

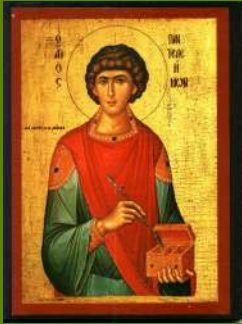
St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector V. Rev. Anthony Spengler, Attached

Protodeacon Robert Northrup Reader James Tilghman

Parish Council President: Nicholas Cavaligos



Sunday, January 24, 2016

Gospel: St. Luke 18:35-43

Tone 1

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

34th Sunday after Pentecost / Ven. Xenia of Rome and her two female servants

January Bulletin Sponsor

Fr. Andrew in Memory of his parents George & Dorothy

Liturgical & Event Schedule

Sunday, January 24

9:10 am: Hours

9:30 am: D.L. / 40 Day Panachida Firefighter
Dan / Social

1:00 pm: Retirement Party for Fr. Andrew H.

6:00 pm: Sanctity of Life Prayer Service

Tuesday, January 26

10:00 am Clergy Association Meeting

7:30 pm: Orthodoxy 101 Class

Wednesday, January 27

7:00 pm: Martha & Mary Meeting

Saturday, January 30

8:30 am: Speak out IL

NO VESPERS TONIGHT

Sunday, January 31

9:10 am: Hours

9:30 am: D.L. / Sm. Social

Noon : Greek Dinner w/ Burr Ridge

40 Days Eternal Memory

January 24: Firefighter Dan Capuano

February 7: Bernice McGurk

February 14: Helen Pender

February 21: Matthew Lyons

February 27: Terrorist attack @ Palestine Univ.

2016 - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January: St Tikhon's Seminary

This collection will take place during the Litany before the *Our Father* or see Steve Grabavoy or Mark Hruban

Colossians 3:4-11 (Epistle)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Luke 18:35-43 (Gospel)

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

MEMORIAL CANDLES

By the Grabavoy Family - In Memory of Anna & Theodore Grabavoy.

7549 West 61st Place, Summit, Illinois 60501

Rectory 708-552-5276 / Cell 570-212-8747

website: <http://www.saintpanteleimon.org/>

Will Everyone Eventually Be Saved?

By Father Lawrence Farley

When they are in fashion, fads are never recognized as fads. Those under their influence and promoting them feel that they have come across “An Important New Truth,” or (if Orthodox) “An Important But Neglected Part of Our Tradition.” Recognizing them as fads would only serve to dismiss them from serious consideration. Thus fads never ’fess up.

I suggest that the recent interest in Universalism—the belief that everyone will eventually be saved - is the latest fad. Evidence of this may be found in the fact that the view is being promoted by a number of different people who have little contact with one another and with little else in common, such as by scholar David Bentley Hart (in his essay *God, Creation, and Evil*), and also by Rob Bell (in his best-seller *Love Wins*). Admittedly the conviction that everyone will eventually be saved, including Satan and the demons, has been expressed from time to time throughout Christian history, but the majority of Christians have decided to pass on it. For people like the Orthodox who believe that God guides His Church and that therefore consensus matters, the solid fact of Christian consensus about the eternity of hell is surely significant.

I suspect that one reason that a belief in universalism is becoming popular is that our western culture has lost its sense of sin. In ancient times, all people, be they Jew, pagan, or Christian, believed that they stood guilty before the divine judgment seat. Thus when Christ said in passing that men were evil [Greek *poneros*; Matthew 7:11], no one batted an eye, for everyone knew it was true. We no longer believe that, and so (in C.S. Lewis’ famous phrase) we have put God in the dock, with ourselves as His judges. In this frame of mind the very existence of hell is a stumbling block, and something which cries out for justification, if not revision. Thus many even in the Church are happy to revise this part of our Tradition, using whatever justification can be found. The somewhat lonely patristic witness of Saint Gregory of Nyssa is being called upon, as well as that of Isaac the Syrian. Some even are suggesting rehabilitating Origen, even in the face of his conciliar condemnation by name in Canon 11 of the Fifth Ecumenical Council and Canon 1 of the “Quinisext” Council.

Much of the debate centers around the teaching of Saint Paul, who is presented as an apostolic witness for universalism. After all, Paul did teach that “as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22), and that at the end “God shall be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:28). The problem of course is that Saint Paul also taught that “the unrighteous will not inherit

the Kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9), and that at the end the disobedient “shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord” (2 Thessalonians 1:9), and no less an exegete than Saint John Chrysostom commented on this latter text that this penalty is “not temporary,” for “how then is that temporary which is eternal?” (from his third homily on 2 Thessalonians). So it would seem that Paul’s witness is ambiguous.

