



The Forerunner

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek - Rector



JULY BULLETIN SPONSOR

In memory of Joanie Puharich Kovach - Given by Michael Kovach & Robert Puharich families

Liturgical and Events Schedule *TWO WEEK EDITION*

Sunday, July 9

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / No Social

Saturday, July 8

6:00 PM: Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, July 9

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social sponsored
by the Kovach Family

Matthew 8:28-9:1 (Gospel)

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Romans 10:1-10 (Epistle)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Wonderworking Tikhvin Icon Celebrated in Chicago

The Wonderworking Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God was celebrated on June 25 and June 26, the feast of the icon, at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest presided over the divine services. This feast is of great importance to the diocese as the original miraculous icon of Tikhvin was in the care of the Midwest Diocese for five decades before its return to Russia.

The All Night Vigil was held the night before on Sunday, June 25. His Eminence was **Con't Pg 9**

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

Mrs. Audrey Chengelis

Mrs. Julia Simko

Mrs. Mary Jane Puskas

Emilia Yannitto

Matushka Helen Psinka

Mrs. Dorothy Shirilla

Mrs. Pauline Fesz

Mrs. Marion Zwinski

Joan Cross

Irene & Al Mazanek

Assembly of Bishops Blesses July 30th as "Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday"

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops has blessed July 30, 2023 to be "Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday," the day for Orthodox parishes across the United States to learn more about the work of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church and an agency of the Assembly of Bishops.

For two decades, OCPM has served thousands of Orthodox and non-Orthodox prisoners across the United States through its longstanding correspondence ministry, catechetical program, and coaching Orthodox clergy and laity how to best visit and serve prisoners near them.

Today, the ministry continues to expand, assigning relationship managers to Orthodox men and women in prison to minister and assure each soul in prison has the opportunity to access clergy, the sacraments, and have a deep relationship with the Church, even after release.

Through all its ministry programs, OCPM ultimately aims to fulfill Christ's command to visit Him in prison (Matthew 25:36). As a result, families are reunited, marriages are healed, and thousands of incarcerated men and women have a new sense of peace and restored order in their lives.

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church and an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops. Our mission is to serve those who are incarcerated and their families, and provide resources, training and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified. For Orthodox Christians who have been arrested for crimes, OCPM helps them return to the Faith, offering forgiveness and reconciliation with Christ. For both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, OCPM provides spiritual care, enabling prisoners to find hope and purpose in their lives.

Holy Trinity Church, Overland Park, KS Welcomes Bishop of Kenya

Holy Trinity Church, Overland Park, KS had the great joy of hosting His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Eldoret and Northern Kenya on Sunday, June 25. With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest, His Grace served the Divine Liturgy with the clergy and faithful of the parish. Later that evening, an event was held with high school and middle school students. Over 20 teens from 4 different area parishes came together for learning and fellowship. This event provided a wonderful opportunity to learn how much is shared with the Orthodox faithful here and throughout the world. **Con't Next Pg**

PRAYER LIST– Updated 7-6-23

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / George Horodnic / Irene Horodnic / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Paula Kennedy / Sue Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Thomas Kristian / Mary Ruth Mico / Mary Jane Puskas / Kenny Ruff / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / 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) / Bruce (Hryb) / Bret (Zelinsky) / Dominic (Centofanti) / Ellen (Clark) / Katie (Garrity) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Ellen (Kessler) / Eleanor Marie (Kidder) / Paul (Kolesar) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Walter Litzie (Fr.) / Mea (Mahan) / Mary (Mahan) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Karen Muzyka (Fr.) / Tracy Nelson (Fr) / Matushka Raissa (Nicoloff) / Eugene (Pallai) / New born Leonidas (Sabol) / 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 Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Sarah and her unborn baby / Drew (Willison) / Emilia (Yannitto) / Zoland Zile, (Fr.)

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.

Orthodox Church in America Seeks Applicants for General Counsel Position

The Orthodox Church in America has announced that it is seeking qualified candidates for the position of General Counsel. As the main source of legal advice and counsel, the General Counsel will serve the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, the Holy Synod of Bishops, and the other Officers of the OCA.

