



The Forerunner

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek - Rector



MAY BULLETIN SPONSORS

In Honor of the V.R. Andrew Bartek on the occasion of his anniversary to the Holy Priesthood

Liturgical and Events Schedule

Sunday, May 28

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly
Panachida & for the Military / Social

Thursday, June 1

9:00 AM: Baccalaureate Service @ UCC
11:00 AM: Book Club

Saturday, June 3

4:00 PM: Bible Study
6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, June 4

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy followed by Kneeling
Vespers & prayers / Social

Rectory Open House & Picnic

Saturday, June 10 @ 1:30 PM
Vespers followed by Open House & Picnic

Please come to pray, fellowship and see the beautiful renovations in the rectory,

- Fr. Andrew will supply meats & drinks
- Sign-up to attend (not necessary but helpful for food preparation)
- Sign-up to bring side dishes or dessert

If it rains, we will reschedule.

Thank You. *Fr. Andrew*



SIGN-UP TO SPONSOR SOCIALS

Right now the Sponsorship Schedule for the social is:

- 1st Sunday of the month: the "O" Club
- 3rd Sunday of the month: the Sisterhood
- 4th Sunday of the month: the Council

Still needed: 2nd & 5th (when needed) Sunday.

Won't you please help?

You can also give the other organizations a break by sponsoring those Sundays. Something simple, like cookies & coffee is fine! Want to be more elaborate? That's okay too.. It is up to you. Please see Fr. Andrew so you can be scheduled.

FINANCIALS FOR MAY - TO DATE

Expenses.....	\$9,619.44
Income.....	\$7,549.00
TOTAL.....	-\$2,070.44

Weekly Tithe.....	\$6,917
Assessment.....	\$40
Weekly Candles.....	\$467
Monthly Flowers.....	\$75
Wine.....	\$50

OTHER INCOME:

Fall Social	\$45
Perpetual Fund	\$300
Unneeded Gifts.....	\$100

PLEASE KEEP OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Send a "Thinking of You" card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please contact Fr. Andrew.

Mrs. Mary Fredericks
648 Dumont Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

Mrs. Audrey Chengelis
6210 Catawba Drive
Canfield, OH 44406

Mrs. Julia Simko
Inn At Poland Way
6501 Poland Way / Rm 122
Poland OH, 44514

Mrs. Mary Jane Puskas
Maplecrest Nursing Home
400 Sexton St
Struthers, OH 44471

Emilia Yannitto
8017 Salinas Tr.
Boardman, OH 44512-5402

Matushka Helen Psinka
1040 State St / Rm 1015
Concordia Villa St Joseph
Baden, PA 15005

Mrs. Dorothy Shirilla
8362 Van Dr.
Poland, OH 44514

Mrs. Pauline Fesz
488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

Mrs. Marion Zwinski
526 Hyatt Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

Joan Cross
18 Fruitland Drive
New Castle, PA 16105

Irene & Al Mazanek
1285 Fairfax-Manor Dr
Carmel, IN 46032

110th Anniversary Celebrated in Lorain, OH

The parish of St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Lorain, OH celebrated the 110th anniversary of their parish this past Sunday, April 30. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest lead the celebrations of his community in northern Ohio.

His Eminence was joined by Archpriest Joseph McCartney, Rector, Archpriest Basil Stoyka, and Protodeacon Edward Kolenda. During the Little Entrance, Fr. Joseph was elevated to the rank of Archpriest. After the Divine Liturgy His Eminence announced that Fr. Basil had been awarded the Miter by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America. Fr. Basil is the first to be honored with this award in the diocese since the Holy Synod reinstated the award several years ago. Mrs. Katherine Jacob was presented with a Diocesan Gramota for her labors in the parish. Following the presentations, a festive meal was held in the parish hall.

The parish officially began on November 30, 1913 when a group of immigrants assembled in local home in Lorain with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Platon. Since then, the parish has strived for over a century being an Orthodox presence in greater Cleveland.

DOM Chancellor Leads Seminars in Romania

IASI, ROMANIA [DOM] – At the invitation of His Eminence Theophan, Metropolitan of Iasi, the Chancellor of the Diocese of the Midwest, Archpriest Paul Jannakos, took part in lectures and toured Northeastern Romania.

