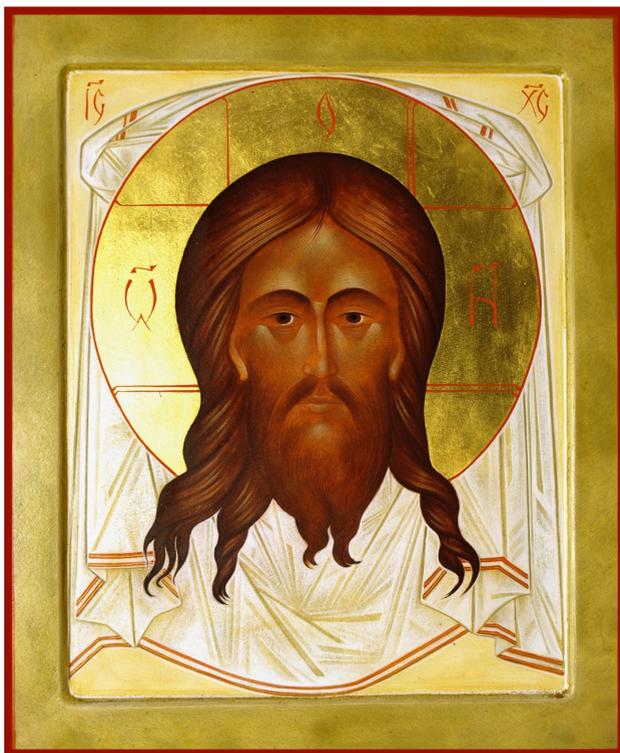


Parish
40th Anniversary
2016

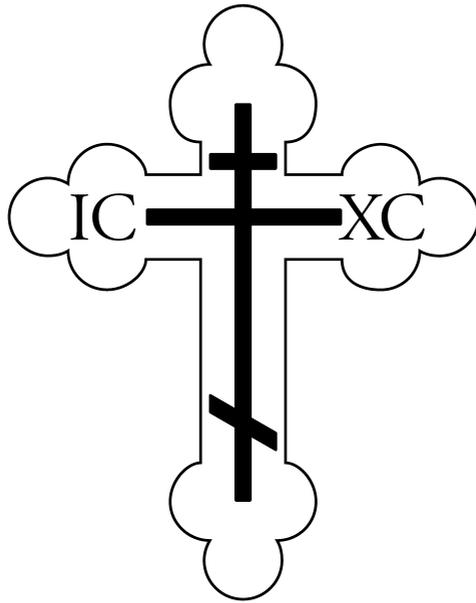


*Christ the Savior-Holy Spirit
Orthodox Church*

Fr. Steven C. Kostoff, Rector
Cincinnati, Ohio

Giving Thanks

Reflections for the 40th Anniversary



Christ the Savior-Holy Spirit
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4285 Ashland Ave • Cincinnati OH 45212
513-351-0907 • christthesavioroca.org

Visit our website at christthesavioroca.org to view the 40th Anniversary slide show of our parish history, and to learn more about Christ the Savior-Holy Spirit and the Orthodox Christian Faith.

Parish
40th Anniversary
Celebration

*'Honoring Our Past,
while Faithfully Working
for Our Future'*

Sunday, November 6, 2016
12:15pm ~ 4:30pm

A-Marika Event Center
10831 Sharondale Rd
Sharonville OH 45241

Several weeks before the Parish 40th Anniversary Celebration, a request was made for reflections and memories giving thanks for what our parish means to us.

This is a challenging topic to convey in only a few words, but several parishioners overcame their shyness and shared their thoughts.

We are grateful for their words and wish to share them with you . . .



We thank God for our parish family and the worship and fellowship that we have enjoyed together throughout the years. Being together as an Orthodox Christian parish is more providential than coincidental - even when we are not aware of it.

It is our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ that has sustained our further commitment to building a spiritually healthy parish community.

We deeply appreciate the faithful efforts of the original builders of our parish - those still with us, those who have moved elsewhere, and those who have gone to their eternal rest.

