



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



**JANUARY Bulletin Sponsor– In memory of my grandfather Michael Pasloskey
Given by Natalia Simko**

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, January 26

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social

Tuesday, January 28

11:00 AM: Orthodoxy 101

Wednesday, January 29

6:00 PM: Vespers for Feast of Three Hierarchs

Thursday, January 30

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy followed by Breakfast at local restaurant

Saturday, February 1

6:00 PM: Vespers w/ Litia for Feast of Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Sunday, February 2

Zacchaeus Sunday & The Meeting of the Lord

9:10 AM: Hours

9:30 AM: Divine Liturgy / brief social meal

11:00 AM: Annual Meeting followed by brief Council Meeting and address by Fr. Andrew

THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 2, 2025

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 2 following the Liturgy. The Hours will begin at 9:10 AM followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30AM.

Following Liturgy there will be a brief meal in the basement with the meeting to hopefully begin at 11:00 AM in the Church. Clean-up needs to be complete by the time of the meeting.

This year everyone can pick up the Annual Meeting packets at the Candle desk.

January / February 2025

Reader Schedule

January 26: Robert Willison

February 2: George Horodnic (Zacchaeus)

February 9: Deacon James Hyrb (Publican & Pharisee)

February 16: Deacon David Gemmel (Prodigal Son)

February 23: Natalia Simko (Meatfare Sunday)

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

February 2– Mike Dubinka / Pani Joan Mahler / Dorthy Sudak

February 9– Frank Kusky / Noreen Moderalli / Sub-Deacon Vladimir (Walter) Rusnak

Archbishop Celebrates Ordinations

On Saturday, January 18, the feast of Saint Athanasius the Great, and Saint Cyril of Alexandria, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL.

Celebrating with His Eminence were Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Chancellor, Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, Archpriest George Gary, Priest Jacob VanSickle, Protodeacon Nicholas Denysenko, Deacon Paul Garklavs, and Deacon Niola Tambur. The choir was directed by Reader Philip Sokolov.

Before the liturgy, the Archbishop tonsured Seminararian Joseph Winsler as a Reader, and then ordained him to the Subdiaconate. After the Great Entrance, Protodeacon Nicholas was ordained to the priesthood and following the consecration of the Holy Gifts, Subdeacon Joseph was ordained to the diaconate.

The Archbishop congratulated the newly ordained after the liturgy offering his prayers and blessings. A meal was held at a local restaurant in celebration of the occasion.

PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & 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.

COMISS Network Holds Annual Forum

On Monday, January 13, 2025, the COMISS Network held its Annual Forum: “Celebrating 100 years in Clinical Pastoral Education and Training: Pastoral, Present, and the Future”, in Silver Spring, MD. The Seventh-Day Adventist community hosted this gathering at their world headquarters there, complete with a hybrid room, allowing full physical and virtual attendance. Archpriest Steven Voytovich, the current COMISS National Leadership Teach Chair, noted this was a high water mark for him as his final function as team chair.

The COMISS Network is a national common roundtable for pastoral care and counseling, founded in 1979-1980. Religious endorsers, credentialing bodies for chaplaincy (such as APC, ACPE, CPSP and others), those who employ chaplains, and theological schools are included as member organization categories. In addition to this annual forum, COMISS oversees Pastoral/Spiritual Care Week, celebrated in caregiving institutions in October each year, and the COMISS Commission for Accrediting Pastoral Care Services (CCAPS) that accredits institutions for the delivery of pastoral services. Fr. Steven served as Chair-Elect for two years, responsible for planning this annual forum, followed by serving the past two years

as Chair of the Leadership Team.

Dr. Robert Charles Powell is a trained Medical Historian and Psychiatrist, who has been actively following the clinical training movement since it’s 50th anniversary in 1975, regularly presenting on the works of the movement’s founders: Anton Boisen, Helen Flander Dunbar, and others. Dr. Powell offered the keynote address: “Crisis as a Means of Meaningful Growth.” In the past, he also served as a CCAPS Commissioner.

