

FC RC NPKA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY TO HIM FOREVER!

November 16, 2014	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
November 21	Friday. ENTRY OF THE VIRGIN INTO THE TEMPLE.	Liturgy	9:30 am
November 22	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
November 23	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Saints of the Day: Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (60). New Hieromartyrs Priest Theodore Korolev and with him Martyr Ananias Boykov and Michael Boldakov (1929). New Hieromartyrs Priests John, Nicholas, Victor, Basil, Makarius and Michael. Hieromartyr Panteleimon (1937). Martyr Demetrius (1938). Saint Fulvianus, Prince of Ethiopia, in baptism Matthew (1 c). Hieromartyr Hipatius Bishop of Gangra (360). Venerable Sergius, Abbot of Malopinega (1585). Saint Eucherius of Lyons (449). Saint Lubuinus, Missionary to Friesland (773). Saint Otmar, Abbot and monastic founder in Switzerland. Saint Afan of Wales, Bishop (6 c)..Saint Alfrick of Canterbury, Archbishop (1006)

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine. Bishop BOULOS Yazigi, Bishop YOHANNA Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Athanasy, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Alvian, Eugene, Leonid, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Jacobus, Leonid, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Raphaela Meriam, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Jamie, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Vincent, Diane, Abigail.

Eis Polla Eti Despota! Prayers for the health of Metropolitan TIKHON were offered today for the anniversary of his election. God grant him many years!

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Reader Matthew Boncella, Matthew Bohush, Priest Matthew Markewich, Archpriest Matthew Searfoorce, Matthew Pintar, James Williams were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly-departed aunt Maria Roshko were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the Walter Tirenin Family.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the soul of newly-departed Shelby Sobolowski were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of Larry and Barbara Daley.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of the souls of Catherine Chanas, Alexandria and Egnestia Jovorosky, Walter Jovorosky Jr, Max Spytko and Kathryn Chlus were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

Help delegates from Alaska, Mexico attend the 18th All-American Council

October 29, 2014 SYOSSET, NY [OCA]

Crucial to the success of the 18th All-American Council, slated to convene in Atlanta, GA July 20-24, 2015, is a full complement of delegates representing parishes of every diocese of the Orthodox Church in America.

In an effort to assist delegates from the Dioceses of Alaska and Mexico, for whom travel costs can be beyond reach, a special appeal has been issued with the blessing of the Holy Synod of Bishops with the concurrence of the Metropolitan Council to help offset their expenses.

"As we prepare to come together for the All-American Council in Atlanta next July, our thoughts turn to the idea of mission for the Orthodox Church in America," said His Grace, Bishop David of Anchorage and Alaska. "What is more important to the idea of mission than the presence of delegates from our first missionary diocese in Alaska—and our newest missionary diocese in Mexico—on the North American continent?"

"However, this is unlikely to happen without help," Bishop David continued. "Clergy and faithful in Alaska still live very much as they have lived for the last 200 years, a subsistence lifestyle that involves very little cash and a great deal of hard work to provide food and fuel for their existence. For Alaskan residents, a ticket from the Anchorage hub to Atlanta can be well over \$1,000.00, if not substantially more. And Mexico is in a similar position, especially with the peso-to-dollar exchange rate."

Clergy, faithful and parishes who wish to assist their "northernmost" and "southernmost" brothers and sisters to participate in the 18th All-American Council are invited to send donations to the Orthodox Church in America, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791. Please make checks payable to the "Orthodox Church in America" and include "18th AAC Travel Fund" in the memo line. All donations will be used exclusively for their intended purpose, and accounted for accordingly. Specific questions or suggestions may be directed to Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer, at mringa@oca.org. "We hope that there will be many faithful willing to take the responsibility of helping to fund delegates from our oldest and youngest dioceses," Bishop David concluded. "Please think of this opportunity as a way to help the Orthodox Church in America fulfill its mission to be a light to all peoples as we move forward for the glory of God!"

Our Mission Today Posted on October 25, 2014 in 'Reflections' by Dr. Paul Meyendorf

As we prepare for the 18th All-American Council, more than one century after the 1907 Sobor in Mayfield, PA, we are once more given the opportunity to reflect on where we have been and, more importantly, where we are going.

At first glance, the situation confronting us today could not be more different than that faced in 1907. Then, we were an immigrant church, still speaking in a foreign tongue, struggling to acclimate ourselves to a western, American culture that was both ignorant of Orthodoxy and generally hostile to it. Yet we persevered, both in making North America our home, and in maintaining the Orthodox faith of our ancestors despite countless challenges, material and spiritual. We have made the transition from being an immigrant Church to being a local Church, at home – but not too much at home! – within American society.