As we reflect upon the past, we prepare ourselves for the future and the work entrusted to us so that God can be rightly worshipped and glorified.

And I thank God for everyone's support and encouragement, beginning with Presvytera Deborah and my own family. It is my hope and prayer that God will continue to bless our parish family.

~ Fr. Steven, Presvytera Deborah, & Family



While I grew up Orthodox in Romania we didn't have Sunday school. So I am very grateful for Sunday school and for Presbytera for leading the pre-k one. Lucas loves Presbytera and the church. Also grateful for our rituals like the lighting of the candles. It's such a great symbol of hope. Lastly love the icons. So all in all love the church and it's rituals with the bonus points of the Sunday school.

~ Anamaria Nusbaum



First of all how
blessed are we all to

have such a precious church flourishing for
now 40 years! Wow!

I've been able to only enjoy about 4 years of
Christ The Savior, however I've been greatly
impacted by the overflow of love and
support when Mike and I lost our twin girls,
Madeleine and Sophia. Father Steven came
to Good Samaritan hospital in the middle of

the night to baptize them when they had only a few hours to live. Few days later we held a funeral for the girls where our church family came out to support us with love and kind words.

Mike, Sonia, Wagih and I will be forever grateful for the sacrifices everyone in our church community made to help us in such a difficult time.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything! Our parish is outstanding!

With Love,
Ashley Shehata



When we lost our son, Matthew, our Parish family wrapped us in love. Father Steven traveled with us to Michigan to bring him

home. He also helped us make decisions regarding organ donation. The Sisterhood planned, made and served a mercy meal in the church hall. Presvytera and so many of the parish were with us through many painful months. We so appreciated that everyone allowed us to mourn at our own pace. They helped through so many things that we were too numb to consider. Thank you all for that and so much more. Our parish is amazing.

~ Wayne and Karen Krueger



Our family left Cincinnati in 2008 for Boston. We could have settled down there. I was now 2.5 hours from my family, the closest I had been since I left NY in 1993.

We made the decision to return to Cincinnati for two major reasons:

1 - the parish — It truly is one big family. We love each other. We support each other. We celebrate each other.

2 - ordination — when I made the decision to follow my heart and pursue the diaconate, I wanted to go through the program under the guidance of Father Steven and be ordained and serve at CTS.

We still miss Boston (and our previous home, Colorado), but Cincinnati is where we started our family, are raising our kids, and have found our spiritual home.

~ Dn. Paul Gansle

•MIRACLE OF LOAVES AND FISH•



Within the first year of seeking the Orthodox faith and attending Christ the Savior, our only car broke down right around the beginning of

Lent. We were unable to participate in the services. Dan Georgescu came by our home to check in on us and used his AAA to get our car towed. Shortly after we returned back to church, Dana Zidarescu approached us and told us that if we need a car in the future, we could use her spare. We are blessed to be part of a mature parish that not only hears the word of God, but through deeds actively shares the love of God, especially when we were strangers.

~ Jennifer & Chuck Haynes



Thanks be to the Lord for our wonderful parish, our dear father Stephen and his beautiful family who always stood by our family in time of need, holding and anointing our grand babies before they died in peace .

We are so lucky to be a member of Christ the Savior Orthodox Church.

love in Christ ,

Wagih and Sonia Shehata



When I first shared with CTS that I was going to be part of a prison ministry at Warren, a lot of people encouraged me to go for it. I felt very blessed. And before I knew it, Dan and Andrew wanted to serve, too. Then several of our folks started helping in the kitchen preparing meals, and a good many of our families helped by baking cookies. Eventually, Wayne and Peter began serving on Kairos teams at Chillicothe, including ministry to men awaiting their execution. Also, the Sisterhood has done projects of Christmas cards and small gifts for the ladies in Ohio

Reformatory for Women. And all along, our Council has regularly provided money (we call it "green agape") to underwrite one or two prisoners at each weekend. Prison ministry has really caught fire in our church!

