



The Weekly Forerunner



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

AUGUST Bulletin Sponsor

In memory of Aunt Mary Sveda- Given by Barbara Kolesar

In honor of Michele Basile & Millie Wilfong – Given by Basile family

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, August 10

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social by Barbara Kolesar

Noon to 10:15 PM: City Festival & Fireworks

Wednesday, August 13

6:00 PM: Fire House Meeting

Thursday, August 14

6:00 PM: Great Vespers w/ Litia

Friday, August 15

9:00 AM: Liturgy for the Dormition

Saturday, August 16

5:30 PM: Confessions by Appointment

6:00 PM: Confessions

Saturday, August 17

9:15-9:45 AM: Confessions by appointment

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Council Meeting / Social

Holy Synod Elects Archimandrite Vasily (Permiakov) as Bishop of San Francisco and the West

On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, during the 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ, the Diocese of the West convened a Special Diocesan Assembly under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Locum Tenens of the Diocese, to consider the nomination of a new bishop following the retirement of His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin on July 15.

The Assembly nominated the Very Reverend Archimandrite Vasily (Permiakov) as their candidate for Bishop of San Francisco and the West. That same day, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, meeting in a Special Summer Session under the presidency of Metropolitan Tikhon, canonically elected Archimandrite Vasily as Bishop of San Francisco and the West.

The episcopal ordination and enthronement of Bishop-elect Vasily is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco, CA.

Further details regarding the ordination services will be announced by the Diocese in the coming weeks.

SOCIALS FOR AUGUST

August 10 - Barbara Kolesar

August 17- Sisterhood

August 24- Pancake and Sausage breakfast

August 31 – OPEN for now

AUGUST CHARITY

Orthodox School in Warren



HOLY TRINITY
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY AND PRESCHOOL

AUGUST Reader Schedule

August 10- Natalia Simko

August 17- Sub-Deacon Donald Tamulonis

August 24- Reader Matthew Vansuch

August 31- Reader Nick Vansuch

Recordings of 21st AAC Plenary Sessions Now Available

Audio recordings of the six Plenary Sessions of the 21st All-American Council, held in Phoenix, AZ are now available. All files are in MP3 format and include the full audio of each session. Please go to the National OCA website.

Office: 330-755-4931 / Cell: 570-212-8747

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

padrebartek@gmail.com

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

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

Ann Cvercko
2769 Donna Dr.
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

Second and Third Plenary Sessions of the 21st AAC Conclude

On Tuesday, July 15, 2025, the hierarchs, clergy, and lay representatives of the Orthodox Church In America met for two more Plenary Sessions of the 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ.

The second Plenary Session focused on the reports of the Metropolitan and Chancellor. After congratulating His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon on the occasion of his birthday, the delegation heard his report on the internal and external affairs of the Church. His Beatitude’s report focused on three areas of his primatial ministry: the glorification of righteous Olga of Kwethluk, external affairs, and internal developments in the life of the Church.

His Beatitude emphasized the importance of a Christ-centered conciliarity focused on discerning God’s will through the guidance of the holy Scriptures, holy canons, and the writings of the saints. “Conciliar harmony,” he said, “is not the clamoring and jockeying of democracy: it is the mystery we experience when we authentically seek the will of God together.” His Beatitude reminded the delegates that the Church is not their project, but the project of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

His Beatitude pointed to the recent glorification of the Righteous Olga of Kwethluk—the first such canonization by the OCA since St. Raphael of Brooklyn—as a reminder of what an autocephalous church can accomplish in responding to its mission in the world. His Beatitude described the rite of glorification in June 2025 as “reverent, joyful, and inspiring,” despite challenges, and emphasized that the Church’s mission is nothing less than the making of saints. “We

cannot but pray and strive,” he said, “so that the glorification of saints becomes a cornerstone of our life as the local Church in the lands of North America.”

Turning to external affairs, His Beatitude spoke of his visits to Ukraine, Romania, and Constantinople as part of his ongoing work of maintaining good relationships with other autocephalous churches. In addition, he highlighted the meetings of his Chancellor, Archpriest Margheritino, with His Holiness Patriarch Daniil of Bulgaria and His Holiness Patriarch Porifije of Serbia. The latter meeting has resulted in the recognition of the full canonicity of the Macedonian Orthodox Church by the Orthodox Church in America at the request of the Serbian Orthodox Church. His Beatitude also announced a forthcoming concelebration with His Beatitude Archbishop Stefan of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, which will be crowned with recognition of the Macedonian Church’s autocephaly and the addition of Archbishop Stefan to the diptychs.