Fr. Steven offered a presentation at this forum entitled: “Toward a White Paper on Clinical Training and Formation.” This included introductory comments by Dr. Robert Cooke, a Pastoral Psychotherapist who has assisted in forming an open discussion group for this discipline through the COMISS Network roundtable. Fr. Steven has met with this group monthly for more than the past year, in his role as chair, seeking to dialogue about the future of this discipline.

Dr. Robert G. Anderson, who served as Father Steven’s CPE Residency Supervisor at Bridgeport Hospital in Bridgeport, CT, during 1992-93, was among the attendees. It was during this residency that Dr. Anderson introduced Fr. Steven to the existence of the COMISS Network, planting the seeds that one day the Orthodox

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PRAYER LIST– Updated

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / George Kolesar / Heidi Kuzemchak / Barbara Kolesar / Matushka Helen Psinka / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Melanie Yannitto / Marion Zwinski

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: AB Alexander from Dallas / AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyán / Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family & parish

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Paul Demkosky (Fr.) / Trudy Ellmore / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / James Malchisky (Fr.) / Mea Mahan / Mary Mahan / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Teri Petroff (Fr.) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Diane Ruff / Julia Shirilla / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Brian (Shirilla) / Chrissy (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Ellen (Clark) / Ellen (Kessler) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Karen (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Katie (Garrity) / Paul (Kolesar) / Paula (Voytilla) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Richard (Tusinac) / Steven (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 & Metropolitan Arseny imprisoned / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - DECEMBER	2023	2024
1st Week		
New Years Day	19	Father on Vacation
Vespers	None	6
Theophany Supper	None	18
Theophany Vigil	9	29
Liturgy	Not recorded	43 / 24
Theophany Liturgy	9	Weather– Can- celed
2nd Week		
Vespers	8	6
Liturgy	55 / 38	55 / 33
3rd Week		
Vespers	6	6
Liturgy	33 / 22	42 / 20
4th Week		
Vespers	None-Weather	
Liturgy	50	
5th week		
Vespers	10	
Liturgy	50 / 39	

JANUARY Celebrations

Birthday

- 1- Beth Hull
- 2 Stella Jane Zelinsky
- 3 Terri Konik
- 6 Karen Simko / Faith Simko
- 7 Lueleta Dardovski / Luke Clark / Charles Wilfong
- 10 Elizabeth Willison
- 11 Ronald Allen Fredericks
- 12 Patricia Pethtel
- 14- Nobby Kennedy
- 15 James Bufalini / Ron Luthern
- 19 Balaci Kristian / Nicola Nicoloff
- 21 Andrea Stokley
- 22 Stephen Elash / Lorraine Livosky
- 23 Susan Beskid
- 25 Frank Batura
- 26 Mildred Wilfong
- 30 Nadine Todessa
- 31 Julie Dardovski

Anniversary

- 01-02-05 Diaconate Ordination of AP Andrew Bartek
- 16-2023 His Grace Nikodhim Bishop of Boston & Albanian Diocese
- 24-2015 AB Daniel of Chicago & the Diocese of the Mid-west
- 25-2020 His Grace Bishop Alexis Bishop of Sitka & Alaska
- 26- Fr. James Gleason Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood

Names Day

- 2 Retired Bishop Seraphim of Sendai / Julia Simko

FEBRUARY Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

NOTE: If anything is missing from the Sponsorships please contact Fr. Andrew ASAP

