



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405



JUNE Bulletin Sponsor

In memory of my father Harry Sveda- Given by Barbara Kolesar

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, June 1

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Liturgy / Social by the Kennedy Family

Wednesday, June 4

6:30 PM: City Council Meeting

Saturday, June 7

6:00 PM: Great Vespers w/ Litia for Pentecost

Sunday, June 8

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Kneeling Prayers /
Social by 'O' Club

SOCIALS FOR JUNE

June 1 – Kennedy Family

June 8 – O Club

June 15 – Father's Day (by women of the Church)

June 22 – Council

June 29 – Sisterhood Strawberry Festival

MAY FINANCIALS

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Expenses | \$19,345.97 |
| Income | \$ 9,183.70 |
| TOTAL | -\$10,162.27 |

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Weekly Tithes | \$8,235.70 |
| Weekly Candles | \$739.00 |
| Altar Candles | \$100.00 |
| Pascha Flowers | \$60.00 |
| Religious Items | \$24.00 |
| Decorated Candle | \$25.00 |

Monthly Charity: St. Tikhon's Seminary \$567.00

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America Seeks Advertising for the 21st All-American Program Booklet

The 21st All American Council set to take place this July 15-18 in Phoenix, AZ, is fast approaching, and the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is once again taking a leading role in compiling the council's program booklet. The booklet will cover the programming both for the All-American Council (AAC) and FOCA's 98th annual convention, which will run concurrently with the AAC.

As in previous years, 50% of the proceeds from the booklet will go to support the AAC's youth program. The program booklet will be distributed to all attendees of both meetings. It will reach every participating parish in the Orthodox Church in America and every chapter of FOCA. As such, it may present both a valuable advertising outlet and a wonderful opportunity to support the Church's youth.

For those interested in advertising in the booklet: please use the linked form. Payment options include check, money order, and PayPal. Additional details may be found on the form provided on the National OCA Website

OCA Diocese of the West announces sole candidate to replace Archbishop Benjamin, set to retire in July

The Diocesan Council and Nominating Committee of the Orthodox Church in America's Diocese of the West announced earlier this month one candidate to replace His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin, who is retiring this summer.

Abp. Benjamin, 70, who has served as a hierarch since 2004, announced in 2021 that he is suffering from Parkinson's. In December of last year, the OCA Holy Synod accepted His Eminence's retirement, which will take effect on July 15. According to the announcement published on May 1, he will live at the diocese's Home of Mercy charity, located next to the St. Seraphim Cathedral in Santa Rosa, CA.

In regards to choosing a successor, a Nominating Assembly will be held on July 16, during the upcoming OCA All-American Council, **Con't Pg 5**

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.

Mrs. Mary Fredericks
648 Dumont Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

Matushka Helen Psinka
c/o Concordia Villa St. Joseph
1030 W State Street / Room 1B49
Baden, Pa, 15005

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

Joan Cross
97 Butler Street / Apt 1-rear
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Ann Cvercko
2769 Donna Dr.
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

Mrs. Audrey Chengelis
c/o Assumption Village
9802 Market Street / Room 132
North Lima, OH 44452

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

Mrs. Pauline Fesz
488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

George Horodnic, Sr.
c/o The Inn at Walker Mill
8060 South Ave, Rm 216
Boardman, OH 44512

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

Carol Ruff
2207 Birch Trail Blvd
Youngstown, OH 44515-4910

Sue Kennedy
593 Hyatt Ave
Campbell, OH 44405-1479

Helen Colaluca
c/o Victoria House
5295 Ashley Circle / Room 115
Austintown, OH 44515

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.

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.