The Chancellor traveled May 5 through May 12 speaking at the Theological Faculty (Graduate Seminary) in Iasi, and also taught in many towns and villages throughout the regions of Moldova and Suceava. During this period he reached hundreds of faithful priests and laypersons. Fr. Paul also experienced the many famous monasteries in Northeast Romania, such as Shihastria, the home of Elder Cleopa, Neampt, where the relics of St. Paisi Velichkovski reside, and Sihla, the location of St. Theodora of Sihla holy relics.

“The highlight of his trip was the opportunity to speak to over 150 students at the theological faculty in Iasi on the topic of Orthodoxy Spirituality and Healing from Addictions,” reported Fr. Paul.

PRAYER LIST– Updated 5-22-23

PARISHIONERS: Eli Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / George Horodnic / Irene Horodnic / Victoria Elash / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Paula Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Kim Konik / Thomas Kristian / Mary Jane Puskas / Kenny Ruff / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Nancy Tusinac / Marion Zwinski / Erica & her unborn baby / Mary and her unborn child

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Archbishop Benjamin / Bishop Matthias / Fr. James Gleason (Fr.) / Fr. Michael Rustick (Fr.) / Fr. Emil Hutnyan / Fr David Lis. (Fr.) / sub-deacon Wylie Meath (Fr) / Dominic Centofanti) / Ellen (Clark) / Katie (Garrity) / Claudia (Gemmel) / Kathy Jacob (Fr.) / Ellen (Kessler) / Eleanor Marie (Kidder) / Paul (Kolesar) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Walter Litzie (Fr.) / Mea (Mahan) / Mary (Mahan) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Karen Muzyka (Fr.) / Tracy Nelson (Fr.) / Matushka Raissa (Nicoloff) / Eugene (Pallai) / Ksenia and her unborn child (Petrochko) / Matushka Helen (Psinka) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Kristianna & infant Mary Louise (Robinson) / William Romanchak (Fr.) / Julia Shirilla) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Richard (Tusinac) / Brian (Shirilla) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Paula (Voytilla) / Mary Ann Vozichovich (Kennedy) / Sarah and her unborn baby / Drew (Willison) / Emilia (Yannitto) / Zoland Zile, (Fr.) / Baby Olivia (Yannitto)

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky)

MISCELLANEOUS: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Diocese of Aleppo) & Archbishop John (Archdiocese of Aleppo) still being held captive / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

PRAYER LIST

Please provide an update to Fr. Andrew about the individuals on our prayer list (above). He would like to keep it with current prayer needs.

DOM Parish Donates \$10,000 to the Orthodox Church in Africa

On Sunday, April 30, with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Archangel Michael Church in Broadview Heights, OH, welcomed His Grace Bishop Neophytes of of Nyeri and Mt Kenya visited.

The parish has had a long-standing relationship with His Grace as parishioners have gone to Kenya to do mission work and the parish has collected donations over the years to build an orphanage, purchase motorcycles for clergy to commute to village parishes, as well as purchasing clergy vestments, shoes, and clothing for children. At the conclusion of the liturgy, the Sunday School children presented His Grace with a ceremonial cardboard brick which contained \$10,000 to lay the foundation for a diocesan center and home for Bishop Neophytes in Kenya.

THANK YOU RECEIVED

To the members at St. John's,
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

“But though the words are simple, hope you know how much warmth and appreciation come with them” (*greeting in the card*)

We sincerely thank you for all the kindness, care, and preparations for the memorial service for Matushka. It truly meant a lot to us; so much, so much love and respect was shown to us. We are humbled by your love for us and pray that we are deserving of such love. May our Risen Lord continue to bless all of you and may we continue to love one another and Jesus loves us.

Our Love,
Fr. John, Beth & family & Michael & family

THANK YOU

A note of thanks to the Reader Nick Vansuch and the sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak and all the choir members who helped sing the Divine Liturgy last week in the absence of our dear Dr. Nicoloff who was suffering from an illness.

God grant you all many years!

May - Liturgical Attendance

Day	Vespers	Divine Liturgy	Communicants
Saturday, May 6	8		
Sunday, May 7		55	38
Saturday, May 13	10		
Sunday, May 14		76	50
Saturday, May 20	10		
Sunday, May 21		66	38

Orthodoxy 101 Class Participants

Tracy Zenko Andy Zenko
 David Dionisio Joann Sirilla
 Nadine Sabo Maureen Koval
 George Horodnic, Jr

All are welcome to join @ anytime.
 We meet Mondays @ 6:30pm.