Bulletin: OPEN

Wine: OPEN

Incense: OPEN

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: OPEN

Altar Candles: OPEN

Tetrapod Candles: OPEN

St. Herman Candles: OPEN

St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: OPEN

Protection Icon Candles: OPEN

St. John the Baptist Candles: OPEN

Flowers: In memory of sub-deacon John Zelina– OPEN

\$50 per month

*Wine

*Bulletin

*Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light

*Altar Candles

*Tetrapod Candles

\$30 per month

*St. Herman candles

*St. Panteleimon Icon candles

*Protection Icon candles

*St. John the Baptist candles

\$25 per month

Incense

Flowers - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time– *Updated*

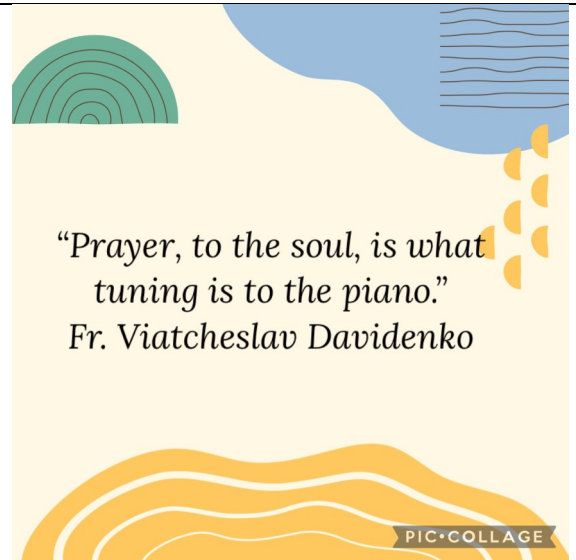
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at this roundtable. This was realized in 2005-06, thanks in large part to the dedicated efforts of then-Father David Brum, who served as Secretary at the Orthodox Church in America's Chancery and is now His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest.

Fr. Steven also expressed heartfelt congratulations to his former supervisor-in-training, Dr. Denise Parker Lawrence, who played an important role in organizing this first in-person COMISS Network forum since the pandemic. Now serving as Chair-Elect of the Leadership Team, Dr. Lawrence will assume the role of Chair at the conclusion of this forum. Please watch for presentation materials on the COMISS Network website, in the coming days!

Archpriest Steven Voytovich serves as the founding Director of the Office of Institutional Chaplains for the Orthodox Church in America, providing endorsements for Orthodox Church in America chaplains serving in non-military settings. He has previously served as Chair of the nation-wide Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREB), and has just completed four years, in leadership roles of the COMISS Network Leadership Team.

He has both attended and served as a leadership team member and plenary presenter of the International Congress for Pastoral Care and Counseling (ICPPC). This congress meets every four years at various locations around the globe. Fr. Steven was often the only Orthodox representative at these congresses held in Ghana Africa (1999), India, East Germany/Poland, and New Zealand (2011). All of this participation has grown out of his efforts to realize the dream of the Orthodox Church's participation in these greater roundtables.



2024 - COUNCIL MEMBERS

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JANUARY Reposed List

- Margaret Graban (1978) ©
Judith Banas (2019)
1- Katherine Kristian (1994) ©
1- Anna Harvischak (2013) ©
2- Nicholas Libertin (2021) ©
2- Nicholas Bohac (1921) ©
2- Elia Dudin (1949) ©
3- Mitred Archriest Stavros Rousos
3- Anna Roman (1978) ©
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4- George Bartek (1983)
4- Archpriest Michael Slovesko
4- Peter Fatholitis (1937) ©
5- Ann Marie Petroff (2006) ©
6- Helen Pender (2016)
6- John Timkovich (1951) ©
6- Infant Klimis (still born) (1964)
6- Mother Elizabeth (2024)
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8- Bishop Mark of Boston (2018)
8- Sub-deacon John Zeling (2012) ©
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17- Vera Kawalik (2001) ©
17- Anna Talaban (1949) ©
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20- Joshua Zdinak (2016)
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20- Irene Horodnic (2024)
21- George Evans (1984) ©
21- Fr. Michael Shuster (2020)
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22- Andrew Pacak (1973) ©
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22- Lubica Krestich (1926) ©
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23- Helen Midlick (2004) ©
23- Eugene Kennedy (2004) ©
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24- Madeline Puskarcik (2006) ©
25- Steve Sirihla (1977) ©
25- Helen Graban (1992) ©
25- George Magriplis (1931) ©
25- Veronica Shirilla (1995) ©
26- Nate DiPero (1985) ©
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31- Olga Venslavsky (2003) ©

Deadline Announced for Call for Reflections: February 18, 2025

All parishes, missions, monasteries, and institutions of the Orthodox Church in America are reminded that the deadline to submit reflections for the 21st All-American Council is Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

This Call to Reflection was issued by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon earlier this year and is an opportunity for the faithful to reflect on the Church's efforts in mission, education, finance, and philanthropy in preparation for the upcoming All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ.

