



**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

**Gospel:** St. Matthew 9:1-8

**Tone 5**

**Epistle:** Romans 12:6-14

**6th Sunday after Pentecost  
Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils**

**July Bulletin Sponsor:  
Ron & Pat Svava in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary**

*Please note: This is the last bulletin for the month of July. Speak to Fr.Dcn. Robert for August bulletin news.*

*Liturgical & Events Schedule*

**3 WEEK BULLETIN**

**Sunday, July 16**

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: D. L. / Pat & Ron's 50th Ann.  
Molebian / Memorial Sunday  
NO SOCIAL

1:00 pm: Reception for Pat & Ron

**Saturday, July 22**

NO VESPERS

**Sunday, July 23**

9:40 am: Hours

10:00 am: Deacon service w/ Communion  
11:00 am: Annual Church Picnic Burr Ridge

**Wednesday, July 26**

7:00 pm: Great Vespers w/ Litya followed by  
lite refreshments in church hall

**Thursday, July 27**

9:30 am: D.L for our Patronal Feast Day followed by  
Breakfast Club

**Saturday, July 29**

6:00 pm: Great Vespers (Last Vespers served  
by Fr. Andrew)

**Sunday, July 30**

9:40 am Hours

10:00 am D.L. followed by Annual Lamb Roast

**Monday, July 31**

Father Andrew departs to new Assignment in  
Ohio



**KIDS SAFE CITY  
12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
CANDLELIGHT BOWL**

A night out full of fun helps this youth organization. As a Board Member of Kids Safe City, I can attest to the good work they do. Come out for a night of bowling, food and fellowship.

When: Saturday, August 12

Check in - 7:00pm.

(Together let's attend Vespers & go bowling)

Bowling Begins - 7:30pm &

Buffet begins - 8:00pm.

Tickets are \$25 & include 4 "Scotch Double's bowling games & buffet

Raffle Prizes & Catering by PJ'S Drive-In

Bowling at:

EL Mar Bowl, 8435 South Harlem Ave.,  
Bridgeview, IL

**125th ANNIVERSARY OF ORTHODOXY IN  
CHICAGO (1892-2017) EVENTS**

Saturday, September 30, 2017

10:00 am: Pan Orthodox Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with many Orthodox Bishops @ Lane Tech Auditorium. (Western & Addison Streets-Chicago) Guest Homilist: + Rt. Rev. Irinel (Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern United States)

3:00 pm: Testimonial Banquet @ St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Cultural Center (Winona @ Foster Ave- Chicago).

Further info forthcoming over the next few weeks.

**St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church**

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest  
Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector Protodeacon Robert Northrup  
Parish Council President: John Grabavoy



## On Unexpected Death By His Grace, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska

When we lose someone that is very near and dear to us, we are troubled by a solitary, perplexing question that we cannot answer, and it seems that no one else can give us a satisfactory response for it either. We all have the question, “WHY why did our loved one die?” It is a very natural question. Does it need to be this way? Does it need to be an unanswerable inquiry? I think not, and offer this reflection coming out of my own difficult experience facing the death of my Matushka ten years ago.

We all relate to God in three equivalent and identical ways. Some may call them by other names, but for the purpose this essay I will use the three that are the most logical to me. They are 1) the *Wisdom* of God, 2) the *Love* of God, and 3) the *Mystery* of God. Let us look at these three more deeply and see if it will be helpful in answering our “Why” question.

Before I continue, I understand that what I am saying does not bring back our loved one. It does not take away the pain of loss or the emptiness we feel because of it. I only write this because it helped me — and might help others—to understand what has happened and in some small way come to grips with the agony that comes with the loss of a loved one.

In a general way, we are always participating in these three modes of His being, even if we are unaware of it. They continue to exist and operate whether we acknowledge them or not. It is just that when we are talking about death, they are all the more acute, punctuated by the act of loss that has no equal in our world.

**First, we are part of the Wisdom of God** – not just knowledge, even if that is a principle part of Wisdom. By itself, knowledge is simply being able to remember certain natural laws, or forms of math, or historical memory; by themselves they are little more than a memory chip of the brain that we can call on when we need a given area to take action or respond to a situation. But Wisdom is much more than this. It is the collective use of all that knowledge to use in a beneficial way. Sometimes it is the result of our own years of experience in a given area, other times it is when we call upon others who we know to be wise and seek their guidance. You cannot find Wisdom on your iPhone. And Wisdom seeks to answer bigger questions about life rather than simply knowing a fact, like water boils at 212 degrees.

