

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, September 13, 2026

5025 E. Mill Road – Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147
440.526.5192 - info@stmichaelscleveland.org

www.StMichaelsCleveland.org

V. REV. FR. JOHN MEMORICH
(C) 216.548.8757
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! Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross. 15th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 6.

EPISTLE READING
2 Cor 4:6-15

GOSPEL LESSON
Matt. 22:35-46

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 13

9:15 am Molieben / Church School
9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Live Stream)
Church School Starts Today
Charities Committee Mtg/Vestibule
Pizza Party
7:00 pm Vespers (for **Exaltation of the Cross**)

Monday, September 14 **UNIVERSAL EXALTATION of the PRECIOUS and LIFE-GIVING CROSS** **STRICT FAST DAY**

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
11:00 am 55+ Meeting / Lunch

Tuesday, September 15

12:00 pm Pierogi Making

Wednesday, September 16

9:00 am Pierogi Making

Thursday, September 17 **Martyr Sophia, Faith, Hope and Love**

Friday, September 18

7:00 pm Book Club

Saturday, September 19

5:00 pm Vespers / Confession

Sunday, September 20

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Live Stream)
Parastas - Weaver
R Club Bake Sale
Golf Outing

Monday, September 21

10:00 am **Prosphora Baking -**

Come and join us!



PRAYERS, CANDLES, 7-DAY VIGILS and FLOWERS

FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF:

Holly, Corban, Isaac Cook (Traveling)by the Cook Family
John & Laurie Cook (Traveling)by the Cook Family

Tom Hanchuk (Birthday)..... by Mom
David Hayes (Birthday) by Baba & Dede
Dan & Sandy Mehalik (Health)..... by Lynda Kostura

Dan Patrick (Health; 7-d) by Patricia Patrick
Fr. Peter Tomas (Health; 7-d) by Dennis Lapso
Cindy Tonic (Health; 7-d) by Dennis Lapso
Cindy Tonic (Health; 7-d) by the Samaritans

FOR THE REPOSE AND BLESSED MEMORY OF:

Paul Choma (Newly Departed)by Robert Lucak & Family

Annette Lapso (Departed; 7-d)by Dennis Lapso
Gale Pishko (Departed; 7-d) by Jennifer Pishko

Sunday, September 13 – Altar Servers & Readers

Altar Servers: Augustin Mindala, Roman Mindala, Johnny Mindala, Silas Foster, Isaac Foster, Alex Foster, Nicholas Gaydos, Joshua Gaydos

Reader: Monica Visocky

Sunday, September 20 – Altar Servers & Readers

Altar Servers: David Visocky, Tommy Visocky, Xavier Visocky, Charlie Herzak, MJ Herzak, Connor Noll, Jacob G Kormos, John Kormos, David Hayes

Reader: Evelyn Lynagh

SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR

Samaritans

Bulletin Information (Deadline)

Deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday - **12/noon**. Please forward any information you would like to have added to the bulletin to the church email – info@stmichaelscleveland.org or call 440-526-5192.

Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thurs, Sept 24 – Prislopsky Lecture
- Sat, Sept 26 – Retreat – ‘Marriage as a Path to Holiness’ @ St. Innocent OC, Olmsted Falls
- Sat, Sept 26 – EOWG Mtg @ Holy Trinity, Parma
- Sat, Oct 10 – Speaker – ‘Book of Revelation’ @ St. Matthew OC, North Royalton
- Sat, Oct 17 – Retreat – ‘Light Streams In’ @ Sts. Constantine & Helen OC, Cleveland Hts.
- Sun, Nov 8 – St. Michael’s Day Banquet
- Sat, Nov 14 – Baba’s Kitchen

St. James Prayer List – September

*“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 July 2026 – YTD

	June	July	Year to Date	Budget Deficit	Forecast
Collection	\$ 31,786	25,201	\$ 357,051	398,150	437,150
Required to pay bills	\$ 33,083	39,163	\$ 357,372	469,440	475,902
Surplus/(Short)	\$ (1,298)	\$(13,962)	\$ (321)	\$(71,290)	(38,752)

Through July we were very close to break even for the year and have achieved over half of our goal to reduce the \$71,290 budget deficit. Year-to-date, we have generated a small loss of \$321 and are performing approximately \$42,100 better than this time last year. That is quite an achievement!