JUNE Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

- Bulletin:** In memory of my father Harry Sveda- Given by Barbara Kolesar
- Wine:** In memory of my brother Stephan Elash and in memory of Steve & Eileen Elash and Tim & Eileen Nolder and all members of the Elash and Graban families- Given by Cindy Ferrick
- Incense:** for the health of all the members of the Elash & Graban Families- Given by Cindy Ferrick
- Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:** In memory of my mother Helen Korechko on her occasion of her 98th b-day- Given Joann Sirilla / In memory of Marion Zwinski- Given by family
- Altar Candles:** In honor of our grandson Alex & daughter Sarah on the occasion of their b-days- Given by Reader Nicholas & Monica Vansuch
- Tetrapod Candles: OPEN**
- St. Herman Candles:** Commemorating all who participate in the maintenance of the church, the teachers, singers and those who participate in social events. Praying for everyone to love one another.
- St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: OPEN**
- Protection Icon Candles: OPEN**
- St. John the Baptist Candles: OPEN**
- Flowers: OPEN**

| <u>\$50 per month</u> | <u>\$30 per month</u> | <u>\$25 per month</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| *Wine | *St. Herman candles | Incense |
| *Bulletin | *St. Panteleimon Icon candles | |
| *Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light | *Protection Icon candles | <u>Flowers</u> - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time- <i>Updated</i> |
| *Altar Candles | *St. John the Baptist candles | |
| *Tetrapod Candles | | |

60th Anniversary of Repose: Metropolitan Leonty, an Archpastor of the Midwest

May 14, marked the 60th 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 will be held during the annual clergy convocation and later this evening 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 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 **Con't Next Pg**

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padrebartek@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Mat. Pauline Gemmel / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Reader Nicola Nicoloff / Matushka Helen Psinka / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Melanie Yannitto

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyan / Fr. Deacon James Hryb / For Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family and his faithful at the parish of St Makarios in the Metropolis of Nairobi, Kenya / Fr. Michael Dayang & his family & his parishioners at 3 Hierarchs parish in Cameroon / Fr. Raphael Stephano & his family and parishioners of his 2 mission communities in the Diocese of Western Tanzania

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac)

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.

Metropolitan Leonty Con't from Previous Pg

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 the 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.

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

May the memory of Metropolitan Leonty be eternal!

| ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - MAY | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1st Week | | |
| Vespers | 29 (Pascha Matins) | 8 (reg. Vespers) |
| Liturgy | 175 / 84 (Pascha) | 51 / 37 (reg. Liturgy) |
| 2nd Week | | |
| Vespers | 9 | 8 |
| Liturgy (Mother's) | 70 / 50 | 64 / 44 |
| 3rd Week | | |
| Vespers | 9 | No Vespers |
| Liturgy | 55 / 41 | 44 / 35 |
| 4th Week | | |
| Vespers | 10 | No Vespers |
| Liturgy | 69 / 50 | 52 / 37 |
| Ascension Vespers | 17 | 8 |
| Ascension Liturgy | 18 | 13 |

