

Christ is in our midst! He is and shall be!

Blessed Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

The Ukraine Crisis

<https://iocc.org/blog/category/where-we-serve/ukraine>

Ukrainian Relief Dinner - Sunday, September 25, 2022

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Oakland

Tickets now available from Raymounda.

Have you ever wondered how we have arrived at a condition in our nation where nothing is as it seems? Where universal, timeless, undisputed truths no longer exist? Where good is bad and bad is good and evil is virtue? One simple overarching observation is that everything that is, is the result of everything that has been. It's the law of karma at work - cause and effect - biblically speaking, as you sow, so shall you reap. So if our country seems to be in a bit of a mess, one can look and see what's been going on over the past few decades that would contribute to conditions as they are. Any notable contributor to the mess would have to be out of sync with truth and reality - out of step with how life is designed to operate.

Nothing is more out of step with our life than killing life. Nothing is at the far end of that action than killing innocent life. And nothing is more innocent than a baby in the womb. So, if I care for the country, if I care for the world, if I would contribute to the good health of the planet, an end to the madness of killing our babies would be a solid step in the right direction. We humans will not improve anything if we can't begin by protecting the lives of our unborn babies.

So, let us begin by laying the mess at the feet of God. If you already have a practice of doing this, keep it up and talk about it with your friends, as risky as that may be. If you have never prayed for our deliverance from the hydra-headed societal monster that we've created for ourselves, now is as good a time as any. In fact it's a perfect time to begin. And if you're not sure how you would do that, just begin, and you'll discover how. And if you are so unclear as to even how to begin, here's one example of what you might do.

Set aside a few minutes each day for some serious business. After all, being part of saving the world is important stuff. "O Lord, protect our unborn babies and their families. Grant us clarity of mind to see things as they really are and ourselves as we really are. Grant us the humility to admit we've made a mess of things and to change our minds. Grant us peace, a softening of our hearts, and a strengthening of our resolve to do better. Thy will be done. Amen."

IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS WONDERED WHY THEY'RE NO LONGER RECEIVING THIS WEEKLY EMAIL, we're not really sure but it happens rather regularly. The first step to take is to go the website 'stmgbq.org' and sign up to receive the Newsletter as though you had never been receiving it. That usually solves the problem.

Register for Church School today. Forms are available outside the entrance to the church. Fill it out and give it to Kh. Melanie or leave it in the Office Door file basket. (Church School begins August 28).

Schedule of Services and Church Events

(Check this calendar for Usher, Fellowship Hour and lock-up schedules.)
Secretary Debbie will be in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

SUNDAY, August 7 (*Dormition Fast continues; wine, oil allowed*)

(Ushers - Sara Armanious, Gust Flizanes, Wayne Macuga, Michele Murray, Dina Papas)

8:45 AM - ORTHROS

10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY (*may we strive to arrive early*)

- Antiochian Women's Meeting in Multi-Purpose Room

- **Bring a check - today's a SCRIP Gift Card fundraiser deadline!**

- Fellowship Hour (weekly coordinator - Raymounda Chaho)

- Thanks to Sara Armanious, Raymounda Chaho and Michele Murray
for hosting today.

(Lock-up - Christine Mansour - (we lock all but the church entry double-doors by 10:15))

MONDAY, August 8 (*fast*)

6:00 PM - PARAKLESIS to the Theotokos

TUESDAY, August 9 (*fast*)

6:00 PM - PARAKLESIS to the Theotokos

WEDNESDAY, August 10 (*fast*)

9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY (Laurence the Martyr and Archdeacon of Rome)

- making pastitsio - *skilled and unskilled help needed* --- **THANK YOU**, in advance!

6:00 PM - PARAKLESIS to the Theotokos

THURSDAY, August 11 (*fast*)

6:00 PM - PARAKLESIS to the Theotokos

FRIDAY, August 12 (*fast*)

6:00 PM - PARAKLESIS to the Theotokos

SATURDAY, August 13 (*fast*)

6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS

SUNDAY, August 14 - *Celebration of Feast of Dormition of the Theotokos*

(Ushers - Sara Armanious, Gust Flizanes, Wayne Macuga, Michele Murray, Joe Gazal)

8:45 AM - FESTAL ORTHROS

10:00 AM - FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY (*may we strive to arrive early*)

- Fellowship Hour (weekly coordinator - Raymounda Chaho)
- Thanks to Toni Nikoula and Alexis Beven for hosting today.