The end of summer is upon us, and we were required to draw \$15,000 from our reserves during the month of August to meet our financial obligations. We almost made it through the summer without needing to do so!

As we return to the start of the church and school year in September, we are hopeful that contributions will increase. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish. Every contribution makes a difference and helps us meet our ongoing financial commitments.

AS MANY AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST!

Congratulations to the newly Baptized and Illumined servant of God **Jett Axel Johnson**, his parents, **Jeremy and Stephanie**, and his Godparents! Many Years!

 **Raffle – Help support St. Vladimir’s Camp** 
Congratulations to our September winner!
Liz Herberth

It’s not too late to join in! Tickets are still available for purchase, and every entry helps support **St. Vladimir’s Camp**. To date, we have raised **just under \$7,000** (before bank fees and raffle prize costs).

Tickets can be purchased **online** or by **check payable to St. Michael’s**. If you prefer to enter by check, please give your check to **Darlene Dimitrijevs**.

Our next drawing will take place today – Sunday, October 11, 2026. Good luck and thank you for your continued support!

50th Wedding Anniversary

Celebrating your 50th Anniversary this year? Please let us know by contacting the church office – 440-526-5192 or email at info@stmichaelscleveland.org

Adult Ed Classes

Adult Ed classes will review on the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 15, with a repeat session on Thursday, Sept 17. This year we will begin by studying the “Seven Signs” in the Gospel of St. John.

*Happy Birthday to you who
are celebrating this week*



September

Thomas Hanchuk	15	Christopher Ahrens	18
Ruby Kowalchik	15	Claire Svihilk	18
Fred Radwanski	15	David Thomas	18
Eric Smyczek	15	David Hayes	19

*Happy anniversary to those
celebrating this week*



September

Rick & Mary Bodnar	14	Kyle & Ashley Martin	18
Richard & Monica Polcen	17	Matt & Kendra Kormos	18

May God grant you many years!!

Choir Director Position

Archangel Michael Orthodox Church is seeking a **dedicated Choir Director** to lead, develop, and inspire our parish choir. The Choir Director will play an important role in the spiritual and musical life of our parish, helping our community experience the beauty and depth of Orthodox worship.

If you know of someone or would like to participate on the search committee for a new choir director, please reach out to Fr John or Darlene Dimitrijevs.



Events To be Announced

AMOC SUNDAY SCHOOL

Begins today – September 13

- 9:15AM:** Fr. John will offer a blessing of teachers and students. Please arrive early.
- 9:30AM:** Divine Liturgy Begins
- Communion:** Teachers and students will line-up for Communion first. Classes will begin in the Church basement immediately following Communion.
- Classroom Changes:** There are a few moves for some classrooms this year. Teachers and Students names will be posted on each classroom door.

Sep 13 Pizza Party:

Our Pizza Party will be offered immediately after Class. All parishioners are welcome to join for the pizza party.

Amazon Sunday School Supply Wish List: Check out how you can help! Link – (copy and paste) –

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/Y4L3U2W8RSGD?ref=cm_sw_r_apin_ggr-subnav-share_7VD6JWE0ACT7HEXA0V6V&language=en-US

PIEROGI MAKING – Let's start pinching!

Please mark these dates on your calendar – (dates/times are subject to change)

More dates to follow for pinching and baking – watch this SPOT!!

Questions, contact Donna Tesar at 216-401-2834 or Sharon Glagola at 440-263-2862.

DESIGNER PURSE BINGO – ST. VLADIMIR'S CAMP

The St. Vladimir's Camp Designer Purse Bingo will be held on **Sunday, October 4, 2026** at Woodside Event Center. Lunch will be served at 1 pm, and the Bingo games will start at 2 pm. Tickets (ages 16 and over) are \$35 and can be purchased at: <https://bit.ly/2026VladsPurseBingo>.

We are looking for donations (get a break on your taxes!) – contact Becky if you would like to donate a NEW designer handbag, a NEW non-designer bag (consolation prizes) or raffle basket. Please contact Melissa Tesar with questions – 216-509-2573 or mitiesar@gmail.com.

HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH

We kindly ask all parishioners to help us keep our records up to date by providing any changes to your **phone number, home address, or email address**. We strongly encourage you to include your **cell phone number**, as it greatly helps us communicate important announcements and updates in a timely manner.

CALLING All Book Lovers!