The General Counsel's responsibilities encompass various legal areas such as First Amendment law, employment law, immigration law, tax law, non-profit law, and civil litigation. Although not expected to represent the OCA in civil litigation, the General Counsel will assist in the selection and coordination of external counsel in such matters.

Beyond legal responsibilities, the General Counsel will support the OCA in its Government Relations activities and may also participate in other legal associations affiliated with the OCA.

Download the full job description from National OCA website

Interested individuals are invited to submit their applications by email to chancellor@oca.org or by hard copy to the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America:

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor
PO Box 31409

Alexandria, VA 22310-9998

The deadline for applications is July 21, 2023.

Bishop Con't from Previous Pg

Bishop Neofitos is visiting the United States to share about his new diocese in Kenya and raise support to the work that is going on. The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) has been collaborating with His Grace in his presentations in many of the churches that he is visiting. There are over 45 parishes in the new diocese in western and northern Kenya. The projects that His Grace plans to undertake include building a diocesan center, building a new cathedral, finishing building a number of churches and setting out to continue to evangelize and support the people of the rural Turkana region of the country.

His Grace also visited Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL and Archangel Michael Church, Broadview Heights, OH, while touring America.

JULY SPONSORSHIPS

WINE: (*\$50 for the month*) in memory of my wife Laurissa– Given by Sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak / In honor of Reader Nick & Monica Vansuch on occasion of their anniversary– Given by Nick Vansuch

INCENSE: (*\$25 for the month*) In memory of my brother George– Given by Sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak

BULLETIN: (*\$50 for the month*) In memory of Joanie Puharich Kovach - Given by Michael Kovach & Robert Puharich families

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: (*\$50 for the month*) In memory of my husband Robert on the occasion of his 29th anniversary - Given by Sue Kennedy

ALTAR CANDLES: (*\$50 for the month*) In memory of Ruth Libertin - Given by Nick & Monica Vansuch / In memory of Andrew Cvercko on the 6th Anniversary of repose – Given by Ann Cvercko / In memory of Michael & Ethel Dudzik – Given by Mike & Lynn Polewan

TETRAPOD CANDLES: (*\$50 for the month*) In honor of my son Eugene on the occasion of his 59th birthday - Given by Sue Kennedy

CANDLES @ ST JOHN THE BAPTIST ICON: (*\$30 for month or \$20 for just 1 week*)
AVAILABLE

CANDLES @ PROTECTION ICON: (*\$30 for month or \$20 for just 1 week*) In memory of Robert Fredericks– Given by Mary & Sherrie Fredericks

CANDLES @ ST. PANTELEIMON ICON: (*\$30 for month or \$20 for just 1 week*) For the Health of my of my Children & grandchildren: Terah, Fr. Joseph, Nicholas, Jeremiah, Lindsay, Joanna, Anna, Mark, Sophia, Kaitlyn, Victoria, Ephraimea, Mia, Joanna– Given by Heidi Kuzemchak

CANDLES @ ICON OF MARY: (*\$30 for month or \$20 for just a week*) For the health of Cameron & Charotte Zenko on the occasion of their birthdays– Given by Tracy Zenko

CANDLES @ ST. HERMAN: (*\$30 for month or \$20 for just a week*)- Taken by Anonymous

FLOWERS: (*\$75*) In memory of my family and friends - Given by Fr. Andrew

JULY CHANGE IN CANDLE SPONSORSHIPS

It was brought to my attention that some people would like to light the votive candles and sometimes they are all taken up by sponsorships. So beginning in July The Icon of Jesus will not be available for monthly sponsorship so it will give an opportunity for others just to light candles. If candles are not sponsored there will be a sign so you can light individual candles If more are needed we will adjust accordingly.