His Beatitude recently gave an interview explaining his vision for the Call to Reflection. You can see it on the National OCA website: oca.org

Submissions can be sent via email to grandinvitation@oca.org. Communities are encouraged to utilize the provided study guide to structure their reflections and ensure every voice is included.

JANUARY FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$15,969.21
Income	\$5,749.70
TOTAL	-\$10,219.51
Weekly Tithes	\$5,311.70
Weekly Candles	\$218
Perpetual Memorial Fund	\$150.00
Religious Item	\$20.00
Unneeded Gifts	\$20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$30.00
Bulletin	\$50.00
Monthly Charity Collection: OCMC (Support a Mission Priest)	\$349.00

New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia Commemorated on January 26

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only "crime" was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Announces Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 26, 2025

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has designated Sunday, January 26, 2025, as Sanctity of Life Sunday to be observed in the parishes of the Orthodox Church in America. His Beatitude has also released the following statement below. Resources for liturgical prayers and petitions can be accessed on the Sanctity of Life Resource Page.

Sanctity of Life Sunday falls two days after the annual March for Life, scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2025. This date marks the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion in the United States. Other participants in this year's march will be members of the Holy Synod of Bishops, representatives from the stavropegial seminaries, and Orthodox Christians from across the country. On Thursday, January 23, 2025, Vespers will be held at St. Mark Church, 7124 River Rd, Bethesda, MD at 6:00 PM.

The Orthodox gathering at the March for Life will begin at 11:30 AM on the National Mall, on Constitution Ave between 16th and 14th St NW. The March for Life Rally will take place from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, during which time His Beatitude will lead the Orthodox faithful in a Service of Supplication for an End to Abortion at approximately 12:30 PM.

At 1:00 PM, the March for Life will commence. The Orthodox group will sing hymns while processing and plans to exit the march before its conclusion. However, participants are welcome to continue to the Supreme Court, where the march is scheduled to conclude by 4:00 PM.

You are invited to join His Beatitude and other Orthodox faithful from across the nation in commemorating the victims of abortion and standing in witness to the sanctity of life.

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

As we mark our annual Sanctity of Life Sunday, I would like to speak to you about martyrdom. Specifically, by understanding martyrdom, which we might consider the most pure, fundamental realization of the Christian vocation, we understand just why we hold life sacred.

At first, this may appear paradoxical. Martyrdom, after all, is willingly surrendering one's life for the sake of the Christian faith. Martyrdom teaches us that life in this world is not to be compared with the glorious and everlasting life that awaits us in the world to come. As the Lord says, "Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mk. 8:35).

Christ promises us in his Beatitudes **Finish's Pg 9**

100th Anniversary of Repose of St. Tikhon of Moscow to be Commemorated in Joint Celebration

The Diocese of the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), along with the Mid-American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (ROCOR), is pleased to announce the upcoming joint celebration honoring the 100th anniversary of the repose of St. Tikhon of Moscow, Enlightener of North America.

The two dioceses will come together on Saturday, February 22 at 9:30a to celebrate the Hierarchical Liturgy. The centennial celebration will take place at the historic Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, the first Orthodox church in Chicago. The Cathedral shares an intimate and personal connection with the saint who selected the current site and design with his priest, Hieromartyr John of Chicago, and consecrated the holy temple with St. John and Hieromartyr Alexander Hotovitsky in 1903.

Hierarchs from the OCA, ROCOR, and other local churches will lead the liturgy, with clergy from both dioceses serving with them. The responses will be sung antiphonally by the Virgin Mary Protection Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Michael Gill, and the Chicago Deanery Choir by Reader Philip Sokolov.

Following the divine services, those gathered are invited for a festive meal and concert that will take place in the Grand Hall of St. George Cathedral (OCA), less than a mile away from where Divine Liturgy will be celebrated.