If you are a reader and would like to take an hour or two every other month to discuss a book with other book lovers, please join us! We typically meet at church starting at 7pm and end by 9 (annual luncheon in January and summer meeting at Fr. John and Jani's house). Our schedule will be listed in the church calendar but if you want to get on our email list, please provide your email address to Matushka Jani.

- September 18th book – “Buckeye” by Patrick Ryan
- November 20th book –
“The House Maid's Secret” by Freida McFadden

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS – 2026

Thank you to those who have sponsored a coffee hour!

October - HALOS

November – Sunday School

December – BOT (Board of Trustees)

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

St. Nicholas – Mogadore – Car Show

This CRUISE-IN event starts at 1:00, but cars may arrive starting at noon. Potato pancakes, pierogi, Friday Night Lights ice cream truck, Hometown Beverages mobile truck, raffle baskets, 50/50 and more! Cars will be parked on pavement. No registration or fee, just show up for the fun. Event hours 1-4pm.

Sunday, September 20

★★★★★

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL'S

- 9 Hole Outing -

★★★★★

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

Seneca Golf Course (Baldwin 9)
975 Valley Parkway, Broadview Hts., OH

Time -

- 1st Tee time - 1:30 pm and every 10 minutes;

Golfers -

- Room for 40 golfers;
- No foursome? No worries! Will place you with your skill level;

Cost -

- 9 holes plus golf cart - Pay at course.

Meal following golf at the Shanty -

- All golfers are invited to enjoy hamburgers and hotdogs;
- Cost - \$25/person for food and beverages.

CALL DENNIS SCHLEKIE - 440-829-9999, OR EMAIL
DENNIS@APPROVEDPLUMBING.COM, OR SEE HIM IN
CHURCH BASEMENT AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

JOIN US FOR SOME CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP!

Saturday, September 26



Theotokos of Vladimir

EASTERN ORTHODOX WOMEN'S GUILD

OF GREATER CLEVELAND
UNITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION

"MEMBERSHIP DRIVE"

As we closeout the year and get ready to begin a New Church Year, the EOWG is also in full gear to reunite our friends from our neighboring Orthodox churches and make new friends who join us along with opportunities to deepen our faith.

In order to further unite the Orthodox Churches of Greater Cleveland and to continue to grow in Christ as One Church, the month of August has been declared to begin our "Membership Drive" month.

Please consider joining our ministry and come to our FIRST meeting in September and bring a friend.

WHEN: Saturday, September 26
TIME: 10:00 AM

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
6822 Broadview Road
Parma, Ohio 44134



SEE YOUR CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE TO RENEW OR TO JOIN

Thursday, September 24

16th Annual

Fr. Prislopsky Memorial

Dinner Lecture

The Lord is My Shepherd:

An in-depth explanation of the most-beloved and well-known Psalm of King David.

Keynote Speaker: V. Rev. Fr. John Memorich



Thursday, September 24, 2026

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Woodside Party Center
5025 E Mill Road
Broadview Hts., OH

6:00 PM - Registration
6:30 PM - Dinner
Shepherd's Pie
7:00 PM - Lecture
Cost: \$15 per person

RSVP Required Through Church Office
by Friday, September 11, 2026
Call - (440) 526-5192 or email at
info@stmichaelscleveland.org



Saturday, Sept 26 – Sunday, Sept 27

✠ TWO DAYS OF FAITH, LEARNING & FELLOWSHIP ✠

MARRIAGE

AS A
PATH TO HOLINESS

WITH DRs. DAVID AND MARY FORD

ENRICH YOUR FAITH AND DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING
OF A GREAT MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH.

ST. INNOCENT OF ALASKA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

✠ 10:00 AM	AKATHIST TO ST. INNOCENT OF ALASKA
✠ 11:00 AM	SESSION WITH DR. DAVID Q&A AFTERWARD
✠ 12:30 PM	LUNCH (PROVIDED) RSVP to priest.paisios@gmail.com by SEPT 19
✠ 2:00 PM	SESSION WITH DR. MARY Q&A TO FOLLOW
✠ 5:00 PM	VESPERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

11:30 AM

DR. DAVID WILL GIVE
A PRESENTATION
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM:
*Glimpses into his
Life and Wisdom*

HELD AT
ST. INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

8526 Usher Road
Olmsted Twp, OH

ALL ARE
WELCOME!