Thank you Fr. Andrew

June Liturgical Attendance			
Day	Vespers	Divine Liturgy	Communicants
Saturday, June 3	10		
Sunday, June 4		72	50
Sat., June 10	32		
Sunday, June 11		57	40
Sat., June 17	7		
Sun., June 18		70	47
Sat., June 24	8		
Sun., June 25		70	44
Wed., June 28		12	



REPOSED LIST FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1- Veronica Graban (1998) © | 17- Eleanor Graban (1986) © |
| 1- Ann Zastany Crowi (2019) © | 17- Elizabeth Zelena (1991) © |
| 1- Mike Smyrnios (1960) © | 18- Steve Paroh (1979) © |
| 2- Vasil Fecik (1921) © | 18- Still Born Cmur (1923) © |
| 3- Andrew Cvercko (2017) © | 19- Helen Bohish (1988) © |
| 3- John Kaschak (1920) © | 19- Helen Livosky (2015) © |
| 4- Alice Sutko (2020) | 19- Mary Balak (1925) © |
| 4- Helen Arvan Kusmanov (2013) © | 19- Mike Olsavsky (1931) © |
| 4- Anna Gozur (1957) © | 19- Margaret Bilehik (1955) © |
| 5- George Hostal (2001) © | 20- Joseph Sirilla, Sr (1979) © |
| 5- George Vavlas (1945) © | 20- Fr. Dc. John Youhas (2012) |
| 5- Andrew Harvischak (1951) © | 20- Anna Zavada Bartek (1924) |
| 6- Steve Sveda (1928) © | 20- Nicholas Papas (1949) © |
| 6- Nick Galouzis (1961) © | 20- Maria Karas (1956) © |
| 7- Luba Raseta (1929) © | 21- Anna Tsagros (1929) © |
| 9- Mary Zanios (1926) © | 22- Elizabeth Zilena (1985) © |
| 10- Anna Roman (1926) © | 22- Mary Kennedy (2000) © |
| 10- Robert Kennedy (1994) © | 22- Stephen Kalafut (1956) © |
| 10- Pete George (1939) © | 23- George Patzakis (1961) © |
| 10- Nick Despetarich (1959) © | 25- Walter Lee Wilfong (2007) © |
| 12- Anna Berdy (1980) © | 25- John Konik (2009) © |
| 12- Ruth Libertin (2008) © | 26- Faith Simko (2016) © |
| 12- John Bolescak (1926) © | 26- John Poulas (1925) © |
| 13- Marilyn Tasline (1972) © | 26- Catherine Pavlos (1949) © |
| 13- John Borsic (1987) © | 26- Charles Xenakis (1960) © |
| 13- Andrew Holubauich (1930) © | 27- Ignatius Sosnowchik (1973) © |
| 14- Edward Gorol (1961) © | 27- Frank Zwinski (2013) © |
| 15- Catherine Harvischak (1977) © | 27- Christ Samjos (1930) © |
| 15- Floyd Dweesy (1985) © | 27- Panagiotis Sarris (1953) © |
| 15- Mary Sykola (2005) © | 28- Stella Graban Kurtiak (2013) © |
| 16- Mary Macala (1971) © | 29- MaryAnn Such (1972) © |
| 16- Julian Marsteler (1920) © | 30- Anna Krut (1924) © |
| 17- Mary Bartek (1984) | 30- Sophia Oshelski (1959) © |

Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily / Commemorated on July 9

The Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina, was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth.

The parents of Pancratius were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter. It was during this period that young Pancratius got to know the holy Apostle Peter.

After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius together with all their household. When the parents of Pancratius died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. The holy Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited Pancratius at Pontus. He took him along to Antioch, and then to Sicily, where the holy Apostle Paul then was. There the holy Apostles Peter and Paul made Saint Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

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July Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1- Julia Smiko | 3- Kim Whitham |
| 4- Stephen Holly | 5- Pani Stacey Mihaly |
| 6- Terri Petroff | 11- Joan Cross |
| 12- Pauline Fesz | 12- Justin Stokley |
| 12- Joe Stokley | 12- Ethan Feldman |
| 12- Aubrey Feldman | 15- HB Met. Tikhon |
| 17- Jonah Bremer | 17- Kathleen Jesko |
| 19- David Konik | 20- Alison LaValle |
| 22- Charlotte Zenko | 25- James Malchisky |
| 27- Matthew Lariccia | 30- Mat. Christine Hryb |
| 30- George Kolesar | 30- Maureen Koval |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3- Bob & Elizabeth Willison
- 8- Reader Nick & Monica Vansuch
- 12- Thomas & Balaci Kristian
- 13- Marcus & Marcia Kubancsek
- 19- Thomas & Deborah Zelinsky
- 24- Frank & Lori Batura
- 25- Andy & Michelle Basile
- 27- Dennis & Kim Konik
- 27- Ken & Lynn Krause
- 30- James & Sandra Bufalini

NAMES DAY

- 31- AB Benjamin of San Francisco

Polish Orthodox Church Provides Update on OCA's Ukrainian Refugee Support

On June 18, 2023, the Polish Orthodox Church provided an update on the support for Ukrainian refugees made possible by the fundraising efforts of the Orthodox Church in America.

