

## **Holy Synod concludes Fall Session**

**SYOSSET, NY** – The Fall 2017 Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America was held at the Chancery November 14-17, 2017.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon reported on the ongoing development of the "Four Pillars of the Church" document he plans to release in the near future. He thanked the officers and Chancery staff for their good work and reported on a number of issues, including recent travels and initiatives.

Reports were offered by the OCA's officers. Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, presented a revised draft of the document, "Guidelines for the Reception and Transfer of Clergy into the Orthodox Church in America," which will be further reviewed. Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary, reviewed the ongoing redesign of the OCA web site, offered an update on the Archives renovation, and presented a report on the third OCA Mission School. Melanie Ringa, Treasurer, reviewed the finances for 2017 and presented the 2018 budget, which the Holy Synod blessed.

A report on legal matters was given by the OCA's General Counsel, Judge E. R. Lanier. His Grace, Bishop Paul reported on work undertaken by the Spiritual Abuse Committee. Draft documents will be reviewed by the Holy Synod before their Spring 2018 Session.

Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, highlighted various issues affecting world Orthodoxy. The Holy Synod approved Archpriest Daniel

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## **The Holy Synod of Bishops**



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

**Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

To the Honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of  
the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord,

As we come to the end of the civil year, we reflect back on a period in which tragedy, acts of terrorism, shootings in public spaces, political confusion, and sexual misconduct allegations dominate the news. The darkness which enshrouds the world adds to the burden of our personal and family struggles: addictions, estrangement, divorce and all manner of conflict wrought by human passions. We might be tempted to wonder how love could have so definitively fled from the hearts of human beings.

The feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is a reminder to all of us that "heaven and earth today make glad prophetically" and angels and men "keep spiritual feast for God, born of a woman, has appeared in the flesh to those that sit in darkness and shadow." The light that we receive today is not merely a physical light that pierces the gloom which surrounds us, but rather a transfiguring light that both reveals God's love for us and inspires us to grow in our love for God.

There is no philosophy or ideology that can overcome the irrationality of the world. It is only the transfiguring light of Christ – His divine and sacrificial love – that can accomplish this. It is only through love that we can, with the animals and the manger, "accept Him who by His Word has loosed us dwellers on earth from acts that are against reason." When we despair at the tragedies in the world and in our lives, let us remember that it is precisely in the midst of such darkness that the Word of God chose to be incarnate.

Archimandrite Zacharias suggests that "when we are confronted by the ruins of human love and find ourselves completely broken, then two solutions can be given: either we turn to God with our pain, so that God enters our life and renews us, or we continue to be deceived by our human plans and slide from one tragedy and barrenness of soul to another, hoping that one day we will find perfection."

The world longs for authentic love but seems to remain mired in the global tragedies that we witness every day. In our horizontal and human relations with one another, what is missing is God Himself, a third and divine-human Person to purify and heal our imperfect and broken relationships. Whether it be husband and wife, brother and sister, or larger communities, true love and abiding peace can only be found through our communion with God.

In our Orthodox context, this takes place through the Divine Liturgy and through our efforts to nurture the sacrificial love of God in our own hearts.

"Paradise begins on earth through love for God and love for our fellows. In this

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## **Metropolitan Tikhon concelebrates with Patriarch John X at Antiochian Cathedral**

**BROOKLYN, NY** – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with His Beatitude, Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East and His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America at the Archdiocese's Cathedral of Saint Nicholas here on Sunday, October 29, 2017.

Patriarch John was in the US to participate in an "In Defense of Christians" Summit, "American Leadership and Securing the Future of Christians in the Middle East," in Washington, DC October 24-26.

Concelebrating with Patriarch John and Metropolitans Tikhon and Joseph were His Grace, Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Diocese of Oakland, Charleston and the Mid-Atlantic; His Grace, Bishop John of the Diocese of Worcester and New England; and His Grace, Bishop Nicholas of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-concelebrates-with-antiochian-patriarch-john-x>



**Metropolitan Tikhon with Antiochian Patriarch John X**

## **Fr. Daniel Andrejuk appointed OCA Representative to the Moscow Patriarchate**

**SYOSSET, NY** – At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy marking the patronal feast of the OCA's Representation Church of Saint Catherine in Moscow on December 7, 2017, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon introduced Archpriest Daniel Andrejuk as the new Representative to the Patriarchate and Rector of Saint Catherine Church.

Father Daniel was appointed by Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA.