What is not ambiguous at all is the teaching of Christ, and He said repeatedly and emphatically that all would not eventually be saved, but that the punishments of hell were unending. He referred to the unrighteous being bound hand and foot and cast into the outer darkness (Matthew 8:12, 22:13, 25:30), with no suggestion that this punishment will be temporary. In His parable about Lazarus and the rich man, He explicitly said that there was a great gulf fixed between paradise and the place of punishment, so that none may cross over from the place to punishment into paradise (Luke 16:26), and this is an odd thing to say if in fact everyone in the place of punishment will indeed eventually cross over into paradise. Finally He referred to the fire of Gehenna as “the eternal fire.” And in His parable on the Last Judgment, He ended by saying that “these [unrighteous] will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matthew 25:46). The same word—“eternal” (Greek *aionion*)—is used to describe both the punishment of the wicked and the life of the saved, so if the life of the saved is unending, so must be the punishment of the wicked. One may debate the meaning of Saint Paul’s letters, but the words of Christ admit of no debate. The fire of Gehenna is real and eternal.

What does this mean for us? It is not a merely theoretical debate among theologians who seem to have too much time on their hands. It also has moral dimension, and an urgent one. We are, all of us, divided persons, fallen human beings, with temptation to sin ever close at hand and the devil also close to confirm our decisions to rebel against God’s Kingdom and His righteousness. That is perhaps why even Origen, who believed that all would be saved, counseled that this truth not be publicly proclaimed, but shared quietly among the spiritually mature. Most of us need all the help we can get in our struggle against sin, and cannot afford the luxury of the thought, even if it were true, that our sins, rebellion, and rejection of God ultimately will not matter because all will be saved. Doubtless that is why Origen thought the teaching should not be generally promoted. I suggest that the real truth is that all will not eventually be saved, and that the conviction that they will contains subjective spiritual dangers for some as well as being objective error. God calls us to hate sin and to war against it, not because it impedes our eventual arrival in the Kingdom, but because it could prevent it altogether. All will not be saved. The gate to life is small and the way is narrow that leads to it and few are those who find it (Matthew 7:14). All the more reason for us to repent and walk in truth and righteousness and enter by that small and narrow gate.

Subdeacon John Kennerk ordained to the Diaconate

Subdeacon John Kennerk was ordained to the Diaconate by His Grace, Bishop Paul during the Divine Liturgy celebrated at Christ the Savior Church here on Sunday, January 10, 2016.

Concelebrating with Bishop Paul were Priest John Baker and Deacons Theophan Warren and Alexander Koranda. Philip Sokolov led the parish choir.

Deacon John — currently a second-year Master of Divinity Student at Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA — and his wife Michelle had been received into Orthodox Christianity at Christ the Savior Church in 2011.

Also during the Divine Liturgy, Bishop Paul tonsured Andrew Bender to the Order of Reader. Andrew and his family also had been received into the Faith at Christ the Savior Church in 2014.

The Liturgy was broadcast live on Ancient Faith Radio.

Bishop Paul expresses gratitude for 2015 "Support Our Seminarians" Appeal

His Grace, Bishop Paul wishes to express his deepest gratitude for the generous response of the parishes and faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest to the 2015 "Support Our Seminarians" Appeal initiated on "SOS Sunday," September 27.

Donations from parishes and individuals continued to come in through the last day of December, bringing the total for this year's appeal to just over \$17,000.00.

"Assisting our seminarians in bearing the burden of educational costs and ever-increasing living expenses — especially for those who are married — is crucial," said Bishop Paul.

All funds will be distributed directly to Midwest Diocesan seminarians.

Special recognition is offered to nine "top giving" parishes whose faithful collected and donated a minimum of \$1,000.00 to this year's appeal. Saint Paul the Apostle Church, Dayton, OH, donated \$3,000.00, while Saint Joseph Church, Wheaton, IL contributed \$2,000.00. Donations of \$1,000.00 each were received from Christ the Saviour-Holy Spirit Church, Cincinnati, OH; Saint Nicholas Church, Mentor, OH; Saint Nicholas Church, Mogadore, OH; Holy Resurrection Church, Palatine, IL;

Saint Luke Church, Palos Hills, IL; Saint Mark Church, Rochester Hills, MI; and the Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary Church, Royalton, IL.