Book Club Participants

Sonia Harvischak Nadine Sabol
 Heidi Kuzemchak Monica Vansuch
 David Dionisio Mary Fredericks
 Helen Colaluca Sherrie Fredericks
 Sue Kennedy

Please join us on Thursday mornings @ 11:00.

Bible Study Participants

Sue Kennedy Sonja Harvischuk
 David Dionisio Dcn. James Hryb
 Tracy Zenko Andy Zenko
 Nadine Sabo

Please join us on Saturday's @ 4p m and
 end the day with Vespers with us.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

My mother once said: Hate has 4 letters but so does love. Enemies has 7 letters but so do friends. Lying has 5 letters but so does truth. Cry has 3 letters but so does joy. Negativity has 10 letters but so does positivity. Life is 2 sided, choose the better side of it.

Metropolitan Leonty remembered on the 58th Anniversary of Repose

Sunday, May 14, marked the 58th anniversary of the repose of Metropolitan Leonty (Turkevich). He dedicated nearly 60 years of his life to priestly and episcopal service to the Church in America and was hierarch of the Diocese of the Midwest from 1933-1950, before his election as Primate of the Orthodox Church in America from 1950 to 1965. A memorial service was held yesterday at the Diocese Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, where he served as priest and bishop. Born in Volhynia on August 8, 1876, and ordained in 1905, Father Leonid Turkevich was appointed rector of the newly opened theological seminary and pastor of Saint Mary Church in Minneapolis, MN by Saint Archbishop Tikhon of the Aleutians and North America in August 1906. On October 27 of the same year, Father Leonid and his wife Anna arrived in Minnesota, where he immediately devoted himself to the formation of the future pastors for the North American flock and shepherding the parish that had been brought into Orthodoxy some 15 years earlier by Saint Alexis Toth. Father Leonid's bright intellect and strong ecclesiastical erudition, molded by his upbringing in a priestly family and schooling at the Kyiv Theological Academy, quickly brought him to the forefront of North American clergy. As one of Saint Tikhon's closest advisors, he was elected chairman of the First All-American Sobor (Council), held in Mayfield, PA in 1907. At this and subsequent councils, his leadership guided the continuing formulation of the Church's ongoing missionary vision in North America.

When the seminary was relocated to Tenafly, NJ in 1912, Father Leonid moved east, continuing his work at the seminary and eventually succeeding Saint Alexander Hotovitzky as dean of New York City's Saint Nicholas Cathedral and editor of the American Orthodox Messenger, the Church's official periodical.

Father Leonid was one of two **Con't Next Pg**

Metro. Leonty Con't from previous page

priests selected to join Archbishop Evdokim in representing the North American Diocese at the All-Russian Church Council in Moscow in 1917-1918, at which he championed the restoration of the patriarchal system of Church governance abolished by Tsar Peter the Great two centuries earlier.

After the council, Father Leonid returned to America via Siberia, witnessing along the way the horrors the newly-established Bolshevik regime was inflicting on the Church and her faithful. Back in America, Father Leonid's experiences at the Moscow Council clearly filled him with a vision and model for subsequent All-American Sobors and Church life.

When Father Leonid was widowed in 1925, elevation to the episcopacy was proposed to him almost immediately. Initially, he rejected this out of concern for the continued upbringing of his five children. But in 1933, he accepted monastic tonsure with the name Leonty, and was consecrated Bishop of Chicago. While he had been a hierarch for scarcely more than one year when the Fifth All-American Sobor was convened in November 1934 to elect a

successor to the late Metropolitan Platon, many considered Bishop Leonty as the most viable candidate. However, when the sobor's delegates debated the proper procedure for electing a Primate, Bishop Leonty suggested that they simply acknowledge the senior hierarch, Archbishop Theophilus, as Primate. To this suggestion, the delegates responded with a resounding cry of "Axios," electing Archbishop Theophilus.

Until 1950, Bishop Leonty continued shepherding his Midwest flock, while serving as Metropolitan Theophilus' foremost assistant in guiding the Church through World War II, a decade-long period of ecclesiastical synergy and peace with ROCOR, the reopening of theological seminaries in America, and a failed attempt of ending estrangement from the Church in Russia.

