

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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BULLETIN OF AUGUST 19, 2007

SUNDAY/AUGUST 19th
12th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 3)
Martyr Andrew the General
9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine
Liturgy; Coffee Hour
1:30p.m. Parish Picnic

SATURDAY/AUGUST 25th
9:30a.m. Akathist; Confession
11:00a.m. 40th Day Memorial for Ronald Kavchok
5:30a.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/AUGUST 26th
13th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 4)
Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God;
Ss. Adrian and Natalie
9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
with Prayers for the Beginning of the New
Academic Year; Coffee Hour

Fasting Days
Wednesday, August 22nd
Friday, August 24th



**Making Sure You Are Being Registered at
Each Sunday Divine Liturgy**

...it is necessary for every Christian to spend time in the holy church of God, and never to miss the celebration of the Divine Liturgy – for here – the holy angels have custody, they register the people going in each time and offer them to God's view, making their angelic intercessory prayers on their behalf. Each person who is found to be present at the Divine Liturgy, the grace of the Holy Spirit transforms, remolds and truly remodels into a more divine image, conforming to Himself.

- St. Maximus the Confessor (+7th c.)



Hymns of the Dormition Feast

Tropar Tone 1

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity!
In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O
Theotokos!
You were translated to life, O Mother of Life,
And by your prayers you deliver our souls from
death.

Kontakion Tone 2

Neither the tomb, nor death could hold the
Theotokos
Who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her
intercessions.
For being the Mother of Life,
She was translated to life
By the one who dwelt in her virginal womb!

The Post-Feast of the Dormition

Is celebrated to the "leave-taking," on August 23rd. During the time of the post-feast, the tropar and kontakion of the Dormition is sung or said with evening and morning prayers and at meals. The tropar before a meal and the kontakion after a meal. This replaces the usual meal prayers for this period.

College Students: Rutgers, Rider and College of NJ

A new chapter of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is being organized for the students at these schools. Students going to these schools are asked to contact Christiana Cassar (Rocky Hall) via e-mail at ChristianCassar@msn.com.

RBO to Visit Parish – Sept. 9th

A representative of the Russian Brotherhood Organization (RBO) will make a 20 minute presentation at the Coffee Hour on Sunday, Sept. 9th. There are a variety of insurance products, fraternal benefits and services that the RBO provides.

Seeking Housemate

Orthodox Reader seeking housemate for his large house in Somerville. Nice private room available. Rent negotiable based on help in house and year. Call Dr. Daniel Lieuwen at 908-541-0476 (house) 908-398-6232 (cell). It will be easiest to make contact on the home phone in month of August.

Church School Teachers and Aides

Are being sought for the Fall. Perhaps you would like to offer your services for our young people? Please speak with Fr. James or Stacey Kita.

It Happened at the Evening Prayers-shared by a parishioner

A very sweet thing happened this evening. I was putting David and Todd to bed and we were saying our prayers. After we finished "The Lord's Prayer," Todd said to me, "Mommy, what does Mr. Hallowed do?" It took me a few seconds to realize what he was talking about: "Hallowed be thy name." I told him that "Hallowed" was not really someone's name, but it meant that God's Name is very special and each time we say His Name, we need to remember all of the blessings that He gives us. It's remarkable to view life through the eyes and innocence of a child.

Parish Synodicon

Ronald Kavchok (Aug. 28th – 40th day)
Aug. 19, 1925 Helen Wawrenchuk
Aug. 19, 1942 Constantine Yancevich
Aug. 19, 1948 John Shander
Aug. 19, 1957 Samuel Barnosky
Aug. 20, 1965 Natalie Salevanik
Aug. 21, 1980 Mary Pegene
Aug. 21, 2001 Anna Cherniak
Aug. 22, 1978 Anna Recketz
Aug. 23, 1926 John Mlinets
Aug. 23, 1938 Semeon Dutko
Aug. 24, 1954 John Wasevich
Aug. 24, 1958 John Galida
Aug. 24, 1990 Michael Sudia
Aug. 25, 1977 Anna Persurance



Out of the fruit of righteousness
grow a tree of life

Prayers for Travelers

May be offered after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Let Father know when you venerate the Cross.