Regarding the internal work of the OCA, His Beatitude commented on changes in staff at the Chancery, including the appointment of Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino as Chancellor, Priest David Bozeman as Secretary, and Mark Hamilton as General Counsel. Additionally, His Beatitude thanked Alexis Liberovsky, soon to be retired, for his nearly forty years of work as OCA Archivist, giving him the title Archivist Emeritus.

His Beatitude concluded his report with gratitude for the work of the past three years and encouragement for the future. Though the Church continues to face challenges, such as the ongoing search for a permanent Chancery location, he emphasized that its foundation remains unshaken. He ended by saying that it is “[w]ith courage and tenacity, discernment and vigor, humility and prayer, [that] we seek to live *Con’t Next Page*

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AUGUST Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

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

- Bulletin:** In memory of Aunt Mary Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar / In honor of Michele Basile & Millie Wilfong— Given by Basile family
- Wine:** In memory of my mother & Father John & Olga Zelina– Given by Maureen Koval
- Incense:** In memory of my mom & father John & Olga Zelina– Given by Maureen Koval
- Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light:** In honor of my sister Raissa’s birthday on August 13th.– Given by Tashie Simko
- Altar Candles:** In memory of Michael & Ethel Dudzik- Given by Michael & Lynn Polewan
- Tetrapod Candles:** In honor of my mom & dad John & Olga Zelina– Given by Maureen Koval
- 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:** In honor of my daughter’s (Mary Margaret’s) Birthday on August 18– Given by Nancy Tusinac
- Protection Icon Candles:** For the health of my husband Gary Thompson on the occasion of his birthday– Given by Patty Thompson
- St. John the Baptist Candles:** For the health of my husband Gary Thompson on the occasion of his birthday– Given by Patty Thompson

<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	Flowers - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time– <i>Updated</i>
*Altar Candles	*St. John the Baptist candles	
*Tetrapod Candles		

2nd & 3rd sessions con’t from previous pg

out the mystery of conciliarity through obedience to the will of God ... unto the everlasting glory of his holy Name.”

Following the Metropolitan’s Report, Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino presented the Chancellor’s Report. His oral report focused on the concept of sobornost, or conciliarity. He explained that the work of the Chancery, the Metropolitan Council, and the All-American Council are reflections of sobornost in that they seek to discern what is best for the whole Body of Christ.

At the end of the session, an amendment to the OCA Statute was proposed and discussed, intending to set calendar terms for those elected to the Metropolitan Council, beginning with January 1 and concluding three years later on December 31. The proposed amendment was defeated.

At the third Plenary Session at the All-American Council, OCA Treasurer Andrew Smith presented the Financial Report, highlighting the positive and transparent financial state of the OCA. This was followed by the Audit Report, presented by Matushka Sharon Hubiak on behalf of her team. These reports were followed by the proposal of a Funding Resolution for the next three years, which preserves current proportional giving arrangement whereby the majority of our territorial dioceses offer 34% of their annual budget to the work of the OCA at large. The special arrangements pertaining to the Dioceses of Alaska, Canada, and Mexico, as well as the non-territorial dioceses, were also retained. The resolution passed by large majority.

The Pension Board Report was presented by Matushka

Mary Buletza Breton. The report highlighted a number of positive developments with regard to the plan. Participation in the Pension Plan continues to grow, and with the increase of contributions, Matushka Mary reported that, all other conditions remaining constant, the plan is projected to be fully funded by 2037.

To conclude the third Plenary Session, the stavropegial monasteries of New Skete and St. Tikhon’s Monastery presented their reports. Igumen Christopher, of the Monks of New Skete, spoke of the skete’s recent work to provide the community with a stable future, its dog training program, the Companions of New Skete, and the monks’ role in providing spiritual direction; Mother Cecilia, of the Nuns of New Skete, spoke about the aims and methods of monastic life; while Archimandrite Sergius of St. Tikhon’s Monastery spoke of the vibrancy of St. Tikhon’s and its service to the wider Church, calling attention especially to the monastery’s new iconography and choir schools.

For more updates from the 21st All-American Council please visit oca.org/aac.

