

**St. Matthew Orthodox Church  
Orthodox Church in America  
Diocese of the Midwest**

**Father John Thetford**

**607 Ravenswood Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54302**

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***From the desk of Father John.....***

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

As more iconography is being installed this month, it would be good for us to consider this shortened version of the chapter on Orthodox Church architecture from “The Orthodox Faith” online catechism on the OCA website:

“The fundamental experience of Orthodox Christianity is that ‘God is with us!’ The fact that Emmanuel (Christ’s title which means ‘God is with us’) has come determines the form of the Orthodox church building. God is with man in Christ through the Holy Spirit. The dwelling place of God is with man. ‘The Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands,’ says Saint Stephen quoting the Old Testament prophets. Saint Paul says that men are the temples of God: ‘Christ Jesus himself [is] the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit’ (Eph 2.21–22).

It exactly this conviction and experience that Orthodox Church architecture wishes to convey. Orthodox Church architecture reveals that God is with men, dwelling in them and living in them through Christ and the Spirit. It does so by using a vaulted ceiling to crown the Christian church building, the house of the Church which is the People of God.... By this we see that Christ ‘unites all things in himself, things in heaven and things on earth,’ (Eph 1.10) and that in Him we are all ‘filled with all the fullness of God’ (Eph 3.19).

The interior of the Orthodox Church building is particularly styled to give the experience of the unity of all things in God. It is not constructed to reproduce the upper room of the Last Supper, nor to be simply a meeting hall for men whose life exists solely within the bounds of this earth. The church building is patterned after the image of God’s Kingdom in the Book of Revelation. Before us is the altar table on which Christ is enthroned, both as the Word of God in the Gospels and as the Lamb of God in the eucharistic sacrifice. Around the table are the angels and saints, the servants of the Word and the Lamb who glorify him—and through him, God the Father—in the perpetual adoration inspired by the Holy Spirit. The faithful Christians on earth who already belong to that holy assembly “... fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God ...” (Eph 2.19) enter into the eternal worship of God’s Kingdom in the Church. Thus, in Orthodox practice, the vestibule (entryway) symbolizes this world. The nave (main space) is the place of the Church understood as the assembly and people of God. The altar area, called the sanctuary or the holy place, stands for the Kingdom of God.”

As we thankfully receive phase 2 of our iconography, let us also give thanks to God for this church building which we have been able to modify into an Orthodox Church. Glory to God!

In Christ,  
Fr John



### A Beautiful Day in Sister Bay

For almost 30 years, our church participated in Fall Festival in Sister Bay. This end-of-season celebration gave us the opportunity to have Greek foods and an ethnic bakery booth there. It was a good fundraiser and we were able to have Vespers and Divine Liturgy services in the Holy Transfiguration Chapel located in the back yard of Pat and Cathy Mangan.

On October 2, we were able to have services in the chapel again. After a great outside luncheon, a Vespers service was held, led by Fr. John and Deacon Spyridon. It was very nice to be able to hear the choir sing there after doing it for so many years.

Many thanks to Tom Julian, Matt Tomac, Lisa Ocokoljich, the Mangans and everyone else who contributed to the success of this day. The chapel is open to visitors every day. We, at St. Matthew, are hoping to continue this tradition for many years to come.

The **Fall Festival** was held on Saturday, October 23 and was a **HUGE** success! Thank you to everyone who helped in every way!! All proceeds will be donated to charities. There is still local, farm-fresh honey available for purchase, as well as maple syrup and apple butter.



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

Brothers and Sisters,

As you read this, our Church is undergoing another wonderful transformation with the addition of Iconography to the walls of our temple. Icons and Iconography are words we use in the Orthodox faith all the time. But, have you ever wondered what are Icons? "Icons are representations of the Heavenly. They are expressions of Orthodox Faith, teaching, and worship. The Greek word for "Icon" is, "Αγιογραφία," which can be separated into two words: Άγιο, meaning Holy or not of this world, and (Heavenly)Γράφω, meaning to write.



Therefore, Icons are not drawings or creations of imagination. They are, in fact, writings of things not of this world. Icons can represent our Lord Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the Saints. They can also represent the Holy Trinity, Angels, the Heavenly hosts, and even events. Orthodox icons, unlike Western pictures, change the perspective and form of the image so that it is not naturalistic. This is done so that we can look beyond appearances of the world, and instead look to the spiritual truth of the holy person or event. Icons can only be created with the blessing of the Church, as they are writings of Truth.

The Orthodox Church uses icons to assist in worship. Icons are a '*window to heaven*', and they help us to focus on the divine things. While the icons still contain material aspects, like paint and color, we are taught not to reject our physical life, but instead to transform it, as was done by the holy people represented by the icons. It is important to note that the icons themselves are venerated only, not worshipped; we only worship God in the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)." (Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America)

With the addition of our new Iconography, we have added not only twenty-two Saints of the Church to our walls, but also twenty two new *Windows to Heaven*.

Thank you to all that have given their time, talents and contributions to our Iconography project. May God grant you Many Years!

In Christ,  
Paul M. Novak

**November Church Cleaners**

Thank you for your help!!!