Prayers for the Beginning of New Academic Year

Will be offered at the Divine Liturgy for all Teachers and Students – at all levels – on Sunday, Aug. 26th.

Cell Phones

Please be sure that they are off before entering the church for services.

Offerings for the Week of August 19th

Olive Oil - in memory of Emilia; in memory of Michael and Eva; in memory of Olga; in memory of Floarea, Gheorghe, Sasinca, Alexandru, Aurelia, Elena and Petre.; for the health of Stella Seminuk.

Wine - in memory of Joan.

Flowers – for the health of Magdalena and family; in memory of Pearl Kulwinsky.

The Three Sunday Rule

For those that are regular communicants – every Sunday – as well as others – be mindful that anyone that misses more than 3 consecutive Sunday Divine Liturgies, needs to resort to Holy Confession before they come back to Communion. This discipline is found in the Canons of our Faith.



THE FAITH OF THE SAINTS, by St. Nicholas of Zicha (+1956)

THE SOCIAL VIRTUES TO BE PRACTICED

Almsgiving. “When thou doest alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee as the hypocrites do, that they may have glory of men. Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth. And thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

Giving without hesitation. “Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away” (Matt. 5:42). Give all in the name of Christ and for the brotherhood’s sake.

Loving your enemies. “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matt. 5:44). There is no other way to cooperate with Christ, or to establish peace and brotherhood.

Doing good to men. How? Just as we wish that men would do to us. “Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt. 7:12). After the two great commandments of Christ, this is the greatest.

Forgiving your brother. “If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him, and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee saying: I repent, thou shalt forgive him” (Luke 17:3-4). Try to experience the joy of forgiving.

Humbleness. Christ was born in a stable. Why should we then strive after the highest honors and the first places? “Go down and sit in the lowest seat.” “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Luke 14:10-11).

Show pity to sinners. That is the way to help and reform them. Ridiculing and condemning them is of no avail. Christ considered them sick. He visited them (Zaccheus), ate with them (Matthew), spoke kindly to them (women sinners), and thereby restored their spiritual health and human dignity.



Reconciliation. Before going to church, and also before being drawn before a court of law, a Christian should try to reconcile himself with his adversary (Matt. 5:23-25). However, "If thy brother shall trespass against thee," take action gradually, as was clearly prescribed by the Lord (Matt. 18:15-17).

Confessing Christ courageously before men. "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 10:32). "Whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory" (Luke 9:26).

Caution over false christs. The unbelievers and foes of Christ will try in the last days to proclaim themselves or some other false and violent persons as "christ" instead of the one true Christ the Lord. Foreseeing this Jesus warned: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name saying I am Christ, and shall deceive you" (Matt. 24:4-5).

Responding to duties. "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things which are God's" (Matt. 22:21). It means, to render to the worldly authorities the worldly tributes and to God the spiritual tributes. As the image of Caesar is on the money, so the image of God is in man's soul.

Reasonableness. "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him much shall be required" (Lk. 12:48), be it health or wealth, knowledge or honor. If you are given less, less shall be required of you. God's justice is precise and absolute. It is unreasonable to hold a grudge against such a law.

Readiness to serve. Service has been ennobled since and through Christ. Thus willing servants of men in the name of God are the new nobility. "Even the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve" (Matt. 20:28). "If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet...I have given you an example" (John 13:14).

Readiness to sacrifice, not merely material things but life too, for Christ's sake, which is the same as to say for our eternal salvation's sake: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). We may have many friends, but the greatest of all is Christ.

Hopefulness, or Christian optimism. In all afflictions, calamities, persecutions, and even tortures and death, a Christian is hopeful. For he remembers Christ's words: "Great is your reward in heaven." "Fear not them who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul." "I have overcome the world." "All power is given unto Me in heaven and on earth."