Wisdom seeks to answer questions like, why do we exist in the first place? Deep in our being we begin with a longing for answers that we do not have. We have a yearning that says we are certain we can find the answers, but first we need to know how to go about looking for the answers, discovering where they are. And they are in God. Our relation to God sets us on the right path to discover and become more aware of our own existence and what it means to be in the world. Only by looking to the Wisdom of God can we find those authentic answers that fill our need to know about the life we are living. That is why it is the first stage in our relation to God, for we are always becoming what He intends us to be, the ones made in His Image and after His Likeness. How wonderful this is!

**Secondly, this Wisdom leads us to the love of God**, to appreciate what God has done for us and with us. It makes us want to love Him for the life he has given us that makes us even the envy of angels. “For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.” [Psalm 8:5]. Not only this, but God became man and dwelt among us. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth” [John 1:14]. This occurred because God wanted to express His love for us and seek our response to love Him in return. “We love Him because He first loved us” [1 John 4:19]. This would not be possible without having Wisdom about God. But it also creates a problem for us. God is so Infinite, so all-encompassing, so full of mercy, grace and truth, we are scarcely able to understand His love or able to embrace it at all.

**And this leads us to our third relation of being to God, His Divine Mystery.** All things from God are shrouded in this Mystery. It is why we in Orthodoxy refer to the salvific acts of Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Communion, Marriage, Priestly Orders and Holy Unction not as Sacraments, but as *Mysteries*. Indeed, our ability to comprehend them and how they function on and in us is very much a mystery to us, yet our Faith allows us to accept them and repeatedly use them as needed. We may understand their usefulness for us, and why they are important for our Salvation, but we are not God and therefore cannot comprehend the depths of their functions and abilities. The words of Saint Paul are appropriate here: “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory....” [1 Corinthians 2:7]. This “wisdom of God in a mystery” means exactly what it says—that we can talk of the wisdom of God, but only insofar as the mystery allows us to do so. We can see that these Mysteries of God were from the beginning and were specifically created for us and for our glory. This means a day will come when we will receive their meaning in glory in the mysteries of God when all things shall be revealed. Again, Saint Paul writes, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” [Romans 8:18].

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## SVS Press releases “Building an Orthodox Marriage” by Antiochian Bishop John

Orthodox Christian couples are often seeking sage advice on how to strengthen their marital bond, and Saint Vladimir’s Seminary Press has just released a book to help them do so. Titled *Building an Orthodox Marriage: A Practical Commentary on the Eastern Orthodox Marriage Rite*, the volume was written by a long-time married but now widowed bishop and a newly married layman. The book prepares couples to understand marriage as “a great mystery” akin to the relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church [Ephesians 5.32] while coaching them in practical ways to strengthen their union.

His Grace, Bishop John [Abdalah] of the Diocese of Worcester and New England of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America and Nicholas G. Mamey, a recently married seminary graduate, are coauthors of the volume. In their work, they first establish a grounding for marriage, using Scripture and texts from the Orthodox Christian wedding ceremony, and then go on to offer practical guidance to couples.

The volume will be formally launched at the 53rd Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention, slated to convene in Miami, FL July 23–30, 2017. Bishop John will be available at select times during the convention for book signings at the SVS Press and Bookstore booth, located in the Great Hall Foyer of the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa, Hollywood, FL, and also during the Saint Vladimir’s Seminary alumni event at that hotel on Wednesday evening, July 26.

The book received a positive review from Dr. Albert S. Rossi, Clinical Psychologist, retired Associate Professor of Psychology from Pace University, and current Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at Saint Vladimir’s Seminary, who wrote, “As I read the book many sentences jumped off the page — off the page and into my heart. If an engaged couple, or married couple of many years, were to read only one book on Orthodox marriage, I would recommend this book.”

Bishop John holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Care from Pittsburgh Theological School, a Master of Divinity degree from Saint Vladimir’s Seminary, and a Master’s equivalency certificate in Pastoral Counseling from Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. He also is a clinical member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. He taught Pastoral Counseling in the graduate program at the Saint John of Damascus Institute at the Balamand in Lebanon. He was married to the former Joanne Josephs for nearly 30 years, until her repose May 27, 2008.

Nicholas Mamey holds Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Study degrees from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA. He married Christina Randol in 2016.

Publication of the book was generously funded by Louis and George Kilsey.

### *Bishop David Con’t*

So far I have been talking in a general way about God’s wisdom, love and mystery in order to now answer our “Why” of death within the understanding of God’s design and His relation to us. That is, if we can have a right knowledge of the three modes of our relationship to God, then we can better understand the “Why” of death.

**Wisdom** – When a person falls asleep in the Lord, three things happen. First, their body stops working and doing the functions that allowed it to be animated in the first place; the heart, brain and nervous system all cease to function. Medicine can tell us this has happened and our knowledge of medical facts tells us this is so. Secondly, there is the separation of that which is directly connected to our being like God in the first place, our soul leaves the body. And thirdly, our spirit no longer animates us. No matter how much we may desire to remain in that body and with those we love, we cannot do it. Perhaps this is why some people pass away with a slight smile or a frown?