A video update explained that the funds collected by the OCA enabled two separate programs of Polish language instruction for refugees in 28 groups of students across 19 locations in Poland. These groups totaled 580 students, with 535 graduates of the programs. These sessions ran from March 2022 to April 2023.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Sawa offered his blessing and gratitude for the programs saying, "I want to thank you very much for your cooperation and all your help. Persevere in the zeal that is in you today. Always help anyone in need. God bless you."

Anastazja Jaszczuk, a Polish language teacher from Ukraine, has stayed with her students as they improved their skills and advanced through the course. She remarked, "[The students] are doing very well. We have been meeting some people in classes for a year now and I must say that I see a big difference and huge progress." She described the impact these language lessons are directly having on the lives of the students saying, "One person was able to find a job in his profession, someone else found a better job than he had at the beginning, just after arriving in Poland, someone else managed to settle an important matter in the office or hospital. Students say that thanks to this course, they can feel comfortable in

Poland."

Archpriest Doroteusz Sawick, the ELEOS charity's Executive Director, spoke about the broader impact of Polish language instruction for these refugees and their families. He said, "Since the beginning of the war, more than two thousand people from Ukraine have come to Poland and, thanks to learning Polish, they find work here, integrate with our society, and send their children to Polish schools. Without knowledge of the Polish language, there would be no such effect [and] without the support of the Orthodox Church in America, there would be no Polish language teaching. Lessons take place in parish halls, which were organized thanks to your help. What's more, you also sponsored two out of three tours of teaching Polish."

Father Doroteusz concluded by directly speaking to the Orthodox Church in America and offering his thanks. He said, "Your sacrifices and your hard work result in the fact that our brothers from Ukraine can learn today. On behalf of the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Poland and its charity ELEOS – we would like to thank all of you brothers and sisters, faithful, hierarchy, and clergy from the OCA. God bless you! May God bless you, protect you and your families, and may our brothers always remember that they have friends in Poland and America."

Please continue to support the refugees of the war in Ukraine.

Saint Photius, Metropolitan of Kiev Commemorated on July 2

Saint Photius, Metropolitan of Kiev and All Russia, was by birth a Greek from the Peloponnesian city of Monembasia (Malbasia). While still in his adolescence he entered a monastery and was tonsured under the Elder Acacius, a great ascetic (afterwards the Metropolitan of Monembasia). In 1408, when Photius was in Constantinople with the Patriarch on church matters, the question arose about a replacement for the Russian See after the death of Saint Cyprian (September 16). The choice of Patriarch Matthew (1397-1410) fell upon Photius, known for his learning and holiness of life. On September 1, 1408 Saint Photius was made Metropolitan and in the next year arrived in Rus.

He spent half a year at Kiev (September 1409-February 1410), concerning himself with settling affairs in the southern dioceses of the Russian Church, then included within the principality of Lithuania, or more precisely, of Lithuania and Russia. The saint perceived that the throne of the Metropolitan, the spiritual center of churchly life in Rus, could not remain in the Kiev lands, where everything increasingly fell under the dependence of Catholic Poland. On the day of Holy Pascha in 1410, Metropolitan Photius arrived in Moscow following the example of former Russian Metropolitans, who transferred their residence first to Vladimir, then to Moscow.

For 22 years the saint labored in the difficult service of archpastor of the Russian Church. In grievous conditions of war, fratricidal strife, and pillaging incursions of Tatars he knew how to highly advance the spiritual significance, the material prosperity and well-being of the churches under the See of Moscow.

Favorable conditions in the Church allowed Saint Photius to render great assistance to the increasingly impoverished Patriarch of Constantinople, and to strengthen the international position of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian realm.