Born in Bialystok, Poland in 1976, Father Daniel at the age of 12 relocated with his family to the US. After graduating from Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA in 1999, he pursued graduate studies at the Moscow Theological Academy, graduating in 2002. He was ordained to the diaconate at Saint Catherine Church on June 9, 2002 and to the priesthood at Saint Tikhon's Monastery on August 15 of the same year. For several years, he served as Rector of Saint Tikhon Church, Anchorage, AK,

Father Michael, Matushka Vera and their three daughters Paraskeva, Ephimia and Fevronia, will relocate to Moscow during the last week of January 2018. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-presides-at-patronal-feast-of-ocas-representation-church>



**Fr. Daniel Andrejuk**

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## **Holy Synod concludes Fall Session**

Andrejuk as the OCA's Representative to the Moscow Patriarchate. Updates on the Departments of Pastoral Life, Continuing Education, and Evangelization and the Board of Theological Education were offered, while Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak presented a report on the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Holy Synod of Bishops is the supreme canonical authority in the Orthodox Church in America. Chaired by the Metropolitan, the Holy Synod includes as voting members all diocesan bishops. ■ <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/holy-synod-of-bishops-concludes-fall-session3>

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.

November/December 2017

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

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## **Nativity Message**

lies the entire wealth of eternal life, for man has been created to give eternal glory to God. His delight is to return this glory to His image, man, who then returns greater glory to his Creator."

Today's feast is a reminder that it is through this cycle of glorification and love between God and man that we find our true fulfillment. May the new-born Christ grant us the courage to keep His love in our hearts, to connect with our fellows through prayer, sacrifice, and humility, and to remember that, no matter the degree of our own brokenness or the brokenness of the world, Christ has come to give us hope for renewal, "for what He was, He has remained, true God: and what He was not, He has taken upon Himself, becoming man through love for mankind."

With love in the New-Born Christ,

**+ Tikhon**

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

## **Desk Calendar available**

Orders are now being accepted for the OCA's 2018 Desk Calendar at \$20.00 per copy, which includes postage and handling. To order, send a check to Calendar, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791. To make a credit card phone order, contact Barry Migyanko at 516-922-0550, x133, or send your telephone number and mailing address in an e-mail to [yearbook@oca.org](mailto:yearbook@oca.org). ■

**FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/orders-for-2018-oca-desk-calendar-being-accepted>



**Metropolitan Tikhon, OCA delegation participate in Moscow celebrations marking 100th Anniversary of St. Tikhon's Enthronement**

**SYOSSET, NY** – During the first week of December 2017, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and a delegation representing the Orthodox Church in America traveled to Moscow to participate in celebrations marking the 100th Anniversary of the Election and Enthronement of Saint Tikhon as Patriarch of Moscow and the Restoration of the Patriarchate.

His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill had extended invitations to the Primates of the Local Orthodox Churches to participate in the celebrations and services marking the historic occasion. Thirteen of the 15 Local Churches were represented.

Metropolitan Tikhon and the OCA delegation, which included His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa; Archpriest Daniel Andrejuk; Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer; Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak; and Subdeacon Roman Ostash, arrived in Moscow on Friday, December 1.

The following afternoon, Metropolitan Tikhon and delegation members attended a session of the Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church at Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral, during which each of the Primates and representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches addressed the assembly.

On Sunday, December 3, Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the Divine Liturgy at the Valaam Monastery Representation Church in Moscow, at which Bishop Daniel and the clergy members of the OCA delegation served.

The highlight of the visit was the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Christ the Savior Cathedral on Monday, December 4. His Beatitude, Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, presided as senior hierarch, while the Primates and their representatives concelebrated. The relics of Saint Tikhon had been brought to the cathedral for the Liturgy. In the evening, Metropolitan Tikhon and the other Primates attended an anniversary concert in the State Kremlin Palace and a dinner hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

On Tuesday, December 5, Metropolitan Tikhon and the OCA delegation were hosted



**LEFT/ Metropolitan Tikhon and delegation meet with Patriarch Kirill at Patriarchal Residence.**

at area monasteries and had the rare opportunity to visit the room in which Saint Tikhon fell asleep in the Lord in 1925.

In the afternoon, Metropolitan Tikhon and the delegation met with Patriarch Kirill at the Patriarchal Residence in the Danilov Monastery.

"It is world Orthodoxy that, in large part, is represented here in Moscow this week, and I congratulate Your Holiness on your initiative in gathering representations from thirteen of the Local Orthodox Churches in a spirit of unity and brotherhood," Metropolitan Tikhon said in greeting the Patriarch. "This spirit was tangibly felt in our common celebration of the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Entrance of the Mother of God and in the many opportunities for dialogue and conversation amongst the brothers.

"The Orthodox Church in America takes particular joy in sharing in this celebration because of the veneration that our bishops, clergy, monastics, and faithful have for the person and holiness of Saint Tikhon, who so nobly and humbly assumed the heavy yoke of the restored Patriarchal throne," Metropolitan Tikhon added.