Archbishop attends St. Macrina Institute Conference

On Friday, July 25, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest traveled to Saints Cyril and Methodious Church, Milwaukee, WI, to meet with current participants in the Saint Macrina Institute’s Diaconal Training Program. This was in conjunction with the Institute’s annual practicum. The Archbishop was accompanied by Priest Nikolai Lochmatow, Secretary to the Archbishop, Priest Esteban Vazquez, Diocesan Vice-Chancellor and SMI faculty member, **Con’t Next Pg**

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PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Matushka Helen Psinka / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko

CLERGY: AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyan / Fr. Peter / 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.) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Matt Turner (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Richard (Tusinac) / Genna Koval & her unborn baby

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.

Matthew 14:22-34 (Gospel)

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

Fourth Plenary Session of the 21st All-American Council Concluded

On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, the hierarchs, clergy, and lay representatives of the Orthodox Church in America met for the fourth Plenary Session of the 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ.

The meeting began with comments from His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon regarding the Diocese of the West. He announced the official retirement of its hierarch, His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin, and thanked him for his many years of archpastoral service. His Beatitude will serve as Locum Tenens of the diocese until the consecration and enthronement of a new bishop. Later in the day, the Diocese of the West convened a special Nominating Assembly, which nominated Archimandrite Vasily (Permiakov) for their new ruling bishop. Shortly after, the Holy Synod of Bishops met in a Special Summer Session and canonically elected Archimandrite Vasily as Bishop of San Francisco and the West.

The remainder of the Plenary Session was devoted to a proposed amendment to the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, presented by the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the South, that would alter the process for electing members to the Pension Board. However, the amendment was defeated.

Macrina Conference con't from previous pg

and Priest Daniel Greeson, Director of the Department of Christian Education. Upon arrival, His Eminence was welcomed by Archpriest Elijah Mueller, Director of the Saint Macrina Institute, and Presvytera Rebecca Luft, who is also a member of the Institute's faculty. Throughout the afternoon, His Eminence held personal meetings with each of the participants, speaking with them about their participation and involvement in the program as well as the role of deacons within the Church and the specific hopes and expectations for all our diocesan deacons. Later in the afternoon, the Archbishop spoke to the group, providing for discussions of various aspects of diocesan and parish life and of hopes for the future.

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AUGUST Reposed List

- Joseph Uhrin (1973) ©
Sophie Kotanchik (1964)
1- Peter Vansuch (1971) ©
2- Dr. Zervas (1931) ©
4- Rose Bartek (1984) / Nicholas Kioussis (1956) © / Mary Kovach (1963) ©
5- Elias Lisko (1925) ©
6- Julia Sirilla (1992) © / George Libertin (2019) © / Mike Kropinak (1959) ©
7- Helen Kropinak (1991) © / George Rusnak, Jr (2021) © / Mike Gerakios (1937) ©
8- Stella Gebbia (1998) © / Christina Krajnak (1920) ©
9- Anna Marie Tennis (1973) ©
10- Olga Zelina Kucheruk (2013) ©
11- Carl D. Essex (2014) / George Tobak, Sr (1972) © / John Kropinak (1926) ©
12- Fr. Stephen Jula (2014) / Michael Pacak (1978) © / John Kristian (1956) ©
13- Daria Voytilla (2019) © / Elia Milovanovich (1933) © / John Holecko (1939) ©
14- Bobby Almasche (2022) / Kaliop Koulianos (1950) ©
15- Archpriest John Matusiak (2019) / Eugene Sanders (2014) © / Alice Stalian (1920) © / John Georgeadis (1941) © / Thomas Kristian (2023) ©
16- Shawn Larriccia (2022) / Anna Livosky (1984) © / Joseph Fedorchoh (1987) © / Justin Pubos (1989) © / Anna Mikita (1999) © / Margaret Kalas (1920) ©
17- Helene Flaherty (2015) / Mary Pikos (1943) © / Jack Vallas (1944) ©
18- Mary Duritza (1984) © / Anna Cverko (1982) © / George Madich (1920) ©
19- Fr. George Dyak (1995) / Steve Hanuscin (1920) © / Harry Kidon (1925) ©
20- John Kaschak (1976) ©
21- Fr. Paul Herbert (2016) / Sophie Boldish (1967) ©
22- Fr. Peter Molchany (1990) / Mary Rusnak (1991) © / George Roseta (1922) © / Basil Sarokos (1930) © / Kostas Zombobi (1930) © / Joseph Raschak (1930) © / Mary Karcotis (1943) © / Infant John Emil Graban (1956) © / Kenny Ruff (2024) ©
23- Helen Gerakios (1925) ©
24- Rosica Rago (1922) © / Felogia Fradzeskus (1924) ©
25- Steve Kalas (1938) ©
26- Michael Hally (1991) © / George Tabus (2000) ©
27- John Vrabel (1972) © / Christopher Forgac (1976) © / Mike Lawrence (1961) ©
28- Matthew Lariccia Sr (1992) / John Simko (1969) © / Simeon Kaliscak (1921) © / Harry Sosnovchik (1925) © / George Despetarich (1956) © / Karen Muzyka (2023)
29- Anna Vrabel (1972) © / Pani Gizella Mihaly (1975) / Joseph Vansuch (1964) ©
30- Mike Pihunias (1948) ©
31- Mike Lawrence (1930) © / George Vasilos (1930) ©