- BISBEE** (week of) 10/31/21 for 11/7
- SCHWEINER** (week of) 11/7/21 for 11/14
- ENCK** (week of) 11/14/21 for 11/21
- PITKEVICH** (week of) 11/21/21 for 11/28
- ZDRALE** (week of) 11/28/21 for 12/5

**November Birthdays!**

- 1 - Victor Heid
- 3 - Elaine Gavaras
- 6 - Dan Elsinger
- 6 - Jonathan Jeffers
- 7 - Moira Massopust
- 16 - George (Pat) Mangan
- 19 - Anja Farin
- 23 - Dayton Heid
- 27 - Denis Pitkevich
- 29 - Hannah Van De Kreeke

*Many Years!*

**November Wedding Anniversaries!**

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



**St. Matthew Bookstore** has something for everybody. New inventory is added monthly, so if you haven't visited recently, please come in and take a look!

**Coffee Hour reminder:** Our potluck social gathering is dependent on us bringing a dish of food, cookies, fruit, baked goods, etc., for us all to share. Thank you for all of those that who contribute and help with cleaning up at our weekly gathering. Everyone is welcome!!!



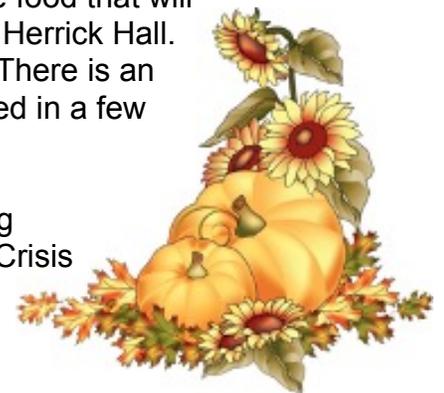
**Keeping You in the Loop**

Greetings from your Ministry Team!

Our focus this month is Food for Pantries. Over the years we have been supporting two pantries, St. Joseph's in the Fox Valley and Paul's Pantry in Green Bay. We alternate between the two. Let's bless them again this month with an abundance of non-perishable food that will help out our neighbors. Please bring your donations and leave them in Herrick Hall. Thanks to Zdrale's and Odman's for faithfully making deliveries for us. There is an interesting piece called: "List of things learned at a food bank and posted in a few places." You will find it at the Ministry Table. Good things to know.

This is a busy time coming up: Adopt a Family is coming, OCL is getting organized, and we're looking for ways to support the A&A Alexandrina Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Thank you for your faithful support.



**Iconography installation started October 27!** Dmitry Shkolnik, our Iconographer, has completed all of his work in his San Francisco studio and is planning to start the installation at St. Matthew on **October 27!** Dmitry's current plans have him leaving on November 4th giving him 9 days to complete his work. While this is good news and earlier than the original December timeframe, all payments for those that **sponsored a Saint still remain the same and are due in December.** We are still accepting donations of any size for this project. Thank you for supporting this next phase of the beautification of St. Matthew. Stay tuned for more pictures and information in the December Newsletter!!!



### SMOC Event Schedule

- **Book Study / Bible Study** is meeting **every Tuesday at 10:30 am.**
- **Adult Education class** is meeting every **Wednesday** after Daily Vespers at **6:00 pm.**
- **Sojourn of Israel: Sundays @ 6 pm CDT.** A reminder from Pedro that we are continuing our examination of the history of Israel on **Sundays at 6 pm.** We will continue to meet on the **first and third Sunday of each month until December 5,** and then we will break until Theophany. We continue to use the same Zoom link you can also find on the parish website: <https://bit.ly/3xOEx1B>
- **Sunday School Singing** will be held during Sunday School time on **Sunday, November 7.**
- The next **Parish Council** meeting will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, November 9 at 6:00 pm.** If you would like to attend as a guest, please let President, Paul Novak, know at [paulnovak11@gmail.com](mailto:paulnovak11@gmail.com).
- **St. Matthew Dinner** will be held on **Sunday, November 14.** Please contact this year's coordinators, Dorothy Olson and Lisa Ocokoljich with any questions.
- **Adult Choir practice** will be **Sunday, November 28.**

## **Shopska Salad (Balkan)**

Place in a bowl:

- 3-4 ripe tomatoes chopped
- 1-2 cucumbers chopped
- 1 sweet onion chopped
- 2 green banana peppers chopped (can use green bell pepper)

Mix together:

- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- Salt to taste



Add to salad and toss. Top with 1/2 cup crumbled white feta (avoid Greek feta because it is too salty)

Refrigerate for 20 minutes. Serve.



**Thank you Judi Stuck for  
these wonderful recipes!**

## **Hearty Corn Chowder**

- 8 slices bacon
- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 medium onion diced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 5 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups sweet corn, fresh or frozen
- 1 lb golden Yukon or red potatoes cut into cubes
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 cup heavy cream

Cook bacon in heavy bottomed large pot over medium heat for 5-8 minutes until crisp. Remove with slotted spoon onto paper towel. Reserve 1 tablespoons grease in pot. Add butter and melt. Add diced onion; cook until soft. Add flour and garlic. Cook for 1 minute while stirring. While whisking, pour in broth and turn up heat to med-high. Add in corn, potatoes, thyme, smoked paprika, salt and pepper. Stir until low boil. Reduce heat to med-low and simmer for 15-20 minutes until potatoes are fork tender. Add in cream. Stir and heat through. Do not boil. Add bacon and serve.