

Metropolitan Tikhon issues statement on Las Vegas shootings

SYOSSET, NY – His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, issued the following statement in response to the tragic events in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017.

“On behalf of the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, we offer sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the mass shooting in Las Vegas. It always brings great sorrow to hear of such senseless killings in the supposedly civilized world. Our hearts ache for the families and friends of the victims, and we offer fervent prayers for the repose of the souls of those whose lives were tragically cut short. We pray for the victims and the grieving families and ask that God send down upon them the spirit of peace and consolation. We also offer thanksgiving for the timely and heroic actions of the first responders. Finally we offer our prayers for the city of Las Vegas and all of those who have been effected by these tragic events. We ask that all Orthodox Christians remember the victims and their families in their prayers.”

■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-issues-statement-on-the-tragedy-in-las-vegas>

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Metropolitan Tikhon, members of Holy Synod attend Eighth Assembly of Bishops meeting

GARFIELD, NJ – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the US members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America participated in the eight annual meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America here October 3-5, 2017.



The gathering opened with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, Clifton, NJ, after which His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Assembly Chair, delivered his opening address. Plenary sessions focused on youth ministry, leadership, canonical regional planning and related themes. A statement to the faithful, signed by the 32 hierarchs in attendance, was issued at the closing of the meeting.

The OCA has fully participated in the Assembly's work since its inception in 2009. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/assembly-of-bishops-releases-message-at-conclusion-of-eighth-annual-meeting>

Metropolitan Council concludes Fall Session

SYOSSET, NY – Members of the Metropolitan Council unanimously recommended the agenda for the 19th All-American Council and passed the 2018 budget during their Fall Session September 19-22, 2017. The agenda and budget will be presented to the Holy Synod of Bishops at their upcoming session November 13-17.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon chaired the gathering, which opened with a one-day retreat which reflected on the history of the OCA within the context of the anticipated 50th Anniversary of the granting of autocephaly in 2020.

In his opening remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon further developed his vision of the Church for the future, including specific issues to be addressed by the Metropolitan Council. Reports from the OCA officers, departments, committees also were heard. In response to a recommendation by the Charity Committee, the Metropolitan Council approved funds to assist the Diocese of Mexico in recovery efforts in the wake of the September 19 earthquake. Complete minutes and reports will be posted as they become available. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-council-unanimously-recommends-aac-agenda-2018-budget>

Urgently needed renovations to OCA Archives underway

SYOSSET, NY – The Archives of the Orthodox Church in America, located at the Chancery here, will be closed until further notice “due to a number of renovations designed to modernize the facilities and ensure protection of the collection for future research and utilization,” said Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary.

“The renovation project is being funded through a modest endowed fund for the Archives approved for use by the Metropolitan Council and blessed by the Holy Synod,” Father Eric explained. “Plans include waterproofing; establishing a climate controlled environment with proper lighting; reworking the walls, floors and ceilings; a new office area for the Archivist; and a reading room and work space.”

It is anticipated that all renovation work will be completed by the end of the current year. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/preserving-our-legacy-oca-archives-undergo-urgently-needed-renovations>

OCA communities spared in natural disasters

SYOSSET, NY – As widely reported during the past several weeks, OCA parishes have been spared in a number of recent natural disasters.

Saint Seraphim Cathedral and Our Lady of Kazan Skete, Santa Rosa, CA and Holy Assumption Monastery, Calistoga, CA remained undamaged due to the wildfires that spread across Sonoma and Napa counties, according to His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin. The nuns, who had been evacuated from their communities, have returned. His Eminence, Archbishop Alejo reported only minor damage to Mexico City’s Cathedral of the Ascension during the 7.1 earthquake that struck on September 19. In Florida, no significant damage was reported to any of the churches in the path of Hurricane Irma, although many faithful suffered damage to their properties. ■ **FULL STORIES:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/update-on-oca-communities-in-california> and <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-diocese-of-mexico-assessing-earthquake-damage-in-parishes-missions>

19th AAC assessment info now available

SYOSSET, NY – The Preconciliar Commission, charged with organizing the 19th All-American Council [AAC] in Saint Louis, MO July 23-27, 2018, recently released information concerning AAC assessments.

“The Preconciliar Commission has prepared a budget that includes \$275,000.00 in assessments to the dioceses,” said Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer. “Instead of the OCA invoicing parishes directly, the dioceses will be invoiced for their respective portions of the \$275,000.00, based on the percentage of their support to the 2017 Operating Budget as calculated by the Finance Resolution adopted at the 18th AAC in 2015.”

Dioceses will have the option of absorbing the assessment or passing it along by invoicing their parishes.

Ms. Ringa added that “these fees have remained unchanged from the 18th AAC.”

■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/preconciliar-commission-announces-assessments-for-19th-all-american-council>

Volunteers for AAC Youth Program needed

SYOSSET, NY – Volunteers to staff and serve as chaperones for the youth program at the 19th All-American Council are being sought by program organizers and the OCA Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry. Faithful age 18 or over with experience in any number of youth ministries are invited to apply by January 1, 2018. Selected candidates will be notified shortly thereafter. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/registration-opens-for-19th-aac-youth-program-volunteers>

Historic Alaskan church receives national fund award

UNALASKA, AK – The National Fund for Sacred Places recently announced that Holy Ascension Church was one of 17 US congregations chosen to participate in a national grant-making program that supports capital building projects at historic houses of worship.

A National Historic Landmark, Holy Ascension Church was constructed in 1896 and contains over 200 historic and irreplaceable icons, books, relics and other liturgical items, according to His Grace, Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska.

“The church’s commitment to local Native Alaskan communities is important today,” said Chad Martin, National Fund Director. “We are thrilled with the opportunity to be a part of this major effort to preserve a true treasure of religious architecture as an asset for its community.” ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/historic-unalaska-church-receives-national-fund-award>



A monthly digest highlighting news and features from the web site of the Orthodox Church in America – <http://oca.org> – published with the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

Parishes are kindly asked to duplicate and distribute **OCAreview**, especially to those without internet access.

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Fr. John Matusiak, Editor • info@oca.org

In Memoriam

- **Matushka Marie [Gambal] Kreta**, 90, wife of the late Protopresbyter Joseph Kreta, fell asleep in the Lord in Conway, AR on October 23, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-marie-kreta>
- **Archpriest Stephen Charles Mack**, 64, Rector of Saint Nicholas Church, Auburn, NY, fell asleep in the Lord on October 22, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-stephen-charles-mack>
- **Archpriest Mihai Cociu**, 63, Pastor of Holy Cross Church, London, ON, Canada, fell asleep in the Lord on October 20, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-mihai-cociu>
- **Deacon Andronik P. Kashevarof**, 89, who until his retirement in 2014 served Saint George Church, Saint George Island, AK, fell asleep in the Lord in Anchorage, AK on October 4, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/deacon-andronik-kashevarof>
- **Sonya Perich**, daughter of the late Protopresbyter Joseph and Matushka Susanna Pishtey and mother of Archpriest John Perich of Saint Herman Church, Gradyville, PA, fell asleep in the Lord on September 24, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/sonya-perich>