A recent survey has shown that converts now represent a majority of members in the OCA! Our autocephaly, granted in 1970, stands as a powerful symbol of our mission to be the Church in North America, to the continued dismay of some who would prefer to keep Orthodoxy as an ethnic or colonial enclave. This is our vision.

What, then, is our mission today? It is nothing less than to live out this vision, to be the Church at this time and in this place. That task needs to be realized at every level.

- By the individual parishioner whose life should be a shining example to others at home, in the workplace, and in society.
- By the parish through its liturgical and social ministry, as well as in its cooperation with other parishes and outreach to the local community.
- By the diocese, led by its bishop, which coordinates and supervises the work of the parishes.
- By the Holy Synod and the central Church administration, which coordinate the work of the dioceses, maintain good relations with other Orthodox jurisdictions and Churches, and witness to Orthodoxy in the public and ecumenical arenas, both nationally and internationally.

Each is equally important, and our mission will succeed only if we place an appropriate emphasis on each level. At the upcoming All-American Council, the business sessions will focus on revising and updating the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America and on securing the financial stability of the central Church administration. While this may not seem particularly inspiring, it touches on the very nature of how we understand ourselves and the Church. All of us – bishops, clergy, and laity – will pray together, share in the Eucharist, deliberate, and make the decisions necessary for the well-being of the Church in America. This is no different than what our ancestors in the faith, led by Saint Archbishop Tikhon, did more than a century ago at that first American Sobor in Mayfield. And in doing this, we are doing nothing less than fulfilling the vision held by Saint Tikhon, in which everyone — clergy and laity alike — share responsibility for the governance of the Church.

Dr. Paul Meyendorff is the Father Alexander Schmemmann Professor of Liturgical Theology and Director of Continuing Education at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY. He also serves as a member of the OCA's Metropolitan Council and as a consultant to the OCA's Office of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations.

The Holy Apostle Matthew the Evangelist, son of Alphaeus, was a tax collector when the Lord saw him in Capernaum and said: Follow Me. And he arose, and followed Him (Matthew 9:9). After that, Matthew prepared a reception for the Lord in his home and thus provided the occasion for the Lord to express several great truths about His coming to earth. After receiving the Holy Spirit, Matthew preached the Gospel to the Parthians, Medes and Ethiopians. In Ethiopia he appointed his follower Plato as bishop, and withdrew to prayerful solitude on a mountain, where the Lord appeared to him. Matthew baptized the wife and the son of the Prince of Ethiopia, at which the prince became greatly enraged and dispatched a guard to bring Matthew to him for trial. The soldiers returned to the prince saying that they had heard Matthew's voice, but could not see him with their eyes. The prince then sent a second guard. When this guard approached the apostle, he shone with a heavenly light so powerful that the soldiers could not look at him; filled with fear, they threw down their weapons and returned. The prince then went himself. Matthew radiated such light that the prince was instantly blinded. However, the holy apostle had a compassionate heart; he prayed to God, and the prince was given back his sight. Unfortunately, he saw only with physical eyes and not spiritual eyes. He arrested Matthew and subjected him to cruel tortures. Twice, a large fire was lighted on his chest, but the power of God preserved him alive and unharmed. Then the apostle prayed to God and gave up his spirit. The prince commanded that the martyr's body be placed in a lead coffin and thrown into the sea. The saint appeared to Bishop Plato and told him where the coffin bearing his body could be found. The bishop retrieved the coffin with Matthew's body from the sea. Witnessing this new miracle, the prince was baptized and received the name Matthew. After that, the prince left all the vanity of the world and became a presbyter and served the Church in a God-pleasing way. When Plato died, the Apostle Matthew appeared to the presbyter Matthew and counseled him to accept the episcopacy. He accepted the bishopric and, for many years, was a good shepherd until the Lord called him to His Immortal Kingdom. Saint Matthew the Apostle wrote his Gospel in the Aramaic language. It was soon after translated into Greek and the Greek text has come down to us, while the Aramaic text has been lost. It is said of this evangelist that he never ate meat, but only vegetables and fruit.

The Venerable Sergius of Malopinega was a Russian parish priest who lived a God-pleasing life and served for sixty-two years in the province of Vologda. He peacefully entered into rest in the Lord on November 16, 1585, at the age of ninety-two.