In related news, donations to the Diocese's effort to raise funds to purchase motorbikes for priests in Kenya, initiated at the beginning of the Nativity Fast, are still being accepted. While a goal of \$10,000.00 had been announced, contributions through the first week of January 2016 also topped \$17,000.00.

As we begin a new year, we wish to thank everyone for their generous support for these most worthy causes "at home" and abroad. May God bless one and all!

Villanova University exhibition to honor St. Herman of Alaska

In honor of the 45th Anniversary of the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska, an exhibition—"Russian America: The Alaskan Native Spiritual Legacy"—will open at Villanova University here on January 22, 2016.

The exhibition, which runs through May 16, was organized by Archpriest John J. Perich, Curator of the Metropolitan Museum of the Orthodox Church in America and Saint Tikhon's [Monastery](#) and [Seminary](#) Icon Repository, South Canaan, PA, and the Rev. Richard G. Cannuli, OSA, Villanova University Art Gallery. Artifacts on display reflect the various native American peoples of Alaska, their culture and the spiritual legacy of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Detailed information on the exhibition may be found at www.ArtGallery.Villanova.edu and www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/artgallery/current_exhibit.html.

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

"If you left the church to get away from hypocritical people, you should also quit your job, drop out of school, disconnect yourself from all your friends and family, and lock yourself in your room while you're at it. There will be flaws wherever there are humans. We need to start seeing church for what it is: it is a hospital with wounded and hurt people. You will find messed up, conniving, calculating, imperfect individuals, including yourself. As much as you want to deny it, we all go for healing. So if you felt betrayed by a fellow church member, put your nursing cap on, and think of them as your patients. Treat them with care, love, and kindness despite their rudeness."

OCA Endorsers attend meetings in US capital

Archpriests Theodore Boback and Steven Voytovich, who represent the Orthodox Church in America for [military](#) and [institutional](#) endorsements respectively, joined their counterparts from other traditions at meetings in the nation's capital during the second week of January 2016.

Father Steven attended the Association of Religious Endorsing Body [AREB] meeting, as well as the Commission on Ministry in Specialized Settings [COMISS] Network. The OCA became a COMISS member in 2005. Father Steven has served on the COMISS Executive Committee and is AREB's past-Chair.

Father Theodore attended the National Conference on Ministry in the Armed Forces [NCMAF] and Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy [ECVAC]. Previously a member of the NCMAF Executive Committee and past Chair of ECVAC, he currently serves on ECVAC's Executive Committee.

Among those with whom they met were the Rev. David Plummer, former COMISS Chair and Endorser for the Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches, and the Rev. Michael McCoy, past Secretary of COMISS, who currently serves as Director of VA Chaplains at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"It is a great joy for both of us to represent our OCA at these national round tables to draw from and contribute to best practices in religious endorsement for the benefit of our respective chaplains who serve throughout North America," said Father Steven. "Please keep all of our military and institutional chaplains in your daily prayers, alongside our parish clergy, as they minister to those in need."

New SVS Press publications explore primacy, conciliarity

Amid global discussions regarding the Great Council of the Orthodox Church in 2016, Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press recently announced two soon-to-be-released publications that explore issues related to primacy and conciliarity.

Both volumes are compilations that feature the work of expert scholars. *Primacy in the Church: The Office of Primate and the Authority of Councils (Volume I)* was edited by the Reverend Dr. John Chryssavgis, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, while the newest issue of *St. Vladimir's*

Theological Quarterly (Vol. 60, No. 1–2) was edited by Dr. Paul Meyendorff, the Father Alexander Schmemmann Professor of Liturgical Theology at [Saint Vladimir's Seminary](#).

Primacy in the Church will be formally released at the seminary's 33rd annual [Father Alexander Schmemmann Memorial Lecture](#), to be held on the seminary campus at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2016. The editor of the volume will deliver this year's Schmemmann lecturer. His topic will be "Toward the Holy and Great Council: Retrieving a Culture of Conciliarity and Consensus."

In the first volume of *Primacy in the Church*, Father Chryssavgis examines the development and application of a theology of primacy and synodality through the centuries, and addresses what is arguably the most significant and sensitive issue in both inter-Orthodox debate and inter-Christian dialogue—namely, the authority of the primate and the role of councils in the thought and tradition of the Church. The editor draws together original contributions from prominent scholars today, complemented by formative selections from theologians in the recent past, as well as relevant ecumenical documents.