The two dioceses came together for this centennial observance due to the significant tie the territory has to the saint. On September 14, 1898, Bishop Tikhon was made Bishop of the Aleutians and Alaska, and in 1905, the American Mission was made an Archdiocese, and Saint Tikhon was elevated to the rank of Archbishop. In 1907 the holy hierarch returned to Russia and eventually was elected as the Patriarch of Russia during one of the most turbulent times in the country's history. Patriarch Tikhon fell asleep in the Lord on April 7, 1925. He had suffered greatly during the years of turmoil and persecution that followed the Russian Revolution. He was laid to rest in the monastery's small "winter" cathedral. Subsequently the monastery was closed and repurposed, and the relics of Saint Tikhon were moved for safe keeping. The Donskoy Monastery subsequently was returned to the Church and has been restored. It was on Saturday, February 22, 1992, that Saint Tikhon's relics were discovered, hidden deep beneath the floor of the small cathedral.

Clergy and faithful are invited to participate in this event in the coming weeks as we honor a great laborer and missionary saint of the Midwest.

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (Epistle)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all long-suffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

BORN AGAIN

Taken from the Orthodox Church: 455 Questions & Answers.

Question: Why are we told in Eastern Orthodoxy not to use the phrase "born again" for spiritual renewal, when it is used in the Bible?

Answer: You state the question precisely—and you deserve a precise answer. We are concerned about the correct "use" of the term "born again," as well as its "abuse" here. The Bible's use of "born again" connects it with baptism. It is used just three times in the New Testament, twice in the conversation of Jesus with Nicodemus. There Jesus explains the meaning of "born again." He says "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God." (John 3:5). Thus, when St. Paul describes baptism he speaks of immersion into the water of baptism as "the old man dying" and our rising up out of the baptismal waters as being brought to newness of life and "from death to life." (Romans 6:1-14). The other use is in 1 Peter, in the middle of a passage which refers to Christ's saving work, the "good news which is preached to you." Baptism is how we accept and begin to share in that saving work (1 Peter 1:13-25).

Therefore, you see, being "born again" in the Orthodox understanding is accomplished at our baptism. If we become lax, if our spiritual life is deadened, if we allow our sins to keep the joy and inspiration of God away, if we—as persons already part of God's household—"quench the Spirit" in our lives, then what is needed is repentance. To avoid confusing what is accomplished once through baptism and what we need repeatedly in our lives as a constant feature of our lives, we Orthodox don't confuse the term "born again" for "repentance." "Born again" happens at Baptism; repentance takes place as a constant "turning of our mind to God," repeatedly giving ourselves over to God in our lives. When Protestants use the term "born again" to mean repentance, they in effect make baptism of no significance. This is an abuse of the Biblical phrase. (pages 45-46)

Registration Opens for Delegates and Observers for the 21st All-American Council

The Orthodox Church in America has announced the opening of registration for the 21st All-American Council (AAC), which will take place from July 14-18, 2025, at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix, AZ. All clergy and faithful are invited to participate with this year's theme being "Gathered Together By Christ."

The All-American Council is the highest legislative and administrative gathering of the Orthodox Church in America. It is a time for our Church to come together to focus on worship and engaging in the conciliar decision-making process. It is also our opportunity for spiritual renewal and strengthening relationships across North America by participating in the divine services, plenary sessions, and other events.

Delegate and Observer Registration

Registration for delegates and observers is now open and can be accessed through the official AAC website: oca.org/aac. The registration deadline is Friday, July 4th, 2025. Future delegates are, nonetheless, encouraged to register sooner and secure their hotel reservations.

Hotel accommodations must be reserved separately at the time of registration. The special Council Link is available here and on the AAC webpage. A special rate of \$159.00 per night (including resort fees) is being offered for delegates. The hotel reservation deadline is also Friday, July 4th, 2025. Each room includes a separate living area and four complementary admissions to the waterpark. More information can be found on the hotel website here.

Delegates are reminded to review the procedures for selection in accordance with Article III, Sections 2 and 7 of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America (Link). It is the responsibility of each diocese to collect and submit AAC assessments following their established procedures. These assessments cover AAC-related expenses for parish clergy and lay delegates, excluding travel, hotel, and meal costs. Observers may register with their parish rector's approval, and they are responsible for their own expenses.

Observers have the option to attend for the entire week or selected days. Costs for observers, including optional attendance at the Grand Banquet, will be detailed during the registration process. Retired clergy and clergy widows are eligible for waived fees as at the previous Council.