(Lock-up - Michaelene McWhinney - (we lock all but the church entry double-doors by 10:15))

*Confessions are heard when scheduled on calendar,
by appointment in church, or by visit.
Call Fr. John at (724) 244-1228.*

AT DIVINE LITURGY, among others, we will be praying for... (bold=recently added)

...ADEL & SARA Armanious, Mat. SOPHIE Daniels, THOMAS Abraham, MARY Andrews, **CHRISTIAN Bell** (Melanie's son), MARGARITA (Peggy) Bolha, BRADY Byers, GREGORY Cervo, HELEN Ciavarra (*Valerie Flizanes' mother*), JILLIAN Crowe, JAMES Dayoob, VERA Dydiw, MICHAEL Evans, MICHAEL Hamwey, RONALD and JOANNE Hasnauer, CAROLYN Hill, BONNIE Koury, SAMUEL Koury, KARIM Khalil, CJ Kudlik, IDA Langer, NATHANIEL McNicol, HEATHER, KARIN & DALE Personett, SAM Nataros (*Jennifer Sacksen's brother*), FRANK Porembka, NICOLE Rosado, NICK Senuta, JACK Copeland (*father of Kh. Melanie, Melinda Copeland, Stephanie Heydorn*), BERNADETTE Brietinger (*wife of friend of Jeff Stewart*), ANTHONY & JILLIAN Crowe, baby JOSEPH PAUL Cervo and parents JOSEPH & ANGELINA; ROB Newton, DINA Papas, PAULETTE & THOMAS Sproch, LEO Szymkowiak, PAULETTE Weiss, LEILA Zakhary, CINDY & ROBERT Stupak (*cancer and Parkinson's; Janet Mochak's sister and bro-in-law*)... that they may have mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation.

...**birthday celebrants** --- DONNA Pahnos (8/7), JEAN Pistentis (8/7), Dn. NOAH Papas (8/8), DEMETRIOS Spanos (8/8), Archpriest ANTHONY Yazge (8/8), TED Zarras (8/8), JOSEPH Evans (8/9), MATTHEW Yazge (8/11), ALLISON Simon (8/12), THOMAS Abraham (the youngest; 8/13). God grant them many years!

...**wedding anniversary celebrants** --- NICHOLAS and PATRICIA Papas (8/9), LAITH and SAFAA Sahawneh (8/13). God grant them many years!

...**baptism/chrismation celebrants** --- MARY Wagner (8/11), ABIGAIL Wallace (8/11). God grant them many years!

WE WILL REMEMBER THE DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD... Metropolitan PHILIP, Bishop ANTOUN, Archimandrite GEORGE, Protopresbyter GEORGE Livanos, Kh. STEFANIE Yazge. May their memories be eternal.

PRAYERS OF OBLATION ARE OFFERED...

...in memory of the newly departed RACHEL Ferguson
by the Armanious family.

...in memory of CATHERINE Romanus by Rich and Harriet Mirilovich.

...in memory of JOHN Mansour by Adel and Sara Armanious.

...in memory of FRED Charles by Adel and Sara Armanious.

...in memory of HELEN Porembka by Jeff and Donna Curry.

...in memory of DIANA Roberts by Dina Papas.

...in memory of brother DAVID Andreychek by Paulette Weiss.

...in memory of parents MARIETTE and GEORGE Charabaty
by Zina Maalouff.

...for the health of TATIANA, ALEKSANER, SOFIA, RYAN, TAMARA, YEKATERINA, ALEKSEY, DANIIL, ELEONORA and CHAD by Tatiana Lucas.

...in memory of REBA, IVAN, LUDMILA, SARAFIMA, EVGENII, HEIS, MARIA and JAKOV by Tatiana Lucas.

ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, MEMORIAL PRAYERS WILL BE PRAYED FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE IN AUGUSTs PAST ---

JAMIL Chaho (8/4/84), **PRISCILLA** Bosko (8/6/2004),
MICHAEL Carr (8/6/2020), **FLOYD** Mauer (8/7/2017),
JAMES Mosellen (8/7/2021), **Archpriest BONIFACE** Black (8/8/2016),
KATHRYN Ciganovic (8/8/2001), **ANNA** Sam (8/10/1997),
VIVIAN Curry (8/10/2014), **Archpriest GREGORY** Ofeish (8/11/2021),
KATHRYN Bilinsky (8/13/2000), **VICTOR** Mercado (8/18/2020),
RAYMOND Leavy (8/19/2011), **ANNA** Kudlik (8/24/2002),
BETTY Joseph (8/24/2013), **DONNA** Gazal (8/25/2009),
CAROLINE Ayoub (8/26/2001), **ASTRINA** Habit (8/26/2001),
Mat. JANET Mihalick (8/26/20), **GEORGE** Asa (8/27/1995),
SAM Jacobs (8/27/1996), **ANN** Lewis (8/28/2002),
ROBERT Vickroy (8/29/2021), **REBECCA** Krueger (8/29/2021),
DOROTHY Ferencz (8/31/2009), **BERTHA** Cervo (8/31/2011),
STOTHE Kezios (8/2005).

To add to the memorial list, call (724) 834-1311 and leave the name and date.

Raymounda coordinates the 2022 Fellowship Hour Hosting Schedule. Call or text Raymounda - (412) 558-5877 - and leave your NAME, NUMBER and DATE(s) you'd like to reserve. *Realizing that hosting a Fellowship Hour may be financially difficult for some of us, let that not be a reason for feeling unable to support our weekly Sunday post-Divine Liturgy time with each other. Everyone is always encouraged to step up and into the kitchen to find out how they can help!*

THINGS TO REMEMBER and THINGS WE NEED...

