



## ***Holy Synod concludes Spring Session***

**SYOSSET, NY** – The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America concluded its Spring Session at the Chancery on Friday, April 20, 2018.

The gathering opened on April 17 with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy for the “Day of Rejoicing” in the Chancery’s Saint Sergius of Radonezh Chapel, at which His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon presided. In his homily and welcoming remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon explained that the gathering of the Holy Synod “comes about by the design and grace of our great and loving God.... The opening of our session this week with the Divine Liturgy is our opportunity to give thanks to almighty God for the gift of unity and brotherly love that exists within our Holy Synod, and we ask that the Holy Spirit will guide us in our deliberations and decisions this week.”

Metropolitan Tikhon further reflected on the task of building up the Church by “continuing the missionary and pastoral focus of our ministry in the tradition of our local saints by coming to terms with reality and lovingly leading our people through the very difficult and very rapid changes we are experiencing.... All of our dioceses need the attention and support of the whole Church as we all face challenges of economy, population change and loss, preservation of our history and our stories, as well as physical property and an ever-growing post-Christian culture.” He shared his hope that the Holy Synod will be able “to both express a common vision for us as

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## ***Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!***

### ***Archpastoral Paschal Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon***

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Monastics, Distinguished Stewards, and the entire family of the Orthodox Church in America:

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

I greet all of you on this bright day, the radiant and holy day of Pascha, the day upon which the light of Christ has risen upon all mortal human beings. The light that now surrounds us in our churches, in our monasteries, and in all of creation is greater than can be accounted for by physical candles, chandeliers, or the sun and the moon.

The light that presently shines is the light of the Lord’s dramatic victory over hell, over corruption and over death itself. He had reminded His Disciples that “whosoever lives and believes on me shall never die,” and today that promise is fulfilled in us, for Christ’s victory has become our victory – we have entered fully into it.

The Holy Apostle Paul reminds us of this when he says: “Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should also walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection [Romans 6:3-5].

As we share the joy of the Feast of Feasts in our communities, with our families, and even with strangers, let us all give thanks for the light in our hearts, for it is not a simple emotional response, but an experience of authentic life – life which pierces through the darkness of our earthly cares and passions.

And so, let us rejoice in the Lord with thanksgiving for His great victory, and let us cry out with the paschal hymn: “Yesterday, O Christ, I was buried with Thee, and today I rise again with Thee, in Thy rising. Yesterday I was crucified with Thee, now glorify me, O Savior, in Thy Kingdom.”

Christ is risen!

**+ Tikhon**

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

### ***Preconciliar Commission, Local Committee finalize AAC plans***

**SAINT LOUIS, MO** – Members of the Preconciliar Commission [PCC] and the Local Committee planning the 19th All-American Council [AAC] of the Orthodox Church in America, held their final meeting at the Saint Louis Union Station Hotel during the last week of April 2018.

The AAC will be held in Saint Louis, MO July 23-27, 2018. The AAC theme – “For The Life Of The World” – is inspired by the classic book of the same name by the late Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann.

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## Holy Synod approves two new policies

**SYOSSET, NY** – Two new policies – a Gifts and Bequest Policy and a Vendor Relationship Policy – were approved by the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops during their Spring Session April 17-20, 2018. Earlier, the policies had been endorsed by the Metropolitan Council after vetting by the Legal and Finance committee.

The new policy regarding gifts and bequests, according to Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary, “provides guidelines and conditions in which donations to the Church will be accepted. The policy recommends that dioceses and parishes review the policies for their own adoption of a similar policy. The policy ensures compliance with and conditions of federal non-profit legal and financial standards.”

The second policy concerning vendor relationship outlines the conditions and issues for non-profit organizations and the manner in which they relate to for-profit corporations, thereby ensuring that the Church is in compliance with federal non-profit laws.

“The new policies form an addendum to the Best Practice Policies followed by the Orthodox Church in America since 2008,” Father Eric added. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-of-bishops-approves-two-new-policies>

## St. Tikhon's Monastery announces 114th annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage schedule

**SOUTH CANAAN, PA** – The 114th Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon's Monastery will be held May 25-28, 2018.

The Pilgrimage will open on Friday, May 25 with the arrival of the Myrrhstreaming Hawaiian Iveron Icon at 3:30 p.m. Vespers and Matins will follow at 4:00 p.m., after which pilgrims are invited to dinner in the dining hall.

The 75th annual Commencement of Saint Tikhon's Seminary will be held on Saturday, May 26. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m., followed by a meal in the dining hall. Commencement exercises will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Vigil for the Great Feast of Pentecost will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m., followed by dinner for all pilgrims.