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America Holds 98th Convention Concurrent with 21st AAC

On July 15-17, 2025, delegates from across the United States gathered in Phoenix, AZ for the 98th Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America's (FOCA) annual convention, concurrent with the 21st All-American Council, held in the same location. With the concurrence of the AAC, the typical schedule of business sessions was adapted to prioritize the canonization of St. Olga and address the ongoing efforts to redefine the mission of the FOCA.

On Tuesday evening, the FOCA welcomed over 200 people to the opening reception that was highlighted by the viewing of "Sacred Alaska." Following the screening, a question and answer session was led by the producer and co-creator of the documentary, Silas Karbo. His

Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon offered a welcome to all in attendance that truly captured what the FOCA is all about; "The FOCA is not a fraternal organization. It is not a club that works for its membership. You have dedicated yourselves to the whole needs of the Orthodox Church in America."

His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth, the Holy Synod liaison to the FOCA, attended the opening that evening and addressed the convention on Wednesday, encouraging fruitful discussion that occurred for the duration of the meetings. His invitation to Dallas for the 22nd AAC was well received. Over half of the FOCA delegates were in attendance as AAC clergy and lay delegates.

"The connection with the OCA cannot be overstated. Without the Church, we do not exist," said Basil Kochan, National FOCA president. "As we move forward from this convention, **Con't next Pg**

August Celebrations

Birthday

- 1 Heidi Kuzemchak
- 4 Meiriam Dardovski / Sonja Harvischak
- 5 Linda Livosky
- 7 William Sabo
- 9 Elaine Basala
- 12 Layne Demkosky / Reader Nick Vansuch / Ethan Donofrio / Sue Tamulonis
- 13 Frank Batura, Jr. / Ed Kusinski
- 14 Eli Arvan / Katie (Zelinsky)
- 15 Anthony Cavaliere
- 16 Anthony Jesko, Jr.
- 17 Lauren Koval
- 27 Michael Centofanti
- 29 Archbishop Michael / Gary Thompson Sr
- 31 Sharon LaVallee / Melanie Rusnak

Anniversary

- 7 Stephen & Karen Simko (02) / Dennis & Pamela Tubic
- 10 Fr. John's Ordination (68)
- 18 Nicola & Shelly Nicoloff (96) / Philip & Trudy Ellmore
- 21 Fr. Gregory & Matushka Xenia Burner / Dc. David & Mat. Gemmel (88)
- 27 Fr. Michael & Presbyteria Jessica Ellis
- 28 Fr. Eli Bremer Priestly ordination / Joe & Georgiana Lukehart
- 29 Zoland & Claudia Zile
- 30 Fr. Peter & Pani Bernadette Zarynow

Names Day

- 15 Sonja Harvischak / Sophia Jesko
- 23 AB Irene of Ottawa & the Archdiocese of Canada
- 26 Natalia Simko
- 30 AB Alexander of Dallas, the South & Bulgarian Dio-

98 Convention con't from previous pg

we will immediately be addressing initiatives of assisting OCA seminarians and OCA camps and campers. Our assistance to the 21st AAC Youth Program was a blessing beyond belief. The appreciation for our efforts was humbling to all of our members present at the Grand Banquet. The Gifts of Love campaign totaling \$10,000.00 for St. Theodosius Restoration Fund was warmly received by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Diocese of the Midwest in which the cathedral resides. We are doing good work."

Key results from discussions at the convention included:

- *The Fellowship moving away from dues and toward a donation plan for the works of the FOCA to be presented at the FOCA 99th Convention in July 2026 in Cleveland, OH.