The second volume, to be released this spring, will explore how such a theology can inform contemporary ecclesiology and reconcile current practices.

"The editor and contributor of four articles, Father John Chryssavgis, is to be commended and congratulated because he managed—in cooperation with Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press—to place at the disposal of Church authorities and theologians a valuable resource on a crucial issue," said His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Commenting on the special issue of the *Quarterly*, Dr. Meyendorff said, "In this special double issue, some 20 scholars—primarily Orthodox, but also Protestant and Roman Catholic—reflect on the chief issues the upcoming council will (or will not) address, as well as their desires and hopes for its outcome. Reflecting a broad spectrum of perspectives, the contributors clearly demonstrate the multiple challenges that face contemporary Orthodoxy, both internally and also in relation to other Christian churches."

SVS Press is offering a pre-publication discount on *Primacy in the Church (Volume I)* through January 31, 2016. It may be purchased on-line. The special double issue of *Saint Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* may be purchased on-line.

Since its inception in 1968, SVS Press has been integral to the seminary's mission to serve Christ and His Church through theological education, research and scholarship. Its books, music and lecture CDs, and children's titles provide spiritual and intellectual nourishment to Orthodox Christian faithful and those around the globe seeking information about the Orthodox Church.

Prayer List : UPDATED 1-17-16

Prizsts: Anthony Spenglar, John Kuchta, James Gleason (*Fr. 's spiritual father*), ***Ted Bobosh**, ***Moses Berry**,***John Magramm**, ***John Matusiak**, John Duranko, Lev Holowoty, ***Anastassy Fehr**, ***Leonid Kishkovsky**

Deacons: NONE

Matushka: Kristy Lollar & her unborn child,***Carol Janacek**, Pani Patricia Duranko

Parishioners: Karen Muzyka, Mark Hruban, Ronald Stachowiak, Rebecca Eggers, Jason Kirnbauer, Sonja Harris

Parishioner's Friends / Family: Donna Parhas (*Nick's Cousin*), Ron (*Mark's Friend*), Mary Ann Magerko, John Magerko, Stephen Holly (*Fr. 's cousin*), George Cavaligos (*Nick's brother*), Christos Parhas (*Nick's cousin*), Constantine Cavaligos (*Nick's dad*), John Hartel (*Joann's Step-dad*), Sandra (*Karen's sister*), Erika Northrup, Walter Litzie (*Fr. 's cousin*), Danielle Krush, Mark Svava, Linda Davik, Mary Northrup, Sandra Leonchik, Dianne Northrup, Raymond Northrup, Joey Krush, Carol Bregin (*Friend of Lynn*), Ann Lazo (*Friend of Lynn*), George Lazo (*Friend of Lynn*), Bruce (*Fr. Kurt's brother*), Christine & her unborn baby, Chrissy Marron, Kelly Flynn , Baby Faith, Daniel Tiani (*friend of Becky Eggers*), Vivian (*friend of Becky Eggers*), Tim Kendra (*Rich Wolfe's father*), Joan (*Hruban friend*), Julianna (*Hruban Family*), June (*Hruban Friend*), Jacob (*Spengler Family*), Emilian (*Spengler Family*), Joyce (*Spengler Family*)

Other Requests: Lucille (*Duke*), Dianne (*Bill Rudolph*), Elizabeth Lilos, Jemsey Pradun, Mae Joanna Bass, Hermenegil (*Neighbor*), Lidiya (*Neighbor*), Cathleen Rebollar, Patricia Schuster,*John Sedor, * Maria Sokolova & her 3 new born babies (Lydia, Yekaterina, Helena)

Military:Amber, Caleb, Nicholas, David, Timothy, Robert, Kristen, Matthew, Brian, Daniel, Joseph, Joseph (*Fr. 's cousin*)

Captivzs: Metropolitan Paul (*Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo*), Archbishop John (*Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo*)

For the UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria / Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world / Those held captive throughout the world.

Additions or removals from the list? Please notify Fr. Andrew. (***Bishop Request**) **OFF:** Helen Pender & Bernice McGurk (reposed), Fr. Dan & Mat. Elaine Rental, Dc. Theophan, Mat. Ksenia & new born Ileana , Barbara Pawlack
ON: June & Joan (Hruban friends), Julianna (Hruban Family), Jacob, Emilian & Joyce (Spengler Family).



OCCHY BLURB

Hawaii Becomes First State to Raise Smoking Age to 21



Effective Jan. 1 — The new law bans those under 21 from buying tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes.