JUNE Reposed List

- Mary Churinsko ©
- 1- Anna Voytilla Timpko (2011) ©
 - 1- Michael Nosik, Sr. (2015) ©
 - 1- Lambos Trangos (1930) ©
 - 1- Eli Roman (1951) ©
 - 1- Infant La Bruno (1 day old) (1962) ©
 - 3- Irene Leso (2002)
 - 3- George Gozur (1972) ©
 - 3- Vasil Babinec (1920) ©
 - 3- Mary Korchniak (1934) ©
 - 4- Marilyn Kidd (2007) ©
 - 4- Steve Bosak (1933) ©
 - 5- Mildred Paproski (2018)
 - 5- Kathryn Howard (2021)
 - 5- Margaret Urchak (2014) ©
 - 6- Fr. Stephen Shutack (2008)
 - 6- George Konik (2006) ©
 - 7- Martha LaVallee (2005)
 - 7- Eleothenios Pagonis (1923) ©
 - 8- John Toth (2000) ©
 - 9- John Sutko (2020)
 - 9- Elizabeth Gozur (1979) ©
 - 9- Andrew Sarisky (1938) ©
 - 9- Evtimios Tsangaris (1953) ©
 - 10- Joseph Korchinack (1925) ©
 - 10- Mary Furin (1943) ©
 - 11- Catherine O'Shanie (1982) ©
 - 11- Nicholas Nedostup (1933) ©
 - 12- Ann Sanders Rusnak (2017) ©
 - 12- Margaret Timkovich (2002) ©
 - 12- John Dubosh (1947) ©
 - 12- John Holibonic Jr (1964) ©
 - 13- Harry Sveda (1998) ©
 - 13- Edward Graban (2016) ©
 - 14- Fr. Justin Foster (2016)
 - 14- Ronald Thomas Moore- (2024) ©
 - 15- Vera Berzowsky (1984) ©
 - 15- Mary Sykola (2005) ©
 - 15- George Kushma (1962) ©
 - 15- Pearl Petrosky (2005) ©
 - 16- Fr. Michael Prevas (2018)
 - 16- Mary Petrusovich (1920) ©
 - 16- Dora Kravec (1924) ©
 - 16- Baby Mastoridis (1939) ©
 - 16- John Zambetis (1958) ©
 - 17- James Hryb (2017) ©
 - 18- Eleanor Dussling (2020)
 - 18- Vasil Holowatyk (1969) ©
 - 18- Vasili Haudziuk (1942) ©
 - 18- Nicholas Caubouris (1944) ©
 - 18- Steve Dratar (1956) ©
 - 20- Fr. John Yurcisin (2003)
 - 21- Ronald Basala (2016)
 - 22- Nicholas Sveda (1954) ©
 - 22- Mike Psaromatis (1959) ©
 - 23- Nick Pavlos (1960) ©
 - 24- Margaret Stahara (2006) ©
 - 24- Green Still born (1928) ©
 - 24- Evangeline Maravelas (1929) ©
 - 24- Olga Berdie (1963) ©
 - 25- Peter Goban (1975) ©
 - 25- Frank Woychik (1979) ©
 - 25- Stephan Elash, Sr (2022) ©
 - 25- Vasil Kovach (1922) ©
 - 26- John Konik (1969) ©
 - 27- Anna Lebo (1975) ©
 - 27- Anna Simko (1993) ©
 - 27- Mary Cole Simko (2011) ©
 - 27- Sevasti Arfaras (1961) ©
 - 27- Anna Serilio (1993) ©
 - 28- Fr. Charles Kovich (2005)
 - 28- Andrew Leso (2000)
 - 28- Matthew Lajcharoff (1936) ©
 - 28- Peter Pantos (1936) ©
 - 29- John Travers (2001) ©
 - 29- Eugene Simko (2007) ©
 - 29- Susanna Stepancevich (1921) ©
 - 29- Zachary Maximor (1947) ©
 - 29- Catherine Vansuch (1965) ©
 - 29- Mary Helen Feltovich (1987) ©
 - 30- Zoopegy Lambrianos (1960) ©
 - 30- Nomikos Grikilis (1960) ©

Diocese of West con't from pg 1

to be followed by a Diocesan Assembly on July 18. The consecration or installation of the next bishop will take place on Saturday, August 16, in San Francisco.

At the same time, it seems the Nominating Assembly will be essentially a formality, as only one viable candidate has been put forth for nomination—Fr. Vasily (Permiakov), known as Fr. Vitaly before his recent monastic tonsure.

Fr. Vasily, who has been on the faculty at both ROCOR's Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, NY, and the OCA's St. Vladimir's Seminary in Crestwood, NY, enjoys the full support of both Abp. Benjamin and the OCA primate, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon of Washington and All America and Canada.

The statement explains:

While it may seem counterintuitive to only have one vetted candidate available for our consideration, the Diocesan Council, meeting at its regular meeting on April 30 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco, has decided to write this letter to the entire Diocese of the West to express our considered thoughts, as your representatives, on this momentous duty to nominate a bishop. Having witnessed his humility, pastoral sensitivity, theological depth, and love for Christ **Con't Pg 8**

JUNE CELEBRATIONS
Birthday

- 1 Anthony Jesko, Sr.
- 2 Sue Kennedy
- 5 Peter Adzima / Michael Simko / Ryan Konik / Alex Vansuch
- 11 Elaine Johnston
- 13 Fr. Nick Mihaly / Sarah Wilson
- 15 Emily Kusinski / Aijire Dardovski / Alex Vansuch
- 19 Emily Sarisky / Victoria Elash
- 22 Donna Chiarelli
- 24 John Koval III
- 25 Ron Zenko
- 26 John Rusnak
- 28 Vincent Cavaliere