"The glory of God is man fully alive, and the life of man is the vision of God."
— ST. IRENAEUS

Sunday, October 4

GET READY FOR FUN!

DESIGNER PURSE BINGO

Each of our 10 BINGO games will feature a different designer purse for the winner.

WOODSIDE Event Center
5025 E. Mill Rd
Broadview Heights

Mimosas & Wine for purchase

Raffles & Prizes



OCTOBER 4, 2026
WOODSIDE EVENT CENTER * LUNCH 1PM * GAMES 2PM
Tickets \$35 - 16 & older please
Purchase tickets at:
<https://bit.ly/2026VladsPurseBingo>
Questions: Melissa Tesar - 216-509-2573 - mjtesar@gmail.com
BENEFITS THE MISSION OF ST. VLADIMIR'S CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

Saturday, October 17

Saints Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Cleveland Heights, Ohio
St. Makrina Bible Study presents

Fall Retreat Light Streams In
Saturday, October 17, 2026 9:00 am- 3:00 pm

"In turbulent times, how are Christians to engage with this modern world? We look to St. Porphyrios who teaches us to let Christ's light stream into the darkness, and challenges us to radiate light".

Elissa Bjeletich Davis
Orthodox Christian author, podcaster, and speaker



Checks to: Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral / "Retreat" in memo
3352 Mayfield Rd / Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 (Attn: Anna Warren)
More Information Toni Madden 440-840-1276
<https://pci.jotform.com/form/262124886813159>

Name _____

Church _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Tickets include breakfast and lunch \$15 (\$20 after 10/10)
Students free (registration required)

Additional Donation _____
Total Enclosed _____

Saturday, October 10



St. Matthew Orthodox Church
Presents
Dr. Jeannie Constantinou
Professor, Biblical Scholar,
Author & Speaker
Dr. Jeannie Constantinou
will speak about the
Book of Revelation


Saturday, October 10
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Lunch will be provided

Please register by October 5:
stmatthewregistration@gmail.com

St. Matthew Orthodox Church
10383 Albion Rd., North Royalton

Free Will Offering Greatly Appreciated!!

Saturday, November 14

**ARCHANGEL MICHAEL
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

FOOD FAIR

Baba's Kitchen

FEATURING

BEEF STROGANOFF
CABBAGE & NOODLES
AND ETHNIC PASTRIES / PIES

Chicken Paprikash Stuffed Cabbage

Pierogis



TAKE OUT OR DINE IN
**BASKET RAFFLE - WINNERS
NEED NOT BE PRESENT**

NOVEMBER 14, 2026 - 11AM TO 4PM
AT WOODSIDE EVENT CENTER
5025 E MILL ROAD
BROADVIEW HTS., OH



ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

SEPTEMBER - 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		CHURCH NEW YEAR 1	2 8pm-BOT Mtg via ZOOM	3	4	Prophet Zachariah & Righteous Elizabeth 5 3pm-Baptism-Johnson 5pm-Vespers / Confession
Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae 6 9:30am-Divine Liturgy	7 LABOR DAY	Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos 8 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 12pm-Pierogi making	Righteous Joachim & Anna 9 9am-Pierogi making 9:30am-Molieben / Samaritans	10	11	12 5pm-Vespers/Confession
Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross 13 9:15am-Molieben / Church School 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Church School Starts Charities Committee Mtg / In the Vestibule Pizza Party 7pm-Vespers	Exaltation of the Cross 14 STRICT FAST 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 11am-55+ Meeting / Lunch	15 12pm-Pierogi making 7pm-Adult Ed – Seven Signs in the Gospel of St. John	16 9am-Pierogi making	Martyr Sophia, Faith, Love 17 10am-Adult Ed – Seven Signs in the Gospel of St. John	18 7pm-Book Club	19 5pm-Vespers/Confession
Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross 20 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Church School Parastas – Weaver R Club Bake Sale Golf Outing	21 10am-Prosphora Baking 5pm-Dinner/Serve @ St. Herman's 7:30pm-Camp ZOOM Mtg	Prophet Jonah 22	23 7pm-BOT Meeting	New Martyrs of Alaska Hieromonk Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut 24 Prislopsky Lecture 6pm-Registration; 6:30pm-Dinner; 7pm-Lecture	Repose Ven. Sergius of Radonezh 25	Repose St. John the Theologian 26 5pm-Vespers/Confession
27 9:30am-Divine Liturgy Church School 40-day Parastas-Anne Kallay	28	29	30			

Message from His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon – The Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year 2026



To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

Joyous feast!