While smoking has decreased greatly in Hawaii, use of e-cigarettes is on the rise. 22% of high school students have tried e-cigarettes, compared with only 5% in 2011. The act is an effort to reverse this trend by making e-cigarettes less accessible and less

attractive, said Lola Irvin, Administrator for the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division, because Prevention is the best strategy, and youth are especially vulnerable to nicotine addiction.

<http://college.usatoday.com/2016/01/02/hawaii-raises-smoking-age-to-21/>

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OCCHYChicago>



J A N U A R Y

HAPPY BIRTHDAY	HAPPY NAME DAY
5- Karina Posada 17- Natalie Northrup 24- Becky Eggers	8- Susie Joynt 21-Alex Posada 2- The Retired Right Rev. Seraphim of Sendai 19- The Retired Right Rev. Mark of Boston 24- The Right Rev. Daniel (Bishop of Dsanta Rosa)

If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

In blessed repose: J A N U A R Y

1-Anna Wojciechowski (00) 2- Fr. Richard Everman (07) 4- George Bartek (83) 12- Adam Kuzmich (98) 13- Joseph Bloschynsky (00) 14- Joseph Dubovik (99) 14- Dorothy Michaluk (08) 16- Theodore Grabavoy (89) 22- Anna Grabavoy (77) 24- Helen Dubovik (11)	26- Jacqueline Marie Hansen (08) 29- John Mahalko (90) 29- Olga V Foraker (05) 1938: Anisia Sloboda Theodore Kozliak Peter Begal	1939: Michael Blarzko Ivan Yakel
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Remember those who have gone before us in prayer. If there is a name missing from the above list, please speak to Fr. Andrew to have them added.

UPDATED JANUARY 2016

Bulletin Sponsor: Would you be interested in being a bulletin sponsor in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one or friend? Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Services for that month. Donation: \$40 for the month.

Memorial Candle(s): *(Give names to Fr. Andrew)*

Option 1: The Tray of Candles under the Cross is now the area of remembrance for the deceased. If you would like the tray of candles placed in memory of a deceased loved one, the suggested donation is \$30. The Sponsors will be remembered during the Divine Services for that Sunday.

Option 2: One of the small Tray's under the Theotokos in the back of the Church. Donation \$25

Option 3: If this tray is full, one or more candles may be gotten at the candle desk & be placed in the sand box.

Candles for the Health of a Loved One *(Speak to Fr. Andrew to make arrangements)*

Option 1: One of The small tray's of 40 candles in front of the icon of woman saints in the back of the Church - donation \$25.

Option 2: The altar candles in the Sanctuary & Eternal Light candle - donation \$20.

Option 3: If Candles are filled more candles may be gotten at the candle desk & placed in the sand box.

Monthly Panachida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Panachida. If you would like your loved one(s) to be remembered, please give a list of names to Fr. Andrew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month. If there is a remembrance (newly departed or 40th day remembrance) of your family or friends we will remember them on the closest Sunday otherwise they will be remembered on the third Sunday. If it is an remembrance not related to our parish family we will just sing Memory Eternal on the 40 Day remembrance.

Hospitalization/Shut-ins: If anyone goes into hospital, or is a shut-in, please let Fr. Andrew know as soon as possible so he can attend to them and their family members.

Celebration? Achievement?: Your spiritual family would like to share in your achievement, celebration, and accomplishment. Send in a picture or email to Fr. Andrew, by Wednesday @ 5:00 pm so he can place it in the bulletin!

Metropolitan Tikhon concludes archpastoral visit to the Diocese of Mexico

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon began his archpastoral visit to the Orthodox Church in America's [Diocese of Mexico City](#) on the evening of Thursday, January 7, 2016.

His Eminence, Archbishop Alejo of Mexico City, accompanied by diocesan clergy and staff, welcomed Metropolitan Tikhon; Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary; and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak at the city's airport. Also part of the OCA's official delegation was Archpriest Antonio Perdomo, Rector of Saint George Church, Pharr, TX. A member-at-large of the [Metropolitan Council](#), Father Antonio has for many years been actively involved in the Diocese of Mexico's missionary efforts and serves as liaison to the Diocese of Mexico.

Metropolitan Tikhon was hosted at a reception at the residence of His Eminence, Metropolitan Antonio [Chedraoui] of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Mexico, Central America and Venezuela on Friday, January 8. Metropolitan Antonio presented a panagia in honor of the 50th anniversary of his consecration to the episcopacy to Metropolitan Tikhon, who in turn presented an icon of Saint Sergius of Radonezh, patron of the OCA Chancery chapel, to Metropolitan Antonio.