OCA News

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Holy Synod of Bishops special session July 31-August 1, 2007

Article posted: 8/10/2007 12:31 PM

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] – A special session of the Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America was held July 31-August 1, 2007, at the Chancery here.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, convened and presided at the meeting.

Highlights of the session include the following.

- 1. SPIRITUAL COURT.** His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate, who presided at the spiritual court of the Diocese of Washington and New York at which the case of the suspended former OCA chancellor, Protopresbyter Robert Kondratik, was heard, announced the court's decision, which was accepted by Metropolitan Herman, the diocesan bishop, effective July 31, 2007. The members of the Holy Synod of Bishops concurred. A separate release on this matter was not posted on the OCA web site at www.oca.org/News.asp?ID=1301&SID=19 until August 7 due to the repose of Mrs. Anna Kondratik on July 30 and the celebration of her funeral on August 1.
- 2. LETTER OF ARCHBISHOP NATHANIEL.** Archbishop Nathaniel read a letter titled "Witnessing to the Autocephaly of Our Holy Orthodox Church in America," addressed to the members of the Holy Synod. His letter surveyed a number of issues facing Orthodox Christianity in North America, including administrative unity, inter-church communication difficulties, and autocephaly. A discussion ensued concerning the OCA's participation in the National Council of Churches in Christ, a matter that will be discussed in detail at the fall session of the Holy Synod in October 2007. It is anticipated that a statement on this matter will be issued at that time.
- 3. ALASKA.** The hierarchs discussed among themselves various rumors circulating with regard to the Diocese of Alaska. His Grace, Bishop Nikolai of Sitka, Anchorage, and Alaska addressed the matter, pointing out certain inaccuracies in some of the rumors, which will be further explored.
- 4. CONFIRMATION OF NEW OCA SECRETARY.** In response to the recommendation of the Metropolitan Council, the hierarchs confirmed Mr. Paul Bodnar as secretary of The Orthodox Church in America. Mr. Bodnar was introduced to the hierarchs.
- 5. BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION.** The hierarchs decided that official "national" legal and psychological background checks will be required of all candidates for ordination. Legal background checks will be required at each level of ordination, for candidates entering The Orthodox Church in America, and for beginning seminary students. The psychological check will be required at the first instance.
- 6. GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA.** Metropolitan Herman reported that the Metropolitan Council has initiated a search for one or several general counsel[s], and particularly for at least one attorney qualified and licensed to practice in the state of New York. Letters of gratitude will be sent to attorneys James Perry and Alexandra Makosky for their outstanding and self-sacrificing work associated with the special investigation committee, the Proskauer-Rose investigation, and the spiritual court of the Diocese of Washington and New York.
- 7. BEST PRACTICES POLICY.** After a final review and discussion, the hierarchs endorsed the document "Best Practices, Principles, and Policies for Financial Accountability." Each hierarch signed the three documents annually required – the "Annual Ethics Statement," the "Annual Conflict of Interest Statement," and the "Annual Whistleblowers Statement."
- 8. ARTICLE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA.** The hierarchs reviewed the 1999 presentation of the reflection of the Very Rev. David Brum, former secretary to the Metropolitan, on the nature of the Church's administration as it functioned at that time. The hierarchs agreed that the document had never been adopted by the Church and remains the personal opinion of the author.
- 9. ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE METROPOLITAN AS FIRST AMONG EQUALS.** The hierarchs discussed the role and function of the Metropolitan, as first among equals, and his relationship with his brother hierarchs of the Holy Synod of Bishops. Concerns were raised about the need to improve communications among the bishops with regard to manner, substance, and frequency. The possibility of monthly conference calls was also discussed.

While the hierarchs noted that conference calls are desirable, they should be arranged on the basis of need. The Metropolitan could convene and organize teleconferences as the need arises. It was also

decided that His Eminence, Archbishop Seraphim of Ottawa and Canada will discuss the possibility of providing the hierarchs with regular, even monthly, bulletins/reports from the Office of External Affairs and Inter-church Relations concerning the state of The Orthodox Church in general and events among other Christian traditions that affect The Orthodox Church in America.