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - <i>AUGUST</i>	2024	2025
1st Week		
Vespers	4	13
Liturgy	54 / 36	59 / 39
Transfiguration- Liturgy	Monastery	18 / 15
2nd Week		
Vespers	8	
Liturgy	68 / 48	
Dormition Vespers	17	
Dormition Liturgy	19	
3rd Week		
Vespers	9	
Liturgy	68 / 37	
4th Week		
Vespers	4	
Liturgy	38 / 31	
Beheading Vespers	11	
Beheading Liturgy	18 / 14	
5th Week		
Vespers	No 5th week	
Divine Liturgy	No 5th Week	

*The Scholarship and Grant committee to immediately develop a plan for the distribution of awards to OCA camps and campers for the 2026 season.

*Further development and implementation of the Emergency Assistance Fund to help OCA seminarians falling into financial distress.

Presenting at the AAC and the viewing of "Sacred Alaska" brought new interest from non-members to the works of the FOCA. There is interest in becoming members of the organization from areas in which the FOCA has never existed. As shared with the closing session of the FOCA convention, President Kochan said, "...if we want to be connected beyond our own parishes, we must build on what we have always been and what the Holy Synod has recognized us to be. We all must pray even more to find the best path for each of us to share the true meaning of the FOCA and bring others to our understanding of who we are, what we are, and why we do it. This will improve the spiritual health of all of us."

Through the prayers of the FOCA's patron, St. Andrew the First-Called, may God bless and strengthen all its members in their work serving the Church.

Fifth Plenary Session of the 21st All-American Council Concluded

On Thursday, July 17, 2025, the hierarchs, clergy, and lay representatives of the Orthodox Church in America met for the fifth Plenary Session of the 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ.

The fifth Plenary Session began with the election of new members for the Metropolitan Council and Pension Board. The results, presented at the end of the session, are as follows:

Metropolitan Council

Clergy Delegates

Archpriest Sean Levine

Archpriest Timothy Sawchak

Archpriest Christopher Foley

Archpriest Justin Mathews (alternate)

Lay Delegates

Matushka Miho Ealy

Peter Bouteneff

David Lane

Alexis Liberovsky (alternate)

Pension Board

Clergy Delegates

Archpriest David Garretson

Archpriest Eric Tosi

Priest Athanasios Kombos (alternate)

Lay Delegates

Matushka Tamara Patterson

Ivan Rudolph-Shabinsky

Carol Skinner (alternate)

After the election, Archpriest Nicholas Solak presented his report for the Office of Pastoral Life [OPL]. OPL responds to the spiritual and practical needs of clergy and their wives, offering care in the form of fellowship, life coaching, and financial assistance. OPL's Thriving in Ministry program, which receives a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, organizes groups of priests and priests' wives for the purpose of peer learning and support. The Office's Financial Health Initiative teaches clergy important skills such as budgeting for their household and planning for retirement. This program also provides grants to clergy for debt relief and in the future hopes to provide scholarships for secondary education to the children of clergy. Other programs such as Synaxis, National Clergy Retreat, and Clergy Wives Ministry oversee local and national gatherings of clergy and their wives.

The report for the OCA Departments was presented by Archpriest Thomas Soroka. Fr. Thomas reported that the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations continues its work of providing music and liturgical texts for parishes, and that the department is in conversation with St. Tikhon's Monastery concerning a

possible collaboration to provide the annual rubrics to parishes free of charge. The Department of Christian Education is presently working on another revision of Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs as well as a companion edition for youth. The Department of Evangelization will be publishing new education brochures soon. They also plan to continue expanding their mission planting grant program.

A resolution, submitted by the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, was then brought to the floor for the Council's consideration. The resolution directs the Metropolitan Council, by the time of the next All-American Council, to create a permanent process for vetting candidates to the Pension Board based on their expertise. A friendly amendment to the resolution stipulated that the resolution only be implemented after a thorough review by the legal counsel of both the OCA and the Pension Board. The resolution, as amended, passed by a majority vote.

After this, Archpriest John Parker, Dean of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, presented his report. He highlighted the ongoing construction of married student housing, the expanded Clinical Pastoral Education program that will soon launch, and the seminary's re-accreditation for a full ten years.

Dr. Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, Dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, opened his report with a discussion of recent changes in the seminary administration. He also explained the decision on the part of the Board of Trustees not to relocate the seminary at this time. He discussed the restructuring of the institution and its positive financial turnaround, as demonstrated by a budgetary surplus this past year. He also announced a new PhD program in Orthodox Christian Studies, which is in the final stages of approval by relevant bodies.

