| Small Parish Forum Faculty *2018* | |
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| **C:\Users\Joe Kormos\Pictures\My Pictures\Diocese pics\Clergypics\Rentel vested.jpg**Archpriest Daniel Rentel******Rector Emeritus,****St Gregory of Nyssa Church******Columbus OH**** | Prior to entering semi-retirement in 2011, Fr. Daniel Rentel was rector of St. Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church in Columbus, Ohio. He is most noted for two distinct contributions to 21st century Orthodoxy: Fr. Dan built his parish into a model of urban existence and outreach. Today, the parish experiences a unique relationship with its neighbors by providing hot meals several times a week, a food pantry, opportunities for learning basic work skills, and building self-confidence. In return, the neighbors have provided construction, landscaping, building, security, and cooking services to the parish. He also did away with the notion of an elected council served by a president and returned to the more historically authentic model of a council that was appointed, served by a lay vice-chair, and operating by consensus rather than voting.  A graduate of St. Tikhon’s Seminary and holder of a Masters in History from Penn State, he studied Byzantine History at Ohio State University, where he completed doctoral studies (ABD). He became certified in education and spent 25 years as a teacher in the Columbus Public School System.  Father Daniel was founding pastor at Christ the Savior –Holy Spirit Church in Cincinnati and assisted in the founding of St Paul Church, Dayton OH before founding St Gregory of Nyssa parish in Columbus. |
| Inline imageArchpriest Tom SorokaRector, St. Nichlas ChurchMckees Rocks PA | **Fr. Thomas Soroka** is the rector of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (OCA) in McKees Rocks, PA, near downtown Pittsburgh, PA. He is a graduate of Duquesne University holding degrees in Music Education and Music Composition. Fr Thomas attended St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, NY and descends from a long line of priests. He has held management positions for major corporations in the area of Learning and Development, and Leadership Training. Fr. Thomas is the host of two popular podcasts on Ancient Faith Radio, The Path ( <http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/thepath>) and Sermons at St Nicholas.( <http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/sermonsatstnicholas>) He and his wife, Matushka Joni, have three daughters |
| Fr Stephen Frase ***Priest Stephen Frase***  *St Ephraim the Syrian Chapel, Athens OH*  ***Columbus OH*** | **Fr. Stephen Frase** is the Priest in Charge of St. Ephraim the Syrian Chapel in Athens, OH, as well as the Associate Priest at St. Gregory of Nyssa in Columbus, OH. Additionally Fr. Stephen is the spiritual advisor for the campus ministry groups / Orthodox Christian Fellowships (OCF) at The Ohio State University, Denison University, and Ohio University.  Along with his parish and para-Church service, Fr. Stephen is a full-time science teacher in the Olentangy Local school district, north of Columbus.  Fr. Stephen and his wife, Matushka Elizabeth, live north of Columbus and have two daughters in elementary school. |
| http://images.oca.org/clergy/v-1441387444/261195.jpg****Archpriest Peter Baktis******Rector Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow Church** ****Princeton NJ**** | **Father Peter Baktis** received a BA from Concordia College, Bronxville NY, MDiv from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, a MDiv and MTh from The General Theological Seminary, and a Master of Strategic Studies US Army War College.  He has served 25 years of active service as an Army Chaplain (COL) retiring 2015.  He was the Associate Pastor of the Cathedral Church of the Protection of the Holy Virgin NYC, Rector of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Jamaica Estates and currently the Rector of Mother of God Joy of All Who Sorrow Orthodox Church in Princeton, NJ.  Fr. Peter has published several articles in both Theological and Military Professional Journals.  He is currently a board member of the Dialogue Institute, Temple University and second vice president Military Office Association of America Pines and Lakes Chapter in NJ. He is the Orthodox Church in America representative to the National Council of Churches USA convening table of Interfaith Dialogue and is the representative for both the Jewish-Christian Dialogue and Christian-Islam dialogue sponsored by the NCC.  He resides in Hopewell NJ. |