**Love** – I believe the single most important thing to remember about the love of God has much to do with death. People in anguish ask, “Why did God take him from me?” as if God wanted him or her to die. Others become troubled when some catastrophe occurs and ask a similar question, “Why did God let that happen?” In both cases it is as if to say our God is so cruel that He randomly takes people from us that we love without so much as a “I’m sorry I had to do that to you.” If you want proof that God does not work that way just look at Christ in the Gospels. The widow of Nain [Luke 7], the daughter of Jairus [Mark 5], and especially Lazarus, Jesus’ friend [John 11]. In fact, the account of the raising of Lazarus contains the most direct evidence for God’s reaction to our deaths; it contains the shortest verse in Scripture, verse 35, “Jesus wept.” Does that sound like a vicious God, eager to bring down punishment on we wretched sinners? I think not. In fact, I am willing to say that God did not intend for us to die. Period.

**Mystery** – Perhaps the most difficult duty of a Christian is to account for the Mystery of God where death is concerned. Calling death a mystery does not give God a free pass out of our dilemma. To say “we can’t understand it, so we must wait for the answer in the Kingdom of God” will not suffice when one is completely torn apart in their being **Con’t Page 7**

## Planting Grant Missions: Marking five years of growth in South Carolina

July 1, 2017 marked the fifth anniversary of the first Divine Liturgy celebrated at Saint James Mission here. According to the mission's Priest James Bozeman, it's been "humbling and revealing to look back at what has happened to us since that time.

"Looking over some of the documents from our first annual parish meeting in 2012, I found a rather random list of one-year, three-year and five-year goals that I had drafted for our mission," Father James said. "At that time, I was looking ahead to our five-year anniversary, which seemed like an eternity away during those first few months of our mission's existence."

The challenges faced during those "early years" were quite simple — getting a choir up and running, training lay readers and altar servers, procuring the things we needed to serve a Liturgy, and finding a place in which services could be celebrated.

"In those first weeks, we had no place to meet!" Father James recalled. "But thanks in part to the Church Planting Grant, as well as the hard work and commitment of our Church family, we were able to quickly establish our brand-new mission and now we have met the majority of those early goals."

The one outstanding practical goal that remains is the construction of a permanent Church building, but Father James and his flock are working steadily toward making this a reality.

"Many of the targets that I identified back in 2012 revolved around liturgical life and practical aspects of mission life," Father James continued. "More difficult to anticipate at that time were the growing spiritual needs of our Church family and how to meet them. It was difficult to express such things in a tangible way within the context of a list of goals. It was — and still is — so tempting to boil 'success' as a mission down to the 'facts and figures' level, failing to factor in the seemingly intangible spiritual goals."

But if there's anything mission members have gleaned from their first five years as a mission, it is that they "must first grow in love and unity in Christ and as a family within our greater community — the very thing for which we pray during each of our services," Father James added. "I rejoice to be able to say that this is happening here in Beaufort.

"When we first began to hold services in the summer of 2012, we were still relative strangers to one another,"

Father James explained. "We all lived in the same general area, but we didn't know each others' needs and likes or hopes and struggles. Each of us sort of dove into this mission head-first, so to speak, not really knowing how well we would work together as a family."

As a pastor, Father James acknowledges that it is wonderful to see a self-sacrificing love kindle and grow in the attempt to put into practice in our everyday lives what we learn and celebrate in the Divine Liturgy.

"Perhaps this is our greatest accomplishment of the past five years," Father James observed. "When I came here as a new priest, I think that I was largely focused on serving my new community and offering guidance as a pastor, which were not bad intentions. However, what I am seeing now is how easy it is to fall into the trap of 'acting like a priest' rather than simply 'being a priest.'"

Father James was quick to add that the mission community has taught him how much of the priestly vocation is centered around working out his own salvation, all for the sake of the salvation of those people entrusted by Christ to his care.

"If I'm not dealing with my reality as a husband, father and priest, then my ministry will suffer, and those under my care will suffer as well," Father James concluded. "I have been both humbled and comforted by this 'revelation,' and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the People of God in Beaufort."