The enemies of Orthodoxy tried to subvert the churchly-patriotic service of Saint Photius more than once. In the spring of 1410, when Saint Photius arrived in Vladimir from Moscow, Khan Edigei, having laid waste this portion of the Russian Land for two years, undertook a new campaign with the intent of capturing the Metropolitan himself. A Tatar detachment, headed by Prince Talychoi "the Exile," suddenly and quickly took Vladimir, but

God preserved His righteous saint.

The evening before, not suspecting danger, the saint had gone off to the Svyatoozersk (Holy Lake) monastery beyond the city. When the Tatars attempted pursuit, he concealed himself in a small settlement, surrounded by impassable swamps, at the River Senega. Unable to capture the Metropolitan, the rapacious Tatars plundered Vladimir, especially the Dormition cathedral church. The doorkeeper of the cathedral, Patrikii, endured terrible torments and accepted a martyr's death from the plundering Tatars, but he did not reveal where the church sacred items and treasury were hidden.

Through the efforts of Metropolitan Photius the canonical unity of the Russian Church was restored. The separate Lithuanian metropolitanate, established by Prince Vitovt for the southern and western eparchies [dioceses], was abolished in 1420. In that same year the saint visited the returned eparchies and greeted the flock with an instructive encyclical. The wise and erudite pastor left behind many instructions and letters. Of great theological significance was his denunciation of the heresy of the Strigolniki, which had arisen at Pskov prior to his time. By his wise efforts the heresy was put to an end in 1427.

Important Church historical sources compiled by Saint Photius are his "Order of Selection and Installation of Bishops" (1423), "Discourse on the Seriousness of the Priestly Office and the Obligations of Church Servers," and also the "Spiritual Testament", in which he tells of his life. Another great work of the saint was the compilation, under his guidance, of the Obshcherussk (All-Russian) Chronicle (about 1423).

On April 20, 1430 the holy archpastor was informed by an angel of his approaching end, and he reposed peacefully on the Feast of the Placing of the Robe of the Most Holy Theotokos at Blachernae, on July 2, 1431. His relics were uncovered in the year 1471. Two sakkoi (robes) of Saint Photius are preserved in the Armory Palace of the Moscow Kremlin.



ARCHPASTORAL CATECHESIS ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD OF TIKHVIN

Today thy most precious Icon appears in the sky like the ever-radiant sun, O Sovereign Lady, enlightening the world with rays of mercy; and this land, devoutly receiving the divine gift from above, honors thee as the Mistress of all, O Mother of God, magnifying Christ our God, Who was born of thee. Entreat Him, O Sovereign Lady, Queen and Mother of God, to guard all Christian cities and lands unharmed by the assaults of the enemy, and to save those who kneel in faith before His divine, and thy holy image, O unwedded Virgin! (Troparion Tone 4)

Beloved in the Lord,

On June 26, the Church commemorates the finding of the Icon of the Mother of God of Tikhvin. For the clergy and faithful of the God-protected Diocese of the Midwest, this is a particularly significant commemoration. As most are aware, the Tikhvin Icon sojourned within this Diocese for almost fifty years, finding its temporary home in Chicago before being returned to the Holy Dormition Monastery in Tikhvin in 2004.

The origins of the icon are not recorded in history, although it is traditionally ascribed to the hand of Saint Luke the Apostle and Evangelist, like several other ancient icons of the Hodigitria type. It is believed that the icon was brought from Jerusalem to Constantinople in the fifth century. During the period of the iconoclastic controversy, it was taken to the Monastery of the Pantocrator for safekeeping, and afterwards it became one of the most widely venerated icons in the Imperial City. Eventually it disappeared from the church where it had been kept, reappearing over the lands of Rus' in 1383. Fishermen at work near Lake Ladoga saw how the icon appeared to traverse the skies; it was seen in over seven different locations in all until it finally settled by the banks of the Tikhvinka river, near the small village of Tikhvin in the region of Great Novgorod. Soon a wooden church dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God was built in that place. In just over a century, this church burned to the ground three separate times,

with the icon surviving unharmed each time. A stone church was finally built in 1507, around which grew the monastery and city walls that stand to this day. The holy and wonderworking Icon of the Mother of God of Tikhvin was placed on the right pillar of the beautiful and impressive church, where it remained for over four hundred years, becoming as widely venerated in the lands of Rus' as it had once been in the great City of Constantine.

