clothes. For the poorest families, chests doubled as tables. Because clothing was simple, there was little need for many different sets or changes of clothing, thus there was less need for numerous chests and the sorts of insanely large closets many have today.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



# 2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

## IN HONOR OF

By The Cook Family ..... Isaac Cook, Holly Cook, Sara Blum, Josh Blum, Jackie Sipko, Ana Stepanov  
By The Dimitrijevs Family ..... Walter, Darlene, Leonard, Aleksandra, Lillith, Eve, Brandon, Kristina, Maylee, Macklin, Stephen,  
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By Family ..... Donna Tesar, Phil & Judi Wienclaw  
By Tim & Paula Gaydos ..... The Family of Tim & Paula Gaydos  
By Pat Hanchuk ..... Tim & Lisa Hanchuk & Family, Tom & Charity Hanchuk & Family, Greg Hanchuk, Andrew & Nikolai, Ryan & Larissa Young & Family  
By Tom & Liz Herberth ..... Our Children and Grandchildren  
By Aunt Patty ..... Ainsley & Reid Sylvain  
By Mark Ropchock ..... Gabe Ropchock, Andrew Ropchock  
By Donna Tesar ..... Melissa, Becky, Phil, Natalie, Malakai, and Malia; Fr. John & Matushka Jani & Family  
By Phil & Judi Wienclaw ..... Donna Cirino  
By The Young Family ..... Jackson & Alexandra Young

## IN MEMORY OF

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# Health Hint

## Health Hint 181 - January 2024

By Kristen Dotson

### Safe Snow Shoveling

Shoveling snow can be good exercise when done correctly, but taking on more than your body can handle or ignoring signs that you need to take a break may prove harmful. Hopefully this winter is mild, however, if we see a lot of snow, here are some tips to shovel snow safely.

**Be heart conscious:** If you have a history of heart problems and are physically inactive, it's best to consult with your health care team before starting heavy exercise like shoveling. In addition, don't shovel while smoking, eating or right after consuming caffeine since this may place extra stress on your heart.

**Dress for the weather:** Wear several layers of clothing. You can remove a layer if needed. Avoid wearing cotton next to your body. If you perspire, it can become damp, and you'll get chilled. Protect your hands, feet and face since these are common areas for frostbite. Wear a hat that covers your ears and a scarf to protect your lower face. Mittens are generally warmer than gloves.

**Drink plenty of water:** Remaining hydrated during cold-weather months is just as important as during warm-weather months. Drink water or sports drinks before, during and after your shoveling session, even if you're not thirsty.

**Warm up:** Before beginning to shovel, stretch your arms, legs, shoulders and back. You're less likely to injure muscles and joints when they're warmed up.

**Shovel snow while it's fresh:** Freshly fallen snow is lighter than snow that has started melting or has been moved by a plow.

**Watch out for ice:** There may be ice under the snow. Be careful, so you don't slip, fall and injure yourself.

**Take it slow:** Pace yourself and take breaks if you need to. Safety is more important than speed.

**Protect your back:** Bend at the knees, not the back when lifting the shovel. Lift with your legs bent, stand with your feet hip-width apart for balance and keep the shovel close to your body. Also, don't pick up too much snow at once. Consider using a smaller shovel or filling a larger shovel no more than halfway.

**Beware of shoulder strain:** Shoveling snow can place a lot of strain on your shoulders. Lifting and throwing heavy piles of snow or hitting hard ice hidden beneath the snow can result in shoulder damage. Lifting too much snow can aggravate arthritis or further injure a worn rotator cuff.

**Listen to your body:** This is the No. 1 snow shoveling tip. If something doesn't feel normal or you're tired, it's time to stop. Go inside, warm up, rest and drink water. Reevaluate how your body feels before picking up where you left off.

**Be careful around machinery:** If you use a snowblower or plow, be especially cautious around moving parts and sharp edges. Be sure the equipment is turned off before clearing any snow jams. Keep children and pets away while you're operating machinery.

**Have your phone handy:** If you're experiencing an emergency, call 911 immediately. Stay safe while shoveling, and enjoy the exercise and being outside on a brisk winter day.



**11TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF**

Sunday, Jan 14, 2024  
Following Divine Liturgy @ Woodside

Hot Prizes for the best chili!

VOTE for the BEST in 3 Categories

- Traditional
- Non-Traditional
- Hot & Spicy

Chicken - Turkey - Vegetarian

**BRING THE HEAT!**  
The Event Includes

- \*\* FREE HOT DOGS \*\*
- \*\* FAMILY FUN \*\*
- CHILI TASTING

\*\* PLEASE BRING A SMALL DESSERT FOR EVERYONE TO SHARE \*\*

IF you wish to enter a chili into the cook-off, CONTACT - Kathy Mindala at 440-263-7427

## CHURCH INFORMATION

Moving or have Contact Info Updates? Please contact the church office to update your address and or phone number by emailing [info@stmichaelscleveland.org](mailto:info@stmichaelscleveland.org) or calling 440.526.5192.

### Candles / Prayers / Flowers

Contact the church office if you would like order candles, flowers or have prayers in church in honor or memory of your loved

ones. Flowers are \$65 for a bouquet, and candles range from \$3 to \$30, depending on what you would like. The church office will purchase the flowers for you and they will be delivered the Friday before the requested service / date.

### Vespers

Saturday vespers begin at 5pm.

### St. James Prayer List

Contact the church office to have a name added to or removed from the St. James Prayer list. The list is published each month in the Archangel, and weekly edits to the list are printed in the Weekly Bulletin.

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# the Archangel

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

**Most moderately well-off families had a low table** at which to recline and eat. People in this region and time reclined on their left elbow and ate with their right hand. It was very rare to sit on chairs at higher tables to eat.

**The kitchen as we know it did not exist.** In small houses, cooking was done out back over an open fire or fire pit. Utensils were kept in a chest. In larger houses, the courtyard might be the place of the cooking fire with kitchen items kept in a storeroom. Only the largest homes had a dedicated area with a fiery oven.

**Bedding** was rolled out on the floor. The bed as a raised piece of furniture was largely unknown then, except among the very wealthy. Family members stretched out on mats, covering themselves with their own cloaks. Many slept on the roof in warmer months.

**Even smaller houses seem to have had a bath of some sort.** The ancient Jews were conscientious about cleanliness and viewed it as closely related to holiness and ritual purity. The usual bath (often called a mikveh) was narrow and one stepped down into it. Bathing was for hygiene to be sure, but the Jews also undertook ritual baths.

**Bathrooms** were more likely outhouses and were removed from the main dwelling. These facilities may have been shared between several dwellings depending on the size and layout of the town or village. There is a phrase used in the Torah, in which Moses tells the ancient Israelites, "Build your toilets outside the camp." It further states, "When you go to the toilet, take a paddle or a shovel with you and use the toilet and then cover it up." This suggests that some sort of lime was thrown in after each use. Other directions about bathrooms were that they should be in discreet and private locations. Certain archeological sites have disclosed the presence of toilets consisting of a pit dug into the ground and of an enclosed, roofed chamber; basically, an outhouse.