By the time Metropolitan Theophilus died in 1950, the clergy and faithful knew that only Archbishop

Leonty could be the next Metropolitan of All America and Canada. Indeed, at the Eighth All-American Sobor in December 1950,

he was elected Primate by a nearly unanimous vote. During his tenure, structure was given to the Church through the adoption of a governing Statute in 1955. With his blessing, the first English-language parishes were established; various pan-Orthodox initiatives, including the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas and the Orthodox Christian Education Commission, were undertaken; and preliminary steps were taken to heal the rift with the Russian Church, ultimately paving the way to autocephaly for the Orthodox Church in America.

After 15 years of service as Primate, Metropolitan Leonty peacefully fell asleep in the Lord at his residence in Syosset, NY, on May 14, 1965, and was interred at Saint Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, PA. Those who were blessed to have known Metropolitan Leonty cherish his humility, prayerfulness, meekness, dignity, kindness, generosity, forbearance, thoughtfulness, sense of humor, vision, erudition and wisdom.

This biography was written by OCA archivist Alexis Liberovsky and originally appeared in the *The Orthodox Church* magazine, Vol. 2, No. 7/8, July/August 2006.

The text of the booklet, titled "Essays of Orthodox Theology" may be found here.

May the memory of Metropolitan Leonty be eternal!

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Commemorated on May 28

On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail" **Con't Pg 7**

MAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

2	Sub-deacon Wylie Meath
3	Marcus Kubancsek
4	Isabelle Willison
4	Fr. Matthew Stagon
5	Joseph Schutt
6	Michael Polewan
8	Nancy (Anastasia) Tusinac
12	Marco Kubancsek
12	Proto. Bob Northrup
14	Steven Smiko
15	Holly Gast
17	Brian Turner
18	Mary Margaret James (Tusinac)
20	Philip Ellmore
21	Irene Horodnic
24	Avzi Dardovski
29	Carol Krochta
30	Joseph Mico
30	Stacy Donofrio

Anniversary

1/2004	AB Benjamin of San Francisco
2	Fr. Andrew's Priestly Ordination
3	George & Irene Horodnic, Sr
5/2012	AB Alexander of Dallas
6	Eli & Lidija Arvan
8/2010	AB Michael of NY & NJ
28/2005	AB Alejo of Mexico
29	Thomas & Claudia Moore
29	Reader Matthew & Deena Vansuch

Historic concelebration at St. Tikhon's Monastery on Memorial Day

During the Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage at Saint Tikhon's Monastery, on Monday, May 29, 2023, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) will welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) for a joint celebration of the Divine Liturgy. This will mark only the second time in the hundred years of ROCOR's existence that the Primate of the OCA or the Russian Metropolia - as the OCA was popularly called before being granted autocephaly in 1970 - and the First Hierarch of ROCOR will have concelebrated Liturgy at a church of the OCA or Metropolia. This will be the first concelebration of Metropolitan Tikhon with Metropolitan Nicholas since the latter's election as First Hierarch of ROCOR last year.

To fully appreciate the significance of the concelebration, some historical reflection is necessary. Both the OCA and ROCOR have their roots in the Russian Orthodox Church. The OCA is the direct descendant of the Orthodox Mission in Alaska established by the Russian Church in 1794. By the early 20th century, the Mission had spread throughout North America and in the 1920s, it became informally known as the Russian Orthodox Metropolia, as its head by that time had the high episcopal rank of Metropolitan. Meanwhile, ROCOR was organized in the early 1920s by hierarchs who had fled Russia in the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution as a provisional ecclesiastical governing body to tend to the pastoral and spiritual needs of the nascent Russian diaspora. Initially, ROCOR established its headquarters in Serbia. Complex historical circumstances throughout the 20th century that are beyond this article, often caused difficulties in the relations between the OCA (formerly, Metropolia) and ROCOR. Metropolitans Platon (Rozhdestvensky) and Theophilus (Pashkovsky) visited the ROCOR hierarchy in Serbia, but concelebration of the First Hierarchs did not then take place. In spite of the strain in inter-jurisdictional relationship precipitated by events surrounding the 7th All-American Sobor in 1946, when the First Hierarch of ROCOR relocated to America in 1950 to set up his residence and Synodal chancery in New York, he was warmly welcomed by Metropolitan Leonty (Turkevich), Primate of the Metropolia, with the hope for **Con't Pg 8**