### Romans 12:6-14 (*Epistle*) July 16

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

## Prayer List - UPDATED 4-23-17

**Priests:** His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius, His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman, John Kuchta, \*Eugene Tarris, \*Ted Bobosh, \*Joseph Gibson, \*John Reeves, \*Michael Matsko, \*Paul Lazor, \*John Klembara, Emilian Hutnyan, Deacon Bohdan Melnychenko

**Matushkii:** \*Carol Janacek, Mary Perez, Snezana Ruzic, Laryssa Hutnyan

**Parishioners:** Karen Muzyka, Ronald Stachowiak, Rebecca Eggers, Sonja Harris, Pauline Michals, Marilyn, Michals,

**Parishioner's Family:** Sandra (*Karen's sister*), Erika Northrup, Mary Northrup, Raymond Northrup, Mark Svava, Joey Krush, Jan Kost (*Linda's sister*), Tommy Leonchik, Jason Kirnbauer, Lucille (*Carol's mom*), Susie & her newborn baby Anthony

**Other Requests:** June (*Hruban friend*), Elizabeth Lilos, Jemsey Pradun, Hermenegil & Lydia Guerrero (*Neighbor*), Cathleen Rebollar, Eva Quagon (*Andy's friend*), John & Mary Ann Magerko, Vivian (*friend of Becky Eggers*), \*John Sedor, \*Daria Petrykowski, \*Helen Liss, \*Theodore Geletka,

**Military:** Fr. Herman, Fr. Gregory, Amber, Caleb, Nicholas, David, Timothy, Robert, Kristen, Matthew, Brian, Daniel, Joseph

**Captives:** Metropolitan Paul (*Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo*), Archbishop John (*Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo*), for the UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria / Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world / Those held captive throughout the world.

Additions or removals from the list? Please notify Fr. Andrew.

### 40 DAYS REMEMBRANCE

July 16: Mat. Olga Kapral  
July 23: Edward



### Fr. Deacon's Contact Information

688 Huntington Dr  
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Cell: 630-205-2939

Email:

bobn@sg360.com

bobn@segerdahl.com

Please contact him for emergencies or questions.

**NOTE:** August 1<sup>st</sup> the Rectory phone line will be turned off.

### Fr. Andrew's New Address

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church  
110 East Main Street  
Marblehead, Ohio, 43440

Rectory Phone.....419-798-4591

Cell.....570-212-8747

### Words of Farewell

The time has come to say good bye. These three short years have been joyous and blessed. We have struggled together, had fun together, experienced sadness & joy together and have grown as a spiritual family. These are the hallmarks of a family. Also what a spiritual family shares.

My hope and prayer is that what you have learned from God, from the Church Fathers in our educational classes and from your unworthy spiritual father continues to inform your spiritual growth. Many of you listened to the Word of God and grew in your spiritual life. May God bless that growth to continue. There is still work to be accomplished in us all.

Thank you to all who came to services regularly, came to Orthodoxy 101 classes and came to Bible Study. Thank you to all who worked hard at our events; both for the church (dinner fundraisers) and for the community (Christmas Feeding of the Homeless, Annual Block Party, and helping less fortunate of this community.

Thank you Board Members for working with me. Thank you Mat. Susan and the choir for putting up with me. Thank you Altar Servers for serving with me and growing closer to God.

Please welcome the priest(s) or administrator(s) who come after me. Work with them. Be willing to truly hear what they have to say. Everyone does things differently. If you don't understand something or what they are trying to do, talk with them and ask questions. Reserve judgment.

Finally, to all I have offended for whatever reason and for all the ways I may have failed you, please forgive me. Know that they were not intentional. The Lord knows what He is doing and is often beyond our reasoning and understanding. May God bless you and keep you.

With love in the Risen Lord, *Fr. Andrew Bartek*

**July 16 Gospel**  
**Matthew 9:1-8 (Gospel)**

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

**July 23**  
**Matthew 9:27-35 (Gospel)**

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

**July 30**  
**Matthew 14:14-22 (Gospel)**

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

**JULY-REPOSED**

2- Annie Dubovik (97) 3- James Evans (92) 12- Agnes Grabavoy (11) 17- Natalie Whitko Cook (85) 20- Ulana (Julie) Mychowycz (98) 22- Michael Barilla Jr. (99) 23- Al29- Helen Yarmoluk (11) 31- Elsi Leonchik (16)	1950: Joseph Starodub Vasiliy Sviridiuk Naum Leshchuk	Anthony Swila Anthony Koziel David Sulavka
	1951: Koyo Yakshich Irene Korenchuk Alexander Kuzmich	Katherine Czaleyko Anastasia Litrenchuk Ignaty Lahovetz

*Remember those who have gone before us in prayer. If there is a name missing from the above list, please speak to Fr. Andrew before July 15 to have them added.*

**JULY-CELEBRATIONS**

BIRTHDAY		ANNIVERSARY
7- John Grabavoy Sr 12- Julie Walker 14- Elijah Eggers 17- Jonah Bremer 26-Katrina Gates	11- John Rutkowski 12- Justin Stokley 14-Jose Santiago 27- Richard Wolfe 26- Art Weiss	7-15-67: Ronald & Patricia Svara 7-15-72: Robert & Luba Johnson
		NAMESDAY
		7-31: Archbishop Benjamin of the West

*If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew before July 15.. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.*