Now all of the things our people have helped with, looked at individually, seem like very simple and modest acts. But so did the dried fishes and barley cakes donated by a young boy long ago when Jesus was teaching one day. In the Lord's hands even small offerings get multiplied. At Warren alone, our church has been involved with 14 weekends, and each

time we minister intensely to about 30 prisoners. That's more than 400 lives changed! And that's before we count about 1400 men who get blessed each weekend with the cookies we take in. Plus all the people we touch at ORW and CCI. When I start adding up the numbers, my head starts to spin. What a blessing to be part of a church that is doing so much for people who will never be able to repay us a cent! Praise God for the privilege!

~ Terry Morgan

><))))))o>



Since I cannot come on Sundays, I was not aware of your verbal request a couple of weeks ago. However, I would like to thank you for welcoming me into the parish though I am currently only a regular for Vespers. I appreciate your prayer and encouragement for my wife and I as we make the move from being Baptist to becoming Orthodox.

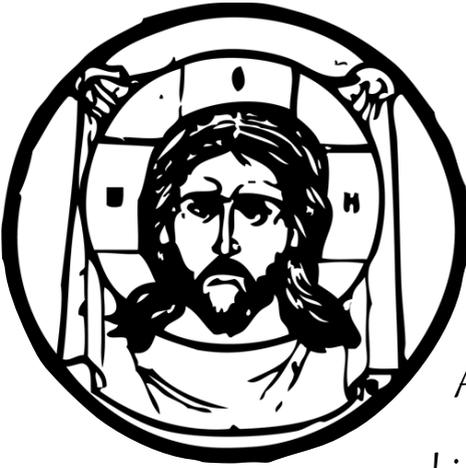
I don't know how it works in Orthodox churches but in the Baptist world, a Baptist pastor that stays in one parish for over 25 years (the average is three years) speaks volumes to the shepherd heart and integrity of the priest. I have great respect for Father Steven because he always has time for me.

I know he is busy but he makes me feel important and valued as a person, not for what he can get from me, because I contribute very little in return.

Thanks for hearing me out.

~ Tom Wilkes

(the Baptist Pastor that attends regularly Vespers and all Feasts during the week but never on Sunday or Wednesday)



Christ The Savior
parish has been for
our family our
American home. All
our kids were born into the

parish, and Father Steven has always been a
spiritual guardian for all of us, and the
cornerstone of the parish's well-being.

While away in Germany, Father Steven and
Christ the Savior were always one of the main
points for us and the kids to strive to go back
to the US, and we received the warmest
welcome when we eventually returned.

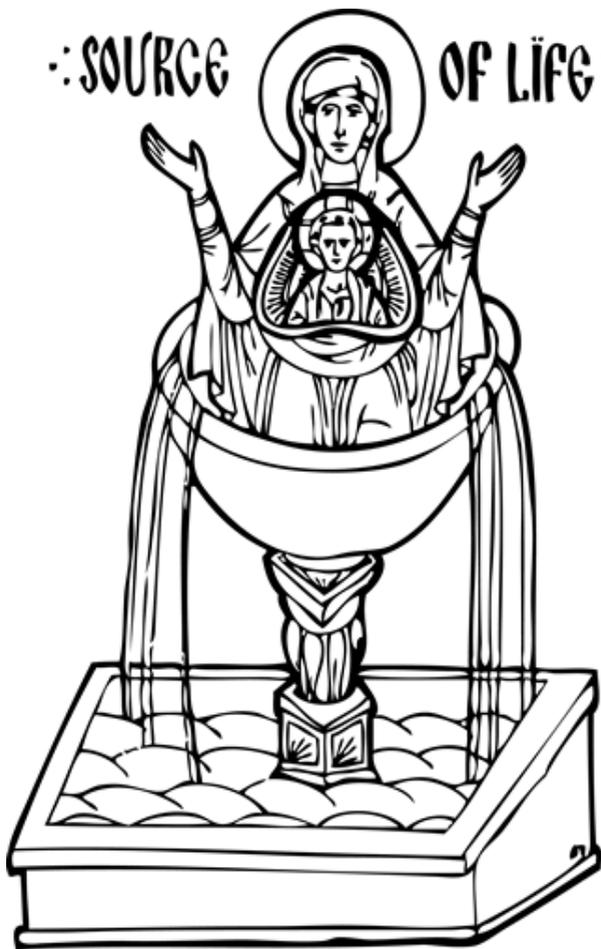
Our parish is also dear to us because of its wonderful Church School, the amount of little and big kids, and of course all and everyone who had welcomed us from our first entry into the building in 1998 and until now.