Anniversary

- 10 Joey & Mary Ruth Mico
- 14 Sub-deacon Donald & Susan Tamulonis
- 21 V.R. Archpriest Dave Lis priestly ordination 27-2009 AB Melchisedek of Pittsburgh & Western, PA
- 29-2021 His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Forth Worth

Names Day

- 3 Archpriest Andrew Bartek
- 4 Martha Centofanti
- 24 Gianna Hryb / Joann Biros
- 27 Joan Cross / Heidi Kuzemchak / Joann Sirilla
- 29 Pauline Fesz / Mat. Pauline Gemmel

Presentation on St. Tikhon of Moscow at the 21st All-American Council

Marking the centennial of the repose of the holy hieroconfessor Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and enlightener of North America, the upcoming 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ, will feature a presentation by Dr. Scott Kenworthy entitled “St. Tikhon of Moscow as a Model of Conciliar Church Leadership.” The presentation, which will feature a lecture by Dr. Kenworthy followed by a discussion with a panel of respondents, is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, July 16, from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

A world-recognized expert on Orthodox Christian history, Dr. Kenworthy is a Professor of Comparative Religion at the Miami University of Ohio. A decorated and eminent scholar, he is an Associate of Miami’s Havinghurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies and the recipient of numerous fellowships, awards, and honors. His most recent book, a groundbreaking and comprehensive critical biography of St. Tikhon, is forthcoming from Oxford University Press this November. Those interested may learn more about on the National OCA website.

2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Tusinac, President

(Sub-committee Chairman for all social events)
Phone- 724-456-7366

Cindy Ferrick, Treasurer

(Sub-committee Chairman of the Sunshine Club)
Phone 330-531-1119

Joann Sirilla, Financial Secretary

(Sub-committee Chairman on all fundraisers)
Phone 330-881-6775

Sub-deacon Dr. Donald Tamulouis, V. President

(Sub-committee Chairman on all Maintenance issues).
He will be working with Michael Simko
Phone 330-774-8860

Sherrie Fredericks, Secretary

(Sub-committee Chairman on sending articles & pictures of events to the Diocese)
Phone: 330-881-5087

Natalia Simko, Council Member

(Sub-committee Chairman on all Cemetery issues)
Phone- 330-980-3033

David Konik, Council Member

(Sub-committee Chairman on Welcoming Cmte)
Phone: 330-717-6714

David Dionisio, Council Member

(Sub-committee Chairman on all organizational issues in the church (including safety issues)
Phone: 425-241-7825

NEW COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES

You will note, each Council member is in charge of keeping order in their respective areas. If there are any issues in a particular area, please contact the responsible Council member.

They are responsible to find a solution to the reported issue. That may include seeking your or another person’s help. This will allow more organized response and avoid one person being burdened with everything.

Sunshine Club – This new club is responsible for sending out birthday, anniversary and get well cards.

MAY 2025 Reader Schedule

- June 1 – Deacon James
- June 8 – Deacon David
- June 15 – Natalie Simko
- June 22 – Sub-deacon Donald Tamulonis
- June 29 – Reader Matthew Vansuch

Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Commemorated on June 1

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 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.

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)]. 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 Nicene 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.

MONTHLY CHARITY FOR 2025

January: OCMC: \$900 + \$300 from the church—
Total \$1,200

February: CA Fire Relief: \$524 + \$300 from the Church – **Total \$824**

March – Cleveland Deanery- \$632 + \$300 from Church= **Total \$ 932**

April – Workers of St. Basil- \$760.00 + 300 from Church= **\$1,060**

May – St. Tikhon’s Seminary- \$567 + 300 from Church = **Total \$867.00**

JUNE CHARITY
Rescue Mission

Diocese of the west con't pg 5

and His Holy Church, the Diocesan Council, in unity and with sincere conviction, wholeheartedly endorses the nomination of Archimandrite Vasily.

Accordingly, we warmly and respectfully encourage the clergy and lay delegates of the Diocese to prayerfully consider, and to submit the name of Archimandrite Vasily for nomination at the Special Assembly.