| C:\Users\Joe Kormos\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\IMG_6035 (1) 2.jpg****Archpriest Steven Belonick******Retired** | **Fr. Steven Belonick** has pastored three parishes over 39 years of priestly ministry. Between parish assignments, he spent twelve years working at St Vladimir’s Seminary, his alma mater, in different capacities, concluding with the responsibilities of Dean of Students and Chaplain.  It was at St Vladimir’s that he met his wife, Deborah (Malacky) Belonick who also graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree. They have two grown sons and one grandson.  Fr. Steven has had a keen interest in helping fellow clergy and their families who undergo the stress and challenges of parish life. He, along with Matushka Lyn Breck, was instrumental in shaping the first Professional Assistance Program in the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), a program that provided and still provides clergy with counseling in times of need. He has served on the OCA’s Department of Lay Ministry, Department of Pastoral Life, and Liturgical Commission.  Fr Steven has been the editor of *Jacob’s Well*, the newspaper of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, and was also the general editor of a book of lenten meditations, titled, *A Journey Through Great Lent,* which has undergone three reprintings.  Over the last decade, Fr Steven has developed an interest in parish stewardship, because he sees the spiritual benefits produced by the biblical principles of gratitude and stewardship, both in the lives of parish members and in the overall well-being of parish life.  Fr Steven retired from active parish life in November 2017. Father Steven will join us via the internet. |
| https://scontent-ord1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-xft1/v/t1.0-9/10365765_10152796894330141_1848569399407688562_n.jpg?oh=a7deb0f078ae7d840a9ec2987c643abd&oe=56006768 ***Priest, Jonathan Bannon*** Rector, Christ the Savior Church, Rockford IL (ACROD) | **Father Jonathan Bannon** has been a priest for just under five years with the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese.  Having grown up in the large parish of St. John the Baptist in Bridgeport, CT he is now learning about the demographics and challenges of a small parish where he serves in Rockford, IL, the farthest west in his diocese.  With degrees in Art Education and Fine Arts thinking abstractly is nothing new for him as he has found positive ways of using his love for art in the parish atmosphere from re-creating a magazine to collaborating with Orthodox. In the Pan-Orthodox atmosphere of Chicago, IL he continues to learn from many parishes and priests who he meets at the events this great city offers.  He met his wife Pani Marianna attending an OCF Real Break trip to Greece in 2008 and has assisted with Real Break trips to Thessaloniki (2017) and Mount Athos (2018).  They have been married for 6 years. Their first child, son Adrian was born in 2015.  Father Jonathan will join us via the internet. |
| ****Paul Finley******Focus North America****Director, St Herman’s House of Hospitality******Cleveland OH**** | **H. Paul Finley** was raised in Oklahoma and is the son of a Southern Baptist Preacher. He was chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Church in 1987 with more than 2,000 members of the Evangelical Orthodox Church, under the leadership of Fr. Peter Gillquist, which was received by His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP of Blessed Memory, and the Antiochian Archdiocese.  From 1987 to 2006, Paul served the Orthodox Church in a variety of capacities in Tennessee, California, and Western Pennsylvania. In 2006 he was appointed Executive Director of the Antiochian Village Orthodox Heritage and Learning Center.  In 2013 Paul became the Local Director of FOCUS Cleveland’s St. Herman House of Hospitality - a ministry which provides food, clothing, and shelter to urban Cleveland’s homeless and needy poor.  Paul holds a Bachelor’s degree from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a Master of Sacred Theology from St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology in Santa Barbara, California, the former seminary of the Evangelical Orthodox Church. Paul has received a blessing to offer retreats, teach, and deliver homilies in the Antiochian Archdiocese and in any other jurisdiction in accordance with their procedures and policies.  Paul and his wife, Deborah, together have five children, all of whom are married, seven grandchildren, and one on the way. |