The parish is always supportive of various orthodox endeavours we are trying to accomplish, and thus helps with our spiritual growth.

In Christ!

~ Anya Gerasimchuk

∴SOURCE OF LIFE∴



When I joined the parish in 2001, I was already familiar with Christ the Savior-Holy Spirit through visits for Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers and spiritual retreats, and through Father Steven's reputation as a father-confessor.

Father Steven shepherded me through a very challenging period in my life. That life was nurtured by many of you, my brothers and sisters, who from the very beginning embraced me and didn't ask too many questions, but were content to think that my tweed jackets clothed perhaps a college professor!

I remember being greeted right from the beginning by many of you, by Karen and Wayne and others.

I treasure memories of Pascha spent with Nolan and Shirley. During my “commuter years” (through late 2003), I was also invited to stay with Dan and Christiana Georgescu, with Jason and Emily Grimes, Andrew and Jennifer Kassen, and others, who offered their hospitality to a poor disciple because I was a fellow Christian.

Someone heard me singing along softly in the pews in those early days, who then urged me

to join the choir... So I was embraced by Pat and Steve Pride and the choir too, and invited to join in the photo of the choir for the 25th Anniversary.

And now, fifteen years later, for the Parish 40th Anniversary, I'm so very thankful and filled with emotion as I thank God for each and every one of you, my dear brothers and sisters.

~ Ralph Sidway



Finding my passion to serve the parish that serves the community has been a blessing to me. Mickey Callender and I were having a casual conversation about ministry participation after coffee hour one day. The conversation re-ignited a flame I thought was dead.

This passion was cared for through the wisdom, time, talent, and encouragement of Fr. Steven along with seasoned parishioners such as Joe & Joyce Kormos, Karen Krueger, Terry Morgan, Alexis Callender, and Ralph Sidway.

I am especially thankful and blessed to be surrounded by talented parishioners and caring ministry leaders in our community that continue to serve as an example to me.

~ Jennifer Haynes

Our Place of Repentance

Over the years, Christ the Savior-Holy Spirit has proved to be my “place of repentance,” which is something of a technical term in the church.

I think this is a lovely and important term for us all to consider together, this “place of repentance”. How many Forgiveness Vespers have we shared as a family? How many seasons of repentance? How many prostrations for the Prayer of St Ephraim? How many bright and radiant Pascha nights — the Night Brighter

Than The Day? How many Divine Liturgies?

How many Baptisms?

And yet it is not merely these which unite us, but it is Christ Himself, as we who partake of the One Cup are made One in Him. Is this not the most mind-blowing Reality, that here, in this simple place, we have been called out of the world and into the Light and Life of the Glorious Son of God, who gave Himself up for us all, that we might likewise pour out our lives as an offering for Him, and for each other.

~ Anonymous

A Prayer for our
Parish Community

~ Anonymous



O Lord, Jesus Christ, we humbly pray that
You bless our parish membership and help
us to grow in spiritual love and
understanding. Help us to grow in our love
for You and for one another. Help us to be
able to share this powerful love with others
so that our community may grow according
to Your Holy will. Help us in our endeavors
that we may always be Your instruments of
love to those around us.

For You are the God of love, of mercy and
compassion, and we give glory to You together
with Your eternal Father and Your All-Holy
and Life-Creating Spirit. Amen.

Please use this space to jot down your own thoughts and thanks, as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Christ the Savior-Holy Spirit!

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