

## Orthodox Church in America (OCA), Diocese of the Midwest

We are a diverse and growing Orthodox Christian community of Central Ohio, bearing witness to the Faith through love, service, and commitment to our neighborhood and area college students.

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Parish rector:

Fr. Stephen Frase 614-572-3942 <u>frstephenfrase@yahoo.com</u>

Attached clergy:

Deacon Paul Mitchell 330-647-3708 Deacon Joseph Shaluha 732-841-8831 Deacon Sampson Nash 614-264-2874

# July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Venerable Sisoes the Great and Martyr Lucy, and those with her, at Rome



### Also commemorated on July 6th:

Ven. Sisoës, Schema-monk, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.). Uncovering of the Relics of Holy Princess Juliana Ol'shánskaya (16th c.). Martyrs Marinus and Martha, and their children, Audifax and Abbachum (Habákkuk) and those with them at Rome: Cyrinus, Valentine, and Asterius the Presbyter (269). Martyrs Isaurius the Deacon, Innocent, Felix, Hermias, Basil, Peregrinus, Rufus, and Rufinus of Apollonia in Macedonia (3rd c.). Martyr Quintus of Phrygia (ca. 283). Virgin Martyr Lucy, Martyr Rixius, and those with them at Rome: Martyrs Anthony, Lucian, Isidore, Dion, Diodorus, Cutonius, Arnosus, Capicus, Saturus (Satyrus), and others (301). Synaxis of the Saints of Rádonezh.

## **Upcoming Schedule and Announcements**

Saturday, 7/5

9:00 AM Parish grounds work day

4:30 PM Orthodoxy 101 (the group will meet in the nave this day to learn about the worship

space)

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, 7/6

9:10 AM 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours of Prayer

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by post-Communion prayers, and coffee social

Saturday, 7/12

6:00 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday**, 7/13

9:10 AM 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours of Prayer

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by post-Communion prayers, and coffee social

Saturday, 7/19

6:00 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday**, 7/20

9:10 AM 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours of Prayer

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by post-Communion prayers, and coffee social

Thursday, 7/24

6:00 PM Book club (more details below)

To access the parish Google Calendar, click <a href="here">here</a>.

**Streaming services:** The majority of services are streamed on YouTube.

To access the changeable Hymns and Scripture readings, please click here.

The Monthly Ministry Rotations can be found here.

**Orthodoxy 101 schedule is found <u>here</u>.** Tentative schedule for the summer is now available.

**July Book Club:** Don't we learn best from failures? "In <u>Bad Examples from the Bible</u>, eminent author, scholar, and priest Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon provides us with a plethora of characters from the Bible whose bad decisions, character flaws, and sinful desires show us how **not** to live our lives. This book demonstrates how to avoid the mistakes made by Eve, Cain, Saul, Pilate, Delilah, and many others."

This short book is under 150 pages and was just published by Ancient Faith in June 2025. Print copies will be at our bookstore and library. It is also available as an e-book, and an audiobook is coming soon. We plan to discuss this book on Thursday, July 24th at 6pm in St. Gregory's Upper Room. All are welcome! Please contact Bob Ambrose or Mary Conroy for more information.

**Parish grounds work day:** The Men's Group will host a parish work day on Saturday, July 5 from 9 am until about noon. All parishioners are welcome to come and help out. Please consider joining for this important work - no experience required!

**St. Seraphim Homeschool Co-Op Summer Park Days:** The pan-Orthodox St. Seraphim Homeschool Co-Op has organized Friday morning meet-ups every-other week this summer at various parks in the greater Columbus/Delaware area. Families with kids of any age are welcome to join for these park days, regardless of their schooling situation or participation in the school-year co-op program. The summer schedule is as follows, all Fridays at 10am. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch.

July 11: Gallant Farm

July 25: Delaware Veterans Park Splash Pad

Aug. 8: Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park (bison pastures)

Aug. 22: Alum Creek Beach Day

Contact Kaiti Curtin for more details or with any questions about the co-op.

#### We are praying for:

**Blessed Repose:** For the Newly-Departed Archpriest Jason, Maureen, Irene, Jocelyn, and Pat; for those martyred for the Faith, and victims of violence.

#### For the Health and Well Being:

- The Newborn Vivian Isadora as well as her parents Andrea & Jeff; the Newborn Diana Rose as well her parents Stacey & Brennan; the Newborn Haven Naim, as well as her parents Hannah & Thomas; the Newborn Keira as well as her parents Marie & Benjamin
- The ill, infirm, and suffering: Archpriest Theodore, Archpriest Nikolai, Priest John; Karen, Linda, Marlene, Steve, Dionisia, Patricia, Lakeitha, Steve, Rosario, Anita, Carol, Zaineb, Kipp, Jon as well as Jonae and family; Peter, Hannah, and Wes; Kathy, Kenneth, Joanna and family; Nina, Joachim, Albert, Pamela, Amy, Matthew and Marg; Cheryl and Michael, Steve, Linda and Randy, Patricia; Wil, Sophie, Lauren & Tyler, and Aubrey; Gabriel, Larry, Caren, Matushka Elizabeth, Nicholas, Suzanne, Erika, Jimmy; Mary and David; Mary and family and Heidi; Andrei, Dorothy, Nabil, Elizabeth-Joy, Isaiah, John, Ron and Diane, Cathy, Carol, Mary, Anthony, Elaine, Elaine-Natalie, Michael, Betty, Nadine, Elanor, Ben, Alberta, Karen
- Those families who are with child: Juliana & Dean, Alexandra & Jonnathan, Mackenzie & Cylas, as well as Emily & Austin
- Those who are preparing for Holy Matrimony: Jennifer & Bradley and Nicholas & Divna
- Catechumens of our parish (Jonathan, Brittany, Elizabeth, Scott, Marie, Benjamin, Charlie, and Keira, as well as Danny)
  - \* All names listed above are remembered in the prayers offered before the start of the Divine Liturgy.

**Many Years to:** Nicholas Mustric (7/6), Anthony Schultz (7/6), and Fawn Zarkov (7/6) celebrating their birthdays; as well as Jeff & Judith Smith (7/6) celebrating their anniversary this week!

\* Please inform Kaiti Curtin (kaitlincurtin@gmail.com) of missing birthdays / anniversaries or incorrect dates. Thank you.

## Celebrated / Commemorated July 6th: From the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) website:

Saint Sisoes the Great (+ 429) was a solitary monk, pursuing asceticism in the Egyptian desert in a cave sanctified by the prayerful labors of his predecessor, Saint Anthony the Great (January 17). For his sixty years of labor in the desert, Saint Sisoes attained to sublime spiritual purity and he was granted the gift of wonderworking, so that by his prayers he once restored a dead child back to life.

Extremely strict with himself, Abba Sisoes was very merciful and compassionate to others, and he received everyone with love. To those who visited him, the saint first of all always taught humility. When one of the monks asked how he might attain to a constant remembrance of God, Saint Sisoes remarked, "That is no great thing, my son, but it is a great thing to regard yourself as inferior to everyone else. This leads to the acquisition of humility." Asked by the monks whether one year is sufficient for repentance if a brother sins, Abba Sisoes said, "I trust in the mercy of God that if such a man repents with all his heart, then God will accept his repentance in three days."

When Saint Sisoes lay upon his deathbed, the disciples surrounding the Elder saw that his face shone like the sun. They asked the dying man what he saw. Abba Sisoes replied that he saw Saint Anthony, the prophets, and the apostles. His face increased in brightness, and he spoke with someone. The monks asked, "With whom are you speaking, Father?" He said that angels had come for his soul, and he was entreating them to give him a little more time for repentance. The monks said, "You have no need for repentance, Father." Saint Sisoes said with great humility, "I do not think that I have even begun to repent."

After these words the face of the holy abba shone so brightly that the brethren were not able to look upon him. Saint Sisoes told them that he saw the Lord Himself. Then there was a flash like lightning, and a fragrant odor, and Abba Sisoes departed to the Heavenly Kingdom.

## Celebrated / Commemorated July 7th: From the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) website:

**Saint Prosper (Prosper Tiro),** "The Eradicator of Heresies," as Saint Photios (February 6) calls him, was born in the Aquitaine around the year 390. He was a renowned lay theologian, although few details of his life are known.

We know Saint Prosper chiefly from his writings. A contemporary writer described him as "a holy and venerable man." Many of Saint Prosper's writings echo the teaching of Saint Augustine (June 15) on grace. Like Saint Augustine, Saint Prosper was also an opponent of the Pelagian heresy. This wise man seems to have spent his life embroiled in controversies with heretics. For the semi-Pelagians in particular, Saint Prosper was one of their most fearsome adversaries.

In Saint Prosper, science was joined to virtue. It is evident that he applied himself to literature, and especially to acquiring knowledge of Holy Scripture. He was no less an expert in human sciences than he was in theology. He excelled particularly in mathematics, astronomy, and chronology. His great learning and holiness made him well known throughout the entire Church.

Saint Prosper has sometimes been identified, mistakenly, with Saint Paulinus of Reggio (June 25), who was a bishop. Everything we know about him leads us to believe that Saint Prosper was not a bishop, nor even a priest. In a poem to his wife he wrote: "Lift me up again if I fall; correct yourself if I point out some fault. Let it never be sufficient for us to be one body, let us also be one soul." By 428, Saint Prosper persuaded his wife to become a nun, and he entered a monastery at Marseilles. When Saint Leo the Great was chosen as the Bishop of Rome in 440, he sent for Prosper to become his secretary. Many historians believe that the admirable treatise "On the Incarnation of the Word," which is ascribed to Saint Leo, is actually the work of Saint Prosper. It is possible, however, that Saint Leo may have reworked it in his own style.

Saint Prosper reposed in Rome, sometime after 455.

The icon of Saint Prosper depicts him holding a scroll which reads: "The Orthodox Faith subdues the monster of heresy."

Refuse to listen to the devil when he whispers to you: give me now, and you will give tomorrow to God. No, no! Spend all the hours of your life in a way pleasing to God; keep in your mind the thought that after the present hour you will not be given another and that you will have to render a strict account for every minute of this present hour.

+ From Unseen Warfare, St. Theophan the Recluse and St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain

#### Policies, Procedures, and Parish Life

General Parish Concerns can be brought to Fr. Stephen, Lay Vice-Chair – Barbara Gossman, as well as any other parish council member for discussion during council meetings. Council does not address issues of concern via email due to privacy issues, sensitivity of topics, and the potential for misunderstanding.

**Items for the Parish Bulletin:** Please submit announcements for the bulletin to Kaiti Curtin at kaitlincurtin@gmail.com (copy Fr. Stephen as well) by 6:00 PM each Wednesday. Bulletin submissions may be revised when necessity arises. In the email subject line, include: **For the bulletin on** (*insert date*) - (*Include a brief description of the announcement*).

**Outreach Program:** Meals are handed out from the Annex on Saturdays from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM and Sundays from 11:00-12:30 PM. A food pantry is also open whenever meals are taking place. Please contact Debbie Seeds with questions. Volunteers can sign up to serve <a href="here">here</a>.

**Charitable Giving:** Our charities fund supports needs in the parish, the community, and throughout the Church – both nationally and abroad. Please contact Barbara Gossman.

Do you know of someone who is sick, hospitalized or a shut-in? Please let Fr. Stephen know!

**The Prayer Group** offers prayer for those in need. Submit requests to Connie Wargo. If you would like to be part of the prayer ministry, please let Connie know as well.

**St. Elizabeth Group** sends cards to parishioners and others who are seriously ill, hospitalized, or unable to leave the home. Please contact Kathy Johnson for information.

**Christian Youth Education:** Please refer questions and interest in becoming involved in this ministry to Cylas Conway.

**Jr. O Club (Youth Group):** The Jr. O Club is for all parish youth ages 10 through high school. The group meets monthly, and has periodic spiritual, community service, and social events. Parishioners with questions, or with children interested in participating, should contact Joseph Mann or Father Stephen.

**College Students**: We encourage you to make St. Gregory's your spiritual home away from home. Please contact OSU's Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) spiritual advisor, Fr. Stephen.

**Orthodoxy 101** sessions are led by Fr. Stephen. Sessions are ideal for those inquiring about Orthodoxy, new to the parish, as well as anyone who enjoys learning more about their faith! The current schedule can be found here.

**The Parish Choir:** If interested in participating, please contact Kathy Johnson.

**Confessions:** Fr. Stephen hears confessions after Saturday Vespers or by appointment.

**Parish Library and Bookstore**: The small upstairs library is open for self-service at any time the church is open. Fill out the card with your name, email, and a date a month in the future and leave the card in the small box. A librarian is usually available to help in the upper room until noon on Sundays. For access to the main library in the Education Building, or bookmobile service, please contact Caren Stayer at 614-657-6259. The online library catalog is at: <a href="https://cloud.collectorz.com/25424/">https://cloud.collectorz.com/25424/</a>. The bookstore has Orthodox books and religious items in the Upper Room and is open after church services. For bookstore help or orders, please contact Mary Conroy at mobile 614-441-5794.

**Memorial Prayers:** May be offered one Saturday a month at 5:40 PM prior to the start of Vespers (unless there is a Memorial Liturgy offered that month). If there is an annual anniversary or 40<sup>th</sup> day Memorial requested, then a Google form will be shared to allow others to request prayers for the departed as well.