Please support the work of the Orthodox Church in America through its Office of Pastoral Life, St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Your donation helps further their mission of forming and supporting the clergy who serve our Church.

CONFESSION CHANGES

Effective beginning next week Confession will be heard :

- ◆ Saturday evenings between 5:15 & 5:45 PM by appointment
- ◆ Saturday after Vespers no appointment needed
- ◆ Sunday mornings between 9:15 & 9:45 AM by appointment

Further information will be forthcoming. Any questions please see Father Andrew.

Final Plenary Session of the 21st All-American Council Concluded

On Friday, July 18, 2025, the hierarchs, clergy, and lay representatives of the Orthodox Church in America met for the sixth and final Plenary Session of the 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, AZ.

The sixth Plenary Session began with a report on the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America by its representative, Priest Nicholas Anton. The Assembly's work includes coordinating the efforts of its official non-profit, pan-Orthodox agencies, including International Orthodox Christian Charities, Orthodox Christian Mission Center, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, and Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. Two new agencies have recently joined this list: Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries and Orthodox Volunteer Corps. The Assembly also directly oversees a number of ministries that provide resources to Orthodox Christians or assist them with their work in local communities. Of special note are its Mental Health Ministries, which manages the Directory of Orthodox Christian Mental Health Professionals, a resource utilized by many clergy and laity of the OCA.

The Military Chaplains Report was introduced by Archpriest Theodore Boback. He expressed the need for more clergy to pursue chaplaincy in the armed forces. Priest Thaddaeus Werner explained his work as an Air Force chaplain in helping soldiers acquiring religious accommodation for their sincerely-held religious beliefs. He and other Orthodox chaplains are responsible for the spiritual fitness of those entrusted to their care, providing them with religious rites and sacraments, death notifications and memorial services, clinical pastoral care, and moral leadership advisement. Archpriest Sean Levine concluded the report with real-life stories about the work of military chaplains on the ground.

Archpriest Steven Voytovich presented the Institutional Chaplains Report. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of clinical pastoral care, and this occasion prompted Fr. Steven to reflect on the history of chaplaincy and the nature of pastoral care in hospitals, hospices, and other clinical settings. Fr. Steven then discussed the ongoing work of institutional chaplaincy in the OCA.

The installation of the newly-elected and appointed Metropolitan Council members was conducted by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. After this, His Beatitude offered some final remarks to the delegation, reflecting on the past week. His Beatitude spoke about the newly-commissioned icon of All Saints of North America, remarking that it was not so long ago when St. Herman of Alaska was the only canonized saint on this continent. His Beatitude said, "Now, we ask intercessions of 19 saints who have shone forth in North America. We do not, of course, depend on the quantitative aspect of this reality. Rather, it seems to me that our present icon is a fitting image of whence we have come and also whither

we are going. We all know of the icons of all saints of the venerable and more ancient Orthodox Churches, whose numbers are even larger than ours. Even without the centuries of ascetical and martyric witness of which our sisters have the benefit, it seems to me that it is our calling and our mission, now that we have been gathered together by Christ, to heed the words that conclude the Gospel reading from this morning: 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen (Matt. 28:19-20).'" His Beatitude then thanked everyone for their participation in the work of the Council.

Read the full text of His Beatitude's address on the national oca website.

The concluding prayer "It is truly meet..." was sung, and, with this, the 21st All-American Council was officially adjourned.

Orthodox Church in America Represented at Meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches

Between June 18 and 24, Matushka Rebecca Luft, Ph.D., of the Diocese of the Midwest, represented the Orthodox Church in America at the meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Notably, resulting from the advocacy of Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox participants, the Central Committee produced a Minute on St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, Egypt in which they asked the WCC General Secretary to write a formal letter to the president of Egypt expressing the WCC's concern and "to call for a clear and binding agreement recognizing the Holy Monastery's right and title to the site in perpetuity."

The Central Committee also issued a Statement on Guarding Against Atrocity Crimes, which included an acknowledgement of the genocide committed by Turkish nationalists against Armenians, Syriac-Aramaic-Assyrian Christians, and Pontic Greeks in areas under the hegemony of the Ottoman Empire. The statement also recognized the impacts of Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus and acknowledged the extermination of Orthodox Serbs by Nazi Germany.

The participants also produced a Minute on Bomb Attack on Mar Elias Church, Damascus. The minute conveyed "deep condolences" and made an appeal "to the Government and authorities of Syria to take swift and decisive action to ensure the security of all citizens, especially in cases where sectarian violence targets specific communities."