Though change can be difficult, "we do believe that Fr. Vasily's humble and unassuming nature is of utmost importance for a man who must 'rightly divide the word of God's truth,'" the statement continues. "Having a true theologian, one steeped in the knowledge and love of the Divine Services, will benefit this Diocese which has forged a reputation for liturgical excellence and vitality."

Read Fr. Vasily's autobiography on the site of the Diocese of the West.

A timeline from his biography:

Early Life and Education

Born in Riga, Latvia (then part of USSR) in a family of Russian and Ukrainian origin

Late 1980s: Became interested in religion during Soviet reforms and Latvia's independence movement

September 20, 1991: Baptized at age 14 in the Dormition Cathedral in Riga

Mid-1990s: Studied at Latvian Academy of Culture, focusing on Russian culture, religion, and philosophy

October 14, 1996: First conscious attendance at Orthodox Liturgy

2000-2001: Studied in M.A. program in humanities at University of Texas at Dallas

Seminary Education and Academic Career

2001-2004: Studied at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

Fall 2004: Admitted to doctoral program in theology at University of Notre Dame

2012: Completed dissertation on Byzantine rite for church consecration

2011-2020: Taught Comparative Theology and Apologetics at Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, NY

August 2020-Present: Teaches Liturgical Theology, Liturgical Studies, and Practical Liturgics

Ordinations and Monastic Tonsure

Spring 2002: Tonsured a reader in the Orthodox Church in America

March 25, 2021: Ordained to the subdiaconate by Bishop Andrei

September 14, 2021: Ordained to the diaconate by Metropolitan Tikhon

September 14, 2024: Ordained to the holy priesthood by Metropolitan Tikhon

January 17, 2025: Tonsured into small schema by Abbot Sergius of St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA, receiving the name Vasily

Lazarus Saturday 2025: Elevated to the rank of archimandrite by decision of the Holy Synod

Saint Kevin of Glendalough Commemorated on June 3

Saint Kevin (Coemgen) was born in Leinster in the early decades of the sixth century, the age of Saints Columba (June 9), Columbanus of Luxeuil (November 21), Comgall of Bangor (May 10), Finnian of Clonard (December 12), Kieran of Clonmacnoise (September 9), and many other great saints.

This holy ascetic belonged to a noble family which had included several Kings of Leinster. He himself, however, was a model of humility and self-denial. There are several miraculous stories connected with his birth and childhood, but most are unreliable.

The holy youth was baptized by a priest named Cronan and was named Kevin, which means "fair-begotten." There are so many saints named Cronan that it is not clear which one baptized Saint Kevin. When he was seven years old, his parents sent him to be taught by Saint Petroc (June 4), who happened to be visiting Ireland at the time.

As a boy of twelve, Saint Kevin was placed in the charge of three holy Elders: Eogoin of Ardstraw (August 23), Lochan, and Enna. Little is known of these teachers or where their establishment was located. His secular studies were certainly enhanced by spiritual instruction. He learned to read the Holy Scriptures, and to profit from the example of the virtuous men and women of the Old and New Testaments.

Saint Kevin was so handsome that a young girl named Kathleen became inflamed with desire for him, but the holy youth resisted all her allurements. She pestered him so much with her attentions that he fled from her, just as Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:12). Kathleen followed him and found him alone in a field, so she approached him and threw her arms around him. Arming himself with the Sign of the Cross, and filled with the Holy Spirit, Saint Kevin broke away from her and ran into the woods. She soon discovered him hiding in a bed of nettles. Grabbing a bunch of nettles, the saint struck her about the face, hands and feet. Wounded by the nettles, the girl's passion quickly cooled. She fell on her knees in repentance, begged forgiveness from God and from Saint Kevin, and promised to become a nun.

After successfully resisting the temptations ***Con't Next Pg***

St. Kevin con't from previous pg

of the flesh, Saint Kevin continued to devote himself to his studies, and longed to live the monastic life as a hermit. This was a common practice in the Celtic Church, which was influenced by the lives of the Egyptian desert dwellers, and by monks who had come from Gaul. Saint Kevin was anxious to leave the monastery, but his three Elders would not let him go. However, he had acquired a reputation for holiness, and people from the surrounding area came to seek his advice. Desiring to flee from such unwelcome attention, he left the monastery in secret and went into the wilderness.