Metropolitan Tikhon presented a hand-painted icon of Saint Tikhon to Patriarch Kirill. The unique icon depicts Saint Tikhon with the Kremlin's Dormition Cathedral, in which he was enthroned in 1917, and Saint Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, PA, which he founded while serving as Bishop and later Archbishop of North America from 1898 until 1907.

In the evening, Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the celebration of the Vigil for the patronal feast of the OCA's Representation Church of Saint Catherine in Moscow.

On Thursday, December 7, the feast of Saint Catherine, Metropolitan Tikhon, Bishop Daniel and the delegation celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Saint Catherine Church with

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**Patriarch Kirill with Primates and representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches after Liturgy in Christ the Savior Cathedral.**



**Treasurer's report for third quarter of 2017 released**

**SYOSSET, NY** – During the first week of November 2017, Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer, released the financial report for the third quarter of the year. Highlights include the following.

- The balance sheet as of September 30, 2017 indicates total assets of \$3,370,050.00, total liabilities of \$223,268.00, and net assets of \$3,146,781.00, which represents a year-to-date increase/surplus of \$319,913.00.
- Of the total cash amount of \$335,703.00 indicated through September 30, \$78,901.00 is unrestricted.
- Accounts receivable of \$159,827.00 represents August and September 2017 diocesan support due, most of which had been received by the end of October.
- Restricted investments and trusts show a balance of \$2,600,996.00.
- Net assets at the beginning of 2017 were \$2,826,712.00. With the net surplus for the nine month period, net assets total \$3,146,782.00 as of September 30. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/treasurers-report-for-third-quarter-of-2017-released>

**California monastery spared in massive fires**

**SANTA PAULA, CA** – Mother Victoria and the sisterhood of Saint Barbara Monastery, who were evacuated at the outbreak of the Thomas Fire on Monday, December 4, 2017, have returned to the monastery after it was spared in the rapidly spreading blaze.

“While there was no running water or heat due to the lack of electricity, they are grateful that they and their buildings, including the recently completed chapel, were spared the destruction others have faced,” said Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West.

Archbishop Benjamin and the monastic sisterhood are thankful for the prayers of so many during the tragedy, and request ongoing prayers in the days ahead. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/nuns-return-to-st.-barbara-monastery-as-fires-spread-across-la-region>

**Ads, listings for 19th AAC, FOCA Convention commemorative book now being accepted**

**SYOSSET, NY** – Ads and listings for the commemorative book that will be published in conjunction with the 19th All-American Council [AAC] and the 92nd National Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America [FOCA] are now being accepted.

The Convention will open in Saint Louis, MO on July 20, 2018, while the AAC will gather from July 23 through 27. Both events will share the same venue – the Saint Louis Union Station Hotel. Deadline for ads and listings is June 1, 2018. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/ads-and-listings-for-19th-aac-foca-convention-commemorative-book-now-being>

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**Metropolitan Tikhon, OCA delegation visits Russia**

His Grace, Bishop John of Naro-Fominsk, Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA; representatives of the Patriarchate's Department of External Church Relations; the heads of the Representations of the Churches of Bulgaria and the Czech Lands and Slovakia; and the parish and local clergy. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Metropolitan Tikhon introduced Father Daniel Andrejuk, who will begin his ministry as the OCA Representative to the Patriarchate and Rector of Saint Catherine Church in early 2018. Also in attendance were representatives of the US, Canadian and Mexican Embassies. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-oca-delegation-return-from-celebrations-commemorating-s>

**In Memoriam**

- **Archpriest Alvian and Matushka Helen Smirensky** fell asleep in the Lord on December 10, 2017 in Albany, NY. In retirement Fr. Alvian was attached to New Skete Monastery. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-alvian-and-matushka-helen-smirensky>
- **Ann [Rosics] Dahulich**, 91, of Binghamton, NY, beloved mother of His Eminence, Archbishop Michael of New York and New Jersey, fell asleep in the Lord on December 6, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/ann-rosics-dahulich-mother-of-archbishop-michael>
- **Matushka Valerie Katharine Herrick** of Topeka, KS, wife of the late Archpriest Michael Herrick, fell asleep in the Lord on December 5, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-valerie-katharine-herrick>
- **Mitered Archpriest Michael Margitich**, Pastor Emeritus of St. Seraphim of Sarov Cathedral, Santa Rosa, CA, fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, November 11, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/mitered-archpriest-michael-margitich>
- **Protodeacon Keith S. Russin**, 70, attached in retirement to the Monastery Church of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, South Canaan, PA, fell asleep in the Lord on October 26, 2017. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/protodeacon-keith-s.-russin>

“Stewardship is not just a matter for parish and diocesan action. It's personal.”  
+Metropolitan Tikhon

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**Donate on-line at**  
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**or send your gift to SOCA,**  
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