Travel arrangements may be made through FOS Tours & Travel, Inc. (Lucy Morrone, 516-937-7757).

Registration Process

All registrants must provide a valid email address for communication purposes. Once registration is complete,

it will be reviewed by the AAC team, and the names of delegates will be submitted to diocesan hierarchs for approval. Final confirmation emails with additional check-in instructions will be sent upon approval.

Observers must also receive approval from their parish priest and diocesan hierarch. Once approved, a confirmation email with detailed check-in instructions will be provided.

Registrants are encouraged to save their assigned registration numbers in order to log on to edit any information if needed.

About the Youth Program

This engaging week-long program, designed for students entering grades K-12 in fall 2025, offers an inspiring opportunity to deepen their faith, connect with other Orthodox Christian youth from North America, enjoy the exciting water park at the resort, visit one of the largest aquariums in North America, and participate in the indoor Orthodox Big Game Day!

"Gathering for All-American Councils has been life-changing for our family," said Matushka Ashley, who is overseeing the program with her husband, Fr. Jason Foster. "Our children made memories they cherish and friendships that will last a lifetime," added Matushka Ashley. Fr. Jason commented, "The AAC is an opportunity for our children and youth to connect to our greater Church family and learn more about who we are as the Orthodox Church in America."

In keeping with the All-American Council's overarching theme of "Gathered Together by Christ", educational events and interactive sessions will be explored daily. Moreover, the All-American gathering will be uniquely special this summer for our children and youth as they will have the opportunity to witness the ongoing canonization of Matushka Olga and the 100th anniversary of the repose of St. Tikhon.

Families are encouraged to register early.

Meals: Lunch and snacks will be provided each day. Participants are responsible for breakfast and dinner arrangements.

Parent or Guardian Approval: All youth participants must have permission from their parent or guardian to attend. A signed consent form will be required as part of the registration process.

Youth Registration

Youth registration can be completed online here or via the official AAC website: oca.org/aac. Detailed instructions and additional program information are provided on the site. The registration deadline is Friday, July 4, 2025.

Payment: Pay the registration fee here. Please add "Youth AAC" in the comment section of the payment page. ***Finish's Next Page***

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<https://www.stjohnthebaptist-campbell.org/>

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AAC Con't from previous pg

Volunteer Opportunities

Adults who wish to support the Youth Program are encouraged to volunteer. Interested individuals can sign up through the AAC website. All volunteers are subject to a criminal background check and successful completion of Child Safety Training.

Youth Staff and Volunteer Registration can be completed online here or by visiting the official AAC website: oca.org/aac.

Chaperone Information

Each parish is encouraged to send chaperones to accompany youth participants. Chaperones will help facilitate the program and ensure the safety and engagement of all participants. More details about chaperone responsibilities and requirements are available during the registration process.

Getting to Phoenix

Transportation to and from Phoenix, including hotel fees and meals outside of the Youth Program, are the responsibility of participants. Travel arrangements can be organized for individuals, families, or youth groups from parishes or deaneries.

For questions about the youth program please contact the Youth Program team at aacyouth@oca.org.

Hotel Information

This will be the first time that the All American Council will take place at a resort type location since 2002. The Arizona Grand Resort includes accents of the Mediterranean and the Southwest in its design and style. The luxurious holiday destination offers elegant suites, wonderful amenities and a host of recreational activities. The hotel also offers six pools and a 7 acre waterpark. On-site dining options include the Rustler's Rooste steakhouse, Aunt Chilada's for a spicy Mexican fare or the Hawaiian-themed Lobby Bar for light bites and cocktails. There is also onsite, the Arizona Grand Golf Course which compliments the grandeur of the spectacular Sonoran desert with stunning conditions.

Vendor Registration Coming Soon

Vendor opportunities will be announced shortly. Updates will be posted on oca.org/aac and oca.org.

For specific questions about exhibitor and Vendor Information: exhibits.aac@oca.org

For more details and news, please visit oca.org/aac.