It is said that an angel led him to Glendalough (the Vale of the Two Lakes) where he lived in the hollow of a tree somewhere by the shores of the Upper Lake. The ascetic remained in this place for several days, living on wild herbs and water. A cow wandered off and came to the tree where the Saint was living, and began to lick his clothing. After some time had passed, the cow showed an unusual increase in its milk, so her owner told his herdsman follow the animal. She led him to Glendalough, and there the herdsman discovered Saint Kevin, weak with hunger, and hiding in the tree.

The herdsman had to remove Saint Kevin on a litter by force, since the holy ascetic did not wish to leave. As he was being carried off, the trees bent down to make way for them. Saint Kevin then bestowed his blessing on the forest.

News of Saint Kevin reached his three Elders, who came to bring him back to their monastery. Recognizing the holiness of his life, they understood that they had nothing more to teach him, so they blessed him to leave the monastery.

A certain Bishop Ligidus ordained Saint Kevin to the priesthood, and sent him and a few other monks to found a new church. He spent a little time converting people at Cluainduach, but later moved back to Glendalough.

Guided by an angel, Saint Kevin crossed the Wicklow Mountains and established a monastery in the lower part of the valley where two rivers flow together. Once the monastery was organized, he appointed one of the monks as abbot, and then he retired to the upper valley a mile away to resume his life of solitude. He built a small dwelling on a narrow place between the mountain and the lake, where there were dense woods and clear rivulets. Some sources say that Saint Kevin lived there for four years, while others say seven years.

During this period of his life, wild animals would come to drink water out of his hands. Once during Lent, Saint Kevin stood praying in his hut with his hand sticking out of the window. Just then a blackbird nested in his hand and laid an egg. So gentle and compassionate was the Saint that he remained in this

position until the eggs hatched and the fledglings were able to fly away.

There is a small cave above the Upper Lake known as Saint Kevin's Bed. One year he retired there for Lent, and an angel came and told him he would have to move because a rock was about to fall on that spot. Saint Kevin told the angel he could not interrupt his Lenten struggles or leave that place. On the eve of Pascha the angel returned to take him away. The venerable one protested that he would like to remain there for the rest of his life. He was persuaded to go, however, by the angel's promise that great benefits would follow for all who would come there in the future, both to live in the monastic city and to be buried there. Just as he was leaving with the angel, the rock came tumbling down and landed on the very spot where he had been standing.

Crossing over the lake, they discussed the problem of finding sufficient space for so many people. The angel said that if Saint Kevin wished, God could transform the four mountains surrounding the valley to level fields, fruitful and easy to work. The holy ascetic replied that he would not want God's creatures to perish on his account. All of the animals of those mountains were tame and humble toward him, and they would be saddened by this proposal.

When they arrived at the chosen spot, Saint Kevin saw that the ground was rocky and unsuitable for burial. The angel fixed that by clearing all the stones away. The site is to the east of the smaller (Lower) lake. Saint Kevin told the local chieftain Dimma and his sons to cut away the thorns and thistles, and to make this a beautiful spot. It is not certain just where in the valley Saint Kevin fell asleep in the Lord. It was not at the hermitage, however, because he sent a party of monks there to pray for him. Local tradition says that Saint Kevin is buried in the church of the Mother of God in that vicinity.

Saint Kevin was succeeded as abbot by his nephew Molibba (Jan. 8), who seems to have been the first bishop there. According to the Annals of Ulster, the holy abbot and confessor Kevin departed to Christ on June 3, 618.

Holy Synod of Bishops Confirms Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino as Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America

During a special session held via teleconference on Wednesday, May 21, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America confirmed His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon's nomination of Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino as Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America.

Father Alessandro's appointment was made in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America. His nomination was endorsed by the Metropolitan Council during a **Con't Next Pg**

New Chancellor con't from previous pg

special session earlier the same day.