The Central Committee also produced a minute dealing with the Israel-Palestine conflict, in which the committee called attention to the plight of Palestinian Christians.

Martyr and Archdeacon Laurence, and those with him, of Rome Commemorated on August 10

The Martyrs Archdeacon Laurence, Pope Sixtus, Deacons Felicissimus and Agapitus, and the soldier Romanus were citizens of Rome, and suffered in the year 258 during the reign of Emperor Valerian (253-260). Saint Sixtus was born in the city of Athens, and at first he was a philosopher, but later he became a follower of Christ. When he arrived in Rome, he showed himself to be a wise and devout member of the Church. Over a period of time, he passed through the various ranks of the clergy, and became the Bishop of Rome following the martyric death of Saint Stephen (August 2). Several Roman Hierarchs preferred to die rather than offer sacrifice to idols. Soon, Saint Sixtus was also arrested and imprisoned together with his deacons Felicissimus and Agapitus.

When Archdeacon Laurence visited Saint Sixtus in prison, he cried out with tears, "Where are you going, Father, without your son? Where do you hasten without your Archdeacon? Never have you offered the Bloodless Sacrifice without me. Take me with you, so that I may join you in shedding our blood for Christ!"

Saint Sixtus replied, "I am not forsaking you, my son. I am old and I accept the lesser battle, but greater suffering awaits you. You must achieve the greater victory and triumph over your tormentors. Three days after my death, you shall follow after me."

Then he entrusted Archdeacon Laurence with the Church's treasures and sacred vessels, telling him to distribute these to the poor. He gathered them up and went around the city on foot, to the clergy and impoverished Christians who were in hiding, helping them according to their needs.

When he heard that Saint Sixtus had been brought to trial with his deacons, Saint Laurence went there in order to witness the outcome. Seeing that the martyrs were obstinate in their refusal to offer sacrifice to the idols, Valerian ordered them to be taken to the temple of Mars outside the city walls, and put to death if they did not offer incense to the idols. When he saw the pagan temple, Saint Sixtus prayed for it to be destroyed. There was an earthquake which caused part of the temple to collapse, and the statue of Mars was shattered to pieces. Saint Laurence cried out, "Father, I have fulfilled your command, and have distributed the treasures of the Church which you entrusted to me."

After hearing about treasure, the soldiers placed him under guard. Saint Sixtus and the other martyrs were beheaded in front of the temple on August 6, 258. Afterward, the soldiers brought Saint Laurence to the Emperor, informing him that they had heard the Archdeacon mention something about the Church's hidden treasures. The Emperor ordered him to reveal where

the treasures were, and the Archdeacon asked for three days in order to collect them. Then Saint Laurence gathered all the poor and the needy, and brought them to the Prefect, saying, "Behold the treasures of the Church."

The ruler became very angry at this and ordered Hippolytos (Ἰππόλυτος) who was in charge of the prison, to throw the Archdeacon into the dungeon with other prisoners. There the Saint restored the sight of a man named Lucilus. Hippolytos was amazed at this, and asked to see the Church's treasures. Saint Laurence told him that if he believed in Christ and was baptized, he would find true wealth and everlasting life. Hippolytos said that if this was true, he would do as he asked.

Hippolytos took Saint Laurence to his home, where he instructed and baptized the jailer and all his household, consisting of nineteen persons. Soon afterward, Hippolytos was ordered to bring the Archdeacon to Emperor Valerian. Seeing that the Saint had not agreed to offer sacrifice, he ordered that Saint Laurence be tortured. Still, the Archdeacon refused to sacrifice to the idols. As the Martyr endured these torments, a soldier named Romanus cried, "Laurence, I see a radiant youth standing by you, and wiping your wounds. Entreat Christ, Who has sent His Angel to you, not to abandon me."

Then Valerian commanded Hippolytos to return the Saint to prison. Romanus brought a pitcher of water and asked the Martyr to baptize him. Immediately after the soldier was baptized, he was seized by other soldiers and taken to the Emperor. Before anyone could question him, Romanus shouted, "I am a Christian."

The Emperor ordered him to be taken outside the city and beheaded on August 9.

The next day, Saint Laurence was placed on a rack, scourged with whips with sharp iron points attached to them, and then was stretched out naked on a red-hot iron gridiron with burning coals underneath it. The Holy Martyr glanced at the ruler and said, "You have already roasted one side of my body, now turn me over to the other side so you may taste what you have roasted."

