

St Matthew Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America - Diocese of the Midwest

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From the Desk of Fr John:

I am asked from time to time how one should prepare for the reception of Holy Communion. This question comes up because within the Orthodox Church, there are diverse practices regarding how one should prepare. Some priests require confession immediately prior to the Eucharist, while others do not, and the various prayer books have different canons and prayers, based on which (national/ethnic) strain of the Orthodox Church published the book. So, what should we know about all this?

Before talking about any such practices, we have to keep in mind that these practices exist to serve a single goal: to partake of the Eucharist with seriousness, as the true Body and Blood of Christ given in the form of Bread and Wine, with a proper attitude of thanksgiving, in remembrance of what Christ has done for us and will do for us.

Our whole lives, certainly, should be lived with such seriousness, and thanksgiving, in remembrance and expectation of what Christ has done and will do for us. Thus, how we live our life, ideally, would not even be “distinguishable” from a life of preparation for Communion. For to be a Christian - loving our neighbors, rooting out our sins, being good to others, remembering Christ’s sacrifice, etc - is to live as one who is already a partaker of Christ. This is why the earliest Christians did not have any sort of formal prayers of preparation for the Eucharist - they were being Christians all the time to such a degree that no such formal preparation was even necessary.

But we of course are not the early Christians. We bear the name of “Christ,” but are cognizant of the tragic distance between Christ and us. And so, we have to do some formal preparation for receiving Communion. But each of us is different, with different struggles, gravity of falls, backgrounds, etc. So it is necessary for this preparation to be something personally attuned for each. In other words, we all have the same goal, but we do not all have the same starting point, and thus, each of us has a unique path. And we look only at our own path in this, and not at others’. As Saint Paul says, the goal unifies us - all “have the same love” and are called to be “of one mind”, but as individual persons, “each esteems others better than himself” (Phlp. 2:3-4).

And finally, we remember what the one wise scribe replied to Jesus: *“Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”* “And Jesus saw that he answered wisely and He said to him ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God’” (Mark 12:32-34).

Thus, the goal is to love God and neighbor. Offerings and prayers lead us to this goal, but are not the goal itself. Love is the goal. And as long as we are struggling to love, in humility, and in thanksgiving, we should not be held back by fear, but rather, may obey the liturgical command: “in the fear of God, and with faith and love, draw near!”

Parish Council President's Perspective.....Paul Novak



Hello and I this finds you and your families well.

The SMOC Fall Festival, including a Gyro, Stuffed Cabbage, and Bake sale will be held on Saturday, October 22, from 10 AM to 4 PM. The first \$1,200 raised will go to the Diocese of Alaska to benefit Indigenous Alaskan Clergy. While our festival is a wonderful event for our Parish one might ask why the need is so great in the Diocese of Alaska.

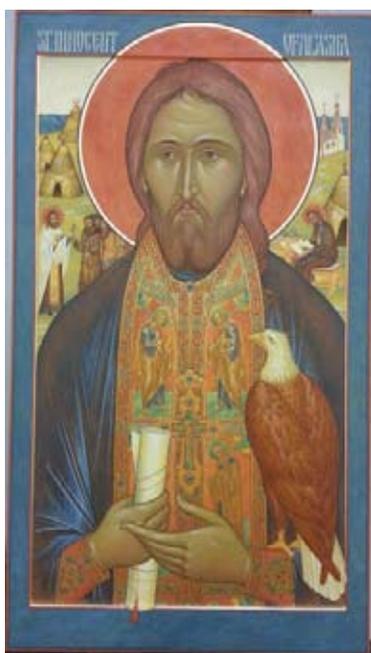
The median family income for the state of Alaska is \$77,790 per year. But the median stipend for native priests is \$7,200 per year, a salary that is \$26,000 below the poverty line for a family of four. Almost all the clergy and their wives worry about a future that is so financially fragile. Some priests have been forced to leave priestly ministry to provide for their families. And pious young men considering the priesthood have hesitated to answer the call with such abject poverty looming in their future. In addition, a flight from Anchorage to a parish in rural Alaska can be more expensive than a flight from New York to Paris. Once at that parish, the Clergy often learns of pressing needs, but is helpless to address them. As you can see, anything we can contribute to help will be appreciated.

