St. Tikhon’s announces 113th Memorial Day Pilgrimage schedule

SOUTH CANAAN, PA – The community of Saint Tikhon’s Monastery and Seminary extends a warm invitation to the faithful to participate in the 113th annual pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon’s Monastery – North America’s oldest – Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29, 2017.

The pilgrimage’s opening service will be held on Friday, May 26 at 3:30 p.m. with the greeting of the Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Iveron Mother of God and the celebration of a Molieben. A full schedule of services will be celebrated through Monday, May 29. On Saturday, May 27, the 75th annual Commencement of Saint Tikhon’s Seminary will be held.

Concurrently, the Patriarch Tikhon Russian-American Music Institute will hold a conference for conductors and singers.

“We are very glad to be able to offer the blessing of the monastery and her founder, Saint Tikhon of Moscow, to all visiting hierarchs, clergy and faithful from the Orthodox Church in America and other Orthodox Christian jurisdictions and guests from near and far,” said Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of Saint Tikhon’s Monastery. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/st-tikhons-monastery-announces-113th-memorial-day-pilgrimage-schedule

Treasurer’s report for first quarter of 2017 now available

SYOSSET, NY – During the first week of May 2017, Melanie Ringa, Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, released the financial report for the first quarter of the year.

Highlights of the report include the following.

- The balance sheet as of March 31, 2017 indicates total assets of $3,082,640.00, total liabilities of $215,127.00, and net assets of $2,867,513.00, representing an increase/surplus of $40,801.00 year-to-date.
- Total revenues were over budget by $7,350.00, while expenses for the quarter were right on budget with a variance of a mere $52.00.
- Year-to-date contributions to the “Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America” totaled $11,435.00. Departmental expenses totaled $18,913.00, compared to a budget of $26,651.00.
- With regard to permanently restricted funds, unrealized investment gains totaled $24,664.00 for the first quarter. Additional Mission Endowment funding totaled $25,000.00, with expenses of $2,639.00, for a net surplus of $47,025.00. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/treasurers-report-for-first-quarter-of-2017-released

“Expand the Mission!” Join the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America today!

Donate on-line at http://oca.org/become-a-steward or send your donation to SOCA, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791
OCA annual Diaconal Liturgical Practicum to be held at SVOTS June 25-28

YONKERS, NY – The Orthodox Church in America’s 11th annual Diaconal Liturgical Practicum will be held on the campus of Saint Vladimir’s Seminary June 25–28, 2017. The program will offer intense practical training for deacons and lay deacon candidates focusing on the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and other services. Intensive workshops will highlight skills needed to serve effectively and explore the deacon’s broader vocation to the community.

“This practicum is highly recommended by the Holy Synod for participants in the OCA’s Diaconal Vocations Program and related programs,” said Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, Director of Diaconal and Late Vocations, who will facilitate the practicum’s liturgical workshops. “Sessions also will cover chanting and vocal technique and related topics.” ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-annual-diaconal-liturgical-practicum-to-be-held-june-25-28

Assembly of Bishops releases study on evangelization, outreach in US parishes

NEW YORK, NY – The first-ever national study on evangelization and outreach in Orthodox Christian parishes in the US was released by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the USA during the last week of April 2017.

Titled “Go and Make Disciples: Evangelization and Outreach in US Orthodox Parishes,” the study explores practices and strategies developed by Orthodox parishes that can be viewed as “exemplary” in their outreach efforts. Parishes representing seven jurisdictions participated in this study, which was prepared by Alexei Krindatch, Assembly Research Coordinator, in cooperation with Archpriest Eric Tosi, OCA Secretary; Priest John Parker, Chair of the OCA Department of Evangelization; and Adam Roberts of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/assembly-of-bishops-releases-study-on-evangelization-outreach-in-us-parishes

In Brief

DCE releases five-part Vacation Church School resource

“The Rest of the Story” is the title of a five-session Vacation Church School program released in April by the OCA Department of Christian Education. Created by Gail McIntyre of Louisville, KY and edited and expanded by DCE staffers, the series provides lessons on four levels, ages three through grade five. Each session provides Old Testament personalities and includes hands-on activities and discussion points. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/planning-ahead-dce-releases-new-five-part-vcs-resource

OCF announces Leadership Institute August 16-19

The Orthodox Christian Fellowship will hold its annual Leadership Institute for college students at Saint Tikhon’s Monastery Camp, South Canaan, PA, August 16-19, 2017. A variety of leadership-related themes will be explored in a series of workshops and practical presentations. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/ocf-announces-summer-leadership-institute-august-16-19

Camp for youth with disabilities to begin second year

All Saints Camp, Emlenton, PA, will be the site of the second annual Saint Nicholas Program for Orthodox youth ages nine through 19 with disabilities and their families June 19-22, 2017. Sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the program will feature sensory friendly daily services, modified lessons, parent workshops, parent/child sports, crafts, singing, swimming and other activities. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/camp-for-youth-with-disabilities-to-begin-second-year

STM Press soliciting church photos for 2018 calendar

SOUTH CANAAN, PA – Parishes of the Orthodox Church in America are invited to submit photos that will be featured in Saint Tikhon’s Monastery Press 2018 Calendar.

“We are seeking photos depicting the beautiful interiors of our OCA churches,” said Archimandrite Sergius, Abbots of Saint Tikhon’s Monastery. “We also hope to receive photos taken during the liturgical year and interior shots taken from unique angles and perspectives.”

Each parish is invited to submit up to three high resolution photos. ■ FULL STORY: https://oca.org/news/headline-news/stm-press-soliciting-church-photos-for-2018-calendar

In Memoriam

• Archpriest Anthony Spengler, who was attached to Saint Panteleimon Church, Summit, IL, fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, May 5, 2016. ■ https://oca.org/in-memoriam/archpriest-anthony-spengler
• Nun Nila [Maikapar] fell asleep in the Lord in Rawdon, QC, Canada on Bright Wednesday, April 19, 2017. ■ https://oca.org/in-memoriam/nun-nila-maikapar