

Metropolitan Council concludes fall session, recommends St. Louis as site of 19th All-American Council

HUNTINGTON, NY – The Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America held its fall session September 19-22, 2016.

The meeting was chaired by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon. Also present were His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael of the Standing Synod of Bishops.



Metropolitan Council at OCA Chancery

Among the items on the agenda was the venue for the 19th All-American Council [AAC], slated to convene July 23-28, 2018. Metropolitan Council members unanimously recommended Saint Louis, MO's Union Station Hotel as the AAC site. The recommendation will be referred to the Holy Synod of Bishops for approval at their October session. Council members further recommended that a youth program once again be held in conjunction with the national convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.

In his opening remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon expanded on his vision of the Church for the future, highlighting specific issues of particular interest to members of the Metropolitan Council. Reports and updates were offered by the Officers of the Church, the Office of External Affairs, the departments, the Pension Board, and the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America [SOCA]. Council members unanimously passed the 2017 budget, which includes six planting grants for the coming year. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-council-concludes-fall-session-recommends-19th-aac-venue>

Metropolitan Tikhon hosts Antiochian Metropolitan Joseph at OCA Chancery

SYOSSET, NY – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America on his first official visit to the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America on September 29, 2016. His Eminence, Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey also was present.



Accompanying Metropolitan Joseph were His Grace, Bishop John of the Antiochian Diocese of Worcester and New England and Archpriest Thomas Zain, Vicar General of the Archdiocese.

At the conclusion of a Service of Intercession in honor of Saint Raphael of Brooklyn in Saint Sergius of Radonezh Chapel, Metropolitan Tikhon awarded the Order of Saint Innocent, Gold Class, to Metropolitan Joseph, and the Order, Silver Class, to Bishop John. A luncheon followed. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-welcomes-antiochian-metropolitan-joseph-to-oca-chancery>

Archimandrite Alexander [Pihach] falls asleep in the Lord

TORONTO, ON, CANADA – Archimandrite Alexander [Pihach], 64, unexpectedly fell asleep in the Lord while visiting Toronto on the night of October 7, 2016.



Archimandrite Alexander had faithfully served

Archimandrite Alexander

as Dean of the Orthodox Church in America's Representation Church of Saint Catherine, Moscow, Russia, and as OCA Representative to the Patriarchate of Moscow since his appointment by the Holy Synod of Bishops on November 30, 2012.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée will concelebrate the Funeral Service for a Priest at Christ the Savior Cathedral, Toronto, ON on October 12, while the Divine Liturgy and Panikhida will be celebrated at the cathedral the following morning. Archimandrite Alexander's body will be taken to Saskatoon, SK, his home town, and lie in state at Holy Resurrection Sobor. A Funeral Service will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 17. The Divine Liturgy, followed by interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Saskatoon, will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 18. In order to accommodate the anticipated large number of clergy and faithful – Holy Resurrection Sobor is quite small – services will be held at Holy Family Roman Catholic Cathedral, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. For additional information please contact Priest Leonard Herrem at 306-652-2847. ■

■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archimandrite-alexander-pihach>.

Metropolitan Tikhon, OCA bishops attend Assembly of Bishops' seventh annual meeting

DETROIT, MI – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the US members of the Orthodox Church in America's Holy Synod of Bishops were among the 41 hierarchs from across the country who participated in the



seventh annual meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America here October 4-6, 2016.

Chaired by His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the meeting opened with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Basilica, Livonia, MI. In addition to a variety of reports on Assembly ministries and committees, the meeting featured a presentation on religious freedom and its implications.

During the meeting, His Eminence, Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey was elected Assembly Treasurer. ■ **FULL STORIES:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/assembly-of-bishops-releases-message-at-conclusion-of-seventh-annual-meetin>, <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/assembly-of-bishops-studies-religious-freedom-elects-two-new-officers> and <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/seventh-annual-assembly-of-bishops-meeting-opens-in-detroit>

Study resources available for Doctrine, Scripture volume of Fr. Hopko's "The Orthodox Faith" series

SYOSSET, NY – When the late Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko was revising his four-volume series, *The Orthodox Faith*, he asked the Department of Christian Education [DCE] to develop study resources/questions for each volume.

"In May 2016, the DCE made available a series of questions and resources for the series' third volume, *Church History*," said Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, DCE Chairperson. "A similar set of 73 questions and answers for the six-chapter first volume, *Doctrine and Scripture*, is now available. As in the case of the third volume, each question is keyed to the text's page numbers, while answers are provided in a separate document."

Similar guides are being prepared for the series' other two volumes – *Worship and Spirituality*. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/study-resources-now-available-for-doctrine-scripture-volume-of-the-orthodox>

Patronal feast of St. Sergius Chapel celebrated

SYOSSET, NY – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the staff of the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America welcomed area clergy and faithful and students from Saint Tikhon's and Saint Vladimir's Seminaries at the celebration of the patronal feast of the Chancery's Saint Sergius of Radonezh Chapel on Saturday, September 24, 2016.

The day opened with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy by Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael in the Chancery's walled garden. Archbishop Michael delivered a stirring homily, while Metropolitan Tikhon addressed the gathering at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

The liturgical responses were sung by the seminarians and the choir of Saint Nino Mission, Brooklyn, NY, which also offered a short concert of Georgian folk music during the lunch that followed. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/patronal-feast-of-st.-sergius-chapel-celebrated-at-oca-chancery>

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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In Memoriam

- **Hieromonk Alexander [Mayba]**, 84, long-time member of the Brotherhood of Saint Tikhon's Monastery, fell asleep in the Lord October 5, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/hieromonk-alexander-mayba>
- **Protodeacon Alexis Washington**, 68, who was attached to Saints Peter and Paul Church, Phoenix, AZ, fell asleep in the Lord October 2, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/protodeacon-alexis-washington>
- **Matushka Cecelia [Clara] Burdikoff**, 73, wife of Archpriest Igor Burdikoff and mother of Deacon Michael Burdikoff, fell asleep in the Lord in Saratoga Springs, NY September 12, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-cecelia-burdikoff>
- **Archpriest John W. Govrusik**, 93, attached in retirement to Holy Assumption Church, Central City, PA, fell asleep in the Lord September 3, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-john-w.-govrusik>
- **Stephen Paul Andrew**, 32, son of Archpriest Thomas and Matushka Taisia Andrew of Kenai, AK, fell asleep in the Lord after a midair plane collision August 31, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/stephen-paul-andrew>

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