The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on Pentecost Sunday, May 27, followed by a meal for all pilgrims. Vespers and Matins will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., the Chamber Choir of Saint Tikhon's Monastery will perform Rachmaninov's All-Night Vigil at Saint Stephen's Episcopalian Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

On Memorial Day – Monday, May 28 – the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Holy Spirit will begin in the Monastery Church at 7:30 a.m. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at All Saints Bell Tower, followed by a Memorial Service for Veterans at 12:15 p.m. The Akathistos Hymn to Saint Alexis Toth will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m., while the Molieben to the Most Holy Theotokos with the Anointing of the Sick, Infirm and All Pilgrims will be celebrated at 2:15 p.m. The pilgrimage will close with the celebration of Vespers and Matins at 4:00 p.m. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/st-tikhons-monastery-announces-114th-memorial-day-pilgrimage-schedule>



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 requested to duplicate and distribute *OCAreview*, especially to those without internet access.

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Fr. John Matusiak, Editor • [info@oca.org](mailto:info@oca.org)

## In Memoriam

● **Mitred Archpriest John Nehrebecki**, 89, Pastor Emeritus of Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ and long-time Dean of the New Jersey Deanery, fell asleep in the Lord on Great and Holy Saturday, April 7, 2018. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-john-nehrebecki>

● **Margaret Hopkosky**, 95, former Secretary of the Diocese of the Midwest who had been active in many areas of national, diocesan, pan-Orthodox and parish life, fell asleep in the Lord in Parma, OH on March 24, 2018. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/margaret-hopkosky>

● **Archpriest Paul Richard Ziatyk**, 81, long-time Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania and retired Rector of Saint John the Baptist Church, New Kensington, PA, fell asleep in the Lord on March 5, 2018. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-paul-ziatyk>

● **Matushka Mary Ann Kompkoff**, wife of the late Archpriest Nicholas Kompkoff, fell asleep in the Lord in Anchorage, AK on March 1, 2018. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-mary-ann-kompkoff>

● **Priest Christopher Williamson**, attached in retirement to Saint John the Wonderworker Church, Atlanta, GA, fell asleep in the Lord on March 1, 2018. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/priest-christopher-williamson>

● **Popadia Vasilka Stancheva Gerova**, 95, wife of the late Archpriest George Gerov, fell asleep in the Lord in Miami, FL on July 22, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/popadia-vasilka-stancheva-gerova>

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## 19th AAC plans finalized

“PCC and Local Committee members finalized plans in line with decisions concerning the AAC’s structure and agenda, proposed resolutions, and proposed amendments to the OCA *Statute* blessed by the Holy Synod of Bishops at its Spring Session in April,” said Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary. “All outstanding issues and contracts also were reviewed and finalized.”

According to Father Eric, the 19th AAC Handbook is scheduled for general release on May 23 – 60 days prior to the Council – and is in the final stages of editing. The PCC also confirmed the attendance of His Eminence, Archbishop Leo of Finland and His Eminence, Metropolitan Seraphim of Zimbabwe, as invited guests. It was further decided that the AAC’s proceedings will be podcast on Ancient Faith Radio, while daily updates will be available on the OCA web site. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/preconciliar-commission-local-committee-finalize-plans-for-18th-aac>

## Camp schedules announced

**SYOSSET, NY** – The end of the school year is just around the proverbial corner, and with it comes the opening of the Orthodox Church in America’s network of “coast-to-coast” summer camps. A comprehensive directory with schedules, dates, costs and contacts for over a dozen regional summer camping programs is now available online. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/2018-oca-summer-camp-schedules-announced>

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“For the Life of the World!”**

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of the Orthodox Church  
in America today!**

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SOCA, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791

## Registration opens, keynote speaker announced for Small Parish Forum July 12-14

**ROSSFORD, OH** – Online registration for the Fifth Annual Small Parish Forum, slated to be held at Saint George Cathedral, Rossford, OH July 12-14, 2018, recently opened.

Co-sponsored by the Orthodox Church in America’s Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania, the Diocese of the Midwest, and the Bulgarian Diocese, this year’s theme will be “Equipping Small Parish Leaders for Discipleship and Change.” The program will focus on specific situations common to “small” parishes throughout the OCA and other jurisdictions. Workshops and presentations will explore ways to assist parishes with memberships of 75 or fewer souls to achieve stability, build a positive self-image, and accept their calling to live a life in Christ without necessarily becoming “big.”

Keynote speaker will be Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector of Saint Nicholas Church, McKees Rocks, PA. His topic – “Discipleship: An Orthodox Christian Perspective for Leaders” – will set the tone for the forum’s workshops, case studies and discussions.

Questions and enquiries may be directed to Joseph Kormos, forum coordinator, at [joekormos1@gmail.com](mailto:joekormos1@gmail.com). ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/registration-opens-keynote-speaker-announced-for-small-parish-forum-july-12>

## SVOTS site of OCA Diaconal Liturgical Practicum

**YONKERS, NY** – The Twelfth Annual Diaconal Liturgical Practicum of the Orthodox Church in America will be held July 15–18, 2018 on the campus of Saint Vladimir’s Seminary. The four-day program will offer intense practical liturgical training for deacons and lay diaconal candidates.