| C:\Users\Joe Kormos\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\IMG_0004.jpgPres. Michelle JannakosOrthodox Christian Mission Center andSt. Luke Orthodox Church Palos Hills IL | **Michelle Jannakos** is married to Fr. Paul Jannakos and has been a clergy wife for 33 years. They have served parishes in Minneapolis, Michigan and Montana and are presently serving St. Luke the Evangelist Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, IL. These assignments have ranged from large, established parishes in inner city settings to founding new missions, isolated from other Orthodox presence. Michelle has held many leadership positions within the Church on the local, diocesan and national levels in the areas of music, clergy family health, Christian education, Pre-conciliar commissions and ministry departments.  Michelle was raised at St. Sava Cathedral in Cleveland, OH and graduated from Iona College with a BBA in Management and from St. Vladimir’s Seminary with a Certificate in Liturgical Music. She also has a Masters of Education in Curriculum and instruction and an Education Specialist Degree in Leadership. She taught Elementary Music for over 15 years and is now a Development Officer for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center.  Michelle and Father Paul have 4 grown children and 6 grandchildren |
| C:\Users\Joe Kormos\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\ThebaidPresentation - 1.jpg Ralph SidwayNorth American ThebaidWeb servantChrist the Savior- Holy Spirit ChurchCincinnati, OH | **Ralph H. (Zosimas) Sidway** **is** a professional and [fine art photographer](https://thebaid.org/) for over forty years, as well as an author & blogger. He also has deep expertise in desktop & web publishing.  At Christ the Savior-Holy Spirit Church (OCA) in Cincinnati (where he also sings in the choir and serves in the sacristy), Ralph has served since 2004 as **parish webservant**, transforming the [parish website](https://christthesavioroca.org/) from a simple online brochure to a dynamic, content-rich platform, advancing Orthodoxy in Ohio, North America, and even globally. Most importantly, [Christ the Savior’s website](https://christthesavioroca.org/)succeeds in drawing seekers to the parish, many of whom become catechumens and members. ***“We found you through your website,”*** is the highest commendation, and Ralph will share the secrets behind a successful parish website, and instruct attendees on taking the steps to build web success at their own parishes.  Represented since 2010 by the [Orthodox Speakers Bureau](http://www.orthodoxspeakers.com/speakers/ralph-h-sidway.html), Ralph has given presentations and spoken at numerous Orthodox parishes and study groups.  This summer, Ralph is completing a unique, two-year photographic pilgrimage to dozens of Orthodox monasteries in the USA & Canada, which he calls “The North American Thebaid**”**, resulting in a fine-art coffee table book to be published later this year. His website, [thebaid.org](http://thebaid.org), features hundreds of images from his travels. He sees the Thebaid Project as internal missionary work, with its larger goal being to inspire monastic vocations in Orthodox America. |
| C:\Users\Joe Kormos\Pictures\My Pictures\Family\Joe\Joe Toronto Ukrainian.jpgJoseph Kormos, *Parish Development Leader Archdiocese of Pittsburgh & Western PA & Diocese of the Midwest* Cincinnati, OH | As the Parish Development Ministry leader for the OCA’s Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania and now once again for the Diocese of the Midwest, **Joseph Kormos** presents workshops and webinars, authors a parish leadership newsletter and helps to create parish tools for stewardship, growth and parish administration. He has served as leader for three OCA Pre-Conciliar Commissions and as a member of the Midwest Diocesan Council.  As a result of travels and in his role as parish development ministry leader Joe has visited 90 Orthodox parishes in the past 10 years. Materials from this ministry can be found at [www.ocadwpa.org/pardev.html](http://www.ocadwpa.org/pardev.html)  Experienced in communication, team building, project management and an ability to conceptualize fresh solutions, Joe has been a product innovation consultant and product development executive.  Joe and his wife Joyce are founding members of Christ the Savior –Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Cincinnati OH where he serves on the stewardship committee and is interim choir director. They are the parents of a son and daughter -- both of whom have served as members of their respective Orthodox parish councils.  There are five grandsons and one granddaughter ages one through eight! |