Archbishop Alejo updated Metropolitan Tikhon on the Diocese's ongoing mission efforts and its relationship with the broader Mexican society.

After enjoying a luncheon with Archbishop Alejo and the Mexico City clergy on Saturday, January 9, Metropolitan Tikhon attended Great Vespers at the Cathedral of the Ascension. At the conclusion of the service, he and Archbishop Alejo welcomed a procession of faithful from a neighboring Roman Catholic community in honor of the Magi. For the Mexican faithful, the Theophany season not only marks the Baptism of Our Lord, but also incorporates the local commemoration of the visit of the Magi—the "Fiesta de los Reyes Magos" [Feast of the Three Kings]. The elaborate and festive procession, which featured floats, marching bands, fireworks, and men dressed as the Magi, paused at the cathedral entrance, seeking a blessing from Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Alejo.

The highlight of Metropolitan Tikhon's visit was the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the cathedral on Sunday, January 10, after which the Great Blessing of Water was celebrated. The faithful, who filled the cathedral, brought colorful containers of water for blessing. Neighbors of the cathedral were delighted as a cross had been planted in the playground across the street from the cathedral, before which the faithful and area residents alike were blessed with holy water. Later, gifts of food were distributed to grateful members of the local

Community.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Metropolitan Tikhon presented the Order of Saint Innocent, Silver Class, to Archbishop Alejo "for his dedicated, tireless work in building up Orthodox Christianity in Mexico." He also presented relics of Saint Herman and an icon of All Saints of North America, which will be enshrined in the cathedral. Archbishop Alejo presented a hand-painted icon of Our Lord to Metropolitan Tikhon as a memento of his visit.

Metropolitan Tikhon's visit marked the 44th anniversary of the establishment of what today is the Orthodox Church in America's Diocese of Mexico, which traces its origins to an early 20th century movement to establish a faith community distinct from the nation's Roman Catholic Church. The community continued as an "Old Catholic" body until Father José Cortes y Olmos was appointed its bishop in 1961. He and his clergy gradually became convinced, through study and reflection, that the Old Catholic ecclesiological principles did not conform to the criteria of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

In 1965, Bishop José and his clergy contacted the then-rector of Saint Seraphim Church in Dallas, TX, Father Dmitri Royster, who had been instrumental in converting many Mexicans to Orthodoxy and translating Orthodox liturgical services into Spanish. After Father Dimitri's consecration to the episcopacy in 1969 and the granting of autocephaly the following year, Bishop Dmitri presented the case of the Orthodox Church in Mexico to the hierarchy of the Orthodox Church in America. As a result of numerous exchanges and visits, the Holy Synod asked Bishop Dmitri to visit Mexico officially and to report on his findings. This report was studied by the OCA's Department of Canonical Affairs, which recommended acceptance of the Mexican communities into the Orthodox Church.

In 1971, Bishop José petitioned for the acceptance of his community into the Orthodox Church in America. He and other priests of his community, together with an estimated ten to twenty thousand faithful, were received into the Orthodox Christian faith. Father José subsequently studied at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY, prior to his consecration as Bishop of Mexico City, which took place at Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral in New York City on April 22, 1972. Despite countless obstacles, what had become the Exarchate of Mexico continued to grow through the establishment of additional missions and conversions.

On January 28, 1983, Bishop José fell asleep in the Lord after a relatively short bout with cancer. **Con't Page 9**



CHICAGO DEANERY WINTER YOUTH CAMP 2016

for all youth ages 11 through 18

11 AM Saturday, February 13 – 2 PM Monday, February 15, 2016

Edwards YMCA Camp, East Troy, Wisconsin

Once again, it's time for our annual winter youth get together – a weekend of sledding, skating, tubing, cross-country skiing, hiking, team building, snow sculpture, art projects, worship, camp fire, Vespers and Sunday Liturgy, and more... all for just \$104.00, which covers lodging, all meals, and all camp fees and activities!

REGISTER NOW!

A completed registration form must accompany all registrations!

Questions? Call Fr. Tom Mueller at 414-671-5819.

Registration Form – Deadline is February 6

Please return to **Father Tom Mueller, 2515 South 30 Street, Milwaukee, WI 53215-2829** or by e-mail to **crankypriest@gmail.com**. No registrations will be accepted without ALL info below. Please attach check for \$104.00 per camper, payable to the "Chicago Deanery."

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Parish _____