Practical liturgical training will be offered on the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and other services. Intensive workshops will provide participants with the skills needed to serve effectively as an attentive server, deacon, or priest. Focused presentations will augment the deacon’s understanding of his place in the liturgical life of the Church and his broader vocation as a symbol to the faithful of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

“This practicum is highly recommended by the Holy Synod of Bishops for participants in the Church’s Diaconal Vocations Program and other programs of diaconal formation,” said Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, Director of Diaconal and Late Vocations and leader of the practicum’s liturgical workshops.

■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/12th-annual-diaconal-liturgical-practicum-to-be-held-july-15-18>

## OCA, OCMC to host teaching team to Mexico

**SYOSSET, NY** – Registration recently opened for the teaching team slated to visit Zapote Bravo, Jonatal and Zimatla in the Orthodox Church in America’s Diocese of Mexico August 11-18, 2018. The team is being coordinated by the OCA and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center with the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Alejo. Archpriest Antonio Perdomo will lead the team.

Team members, who should be conversant in Spanish, will complete an orientation session in Mexico City before traveling into the field. The participation fee, which includes all expenses while in the field, is \$725.00. Transportation to and from Mexico City is the responsibility of the participants. Additional information may be obtained by calling OCMC at 904-829-5132. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/register-now-for-teaching-team-to-mexico-august-11-18>

## Metropolitan Tikhon represents OCA at funeral of Rev. Billy Graham

CHARLOTTE, NC – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon represented the Orthodox Church in America at the funeral of the Rev. Billy Graham on Friday, March 2, 2018.

Over 2000 invited guests were present at the funeral for Rev. Graham, who died on February 21 at the age of 99. Among those in attendance were His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; His Grace, Bishop Anthony of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America's Diocese of Toledo, who represented His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph; and representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate and the Assyrian Church of the East.

The Rev. Graham was no stranger to Orthodox Christianity. In the 1980s, he visited and preached in the Soviet Union – unprecedented during that era. He also visited Romania and other traditionally Orthodox Christian lands.

At the repast for guests that followed the interment, Metropolitan Tikhon offered an opening prayer. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-represents-oca-at-funeral-of-rev.-billy-graham>



Metropolitan Tikhon with Bishop Anthony and Archbishop Demetrios at funeral.

## Holy Synod awards Order of St. Romanos to three noted liturgical musicians

SYOSSET, NY – During their Spring Session April 17-20, 2018, the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops awarded the Order of Saint Romanos to three individuals in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field of liturgical music in the Orthodox Church in America and beyond.

Established by the Holy Synod of Bishops in 2014, the Order is awarded to influential arrangers, composers, teachers, and conductors.

On Sunday, May 6, the Order was presented to Carol Wetmore during a celebration marking her 50th Anniversary as Choir Director at Holy Trinity Church, Randolph, NJ. Carol has been active in many choral organizations, including the Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir, for which she served as President. She co-chairs the Diocese of New York and New Jersey's Commission on Liturgical Music and has personally organized many music workshops.

Archpriest Martin Nicolai will be awarded the Order on August 19 in Kwethluk, AK, where he resides in retirement. Father Martin and his collaborators produced the first written edition of the Divine Liturgy Hymnal and the traditional "Alaskan Eight Tones" in the Yup'ik language. He also arranged and translated into Yup'ik many Slavonic melodies and authored numerous original compositions. His work has attracted much interest from Orthodox musicians the world over.

On Sunday, September 2, the Order will be presented to Kenneth J. Kovach at Saint Theodosius Cathedral, Cleveland, OH, where he has been Choir Master for 47 years. He is especially known for increasing public awareness of Orthodox Christianity through scores of public liturgical music concerts and presentations and a wide range of civic and cultural activities.

■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-awards-order-of-st.-romanos-to-three-noted-liturgical-musicians>

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a Church and to clearly lay out both the challenges and the ways forward through those challenges."

Members of the Holy Synod heard reports from Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor; Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary; and Melanie Ringa, Treasurer. Reports also were given by Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky of the Office of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations; Judge E. R. Lanier, OCA General Counsel; Hieromonk Nikodhim of the Department of Pastoral Life; Cindy Heise of the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations and the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee; Dr. David Drillock of the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations; Priest Christopher Rowe of the Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry; and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak of the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Holy Synod reviewed and blessed the agenda, handbook and updated instructions for the 19th AAC. They also gave their blessing to the Finance Resolution for funding the Church for the period after the 19th AAC, which will be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee and presented to AAC delegates for their consideration. His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, Chair of the Commission on Statutes and Canons, presented proposed Statute Amendments. The Holy Synod blessed three of the proposed amendments, all of which will be further reviewed by the Commission.

A committee was appointed to plan celebrations associated with the 50th Anniversary in 2020 of the granting of Autocephaly and the Canonization of Saint Herman of Alaska. His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West, will chair the committee.

During the gathering, the members of the Holy Synod hosted the OCA's 2018 seminary graduates for dinner, during which expectations on parish life were shared in an informal setting. ■

■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-of-bishops-concludes-spring-session3>