Though the monastery was occasionally occupied by foreign powers over the centuries and was ultimately closed by the Soviets in the mid 1920s, the icon itself was not disturbed, and its presence remained a source of consolation for the Christian faithful in times of need and distress. During the Second World War, however, the city of Tikhvin was briefly seized by the Nazis, and with their departure the miraculous icon seemingly went lost. Some say the icon was then seen in 1944 in one of the antiques shops occupied by the Germans in Riga, Latvia. The icon eventually came into the possession of Bishop John (Garklavs) of Riga. Forced to leave Latvia that same year by way of the former Czechoslovakia and West Germany, Bishop John frequently brought the holy icon to displaced persons camps as a blessing and sign of hope for those whose lives had been upended by the war. When Bishop John made his way to the United States in 1949, he again brought the icon with him, ultimately making the Chicagoland its home in the New World. For over half a century thereafter, the icon traveled throughout the Midwest and elsewhere in the United States.

By God's will, with the restoration of Church life in the former Soviet Union, the original wonderworking icon was returned to its historic place in Tikhvin's newly reopened Holy Dormition Monastery in July 2004. Archbishop Paul, of blessed memory, went on pilgrimage to Tikhvin in 2016. Later, during a return visit to Chicago from Bishop Mstislav of Tikhvin, our Diocese was presented with an exact replica of the original icon. The replica, including its masterfully crafted metal cover, had been touched to and blessed upon the original icon before it was brought to Chicago, where it is enshrined at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Mother Church of our Diocese.

As we reflect upon the amazing history of the icon and of its miraculous preservation throughout the centuries, we cannot help but acknowledge that, even from the time of its origins, the Tikhvin Icon has been on pilgrimage, traveling to where the intercession and prayers and comfort **Con't Next Pg**

Archpastoral message con't from previous pg

of the Holy Theotokos were most needed. Latvia, Central and Western Europe, North America: all of these are now included among the traditional places visited by this highly revered image of the Mother of God.

The traveling nature of the icon should be of no surprise to us. Indeed, the Most Holy Theotokos is revealed as a traveler and sojourner, even in the Gospels. We recall Saint Luke's account of the Annunciation. As soon as the angel brought the glad tidings that she was chosen to be the mother of the Son of God and that her kinswoman Elizabeth was expecting a child in her old age, "... Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth" (St Luke 1:39-40). She went where she was needed.

Jerusalem, Constantinople, Tikhvin, Riga, New York, Chicago, Summit Argo, and many other places known and unknown are included among the many locations graced by the visitation of this wonderworking icon of the Mother of God. It has resided in monasteries, churches, and family homes. It has called upon displaced persons in deportation camps, youth gatherings, and church gatherings of all types. In this we see the Mother of God traveling to places where her presence and intercession is most needed, just as she did when she visited her cousin Elizabeth.

As we commemorate the appearance of this wonderworking icon, let us, each and all, invite Mary of Nazareth, our Sovereign Lady who is also our Mother, into our homes and families, into our parish communities, and into our hearts. It is my prayer that the Most Pure Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, venerated in all her holy icons and invoked in all her titles, will bless and protect our Diocese, its clergy and faithful, and all your families and loved ones.

O people, let us hasten to the Virgin Theotokos and Queen, giving thanks to Christ our God, And looking upon her miraculous image with contrition, let us fall down and cry out to her: O Mary, our Sovereign Lady, who visit this land in the miraculous appearance of thy precious image, save all the Christians in peace and prosperity, showing us as heirs of the heavenly life. For to thee do we cry out with faith: Rejoice, O Virgin, the salvation of the world! (Kontakion Tone 8)

Invoking God's blessing upon you all, I remain

Your Servant in Christ,

+DANIEL, Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Icon con't from Pg 1

joined by the cathedral clergy. The responses were sung by the Chicago Deanery Male Choir under the direction of Reader Philp Sokolov. Listen to audio here.

Divine Liturgy was celebrated on the feast of the Icon, June 26. The Archbishop was joined by Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, Mitered Archpriest Vladimir Kovalchuk, Archpriest Matthew Butrie, Priest Esteban Vazquez, Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, Priest Anthony Saunders, Priest Joseph Whittaker, Protodeacon Thomas Keith, Deacon Paul Garklavs, and Deacon Jordan Kingery. The choir sang under the direction of Reader Philip Sokolov.