The Orthodox Church in Alaska is a Native institution - the first in America to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the efforts of our Russian missionaries (St. Herman of Alaska, St. Innocent, St. Yakov, St. Juvenaly, and Peter the Aleut) beginning in 1794, the faithful of Alaska possess a uniquely Orthodox heritage resulting in deep commitment to and love for the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Please plan to come to the festival and support not only St. Matthews but our brothers and sisters and their Clergy in Alaska.

“Let us do that which is good to all men, and especially to them that are of the household of faith.”

—Galatians 6:10



God grant you many years!

October Birthdays

- 1 Kyria Tomac
- 2 Ariadne Jeffers
- 4 Timothy Grinsteiner
- 4 Alexander Massopust
- 5 Martha Heid
- 6 Gloriya Grinsteiner
- 6 Matthew Hanson
- 6 Nina (Evelyn) Kizewski
- 9 Judith Stuck
- 9 Alicia White
- 19 Anna McGraw
- 19 Craig Schweiner
- 19 Maria Veresses
- 21 Kaine Bernarde
- 24 Bonita Zdrle
- 27 Dimitrija Kuzeva
- 28 Tanya Pitkevich
- 29 Lisa Ocokolijich
- 31 Andrei Gudumac
- 31 Tania Phillips

November Birthdays

- 1 Victor Heid
- 1 Eliel Roman
- 3 Elaine Gavaras
- 6 Dan Elsinger
- 6 Jonathan Jeffers
- 7 Moira Massopust
- 14 Anthony Petrick
- 16 George (Pat) Mangan
- 23 Dayton Heid
- 27 Denis Pitkevich
- 29 Hannah Van De Kreeke

November Anniversaries

- 10 Dimitrija Kuzeva & Andrei Gudumac
- 27 Jason & Martha Heid

Reader's Schedule

Saturday Vespers

- 10/22 Matt
- 10/29 Will
- 11/5 Tom
- 11/12 Melissa
- 11/19 Noah
- 11/26 Doug

Sunday Matins & Liturgy

- 10/23 Paul
- 10/30 Elaine
- 11/6 Noah
- 11/13 Tom
- 11/20 Pedro
- 11/27 Matt



The Enthronement of Bishop Daniel

The enthronement of His Grace Bishop Daniel took place on October 1st, the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, primate of the Orthodox Church in America, presided over the services. Concelebrating hierarchs were Bishop Longin of New Gracanica-Midwest America, Archbishop Nathaniel of the Romanian Episcopate, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West, Archbishop Michael of New York and New York and New Jersey, Archbishop Alexander of Dallas, the South, and the Bulgarian Diocese, and Bishop Andrei of Cleveland and the Romanian Episcopate, along with the deans of St Tikhon's Seminary, St Vladimir's Seminary, and diocesan clergy. After the liturgy, His Beatitude offered an enthronement exhortation to His Grace Daniel and presented him with his episcopal staff, a symbol of his pastoral duties. Bishop Daniel then ascended the cathedra, blessed the people, and offered a reflection on service. Our parish was represented by a sizeable contingent over the three days of services and celebration.



His Beatitude and His Grace praying at the altar during Divine Liturgy



His Grace giving a blessing after receiving his episcopal staff

Liturgical Schedule

Wed., Oct. 19, 6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Sat, Oct. 22, 5:00 PM Great Vespers

Sun., Oct. 23, 8:30 AM Matins & 9:30 AM Liturgy

Wed., Oct. 26, 6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Sat, Oct. 29 at Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Sister Bay,

Door County: 9:10 Hours & 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Sat, Oct. 29, 5:00 PM Great Vespers

Sun., Oct. 30, 8:30 AM Matins & 9:30 AM Liturgy

Wed., Nov. 2, 6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Sat, Nov. 5, 5:00 PM Great Vespers

Sun., Nov. 6, 8:30 AM Matins & 9:30 AM Liturgy

Wed., Nov. 9, 6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Sat, Nov. 12, 5:00 PM Great Vespers

Sun., Nov. 13, 8:30 AM Matins & 9:30 AM Liturgy

Tues., Nov. 15, 6:00 PM Vespers Liturgy

(Patronal Feast of St. Matthew)