The Gospel appointed for this day, the beginning of the ecclesiastical new year, sets before us a scene of remarkable simplicity. Our Lord returns to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, enters the synagogue on the Sabbath day “as His custom was” (Lk. 4:16), and stands up to read. He is handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, and He finds the place where it is written that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him, that He is anointed to preach the Gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind — “to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Then He closes the book, returns it to the attendant, sits down, and says: “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:16–21).

As we enter this new year, let us consider what has taken place. The newest thing that has ever happened in the history of the world — God Himself present in the flesh, the year of His favor inaugurated — is announced by the reading of an ancient text, in a familiar building, according to an accustomed order, by a man doing on that Sabbath what He had always done on the Sabbath. The newness of Christ does not arrive by discarding what came before. It arrives clothed in continuity, and it fulfills the very things it renews.

The holy apostle Paul teaches us that we ourselves have been drawn into this newness, and that we entered it through the waters of the font: “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). And again: “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17). Every one of us who has been baptized has already been made new. The question set before us at the beginning of each Church year is not whether we shall receive this newness, but whether we shall walk in it.

Here we must be watchful, for nothing is easier than to confuse this newness with the kind we are offered every day. We live in a world with an enormous appetite for the new, and an entire industry devoted to ensuring that this appetite is both always fed and yet never satisfied. Advertisement and marketing are built upon a real thirst in the human heart — the longing for something fresh, something unspoiled, something that will make us feel that our life has begun again. They arouse this thirst skillfully and they cannot quench it, because everything they offer begins to age at the moment it is acquired. This is why the world must keep producing more of it. Novelty is a debt that can only be paid with more debt.

The newness that is in Christ belongs to an altogether different order. The Scriptures are precise here: the word chosen to describe it is not the word for what is merely recent, but the word for what is fresh and undiminished — a new covenant, a new man, a new song, a new creation, a new heaven and a new earth. This newness does not grow stale, because its source is not a moment in time but the living God, who is Himself “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8). What ages in us is our attention to Him. What must be renewed is not the gift, but our reception of it.

This calling belongs to all of us, without exception. Those recently baptized or chrismated, and those still inquiring at the door, have received or are approaching something they must now spend a lifetime entering more deeply; the first fervor is a grace, but it is a beginning and not an arrival. Those who were baptized as infants and have known the Church all their days carry a treasure of another kind — the faith woven into their memory, family, and the ordinary rhythm of years — and they face a different danger, which is that what is familiar can quietly cease to be seen. Neither the newcomer nor the lifelong faithful may rest. The Apostle exhorts us all to “be renewed in the spirit of your minds and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:23–24), and he addresses this to the whole assembly.

What is true of persons is true also of communities. Some among us are new missions, meeting in rented halls, praying for a permanent home. Others are parishes marking their hundredth year, their hundred and twenty-fifth, and more, built by immigrants and by converts whose names are recorded on the walls. The task is the same in both cases, and in both cases it requires a real spiritual labor: to hold fast to what has been handed down, and at the same time to keep growing, to

keep stretching, to keep learning, and not to mistake a mere habit for faithfulness. It is a good and necessary thing to say that we do a thing because we have always done it, when what we have always done is the tradition of the Church. It is a different thing when we say it because the alternative would require effort, or conversation, or risk. Discerning between the two is among the most delicate pastoral works we are given, and it cannot be done well without prayer, without patience, and without one another.

The renewal to which we are called is anchored, always, in what we have received — “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received” (1 Cor. 15:3). The wisdom of our older parishes is not an obstacle to renewal but one of its chief instruments, for a community that has kept the faith through a century of hardship has already learned something about endurance that no new initiative can supply. And our newest missions, in their turn, remind the whole Church what it looks like when the Gospel is heard for the first time. We need each other precisely at this point.

Therefore, as we enter this new year of the Lord’s goodness, I invite each parish, each monastic community, each household, and each of the faithful to ask a simple question before God: where, in this past year, have we merely repeated ourselves, and where have we truly grown? Ask it without discouragement and without haste. Then take up again, with gratitude, the things that have been handed down to us, and let us walk in them as those who are being made new.