REPOSED LIST FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

- 1- Melaine Michaels (2019)
- 2- Anton Stanoff (1974) ©
- 2- Stephen Kalas (1952) ©
- 3- Naume Evanoff (1984) ©
- 3- Frank Carandonis (1955) ©
- 4- Mary Fischer (2007) ©
- 4- Mary Graban (1963) ©
- 6- Bishop Innocent (2002)
- 6- Joseph Leschinsky (1983) ©
- 6- Robert Puskas (2014) ©
- 6- M. Krut (1923) © (no name)
- 7- Anna Holowatyk (1977) ©
- 7- Samuel Zelina (1994) ©
- 7- Emilian Graban (2016) ©
- 8- John Bilas (2015) ©
- 8- Mary Fesz (2002) ©
- 8- Still Born Lazich (1923) ©
- 8- Satalarius Tsagaris (1949) ©
- 8- Infant Diamantes (1957) ©
- 9- Stanley Gozur (1960) ©
- 10- Olga Sveda (2008) ©
- 10- Tom Mahinis (1931) ©
- 10- Joseph Slatsky (1943) ©
- 11- George KInnich (1975) ©
- 11- Sub-deacon Maurice Garman (2011) ©
- 11- Steve Kraynak (1950) ©
- 11- Helen Kirtos (1953) ©
- 12- Stephen Timikovich (1977) ©
- 12- Elaine Whitham (2012)
- 12- Proto. George Hutnyan (2020)
- 12- Mary Knight (2011) ©
- 12- Albert Lisko (1925) ©
- 13- Sevasti Papantonokis (1928) ©
- 14- Stanley Lis (2019)
- 14- Nicholas Zoppia (1984) ©
- 14- William Petroff (2000) ©
- 14- E. Mastoridis (1922) ©
- 14- Steve Lisko (1928) ©
- 15- Fr. Michael Rosco (2013)
- 15- George Krupchak (1952) ©
- 15- Michael Shevetz (1962) ©
- 16- Simon Vojtilla (1920) ©
- 16- Anna Petro (1949) ©
- 16- Charles Tsagares (1959) ©
- 18- Vasil Vilich (1926) ©
- 19- Betty Billy (2020)
- 19- Mary Kiddin (1993) ©
- 19- Still born John Caleris (1928) ©
- 19- Sava Talaban (1945) ©
- 20- Helen Bickley (1974) ©
- 20- Michael Leschinsky (1982) ©
- 20- Anna Laricharoff (1964) ©
- 21- Harry Levonyak (2205) ©
- 21- Katherine Slatsky (1961) ©
- 23- Mary Nosik (1978) ©
- 23- Kenneth Libertyn (1998) ©
- 23- Dimitri Livoniak (1940) ©
- 24- Damian Leskovatz (1925) ©
- 25- Michael Liba (1940) ©
- 25- Michael Volchko (1944) ©
- 26- Vasili Kovach (1945) ©
- 28- Catherine Harvischak (2009) ©
- 29- Milka Cukovich (1932) ©
- 29- Nicholas Haralampbis (1961) ©
- 30- Anna Toth (1997) ©
- 30- George Andras (1999) ©

1st Ec. Council con't from pg 5

against it” (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior’s words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor’s sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ. Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being. **Con't Pg 9**

JUNE SPONSORSHIPS

WINE: \$50 (for the month) In memory of my brother Stephan Elash on his 1 year anniversary; In memory of Steve & Eileen Elash, Eileen Nolder, and all members of the Elash & Graban families - Given by Cindy Ferrick

INCENSE: \$25 (for the month) For the health of all the members of the Elash & Graban Families- Given by Cindy Ferrick

BULLETIN: \$50 (For the month) *Available*

ICONOSTASIS CANDLES & ETERNAL LIGHT: \$50 (for the month) In memory of my father Harry Sveda & my mother Olga- Given by Barbara Kolesar

ALTAR CANDLES \$50 (for the month) In honor of Sue Kennedy on the occasion of her 90th birthday- Given by Debeic & Kennedy family