He succeeds Archpriest Alexander Rentel, who served as Chancellor from 2019 to 2024, when he was appointed Rector of Three Hierarchs Chapel at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

Father Alessandro brings both pastoral and administrative experience to the role, having served as Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America for several years and as Acting Chancellor since January 1, 2025. Prior to taking on a full-time position at the Chancery, he served as rector of St. Innocent Orthodox Church in Olmsted Falls, OH. Since relocating to Northern Virginia, he has served as rector of All Saints of America Orthodox Church in Alexandria, VA.

In 2024, Father Alessandro completed a Doctor of Ministry degree at St. Vladimir's Seminary, where he also earned his Master of Divinity. His thesis, titled "The Experience of Applied Sobornost: The Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America," reflects his deep engagement with the Church's conciliar life and governance.

Father Alessandro is married to Anna Margheritino, who was born in Moscow, Russia, and works as a graphic designer at St. Vladimir's Seminary. They have two children.

Following the celebration of a molieben at the temporary Chancery office in Springfield, VA, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon spoke about Father Alessandro's new role: "While this may be a formal beginning, Father Alessandro is certainly no stranger to us. He has faithfully served at the Chancery for the past five years and, more recently, has carried the responsibilities of Acting Chancellor with dedication and grace. We now welcome him officially into this office with joy and confidence in his leadership."

"I am deeply grateful that you have accepted this calling, Father Alessandro," His Beatitude continued. "I look forward to continuing our work together in service to Christ and his holy Church in North America. May the Lord bless you, your wife Anna, and your children in this new chapter of your ministry."

"In keeping with the tradition of this office, it is my honor to bestow upon you the Chancellor's Cross," Metropolitan Tikhon said. "This cross, first worn by the late Protopresbyter Joseph Pishtey, symbolizes the continuity and weight of this sacred responsibility. Wear it with dignity, as a sign of the trust placed in you and a reminder that our Lord will provide the strength needed for the task ahead."

In his own remarks, Father Alessandro reflected on the responsibility and significance of his new role: "With humility and gratitude, and a great sense of responsibility, I stand before you as I begin my ministry as Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America. I am deeply

that this role is not a position of prominence, but of service—service to the entire Church, and more immediately and directly, service to Your Beatitude, to the Holy Synod of Bishops, and to the Metropolitan Council. I am honored and grateful to Your Beatitude for the trust placed in me in nominating me for this position of leadership in our Church.

"I also want to express my gratitude to the former Chancellor and my friend, Fr. Alexander Rentel, for his many years of service to our Church but also for his guidance and mentorship in the past few years. I am also grateful to the rest of the Chancery staff for their support and their tireless work.

As I have sought to do in my years as Secretary of the Church, I will continue to approach this ministry with a deep commitment to the vision set forth in our Statute and Tomos, which are themselves products of the conciliar life of our Church. The work of the Chancery must remain aligned with the Statute, not simply out of obligation, but because it expresses the lived ecclesiology of the Orthodox Church in America. Our work must be transparent, accountable, and rooted in a spirit of collaboration.

No one who steps into this office brings with them all the skills, experience, and insight it demands—and I certainly do not. But in humility, and with faith in our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, I commit myself to working faithfully, diligently, and lovingly, always seeking what is in the best interests of the life of the Church, even when this may be uncomfortable and inconvenient. In its own peculiar but essential way, the ministry of church administration exists to enable and support the building up of the House of God—to clear the path, so to speak, for the Gospel to be proclaimed, the sacraments to be celebrated, and the faithful to receive care.

I am firmly convinced that our identity as the Orthodox Church in America is not just a name, but a calling. Our name speaks of both a responsibility and a mission: to be faithful to the Orthodox Christian tradition and to embody that tradition in the soil, the language, and the life of North America. We have been and continue to be uniquely positioned to carry out this mission effectively, despite the challenges we may face. In a time of fragmentation and uncertainty, our name grounds us in a vision of unity, pastoral care, and evangelization for the people of this continent.

The challenges before us are many. The problems we face are complex, and the decisions we must make are sometimes difficult. But each challenge is also an opportunity—an opportunity to grow in faithfulness, to strengthen the Church's witness, and to respond to the needs of our time with courage and hope.

With your prayers, your support, and your counsel, I look forward to walking this path together with you. Thank you."