To Him who sits upon the throne and says, “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev. 21:5), who crowns the year with His goodness, and who is glorified together with His Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and worship, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year and many blessed years to come,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

ARCHPASTORAL LETTER OF THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest



To the Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest at the Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year 2026

Beloved Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and dearly Beloved Faithful in Christ:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

As we approach the beginning of the new Ecclesiastical Year on September 1, the Holy Church once again invites us to enter the sacred rhythm of her liturgical life. Unlike the passing measures of secular time, the Church's year is not merely a succession of days and months. It is an unfolding season of grace, in which the saving works of our Lord Jesus Christ are made present to us through prayer, worship, fasting, feasting, repentance, and thanksgiving.

This annual cycle of fasts and feasts is a precious gift. Through it, the Church gathers our scattered lives and directs them toward the Kingdom of God. We celebrate the Nativity of Christ, His Holy Theophany, His life-giving Passion and Resurrection, His glorious Ascension, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We honor the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, the holy Apostles, Martyrs, Hierarchs, Monastics, and all the Saints. Their commemorations remind us that holiness is not an abstract ideal but the true vocation of every Christian.

The fasts of the Church likewise call us back to what is essential. By abstaining from certain foods and indulgences, we learn to restrain the passions, deepen our prayer, give generously to those in need, seek reconciliation, and hunger more earnestly for God. Fasting is never an end in itself, nor is it merely a matter of dietary observance. Joined to repentance, mercy, and participation in the sacramental life, it becomes a path toward spiritual freedom and renewed communion with Christ.

The feasts teach us to receive life with gratitude and joy. Yet Christian joy is not an escape from suffering. It is the fruit of Christ's victory over sin and death. Every feast reveals some aspect of this victory, while every fast prepares the heart to receive it. Together, the fasts and feasts form a school of discipleship, shaping us gradually into the likeness of our Savior.

I therefore urge the clergy, monastics, and faithful of our Diocese to begin this Ecclesiastical Year with renewed dedication. Let us order our homes and daily schedules according to the life of the Church. Let us participate faithfully in the Divine Liturgy and the appointed services, observe the fasts with discernment, receive the Holy Mysteries with proper preparation, read the Holy Scriptures, and establish a consistent rule of daily prayer.

Let our spiritual and churchly practice also bear visible fruit in works of mercy. May every parish and mission community within our God-protected Diocese strengthen its care for the poor, the lonely, the grieving, the displaced, and all who struggle in body or soul. A calendar filled with holy days profits us little if our hearts remain closed to our neighbors. The grace we receive in worship must extend into our families, workplaces, communities, and the whole creation entrusted to our stewardship.

To my beloved clergy, my brothers and co-laborers in this Vineyard: teach the faithful the meaning of the liturgical cycle with patience and pastoral sensitivity. Invite them not only to know the calendar but to live by and keep it. Make the divine services accessible, beautiful, and prayerful. Encourage frequent confession and worthy reception of Holy Communion. Above all, lead by your own example of humility, fidelity, hospitality, and love.

To parents and families: make your homes little churches. Mark the feasts with prayer, give places of honor to the holy icons, sing the Church's hymns, share meals, and live your family lives with acts of kindness and generosity. Teach children that the Church's seasons are not burdens imposed upon life but gifts that reveal life's deepest meaning. In this way, the faith will be handed on not merely as information, but as a living inheritance.

Beloved in Christ, each new Ecclesiastical Year is both a gift and a summons. The time given to us is precious, and its fulfillment is found in Christ. Let us not allow this year to pass without bearing spiritual fruit. May every fast soften our hearts, every feast enlarge our joy, every divine service deepen our communion, and every day become an offering of thanksgiving to God.

At the beginning of this new Church year, I ask you to join me in praying:

O Lord, bless the crown of the year with Thy goodness. Grant peace to Thy Church, strength to Thy people, wisdom to our leaders, healing to the afflicted, consolation to the sorrowful, peace to the world, and mercy to us all. Guide us through every season of fasting and feasting, that we may grow in repentance, faith, hope, and love, and at last enter the unending Day of Thy Kingdom.

Through the prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos, specially venerated in her sacred *Tikhvin* icon, of our holy fathers and mothers, and of all the saints, may the blessing of the Lord rest upon the clergy, monastics, faithful, parishes, missions, institutions, and families of the Diocese of the Midwest throughout the coming Ecclesiastical Year.

With my archpastoral love and blessings in Christ,

DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest