

OCCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

WINTER/SPRING 2022

volume 95 number 3

The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

Also Inside:

- Recap of Virtual Events
- 2021 Scholarship Recipients
- Summer Sports Tournament Details
- Ohio Camp Information
- 95th National Convention Particulars



Pray, Study, Toil, Be Temperate

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
Welcome to the F.O.C.A.
"Virtual" Christmas Concert
Our program...

Christ is Risen!
Indeed He Is Risen!
Virtual Paschal Concert!
Sunday May 1st, 2022
Celebrating the Feast of Feasts!

2nd Annual "Virtual" St. Andrew's Day Celebration
Tuesday November 30 8:00pm (est)
Live Stream via YouTube
The Akathist to St. Andrew the Apostle the First Called

F.O.C.A. Virtual Tour of Bethlehem

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Tomb of Christ

Akathist Hymn of Repentance in Christ

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

V. Rev. Nicholas Wyslutzky
755 S Cleveland Ave, Mogadore, OH 44260-3547
frnick65@gmail.com
Cell - 330-608-2092

PRESIDENT

Allison Steffaro
38 Beryl Street, South River, NJ 08882
Cell: (732) 395-1651
email: michaelsteffaro@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Basil Kochan
11584 Garden Lane Ave NW, Uniontown, OH 44685
Cell- 330-418-4584
kochanbasil@sbcglobal.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

Danielle Ilchuk
321 School Street, Sewickley, PA 15143
(412) 855-3748
email: dilchuk@pitt.edu

NEW ADDRESS

TREASURER

Michael Bowan
W284N7867 Woodrest Drive Hartland, WI 53029
(773) 456-5295, e-mail: mickeybowan@mindspring.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Marge Kovach
8 Ginesi Drive, Clark, NJ 07066
Tele: (732) 815-9765, Cell: (917) 887-5023
email: mjkovach@aol.com

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Sandy Kapelan
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America
FOCA C/O Sandra Kapelan,
892 Scott Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705
Phone: (570) 824-0562
Office E-Mail: orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com
website: www.orthodoxfellowship.org

To receive membership information contact the administrative office of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.
CALL: (570) 824-0562

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Send all articles, photos and information to:

Marge Kovach,
FOCA Communication Director
8 Ginesi Drive Clark, NJ 07066
E-mail: FOCACommunications@Gmail.com or mjkovach@aol.com
Phone: 917-887-5023

MANAGING EDITOR **Michael Schultz**

LAYOUT EDITOR **Michael Schultz**

SPORTS EDITOR **Sports Department**

PHOTOGRAPHER **Leon Sheean**

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The mission of the

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**Mission Statement of the
Fellowship of Orthodox
Christians in America**



**TO WITNESS
OUR FAITH
BY
CHARITABLE
WORKS
THROUGH
FELLOWSHIP**



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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Allison Steffaro

44th National FOCA President

By the time you are reading this many of your parishes have returned to “normal” Liturgical life. But have they really? While we are all returning to “normal” our new normal has changed. Some for the better and some not so. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that as Orthodox Christians we can still maintain our spiritual lives whether it is in person or via the internet. While our organization needs to get back to activities, they can not and should not be “as normal”. We need to find creative ways to reach beyond our faithful



membership and create activities that reach far beyond our parishes and dioceses. Our executive board felt the need to come up with creative ways to keep our members connected during this difficult time using the internet and social media; With technology we were able to meet the spiritual and fellowship needs of our membership. As you are aware, we have been holding extremely successful liturgical services, educational virtual trips, youth retreats and choir concerts.

For more than nine decades, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America has been assisting in the work of the Church while providing practical means for Orthodox Christians to endure lasting friendships on a local and national level. While we were very successful with continuing activities during the pandemic, we need to look to the future and use our years of experience to reach beyond our comfort zone.

The executive board will be leading discussions at our National Convention on how we use our talents within our organization to achieve this goal. Some of the topics to be discussed are (not to be limited to) reimagining our conventions, the FOCA's technology reach, scholarship eligibility and youth participation on a national level. I hope you will join us in Baltimore to discuss how we take what we have learned and accomplished over the last two years to propel us into a very bright and prosperous future.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Marge Kovach

Interim Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

In this issue, we feature several virtual events which permitted us to stay connected during a time when we were forced to maintain distance. By embracing technology, the Fellowship was able to bring spiritual retreats, prayerful services, educational tours, as well as concerts for Christmas and Pasha, directly into your home. These amazing events remain available on YouTube for your educational and viewing pleasure.

Details for the first National Convention gathering since the 93rd held in 2019 are included as well as specifics on the Summer Sports Tournament and Ohio Camp.

Congratulations to our 2021 educational scholarship recipients who are spotlighted in this issue.

Once again, the "Transitions" section includes several memorials for extremely dedicated, long-time members and supporters of the FROC/FOCA as well as the Church. We are thankful for their contributions on a local, district, and especially on a national level. They will be missed. May their memories be eternal!

2022 Articles Deadline for the OCJ:

Summer/Fall 2022 Article Deadline: October 1, 2022

Send articles, photos, and information to:

Marge Kovach, FOCA Communication Director
8 Ginesi Drive Clark, NJ 07066

E-mail: FOCAGCommunications@Gmail.com or mjkovach@aol.com

Phone: 917-887-5023

Please send photos in jpg format and don't embed them in the document; attach separately.

F.O.C.A. HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS-IN-BRIEF



Gifts of Love - This year's FOCA Gifts of Love charitable campaign will benefit the Youth Program at the upcoming All-American Council. Funds raised will help defray the cost of essential materials such as, tee shirts, backpacks, water bottles, and other supplies. Donations can be made by visiting the donate page on our website or by sending a check to Mickey Bowan.

HOLY LAND TOUR

**Save the Date – FOCA
Sponsored Pilgrimage to the
Holy Land**

October 16-28, 2023

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America will sponsor a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October of 2023. Led by National Spiritual Advisor Fr. Nicholas Wyslutsky, the trip will include visits to Holy Sites in the Cities of Nazareth, Bethlehem, Bethany beyond the Jordan and many more. We invite you to join us as we walk in the footsteps of our Lord and the Apostles and Saints. Plan to join us now. The trip will include first class accommodations, most meals, and the best tour guides. The cost per traveler is \$3150 per person, based on double occupancy, in a group of at least 30 travelers. (Does not include Airfare). Stop by the FOCA booth at the All-American Council in Baltimore, MD or email focaspiritualadvisor@gmail.com to receive a brochure with itinerary and reservation materials. Join us in the Holy Land for the best in faith and fellowship.

Where Saints Have Walked:

Virtual Youth Retreat and Tour of St. Tikhon's

On November 26, 2021, Orthodox Youth in grades K-12 came together for the second virtual youth retreat organized by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, which featured a visit to America's Oldest Monastery. More than 25 households participated live and over 160 have viewed the video since on YouTube.

Retreat Leaders: Archimandrite Sergius and the Monastery Brotherhood shared the history of Saint Tikhon's Monastery and the lives of the many holy men and women who lived there while following Christ. "The content of the retreat and the tour of the Monastery Church, grounds, and museum were amazing and very informative...almost like being there," said Father Nicholas Wyslutzky, National Spiritual Advisor for the FOCA and event organizer. Father Nick suggests, "If you haven't seen it, pick a day and view it. It's worth the time."

In lieu of registration fees, donations to St. Tikhon's Monastery were suggested by the Fellowship.



FOCA CALENDAR 2022



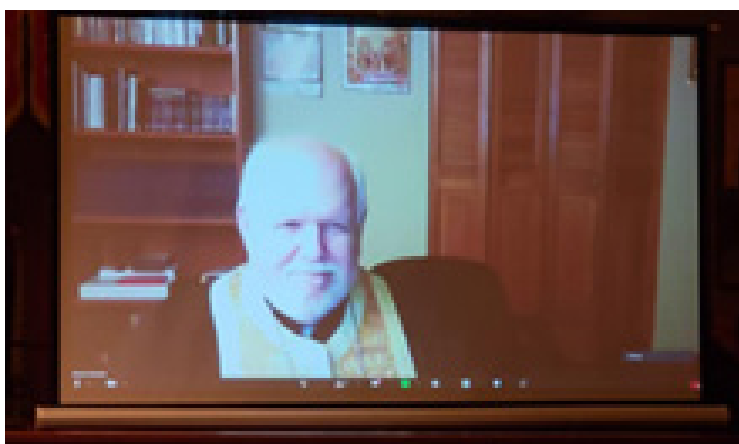
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| June 1, 2022 | Scholarship Application Deadline |
| July 3 - 9, 2022 | Ohio Camp – Children ages 8 - 11 |
| July 10 – 16, 2022 | Ohio Camp - FOCA Jr Olympics |
| July 15 - 18, 2022 | 95th National FOCA Convention in Baltimore, MD |
| July 17 – 23, 2022 | Ohio Camp – Children ages 12 - 18 |
| August 19 - 20, 2022 | National Summer Sports Tournament Bethlehem, PA |

For updates and detailed info, visit www.orthodoxfellowship.org

2nd Annual “Virtual” St. Andrew’s Day Celebration

Our 2nd Annual “Virtual” St. Andrew’s Day Celebration was livestreamed on November 30, 2021. The Akathist to St. Andrew, the First-Called Apostle of Christ, was hosted by St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore, Ohio and served by past and present national, district, and local Spiritual Advisors from South River, NJ; Baltimore, MD; Madison, IL; as well as Broadview Heights and Parma, OH. Service books were posted online for participants to follow the service.

His Eminence, The Most Reverend Paul, Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest (of blessed memory) offered words of inspiration. Once again, this event was well-received with 102 households participating and a total of 261 views since.



FOCA Launches YouTube Channel

The FOCA (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America) has launched a YouTube Channel! This channel will be used for future live-streamed events, as well as a host-site for other videos produced by the Fellowship.

We need your help to build our following!
Please “subscribe” to our channel to be notified of new content as it gets posted.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9yPeZIKg5JZUj1n5mgDYRA>
to visit our YouTube Channel!

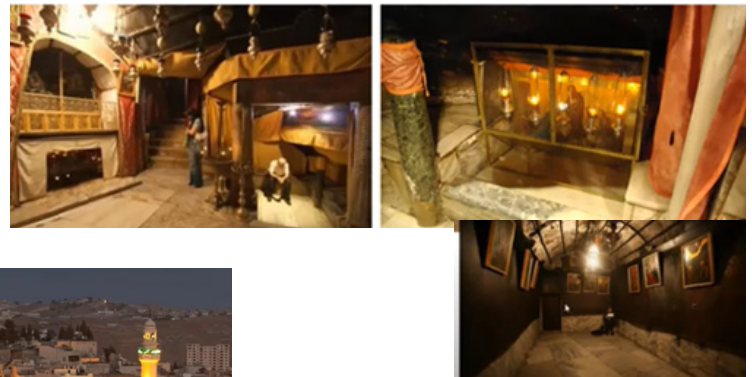
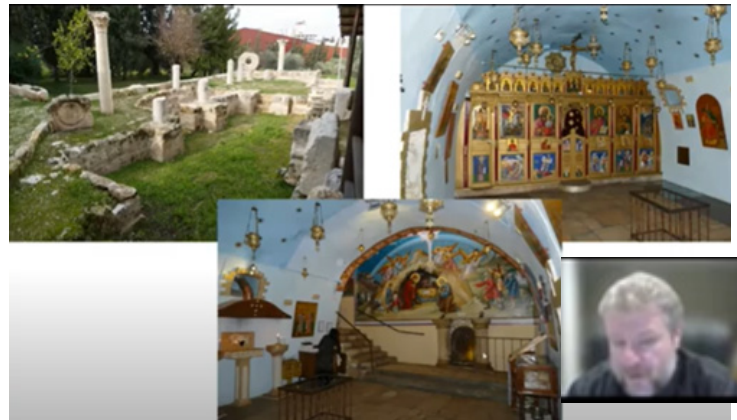
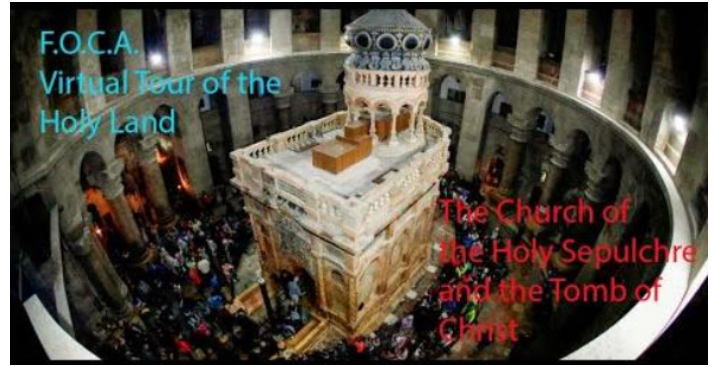
Virtual Tour of Bethlehem

Virtual Tour of Bethlehem - December 12, 2021. In the true spirit and meaning of Christmas, the Fellowship journeyed through the Holy City of Bethlehem to relive the events and places of our Lord's Birth. Our tour leader, V. Rev. Ilya Gotlinsky, Rector of Dormition of the Virgin Mary parish in Binghamton, New York and the director of Orthodox Tours, provided the virtual tour.

In his presentation, Father Ilya brought in a variety of imagery from ancient Christian mosaics and Romanesque manuscripts to Byzantine icons and some modern art in the 19th century.

National Spiritual Advisor, Father Nicholas Wyslutsky commented, "Once again Fr. Ilya provided an interesting and enlightening evening as he guided us through the city of Bethlehem and the Gospel narrative providing all who attended an enjoyable and educational evening."

Initially 42 households registered for this event which raised over \$1,100 in donations for the FOCA's United Fund. Since being posted on the Fellowship's YouTube channel, it has had over 162 views.



Congratulations to the 2021 FOCA National Scholarship Recipients!



ISABELLE WILLISON

KLIMKOVSKY SCHOLARSHIP WITH FRED LEWIS HONORS (\$1,000)



Isabelle is from Slippery Rock, PA and a member of Chapter 27, Campbell "O" Club. She is currently a freshman at Penn State University where she intends to major in Architectural Engineering. Isabelle has been a Junior FOCA member since she was 10 years old and has participated in past basketball tournaments, attended St. Vladimir's Summer Camp and national conventions, and took part in all of the activities FOCA does to support her parish.

While attending Slippery Rock Area High

School she was an athlete who competed in varsity soccer and basketball. She performed in musicals, the Chamber Singers, was a class officer, and a member of the National Honors Society. Isabelle has also gone Christmas caroling to shut-ins, volunteered at various summer camps, helped put together relief kits for hurricane victims, blankets for homeless shelters, and helped with church cleanup leading up to holidays.

ANDREW ROHWEDER

TORSKY - ENGINEERING (\$1,000)

Andrew, who is from Uniontown, OH is a member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and the Akron 20/32 club. He is currently a senior at the Georgia Institute of Technology majoring in Mechanical Engineering with minors CS Systems & Architecture and German. When he is home Andrew is an altar server and while a Junior participated in Russian dance, was an officer of the club, and volunteered at the Something Russian Festival. At Green High School he was a member of the National Honors Society, was a 4-year letter winner in swimming and was awarded the All-Ohio Student-Athlete honor award. His community activities in both high school and college include participating in food packaging events for the underprivileged, helping with dinners for veterans and seniors, and helping to mulch parks in his hometown.



KATRINA FETT

FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)

Katrina is from Clifton, NJ and a member of Chapter 44, Singac. She is currently a junior at Lehigh University where she intends to obtain a BS in Economics and a BA in Political Science. Although Katrina's parish does not have a Junior chapter, Katrina took it upon herself to be active in NJ district activities including organizing fundraising efforts for Gifts of Love and spearheading

the St. Nicholas Project for her parish. Katrina is actively involved at her parish including visiting shut-ins during Christmas-time and helping to organize the Yolka and Easter egg hunt. She is currently a reporter for Lehigh's student-run newspaper and member of the club soccer team, and was recently selected as a Lehigh TRAC Fellow. As a member of the Alpha Phi sorority, she continues her track of volunteerism and community service. She also participates in the Best Buddies program which connects Lehigh students with members of the community with special needs, and St. Peter's Haven food pantry.

JAKOB FETT

FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)

Jakob is from Clifton, NJ and a member of Chapter 44, Singac. He is a freshman at Lehigh University where he intends to major in Mechanical Engineering. At St. John's Church he is an altar server, participates in the annual Yolka and Christmas caroling. Jakob is highly active in the Boy Scouts of America, achieving Eagle Scout and 3 Eagle Palms. His Eagle Scout Project was for St. John's Church. It included interior painting of the church school building, constructing four lectern stands, pew repair, and refinishing of wooden flag poles. In total this was 200+ hours of work coordinated amongst volunteers and raised more than \$1300 to complete the projects. Outside of Boy Scouts at Regis High School he was an athlete competing in soccer (JV and varsity) and Ultimate Frisbee (Varsity – team captain). He also enjoys photography and guitar.

JULIA MOYER

FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)

Julia is from Columbia, MD and is a member of St. Matthew's Orthodox Church and its 265J Junior O Club. She is currently a freshman at Drexel University where she is in the Biology (Pre-Med) program. At her parish she was a Jr FOCA officer (secretary and president), served as a Finance Committee assistant, volunteered for annual festivals and dinners, and participated in many Fellowship activities. At Hammond High School she was a multisport athlete (lacrosse and field hockey), was an officer in various clubs, participated in orchestra, and was a member of the National Honors Society and Tri-M Music Honors Society. She was also a Girl Scout earning bronze and silver awards, and the Alpha Omega Award.





Chapter 129 Kiss-ing Booth Generates Funds for Gifts of Love

by Laura Johnson

Since the inception of the FOCA Gifts of Love program, originally named Heartbeat Sunday, the Jersey City 'R' Club, Ch. #129, of the New Jersey District has enthusiastically supported and participated in the annual fundraising efforts. Every year the 'R' Club hosts a lovely Valentine Coffee Hour for the parishioners of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, complete with heart-shaped cakes and "sparkling" cranberry juice cocktails. This festive spread is paired with a generous selection of prizes to win to encourage monetary donations to Gifts of Love. The theme of the event is always a combination of a Valentine/Love theme and for whatever charitable effort the funds are currently earmarked. (For example, the year monies went to St. Vladimir's Camp, it was a camping theme; prizes included flashlights, coolers, grilling tools, etc.) No one left empty-handed.

In February 2020, the chapter was able to sponsor a successful event. Then everything changed. With COVID-19 mandates and protocols, a 2021 Gifts of Love Coffee Hour was not possible. (Through modest fundraising efforts, a donation was made to the 2021 campaign.)

Though social procedures eased up later in 2021, the chapter knew a traditional Gifts of Love event for 2022 would be difficult. How could donations be encouraged, while keeping with the Valentine/Love theme, and still respect the comfort zones of the participants?

Enter the Kiss-ing Booth! Made from a cardboard box (from Costco; no cutting required), spray paint, a transparent canister (cut an opening at the bottom for candy to be accessible) filled with a variety of Hershey Kisses, and dollar store crafting decorations. For any amount tucked in the slot, the donor receives a Kiss or two! The Booth remained on display in the church hall for the month of February and through the generosity of the parishioners, the Kiss-ing Booth generated \$875 for the 2022 Gifts of Love campaign. The 'R' Club plans to resume the Valentine Coffee Hour in the future, but the Booth will continue to be part of the festivities!



Virtual Paschal Concert 2022

On May 1, 2022, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America celebrated the Paschal Season by bringing together several choirs from across the country to showcase the beautiful hymns from Holy Week and Pascha. The concert opened with a Paschal Greeting by The Most Blessed Tikhon Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America & Canada. The 50-minute concert had over 374 views by the next day and over 950 since it was posted.



2022 FOCA National Convention

Baltimore, MD



The 95th FOCA National Convention itinerary has been finalized so, get moving, chart your course to Maryland, and dock your vessel at the Baltimore Hilton from Friday, July 15 through Monday, July 18.



Drop anchor at the Baltimore Hilton Inner Harbor Hotel at 401 W Pratt Street. Adjacent to Oriole Park at Camden Yards, and five blocks from Baltimore's Inner Harbor area, the hotel is surrounded by downtown dining. Our room rate is \$143/night plus tax. The reservation link can be found on the FOCA website: orthodoxfellowship.org.

FRIDAY

You will have the perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances Friday evening at the President's Welcome Reception.

SATURDAY

Plenary sessions begin with an opening service and Panikhida for the recently departed members of the FOCA. A private tour of the "Charm City" is planned for 2 p.m. offering the opportunity to see many of Baltimore's hidden gems. Vespers will be in the hotel at 4:00 pm followed by group access to one of the nation's top three aquariums. At the National Aquarium, you'll find thousands of species

in award-winning, including a tropical rainforest and the Australian Outback. You can even feel like you're in the middle of the ocean as sharks swim around you in the 225,000-gallon Shark Alley.

Since the aquarium is conveniently located in the Inner Harbor, you will have a variety of nearby restaurants to choose from after exploring all the sea creatures.



SUNDAY

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be at the hotel on Sunday morning. Our convention banquet will be an afternoon event providing more time to explore the Inner Harbor or relax while taking in the scenic views of the Chesapeake Bay. On Sunday evening, our group will have exclusive access to the B&O Railroad Museum from 6 – 10 p.m. Discover the story of American railroading at the very place where it began! Admire exhibits at the oldest and most comprehensive railroad collection in the world and indulge in a wonderful dessert bar to top off the evening.



MONDAY

Plenary sessions conclude and we bid farewell and safe travels to all.

Fellowship Hosts Three Virtual Lenten Events

Virtual Service in Preparation for Great Lent

- On March 4, 2022, the Fellowship hosted a service in preparation for Great Lent. The Akathist Hymn of Repentance in Christ was hosted by St. Nicholas Church Mogadore, Ohio and served by past as well as present national, district and local Spiritual Advisors from across the USA. The digital service book was available online.

Following the service, His Eminence The Most Reverend Michael, Archbishop of New York & New Jersey offered encouraging words as we entered into the “greatest of the



you’ll receive from Him every blessing that comes from His hands. May yours be a Holy Lent and a Joyous Pacha.”

The event received 173 views by the next day and a total of 260 within the next few weeks.

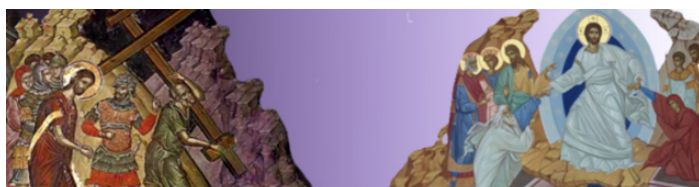


fasts of our Orthodox Church in preparation for the greatest of feasts.” In his address, Archbishop Michael suggests that “we not consider lent as a time of dreaded demands,” but that “we look at it as the Saints of our Church have viewed it; a time of renewal, an opportunity of regeneration, another chance for us to regain our inheritance as daughters and sons of our Heavenly Father.” His Eminence closed with, “My prayer is that you will have a Lenten season that brings you ever closer to the Lord, that makes you more like Him, and that prepares you in this life for the world to come. And that in return



Virtual Lenten Retreat: How to Pray -

On March 19, 2022, the Fellowship hosted a Lenten Retreat lead by Archpriest Paul Jannakos Rector of St. Luke Parish in Palos Hills IL, and the Chancellor of the Diocese of the Midwest. The retreat centered around the topic: “How to Pray” in our busy, stressful, and sometimes difficult times.



Virtual National Lenten Youth Retreat “Tools for Growing Closer to Christ: the Preparatory Sundays of Great Lent”

Virtual National Lenten Youth Retreat

On March 20, 2022, the FOCA sponsored a Virtual National Lenten Youth Retreat entitled: Tools For Growing Closer to Christ: *The Preparatory Sundays of Great Lent*. Rev. Gabriel Bilas, Rector of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Fenton, MI and Rev. Andrew Nelko, Rector of St. Nicholas Church in Weirton, WV headed the retreat.

Virtual Christmas Concert 2021

Over 2,000 individuals, from across the country, tuned in to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord with an evening of song and celebration. On December 26, 2021, the FOCA organized a Virtual Christmas Concert - streamed live via YouTube. More than a dozen Pastors and Parish Choirs from across the country participated LIVE via zoom or by sending in a prerecorded video featuring Hymns and carols. The Most Blessed Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America & Canada, offered a Nativity greeting and the celebration closed with Memory Eternal and Many Years!

National Spiritual Advisor, Father Nicholas said, "There isn't much more that I can say about this event other than it was by far the pinnacle event of the year. I'm so thankful to the 16 choirs that sent in videos and helped make it a success."



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
Welcome to the F.O.C.A
"Virtual" Christmas Concert

Participants:

1. The Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir, Wayne, NJ
2. St. Tikhon's Seminary Youth Choir, South Canaan, PA
3. St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Mogadore, OH
4. Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, South River, NJ
5. Holy Assumption Church, Canton, OH
6. Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA
7. St. Mark of Ephesus Church, Kingston, MA
8. St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, PA
9. St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir, South Canaan, PA
10. St. Innocent Church, Olmstead Falls, OH
11. Christ the Savior Church, Harrisburg, PA
12. St. Maximus the Confessor Church, Denton, TX
13. St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Baltimore, MD
14. St. John the Baptist Church, Campbell, OH
15. St. John the Baptist Church, Warren, OH
16. Diocese of the Midwest St. Andrew of Crete Choir Ministry, Choir Retreat Choir
17. Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT



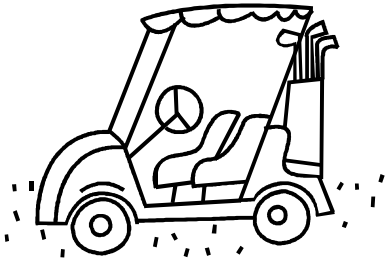


2022 FOCA Summer Sports Tournament

Sponsored by St. John's Senior O Club #212

Alpha. NJ

August 19 – 20, 2022



SPONSOR ORDER FORM			
TYPE	RATE	# of order	Item Total
Hole Sponsor	\$100.00		\$
Practice Green Sponsor	\$ 50.00		\$
Practice Range Sponsor	\$ 25.00		\$
SPONSOR SUBTOTAL			\$

Hole sponsor message here

Name for Listing: _____
(Please print or type clearly)

You are hereby authorized to publish my/our listing for the 2022 FOCA Summer Sports Tournament. I/we agree to pay the sum of \$ _____ in full at the time this order is placed.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO St. John's Senior O Club

I understand St. John's senior O Club reserves the right to edit or refuse any ad.

Signature of individual placing order: _____ Date: _____

Authorized Purchaser Information (please print or type clearly):

Name: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone:(____) _____ Email: _____

DEADLINE FOR AD is August 1, 2022

SEND ORDER TO:

Gary Lelo

132 Horseshoe Drive

Quakertown, PA 18951

Phone: 267 – 347 – 3020 or pglelo71@verizon.net



SEND ALL ENTRIES TO:
Anthony Schultz
 4877 Founders Dr.
 Groveport OH 43125
 (614) 830-0492(H)
 (614) 477-5240(C)
 anthpschultz@gmail.com

**FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
 2022 NATIONAL SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT**

August 19-20, 2022
 Sponsored by: St. John's Sr. "O" Club, Alpha, NJ
 Chairpersons: Gary Lelo (215-538-5321) and Frank Beruta (908-319-3443)
 Open to all FOCA/Orthodox Christians
 All Saturday entrants must purchase Banquet Ticket
 Junior participants covered by the Sutyak Fund

ENTRY DEADLINE
All Entries Must Be Received
by
July 31, 2022

Name _____ Chapter No. _____ District/Orthodox Parish _____
 Address _____ Apt. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail _____ Phone (____) _____

Name	Age	Handicap Average	1-Day Friday \$70	1-Day Saturday \$70	2-Day \$140	Banquet Sr. \$30 Jr. Free	TOTAL
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

Please Read TOURNAMENT RULES- General Golf Rules
 1) Rules on score card will be followed.
 2) Special rules will be given before tee-off.
 3) All FOCA and District rules will be followed.
 4) Golfers will be flighted by Handicap or Age, depending on the number of entries.

Golf course dress code
Proper golf attire required
 Metal spikes are prohibited on the course and practice facilities.

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make all checks payable to **St. John's Sr. "O" Club**
 Include Banquet Tickets for each name listed on this form playing Saturday.

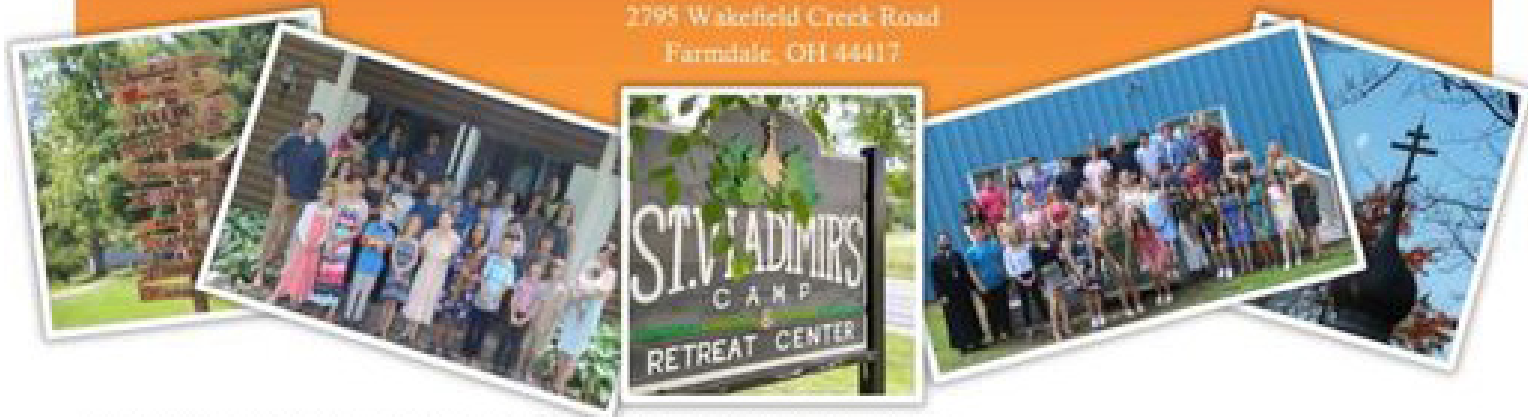
Hotels near the golf course
 Courtyard by Marriot Bethlehem Lehigh Valley 2220 Emrick Blvd, Bethlehem, PA 18020 (610) 625-9500
 Hampton Inn Easton 3723 Nazareth Rd, Easton, PA 18045 (610) 250-6500
 Holiday Inn Express & Easton 90 Kunkle Dr, Easton, PA 18045 (610) 923-9495

GOLFING
 Green Pond Country Club – 3604 Farmersville Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18020
www.greenpondcc.com Phone: 610-691-9453
 Shotgun start at 3 p.m. Friday
 Shotgun start at 8 a.m. Saturday
 Banquet immediately following golf at Green Pond Country Club (Approx: 1 p.m.)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I will abide by all the sports rules of the FOCA.
 Applicant _____
 Signature _____

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Summer Camp

2795 Wakefield Creek Road
Farmdale, OH 44117



St. Vladimir's Summer Camp offers three different sessions.

	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
When	July 3-9, 2022	July 10-16, 2022	July 17-23, 2022
Ages	8-12	10-17	13-17
Also Know	Ohio Younger	Junior Olympics	Ohio Older

Sessions 1 & 3 are focused around crafts and service projects. Each camp week has a theme for the week and crafts and fun with father focus the learning times around that theme.

Session 2 is a sports based camp in which we also tie orthodox learning lessons with the resident priest into the week. We encourage Orthodox fellowship and encourage the campers to cheer on everyone. Trying to teach the campers that winning is more than medals, trophies and scores!



Visit www.stvladimirscampohio.com to register and check out more camp information. Or visit our Facebook Page or Instagram both St. Vladimir's Summer Camp

Transitions: *Winter/Spring 2022*



In Memoriam: Archbishop Paul

On the Feasts of Feasts, Great and Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 24, 2022, His Eminence, the Most Reverend Paul (Gassios), Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest, fell asleep in the Lord at the age of 69, after a grave illness. He was the ruling hierarch of the Diocese of the Midwest of the

Orthodox Church in America from 2014 until his repose.

His archpastoral tenure in the Midwest was only seven years but filled with great progress and accomplishment for the diocese. From an administrative perspective, he was known for prompt replies and calls when his clergy contacted him. He was very organized and thoroughly followed the established procedures with attentiveness. He actively attended diocesan, deanery, and parish meetings guiding the progress of the discussed topics.

He established new ministries within the diocese that focused on building up the communities within the diocese which include: the Mother Maria of Paris Ministry – Department of Charitable Efforts, Department of Family Life, St. Andrew of Crete Music Ministry, and the Department of Youth. These were four areas he saw to be important pillars to building up the Body of Christ.

With a prioritization of pastoral visits, he was often on the road traveling each weekend to visit a different community within his vast diocese. He often reflected that this was the most enjoyable part of his ministry and gave him something to look forward to each week. In addition to leading the services when making archpastoral visits, he would make time to be with clergy and their families to hear about their life and struggles. He would gather with youth and parish councils to lead discussions on the faith and other topics of interest. He made annual visits to the seminaries to visit with the diocesan seminarians and their families and actively encouraged vocation within his parishes.

His Eminence supported events sponsored by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) within his diocese; making annual visits to St. Vladimir's Camp and Retreat Center run by the FOCA Ohio District and participating in several National FOCA conventions hosted in the Midwest. His Eminence was genuinely interested in and very supportive of our youth. His sincerity leaving a lasting impression on a group of our youngest members meeting him for the first time while dining at his table during the 2015 FOCA Grand Banquet in Atlanta, GA. At the 2016 National Convention in Chicago, he extended his greeting to open our plenary session and then excused himself to join the youth on their excursion around Chicago. During visits to St. Vladimir's Camp, he joined in activities and dined at the campers' table.

Paul Nicholas Gassios was born in Detroit, Michigan on April 6, 1953, to Nicholas and Georgia Gassios, natives of Castanea, Greece.

As an infant, he was baptized with the name Apostolos, in honor of the holy Apostle Paul, at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Detroit, MI – his home parish for the first 28 years of his life.

He graduated from Detroit's Cooley High School in 1971, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, after which he enrolled at Wayne State University (WSU) as a history and psychology major. After graduating in 1976, he worked with emotionally and physically abused children. He received a Master of Social Work degree from WSU in 1980 and continued to work in his chosen field.

In the mid-1980s, he became a member of Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI. He began theological studies in September 1991 at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY, from which he received his Master of Divinity degree summa cum laude and served as valedictorian in 1994. He was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence, the late Archbishop Job of Chicago and the Midwest, on June 25, 1994.

After ordination, he was assigned Priest-in-Charge of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, Kokomo, IN, which he served until June 2005, after which he resided at Saint

Gregory Palamas Monastery, Hayesville, OH until May 2006. He briefly served as Rector of Archangel Michael Church, St. Louis, MO, and the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church, Desloge, MO before his transfer to the OCA's Bulgarian Diocese and assignment as Dean of Saint George Cathedral, Rossford, OH in 2007. In August 2014, he was named Administrator of the Diocese of the Midwest and relocated to Chicago.

On October 20, 2014, he was tonsured to monastic rank with the name Paul, in honor of Saint Paul the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople. On October 21, 2014, the Holy Synod elected him to fill the vacant Episcopal See of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest. Archimandrite Paul was consecrated to the Episcopacy and enthroned as Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest at Chicago's historic Holy Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, December 27, 2014. On Thursday, May 28, 2020, he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop.

He is fondly remembered throughout the diocese as a loving shepherd for his flock. May his memory be eternal!

Adapted from: domoca.org/



Homily at the 93rd National Convention, Columbus, Ohio in 2019



Archpastoral greeting in 2016 at the 90th National Convention in Chicago



Youth trip to the Navy Pier and other local sites.



Youth Camp at the FOCA Ohio District St. Vladimir's Camp and Retreat Center



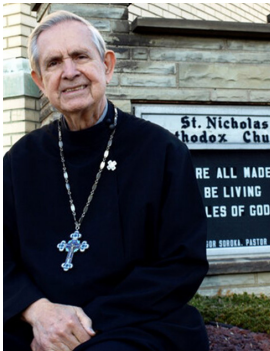


In Memoriam: Joseph Baldowski
21st National FROC President
(1969-1971)

Baldowski, Joseph, 91, of Paramus, NJ, passed away on February 21, 2022. Beloved husband of the late Olga Baldowski (nee Federoff). Devoted father of Kira Leis and her husband Robert, Karen Doyle and her husband Stephen, and Alexis Baldowski. Loving grandfather of Katie Leis, Robert Leis, Kyra Doyle, Olivia Doyle, Aidan Doyle, and Ava Owens.

Born in New Britain, Connecticut, Joseph lived in Dumont, New Jersey for 50 years before moving to Paramus three years ago. He served in the United States Army and was a veteran of the Korean Conflict. Joseph worked in sales for Connecticut Hard Rubber in New Haven, CT for many years. He was a member of the FROC/FOCA and was past president of the national organization. Joseph was a member of St. John's Russian Orthodox Church in Little Falls, NJ.

Visitation was held on February 24, 2022, St. John's Russian Orthodox Church, Little Falls. A burial service was held at the church and the interment followed at Laurel Grove Memorial Park, Totowa.



In Memoriam: :
Archpriest Igor Soroka
Past National Spiritual Advisor

Archpriest Igor R. Soroka, 96, peacefully fell asleep in the Lord on December 18, 2021, in Monongahela, PA. He was born April 1, 1925, in McKees Rocks, a son of the late Archpriest Gregory and Matushka Anastasia Soroka.

After graduating from Charleroi High School, Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary and Duquesne University, Father Igor served as a choir director at several Orthodox parishes

before he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in Sept. 1959. He served his entire ministry as a parish priest at Saint Nicholas Church in Donora, PA, starting from December 1959 to his retirement in July 2017.

Father Igor's life was also devoted extensively to music. A graduate of Duquesne University with a B.A. in Music, he was a soloist for the world-renowned Duquesne Tamburitans. During his life, Father Igor wrote and compiled six liturgical music books, all of which are extensively used throughout the Orthodox Church in America. He also was appointed the first director of the OCA's Department of Liturgical Music, organized numerous national Orthodox choir conferences, and conducted several well-known choirs, including the former Pittsburgh Male Chorus and the Cathedral Choir of the Pittsburgh Archdiocese. For his lifelong liturgical musical contributions to the Orthodox Church, Father Igor received the Order of Saint Romanos Award from the OCA. In 2009 he was awarded the Order of Saint Innocent, Silver Class, by the Holy Synod of Bishops, and on June 4, 2017, he was blessed with the right to wear the mitre by His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek.

Father Igor also served as Dean of the Mon Valley Deanery of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania (OCA), national spiritual adviser for the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs of America (FROC), director of the Late Vocations Program of the Pittsburgh Archdiocese, host of the "Orthodoxy: A Living Faith" radio program, and member of the Metropolitan Council of the OCA, beside community positions such as president of the Donora Chamber of Commerce and member of the Middle Monongahela Industrial Development Association.

In addition to his parents, Father Igor was preceded in death by his wife of Blessed Memory, Matushka Irene Soroka; three brothers, Father Leonid

Soroka, Father Vladimir Soroka, and Sergei Soroka; and three sisters, Alexandra (Soroka) Bazil, Zenovia (Soroka) Pecuch, and Sylvia (Soroka) Elnitsky. He is survived and was deeply devoted to his three sons Mark, Matthew (Ann), and Philip, daughter Larissa (Chris) Baker, granddaughter Ali Soroka and grandson Gregory Soroka. Father Igor put emphasis on a tightly knit family.

Services for Father Igor were conducted at Saint Nicholas Church, Donora, PA with interment at Saint Tikhon's Cemetery, South Canaan, PA.

May Father Igor's memory be eternal!



In Memoriam: Patricia Ann Lelo

Patricia Ann Lelo, 78, of Quakertown passed away Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at Good Shepherd Hospital. Born in 1943, she was the daughter of the late Paul and Mary (Ullman) Pokotello. She was the loving wife of Gary D. Lelo, Central Pennsylvania District Governor, with whom she shared 50 years of marriage.

Patricia worked as an elementary school teacher in the Easton Area School District for 34 years before retiring in 1998. She was a long-time member of St. Isidore's R.C.C., Quakertown,

PA, where she volunteered at the food pantry, and formerly served as a secretary for the CYO.

In addition to her husband Gary, Patricia is survived by her daughter, Lisa Lelo, sister Paula Stover (Jim), nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother Paul Pokotello Jr., and her sister Maryanne Pokotello.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on January 20th, 2022, at St. Isidore's Roman Catholic Church, Quakertown, PA. Burial was at Quakertown Union Cemetery.

Memory Eternal!

Source: Morning Call on Jan. 16, 2022



In Memoriam: Matushka Anne Pawlush

Matushka Anne Pawlush, 99, peacefully fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, 7 December 2021, at County Meadows Leader Heights, York, PA. She was the beloved wife of the late Archpriest George Pawlush.

Born April 14, 1922 in Olyphant, PA, she was the daughter of the late Kiril and Sophia (Sovyrd) Yuhas. Matushka Anne was the last survivor of the Yuhas Family that included five others and three sisters.

She grew up in Olyphant, PA and married her high school sweetheart, George Pawlush, at All Saints Orthodox Church, Olyphant, in Spring 1946. Archpriest George, who reposed in September 2000, was ordained at the Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection, New York in June 1953.

Following ordination, Father George and Matushka Ann were assigned to Saint Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, CT, from 1953 to 1958. Their next calling was at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, PA, from 1958 to 1970 and then Father George was appointed as the first permanent pastor at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA, where they retired in 1988.

Matushka Anne remained in the Wilkes-Barre Area following Father George's death and was very involved in fund raising projects at Holy Trinity and was a long-time volunteer at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center. In her late 80s, she was recognized by the Medical Center as its "Volunteer of the Year." Matushka Anne was a member of the Fellowship Orthodox Christian in America, Holy Trinity O Chapter and later Vladicon O Chapter 131.

She left Wilkes-Barre in 2014 to live with her daughter, Hope, and son-in-law, Archpriest Theodore Boback in Seven Valleys, PA. Matushka Anne became a member of Saint Andrew Orthodox Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

Matushka Anne is survived by her five children George (Carol), Cheshire, CT;

Hope Boback (Archpriest Theodore), Seven Valleys, PA; Dr. David (Lorrie), Hershey, PA; Michael (Lauren), Mechanicsburg, PA; and Dr. Neil (Carmela), Rensselaerville, NY. In addition, she leaves thirteen grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Visitation was held at St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Baltimore, Md. followed by the funeral service at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Wilkes-Bare. Interment was in St. Tikhon Monastery Cemetery, South Canaan. May Matushka Anne's memory be eternal!

Source: www.oca.org

In Memoriam: Dolly Manzuk



Dolores Manzuk, beloved wife of George, fell asleep in the Lord on February 7, 2022. She was a long-time parishioner of Ss Peter and Paul Orthodox Church.

Dolly was a member of the "R" Club for over 60 years, holding many positions. She was also Vice President of the Altar Society as well as lead soprano and choir mistress, leading all services. Dolly was active in fundraising efforts for the church, maintaining a supply of religious and ethnic articles for sale. She and George were

also supportive of seminaries and St. Vladimir's Camp.

Dolly's funeral was held at Ss Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church in Lakewood, Ohio, served by five priests. May her memory be eternal. Vichnaya Pamyat!

In Memoriam: Janet Cross



Janet T (Zagorski) Cross (formerly of Owego New York) age 85 passed away peacefully after a long illness on February 18, 2022. May her Memory Be Eternal and May her Soul Rest with the Saints. Janet was born on October 28th, 1936, in Wilkes-Barre, PA the daughter of Andrew and Josephine Zagorski. She graduated from Meyers High School in 1954. She was married to Norman P Cross on November 28th, 1957, and recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. She

was predeceased by her parents and siblings, Regina Richards, Francis, Zagorski and Theresa Boynosky. Nephews Edward and Gary Boynosky.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her four children, Norma (Nick) MacDonald (Albany, NY), Andrew (Laurie) Cross (Ashburn, VA), Phillip (Vanessa) Cross (Surf City, NC) and Dr. Judith (Scott) Lamp (Ashburn, VA). Eight grandchildren Andrea (Dominick) Kuchinski (Houston, TX), Daniel (Danielle) Cross (Hampstead, NC) Alexandra (Tim) Cross, Los Angeles, CA, Jenna (Michael) Cross Wilmington , NC, Phillip (Emilie) Cross, Central Square, NY , Julia Cross (Wilmington, NC) , Sophia Lamp (Tempe , AZ), Nicholas Lamp (Blacksburg, VA). Great grandsons Jameson and Oliver Cross and many nephews and nieces.

Janet was the shining light to her family and was dearly loved by all. A very gentle soul and loving person. She was a former member of Sts Peter and Paul Orthodox Church , Endicott , NY and Holy Trinity Orthodox Church Ashburn, VA and a member of the FOCA Chapter #43 in Endicott.

In Memoriam: Mildred Sviatyla



Mildred Julia (Kluka) Sviatyla (1924-2022), fell asleep in the lord at home on January 29th in Fernandina Bch, FL surrounded by her devoted and beloved daughters. She was preceded in death by her loving husband Harold in 1989. She is survived by her three daughters: Daria (Chip) Schewe, Punta Gorda, FL, Melonie (Cliff) Herman, Fernandina Bch, FL, Loreen (Peter) Chin, Sarasota, FL, grandchildren Cody, Elissandra, and Jesse Chin,

step grandchildren Jeffrey, Christopher and Matthew Schewe, Jared, Nicholas and Jonathan (Zanita) Herman, sister-in-law Valeria Smayda, godchild/niece Karen (John) Zapko, niece Diane (Bob) Mueller, and many other loved nieces, nephew and cousins.

Mildred resided on Warren Street in Vestal for almost 40 years and enjoyed many close and warm relationships with her neighborhood family. She belonged to St Peter and Paul's RO church in Endicott and a member of the FOCA Chapter #43 in Endicott where she developed many special and long-lasting friendships.

In 2014, Mildred started splitting her time between her daughter's homes in NY, and FL where she was affectionately known as "Mamma Millie". She was a wonderful and loving woman who touched everyone she met with her zest for life, vivacity, generosity, and wit. She thoroughly enjoyed keeping up with people via email and Facebook, watching Jeopardy, and remembering family and friend's birthdays with a card or note. Her memory was phenomenal, and many times left her family speechless with her ability to remember names, faces, dates and of course birthdays. Mamma Millie will be dearly missed by ALL who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Funeral services were held on April 8, 2022, at Ss Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church, Endicott, NY. Burial followed in Vestal Hills Memorial Park, Vestal, NY. The family received friends at the church prior to the service.

In Memoriam: Terese Ann Wisniewski



Terese Ann Wisniewski, (nee Fajvan), born in Jersey City, NJ on April 2, 1959, passed away peacefully February 4, 2022. Diagnosed with cancer in October 2021, she remained continuously optimistic as she endured aggressive medical procedures. She was the daughter of the late Andrew and Anna Fajvan; the devoted sister of Andrew Fajvan III, Mary Beth Stenko, Michael Fajvan, John C. Fajvan (Natalie), Laura Johnson (David), and William Fajvan (Kerri); fun-loving aunt to Jennifer, Paul, Victoria (Andrew), John, Stephanie, David, Marianne, Brody, Avery, and great-niece, Deva. Terese grew up in Jersey City and West Orange, NJ. She returned to Jersey City working for Langer Transport Corp. for over 30 years.

Terese was a life-long member of SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, Jersey City where she sang in the choir for many years. She was a very active member of the Jersey City 'R' Club, Chapter #129 for more than 50 years, joining as a Junior. Terese was also very active on the District and National levels; she was either on an event committee or a reliable, enthusiastic participant and supporter.

Having a great eye for design and style, she was known for her elaborate floral arrangements and eye-catching outfits. Terese "dressed" the NJ District's prize-winning Turtle for the "Turtle Races" in Myrtle Beach, SC and was responsible for the fabulous banquet centerpieces at the 2017 National Convention in Hersey, Pa. Her last design influence was for the chapter's 2022 Gifts of Love "Kissing Booth" just weeks before her repose.

The party started when Terese arrived at any gathering of family or friends. Her wit and humor were only surpassed by her love of life. Her presence and service will be sorely missed in the NJ District and Chapter #129. May her memory be eternal!





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