10. 1999 RESOLUTION ON DISCRETIONARY FUNDS. His Eminence, Archbishop Job of Chicago and the Midwest presented the request to rescind the July 30, 1999 resolution that stated that discretionary accounts cannot be subject to external audit. It was noted that all funds connected with the charitable status of the OCA under the IRS provisions must, by law, be auditable, and that if any account cannot be audited, it cannot be associated with the charitable status and must be regarded as private funds, and therefore taxable. The hierarchs rescinded and repudiated the 1999 resolution, in concert with "Best Practices" and IRS laws.

11. FIFTEENTH ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL IN 2008. Archbishop Job presented the written report of the Very Rev. Myron Manzuk, All-American Council manager, concerning the venue for the 15th AAC in 2008. The hierarchs agreed that Pittsburgh seems to be the most likely site, considering local resources and favorable rates, while July 2008 is the preferred date, if possible. Given the favorable rates and other conditions, Cleveland and Milwaukee are also possible AAC sites. Later, Father Manzuk, accompanied by the Very Rev. Alexander Garklavs, chancellor; the Very Rev. Paul Kucynda, acting treasurer; the Rev. Jonathan Ivanoff; Deacon John Zarras; and Mr. Paul Bodnar, offered additional information on locations and possible dates to the hierarchs. Possible AAC themes were also discussed.

12. SPECIAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE. Reminding the hierarchs that the Metropolitan Council had moved for a continuation of the work of the special committee, Archbishop Job, committee head, asked the hierarchs to consider a time-line of activities in the near future, as well as any possible further committee activities. His Grace, Bishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West, also a member of the special committee, added that, while the committee's focus had been on the former chancellor, many other questions remain, and that a report to the whole Church had been promised. After discussion, the hierarchs agreed that the status of the special committee will be placed on the agenda of the October joint meeting of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council, under which the committee operates with the blessing of the hierarchs.

13. REPORT ON THE RECONCILIATION OF ROCOR AND THE MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE. In response to a report by the Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky concerning the reconciliation, the hierarchs issued the following statement: "The Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America rejoice in the unity of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and the Moscow Patriarchate, and we embrace them as concelebrants in the Lord." It was further decided that Metropolitan Herman should send a letter to His Holiness, Patriarch Aleksy of Moscow and All Rus, stating that the Holy Synod has informed the faithful of the OCA of the reconciliation and of our welcoming it.

14. FALL 2007 SESSION. It was decided that the Holy Synod of Bishops will convene in joint session with the Metropolitan Council on October 16, 2007.

The hierarchs will continue their meeting on October 17 and 18, 2007.

In addition to Metropolitan Herman; Archbishops Nathaniel, Job, and Seraphim; and Bishops Nikolai and Benjamin, other hierarchs attending the meeting included His Eminence, Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas and the South; His Grace, Bishop Nikon of Boston, New England, and the Albanian Archdiocese; His Grace, Bishop Tikhon of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, His Grace, Bishop Irineu of Dearborn; and His Grace, Bishop Alejo of Mexico City.

Verdict of Spiritual Court announced

Article posted: 8/7/2007 11:23 AM

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] - The verdict of the spiritual court that had been empanelled to hear the charges against Protopresbyter Robert S. Kondratik, the suspended former chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, was reviewed by the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops on July 31, 2007, the first day of their special two-day session at the OCA Chancery here.

His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate, who presided at the spiritual court, presented the court's report and judgment, which recommended that Father Kondratik be deposed from the priesthood.

After hearing the report and recommendation of the spiritual court, the Holy Synod of Bishops resolved that the suspended Father Kondratik be permanently deposed from all sacred functions of the priesthood, effective July 31, 2007, and that his name be removed immediately from the list of clergy of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Holy Synod took this action with great sadness and with assurance of its prayers on behalf of the former Father Kondratik.

Judges for the spiritual court were the Very Revs. Joseph Lickwar, Michael Dahulich, and John Erickson, and the Rev. David Garretson. Dr. Faith Skordinski, a member of the OCA Metropolitan Council and the special investigative committee, served as the accuser.