Then he glorified God, saying, "I thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have found me worthy to enter Your gates."

Saint Laurence received the unfading crown of martyrdom on August 10, 258.

That night, Saint Hippolytos took the Saint's body he wrapped it in a shroud with spices. Then he and the priest Justin brought the relics to the home of a widow named Kyriake, where it remained until evening. Later, many Christians escorted the Saint's body to a cave on the widow's property. After praying all night, they buried the Martyr there with honor. Then Father Justin served the Divine Liturgy, and everyone partook of the Holy Mysteries.

Saint Hippolytos and the other **Con't next Pg**

1 Corinthians 3:9-17 (Epistle)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

A Pilgrimage to Pray before the "Apostle to the Plains"

On Saturday, August 2, a group of 20 pilgrims from St. John of Kronstadt Church, Lincoln, NE made a pilgrimage to Kearney (two hours west of Lincoln) to pray at the gravesite of Fr. Nicola Yanney. Many had read about Fr. Nicola in the popular publication "Apostle to the Plains: The Life of Father Nicola Yanney" and were inspired by this circuit-riding priest, the first ever to be ordained by St. Raphael of Brooklyn, who ministered to a hundred Orthodox communities throughout the Great Plains region and ultimately died because he refused to stop visiting those suffering from Spanish Flu.

The pilgrims were greeted at the cemetery by Fr. Christopher Morris, the parish priest of St. George Church, the home base of Fr. Nicola, and a group from the parish that included one of the great grandsons of Fr. Nicola. After a brief word on the character of Fr. Nicola, Priest Joseph Winsler served a panakhida service for the reposed priest.

Following the prayer at the gravesite, the pilgrims enjoyed the hospitality of St. George Church, where they shared a meal and toured the temple. As Fr. Christopher showed them the icons in the narthex featuring St. Raphael and Fr. Nicola, the pilgrims were especially delighted to hear that records were discovered which tell the latter had actually ministered to an Orthodox community in Lincoln.

Laurence con't from previous pg

Christians suffered martyrdom three days after the death of Saint Laurence, on August 13.

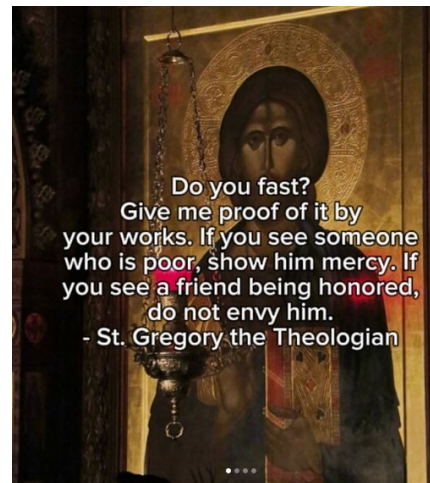
A large part of Saint Laurence's relics are located in the church of Saint Laurence "outside the walls" in Rome. Other pieces of the holy relics are to be found in the Monasteries of Saint Panteleimon on Mount Athos, and at Kykkos, Cyprus.

AUGUST FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$4,431.15
Income	\$2,826.00
TOTAL	-\$1,605.15

Weekly Tithe	\$2,302.70
Weekly Candles	\$359.00
Tetrapod Candles	\$50.00
Icon Screen / Eternal Light Candles	\$30.00
Incense	\$25.00
Protection Candles	\$30.00
Unneeded Gifts	\$30.00

Monthly Charity: Holy Trinity School \$241.00



Chicago Deanery Male Choir Sings Paraklesis at Diocesan Cathedral

On Sunday, August 3, the third day of the Dormition Fast, the Paraklesis was served at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. The service was attended by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest.

The service to the Mother of God was organized and sung by the Chicago Deanery Male Choir under the direction of Reader Philip Sokolov, and served by Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean.

The particular arrangement that the choir used for the service was by the late Diocesan Hierarch, Archbishop Job (Osacky), of blessed memory. Archbishop Job arranged several services in the Carpatho Russian Chant style, and put together a choir of local singers that he would rehearse and direct during the services. At that time, the Archbishop had a recording made of the service and proceeds from the recording went to the missions of the diocese.

Archbishop Daniel offered a reflection on the importance of the service during the Dormition Fast, and also the work of his predecessor, Archbishop Job. Many of the singers in the Deanery Choir were a part of Archbishop Job's original choir.