TETRAPOD CANDLES: \$50 (for the month) *Available*

CANDLES @ ST JOHN THE BAPTIST ICON \$30 for month or \$20 for a week *Available*

CANDLES @ PROTECTION Icon \$30 for month or \$20 for a week *Available*

CANDLES @ ST. PANTELEIMON Icon \$30 for month or \$20 for a week *Available*

CANDLES @ ICON OF CHRIST \$30 for month or \$20 for a week *Available*

CANDLES @ ICON OF MARY \$30 for month or \$20 for a week *Available*

CANDLES @ ST. HERMAN \$30 for month or \$20 for a week *Available*

FLOWERS: \$75 in memory of my family & friends- Given by V.R. Andrew Bartek

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

June 4: Tim Nolder

June 25: Greg Puskas

Memorial day weekend con't from Pg 6

fraternal collaboration. Over the next decades, the relationship of the Metropolia and ROCOR was often problematic, and at times, acrimonious. This was most acutely evident when the Metropolia was granted autocephaly by the Church of Russia in 1970, an action that was viewed with wariness and suspicion by ROCOR due to state control of the Church in the Soviet Union. Concelebration of hierarchs and clergy of the two Churches was unknown, although the Metropolia/OCA never took a formal decision to suspend communion with ROCOR.

Relations began to warm in the new millennium with a decisive breakthrough in the ROCOR-OCA relationship after the Act of Canonical Communion reuniting ROCOR with the Church of Russia was signed in 2007. Almost immediately, concelebrations among ROCOR and OCA hierarchs and clergy began to take place with regularity. In order to clearly define a joint perspective on the past, present and future of the relations between ROCOR and the OCA, ROCOR suggested that dialogue should take place. For this purpose, each side established a Commission chaired by a bishop, consisting of four priests and a consultant. The Commissions held two days of joint meetings in October 2010, producing a statement issued jointly by the Synods of Bishops of the OCA and ROCOR in December 2010. As a visible sign of the unity expressed in the statement, two concelebrations of then OCA Primate, Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen), and the late ROCOR First Hierarch, Metropolitan Hilarion (Kapral) took place in 2011. This statement and concelebrations were the felicitous culmination of years of rapprochement following what had at one time been a trying coexistence. On May 24, they served the Divine Liturgy together at the historic Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York, at the invitation of Archbishop Justinian, Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA. A second concelebration took place at ROCOR's Cathedral of the Sign in New York on December 10, with the participation of most members of the Synods of both Churches. Since then, in 2013, the late Metropolitan Hilarion of ROCOR concelebrated with Metropolitan Tikhon and other hierarchs on Memorial Day *Con't Next Page*

Memorial Day Weekend con't from previous pg

at Saint Tikhon's Monastery, and on June 3, 2018 His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon was invited to concelebrate the Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Hilarion at ROCOR's Novodiveevo Stavropegial Convent of the Holy Dormition in Nanuet, NY and to participate in the blessing of a new monument there dedicated to Saint Seraphim of Sarov.

It is especially fitting that the first concelebrated Liturgy of Metropolitan Tikhon and Metropolitan Nicholas as First Hierarch will take place at Saint Tikhon's Monastery, which was founded by Saint Tikhon, Enlightener of North America, Patriarch and Confessor of Moscow, whose holy life and witness to the Gospel continues to shine as an illuminating beacon for both the OCA and ROCOR, whose archpastoral ministry was instrumental for the founding of both Churches and who is fervently venerated by the hierarchs, clergy and faithful in both ecclesial bodies. May the intercessions of Saint Tikhon and all the Saints of North America bring increased prayerful communion between the OCA and ROCOR with more frequent concelebrations and greater collaboration in ministry for the Glory of God and the growth of His Holy Church in North America.

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 (Epistle)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the

disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

1st Ec Council con't from pg 7

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius [who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18)]. ***Con't Next Pg***

John 17:1-13 (Gospel)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

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He is called “the Great,” for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today’s Feast, he is referred to as “the thirteenth Apostle.”

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea,

he said, “God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous.”

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan’s knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word “consubstantial,” which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicean Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ’s divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

The First Ecumenical Council is also commemorated on May 29.

BIBLE ORDERS

If anyone would like to purchase an Orthodox Study Bible (Old & New Testament), please see Fr. Andrew. Cost: \$40 which includes shipping. We will be making the order the first week in June.