During the Little Entrance, Fr. Esteban was awarded the Gold Cross.

The Litany for the Departed was taken commemorating those who were involved with the care and protection of the icon, including Archbishop John (Garklavs) and Mitered Archpriest Sergei Garklavs.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy His Eminence spoke about the presence an gift of the Holy Tikhvin Icon. His Eminence also recalled his personal experience with the return of the Tikhvin Icon from Chicago to Tikhvin, Russia 19 years ago.

Following the liturgy a festive meal was held in the parish hall.

Later that evening, the faithful gathered once more for the singing of the Akathist Hymn to the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God.

FINAL FINANCIALS FOR JUNE

Expenses.....	\$14,373.87
Income.....	\$18,613.00
TOTAL.....	+\$4,239.13

Weekly Tithe.....	\$2,446.96
Assessment.....	\$25.00
Weekly Candles.....	\$154.00
Wine.....	\$50.00
Incense.....	\$25.00
Candles @ St. Panteleimon.....	\$30.00
Candles @ St. Herman.....	\$90.00
Paper bought for Church.....	\$58.04
Bed pay back for Rectory.....	\$100.00

ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS OF NORTH AMERICA UPDATE

Director's Update

Dear Friends,

The Assembly of Bishops continued to tend to its ministries in Q2 of 2023.

In April the Committee for Liturgy met in Chicago to work on common translations and strategic planning. They met again, virtually, in June to consider project proposals and continue working on translations.

The Committees for Canonical Regional Planning and Clergy Matters met in early June to review the progress of the Inter-Parish Associations program, which launched on June 28, 2023.

The Committee for Theological Education met mid-June to consider overlapping areas of study for inter-seminary collaboration. They formed a task force to develop a proposal.

The Executive Committee met just after Pascha. They appointed Bishop Constantine (GOA) as Chair of the Canonical Matters Committee and Archbishop Daniel (UOCofUSA) as the Episcopal Liaison to OCMC. They also discussed the next Assembly meeting, Inter-Parish Associations, and various other issues of common concern.

The Assembly's Mental Health Ministries continued strongly, booking new Peace of Mind events and growing the directory. Matushka Michelle Janakos joined the AoB Team as the Program Manager for Peace of Mind. Sangeetha Thomas, Director of MHM, presented at the 2023 SNF Nostos Conference.

Finally, the Assembly is growing and needs your support. We updated our donation page (assemblyofbishops.org/donate) to make it easier and safer to contribute. Any contribution, especially recurring donations, help make the Assembly's work toward Orthodox Christian Unity in the USA possible!

If you have any questions, or would like more information about supporting the Assembly's ministries, please feel free to email us at communications@assemblyofbishops.org.

Wishing you a blessed summer, I remain

Prayerfully yours,

Rev. Dn. Nicholas Anton

Livonia, MI Parish Announces Upcoming Retreat for Men

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Livonia, MI has announced an upcoming retreat entitled, "Beloved Sons: A Step into Mature Christianity." This retreat is focused on various topics for men throughout a weekend in early October.

"Beloved Sons is a retreat for Orthodox men that will help men uncover the voice of the Accuser, silence it, and begin to hear the voice of the Father, Who says to each one of us, 'You are My beloved son, in whom I am well pleased' reported Archpriest Michael Butler, the host and retreat leader.

The retreat will begin Friday, October 6, in the evening, and run through Sunday afternoon, October 8. The retreat will be held at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 7 Mile Rd, Livonia, MI.

The speakers and retreat leaders: include, Fr Michael Butler, Priest Hans Jacobse, St Peter Orthodox Church, Fort Myers, FL, Founder of the St Paisios Brotherhood, Mr. Paul Robson, Founder of Maniphesto, a European organization for men's accountability and integrity.

For the retreat schedule, cost, registration, accommodations and other information please see Diocesan Website

Attendance is limited. Please register early.

Open to all that are interested.

Hieromartyr Pancratius con't from pg 5

Saint Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith.

Saint Pancratius governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint, and seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, Saint Pancratius ended his life as a martyr.

The saint's relics are in the church named for him in Rome. He is also commemorated on February 9.