Sat, Nov. 19, 5:00 PM Great Vespers

- Bishop Daniel visiting

Sun., Nov. 20, 8:30 AM Matins & 9:30 AM Liturgy

- Bishop Daniel visiting for Celebration of

Parish Feast Day

Monday, Nov. 21, 9:10 Hours & 9:30 AM Liturgy

(Entrance of Mary the Theotokos into the Temple)

Sat, Nov. 26, 5:00 PM Great Vespers

Sun., Nov. 27, 8:30 AM Matins & 9:30 AM Liturgy

Wed., Nov. 30, 6:00 PM Daily Vespers

Choir Practice

Children's Singing: October 23 & November 13

Regular Choir Practice: October 30th & November 6

The Upper Room

This fall the "Upper Room" young adult group continues with its discussion of the Orthodox sacraments. During the summer we began by discussing Holy Communion, and also had a guest presentation from Fr. John on service of Proskomedia which is performed by the priest alone in the altar prior to the Divine Liturgy. We will next be looking at Baptism and Chrismation. Dr. Paul is also continuing his series on real world issues that young adults may face. The Upper Room meets Sundays after Liturgy, usually from 12-12:40, and is open to high school through college age young adults.

Upcoming events:

Oct 22 - Annual fall festival including a baked goods sale and gyro and stuffed cabbage sale. This year we are also adding some activities for kids: pumpkin carving and painting, and s'mores over an open fire! The Fall Festival will be from 10 AM to 4 PM. Pumpkin Carving and Painting will be available from 1 PM to 3 PM in the "big room" upstairs. S'mores will take place at 3 PM at the firepit near the upper entry. The best way to help with this effort is to come to the festival, and to bring family and friends!

Oct 29 - Sister Bay Divine Liturgy - A liturgy will be served at Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Sister Bay, on Saturday, October 29, at 9:30 AM. This is a great opportunity for our families in Door County!

Nov 4-6 - Orthodox Retreat for those Ages 18-25: Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is having a Fall Midwest Retreat at the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center, Kansasville, WI.

For more information and to register, please see <https://www.ocf.net/event/midwest/> Registration is \$50. St. Matthew's can cover your registration costs though. Please talk to Fr John if you want to go!

Nov 12 - Baptism - Kina Grace, daughter of Aaron and Jessica, will be baptized at 11 AM on Saturday, November 12 at St Matthew's.

Nov 19-20 - His Grace Bishop Daniel will be making his first episcopal visitation of our parish in honor of our patronal feast (celebrated Nov 15). He will celebrate our ordinary weekend services and join us for our annual St Matthew's Dinner.

Byzantine Music has resumed at St Matthew's!

The small Byzantine chant choir, under the patronage of St Ephraim the Syrian, has resumed our lessons and practice sessions. The St Ephraim Byzantine Choir will be singing some of the hymnody at Matins and at some services outside of Sunday Liturgy beginning this winter.

If you are interested in learning more about the oldest musical tradition in the Orthodox Church, please reach out to Matthew Hanson, Noah Becker, or Pedro Sarsama. No experience or training is necessary to begin learning with us.

Our next practice sessions are Oct 30th and Nov 13th at 1 PM.

Cleaning Schedule

MYKHAYLYUK (week of) 10/16/22 for 10/23
ODMAN (week of) 10/23/22 for 10/30
BISBEE (week of) 10/31/22 for 11/6
SCHWEINER (week of) 11/6/22 for 11/13
OCOKOLJICH (week of) 11/13/22 for 11/20
BECKER (week of) 11/20/22 for 11/27



May God grant many years to the newly-illuminated servants of God Romanos and Gregory!





St. Matthew Orthodox Church
(607 Ravenswood Drive, Green Bay)

FALL FESTIVAL!!

Saturday, October 22
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Baked goods, gyros and stuffed cabbage will be for sale!



Activities for Kids:

Pumpkin carving and painting, and s'mores!

(Pumpkin Carving and Painting from 1 PM to 3 PM and S'mores at 3 PM!)



Come to the Fall Festival!
Bring your family and friends!