...WE WILL BE INSTALLING A SECURITY SYSTEM (cameras, etc.) in the near future. *If anyone has an 'extra' tablet or iPad or a computer monitor that they would donate (3 years old or newer), those items could reduce our expense.*

...CALEB'S CUPBOARD (our 'memorial hallway' collection bin for people in need) is still an active ministry of our church.

...PHONE CALLERS. Pete Papas is reviving our Phone Tree Team for emergent information to be passed along to those who are not regular users of email. See Pete to

be part of the calling team or to add your name to the roster of those who'd like to be called.

...BREAD BAKERS AND WHEAT MAKERS. Leave your name and number on the church voicemail (724-834-1311) and we will contact you regarding the details of what you'd have to know and do.

...USHERS. See Fr. John or Gust Flizanes to sign up to serve.

...IDEAS for Fund-raising (and people to act on their ideas). For support, direction and coordination regarding your ideas, speak with Elias Memari (724-244-3055) or Stephanie Heydorn (724-216-7866). **Thank you to Elias and Stephanie for their willingness to be Fund-Raising Co-Coordinator.** They will take on the task of helping to break inertia and give momentum to the return of active fund-raising events to our financial and budgetary plan.

...INFORM THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN whenever we might be intending to use the kitchen, to make sure no one else has scheduled to use it.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ALL THE TIME...

...BE ON TIME for church; **BE QUIET** in church, except when singing ; -)

...WHEN IT'S TIME FOR COMMUNION - Watch for direction from an usher when to proceed up the center aisle:

- 1) Church School/Children go first so they can get to class;
- 2) two center sections follow the children, then the "wing" sections;
- 3) rear section of sitters and standers.

...REMEMBER TO CROSS YOUR ARMS, right over left on your chest, and keep them crossed from the time you get in line until you reach to pick up a piece of the antidoron, the post-Communion holy bread. (This helps avoid any 'bump' accidents at the chalice. This is one time we refrain from blessing ourselves. **Say your name** as you come to stand before the priest.

...BEFORE IT'S TIME FOR COMMUNION - Be aware that regular Confession is understood to be a prerequisite act of our receiving the Precious and Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Besides fasting from eating or drinking anything on the day will Commune, our spiritual preparation is completed with prayer and *periodic participation in the Sacrament of Confession (at least during the Advent and Paschal fasts).*

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- **Sunday, August 7** - Scrip Gift Card Sunday; 700+ retailers -
 - all listings can be seen on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall -
 - bring your check to - "St. Michael's," note vendor and cards -
 - Questions? See Fotini.
 - **Wednesday, Aug. 10** - making pastitsio - women & men welcome!

- **Sunday, August 14** - Look for canvas bags to fill to participate in the School Kit Program to benefit children in Ukraine.
- **Wednesday, August 17** - Bible Study Resumes
- **Sunday, August 21** - Summer School Sunday
- **Sunday, August 28** - First Day of Church School
- **Sunday, September 11, 12 pm to 4 pm** -
St. Michael's "We Remember..."
Memorial Service with name-by-name remembrance
Memorial Meal - 1) grilled lamb-ke-bab, green beans & rice, ice cream dessert & beverage
 2) Frozen ethnic foods will also be available to purchase --- grape leaves, kibbee, spanakopita, pastitsio, etc.
 3) and a Gyro Stand
 All proceeds to benefit soon-to-be-determined charities - ie. Veterans, First Responders, Drug rehab, mental health
- **Sunday, September 25** - IOCC "Ukrainian Relief" Dinner
 Prayer Service - 4:00 PM Dinner - 5:00 PM
 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Pittsburgh
 Raymounda has tickets (we received a block of 20)
- **Stewardship Days** - October and November
- **Thursday, Nov 10 - Sun, Nov 13** - Ancient Faith Women's Retreat at Antiochian Village

REGISTER NOW!

Info/Registration at <https://store.ancientfaith.com/2022-afwr>

- **Sunday, December 4** - Annual General Parish Meeting

- Parish Council Members -

(year designates final year of term)

Sara Armanious '23 (Chair), Christine Mansour '22 (Vice-Chair), Samar Khalil '23 (Treasurer), Joyce Eger '23 (Recording Secretary), Carolyn Hill '22 (Corresponding Secretary), Raymounda Chaho '24, Andrew Cuff '24, Christina Armanious '24, Michaelene McWhinney '22, Tom Sproch '23, Lisa Stewart '24, Donald Yoder '22.

ETHNIC FOOD FUNDRAISER
 St. John the Baptist Church
 315 Wilpen Road, Ligonier

CALL to order --- NOW thru August 21
PICK UP date --- Sunday, August 28; 11 AM to 2 PM
payment due at pickup; cash or check (**no credit cards**)

PRE-ORDER call Stevie: 724-238-2286 (cell) or Barb: 724-238-5800 (landline)
leave 1-NAME 2-NUMBER 3-ORDER details

\$8 Ethnic Platter (1 halupki, 2 perogies, halushki)
\$25 per dozen or \$15 per 1/2 dozen halupki (stuffed cabbage)