JANUARY CHARITY
OCMC— Support a mission Priest

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that “blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven” (Matt. 5:11–12). When we are rejected by the world because we accept the Gospel—when we reject the world in order to take up our Cross—then we display the Christian faith in all its truth and power and glory. Martyrdom, etymologically and in fact, always means “bearing witness,” and the greatest and most fundamental way to bear witness to the Gospel is to die for the sake of the Gospel.

However, martyrdom, even when it points us towards the next life, also testifies to the immeasurable sacredness of our mortal life in this world. Here, in this life, it is possible for us to bear witness; here, in this life, we have the possibility of accepting Christ's gift of salvation. This is true for the literal martyrs, but it is also possible for every Christian through the bloodless martyrdom of asceticism. Whenever we die to our fleshly desires for the sake of the Gospel, we suffer a little martyrdom. Whenever we forgo power or wealth or gratification for the sake of Christ's commandments, we are bearing witness, in a small way, to the truth of the Christian faith.

In other words, martyrdom proper, as well as the ascetic martyrdom to which we are all called, are a way of “redeeming the time” (Eph. 5:16). Through Christ's Incarnation and Passion, the fallen world and passing present age have become an arena of spiritual struggle and the place where salvation is accomplished.

Seen from this perspective, life in this world is not something cheap and utilitarian, but incredibly dear. The Lord gives us this life that we might offer it back to him, fulfilling our primordial role as priest and mediator of creation: man is called to commend himself and his fellow-men and all his life to Christ our God.

All life comes from God; all life belongs to God; and through the saving work of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, biological life in this world is now open to the possibility of true and everlasting life in the world to come.

Thus, on this Sanctity of Life Sunday, we bear witness to the truth that all human life, from conception to natural death, is sacred. We pray that the scales will fall from the eyes of our countrymen who do not recognize this basic truth, and we beseech the Lord that all violations of this holy principle—abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and the rest—would come to a swift end in our age and our land. Finally, we pray that we might find the strength to live in accordance with this teaching, showing forth the sanctity of life by devoting our own life to the pursuit of sanctity, thus bearing witness in our flesh to the truth of the holy Orthodox Christian faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

**Sisterhood is Selling on Superbowl Sunday
Sausage (w/Peppers & Onions) Sandwiches*
with a side of Macaroni Salad**

\$10.00

Please give your order to JoAnn or Nancy by February 5th.
Sandwiches will be ready after Liturgy

Name: _____

Total number of sandwiches _____

Number Plain without Peppers & Onions _____

**Gluten Free Buns are available, please note GF on your*



**THE CIVIC CLUB OF
ST. MICHAEL BYZANTINE CATHOLIC
CHURCH IN CAMPELL**

On Saturday, February 1st, 2025 St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church Club, 405 Robinson Road, Campbell, will sponsor a Night at the races.

Admission is \$20 per person and includes food: pulled pork sliders, Chicken Parm., Halusky, hot dogs, Kielbasa bites, and dessert, among others
Beverages: pop, beer, and BYO.

The cost of a race ticket is \$2 per ticket; individuals can purchase numerous tickets.

There will also be a basket raffle and 50/50! Doors open at 6:00 and the races start at 7:00

For more information and to view the event flyer, visit our website at <http://stmichaelbyzcampbell.org>.

To purchase tickets in advance, please call: Silvia Dubos at 412-452-8707.

**THANK YOU RECEIVED FROM
IOCC**

Dear Father Andrew,

Thank you for your recent gift to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Your donation of \$1,265 for US Emergency response for the Hurricane Relief will reach around the world with Christ's love, serving people in great need. IOCC's work is more than vital than ever, and your donation will help IOCC respond effectively in times of need. You make possible the humanitarian and development programs that, every day, help people build resilience amid crisis and improve their lives. Your generosity will make a lasting impact.

Thank you for offering hope to people facing hardship. We're incredibly grateful for your support as IOCC strives to answer Christ's call in Matthew 25. This would not be possible without you.

Yours in Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou, Executive Director & CEO

**FEBRUARY CHARITY
California Fire Relief**

We will be taking a collection for the California wildfires.

Nancy will send Margaret the check. Margaret will deliver it directly to St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Los Angeles, CA.

Please be generous in this disastrous situation.

Matthew 15:21-28 (Gospel)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.