



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday, March 14, 2021

Forgiveness Sunday
Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4
Matthew 6:14-21

Upcoming Meetings

- OCLI Working Session – Sat 3/13, 9am
Office will send Zoom link
- Parish Council – Sunday 3/21, 1:30pm
Office will send Zoom link

Philly OCF

- Bible study - Tuesday 3/16, 11am
[Zoom link](#)
Mtg ID #880 5713 0161
Password: Scripture
- Meeting – Monday 3/22, 8pm
[Zoom link](#)
Mtg ID # 835 2215 9264
Password: Fellowship

Parish Directory:

We will be publishing a parish directory in March. If you have not yet updated your information with the office or confirmed which information you'd like published, please [contact the office via email](#).

Catechumen Class:

The next inquirer/catechumen class will begin on Saturday, March 20 at 6:30pm. If you are interested in joining, please contact the [church office](#).

- The following services will be held in the church and streamed on the [website](#):
 - **Thursday 3/11** – 3rd Hour, 9am
 - **Saturday 3/13** – Vespers, 5pm
 - **Sunday 3/14** – Orthros, Liturgy, & Forgiveness Vespers, 9:30am
 - **Monday 3/15** – Compline, 6pm
 - **Tuesday 3/16** – Matins, 9am
- To attend one of the services listed above at the church, please sign up via Sign Up Genius ([March services](#)). When doing so, please keep in mind the following:
 - reserve the number of slots for family members attending (For example, if there are 3 household members attending, reserve 3 slots.)
 - those who are elderly, have pre-existing conditions, or currently are not feeling well are asked to remain home.
 - children who are too young to keep a mask on are asked to remain home.
- To set up a time to receive communion, please sign up via the [Sign Up Genius](#). Please reserve only one slot per household unit. Prior to arriving at the church for communion, please say the [Morning Prayers](#) and the [Prayers of Preparation before Communion](#).
- Confession is also being scheduled by appointment. To set up an appointment, please email the church office and provide a few dates/times you are available. The office will email you to confirm your appointment time.

Troparion of St. George

O liberator and deliverer of captives, helper of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

If you attend a service, you must wear a mask/face covering out of care for ourselves, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our neighbors.

Upcoming Virtual Retreats

March 13: National Orthodox Youth Lenten Retreat

March 18 (and every Thursday in Lent): The Akathist Canon to the Theotokos

March 23: Youth Workers Webinar on Discernment

[Click here for more information on these events and to access links to register.](#)

Church History

This week we continue a series on the Essentials of Faith. The hope is that we can all learn and be edified and come to a “knowledge of the Truth” (1 Tim. 2:4), and to witness to the things of faith that were “delivered to the saints” (Jud. 1:3) in the Church, which is the “pillar and ground of Truth”. (1 Tim. 3:15) May God bless the labor. These lessons are taken from Fr. Thomas Hopko’s series The Orthodox Faith.

Orthodoxy in America, Part One: From the Russian Mission to the OCA (cont.)

The Russian-American Archdiocese after the Bolshevik Revolution

With the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in Russia, the Russian Mission Archdiocese in America was thrown into confusion. Archbishop Alexander (Nemolovsky) (r. 1917–1922), who succeeded Archbishop Evdokim in 1917, was having great difficulty in helping the Archdiocese to adjust to the new conditions, especially the loss of all financial support from the Russian Church and State. When Archbishop Platon returned to America in 1921, Archbishop Alexander asked him to take over as head of the Russian Administration. At the Third All-American Sobor of the American archdiocese, held in Pittsburgh in 1922, Archbishop Platon was accepted to lead the Church once again.

John Kedrovsky, a priest serving in the Russian-American Mission who was suspended in 1918 for attempting to subvert Archbishop Alexander’s authority, returned to America from Russia in 1923 as a “bishop” of the Soviet-mandated and manipulated “Living Church.” He demanded, and received by legal action, possession of a number of Russian Church properties, including the leading church of the archdiocese, Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York City. His actions brought further confusion, turmoil, and financial woes to the archdiocese.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

March Feast: Annunciation (March 25)

March 7

- Elementary school: Ask Abouna
- Middle school: At home resources
- High school: Class (via Zoom)

March 14

No Sunday School

March 21

- Elementary school: At Home Resources
- Middle school: Class (via Zoom)
- High school: Ask Abouna

March 28

- Elementary school: Class (via Zoom)
- Middle school: Ask Abouna
- High school: At home resources

ST. KATHERINE WOMEN

March is Antiochian Women’s Month!
[Check out the Archdiocese website](#) for special events and other great information for this month.

The Church suffered another major blow at this time when it was considered necessary to close the seminary in Tenafly, New Jersey, in 1924; its properties and library were sold. There would be no Orthodox seminary in North America for the next 14 years.

In 1924, the Fourth All-American Sobor of the Russian-American Archdiocese was held in Detroit, Michigan. This sobor, on the basis of Patriarch Tikhon's decree of November 20, 1920 (No. 362)—which declared that all dioceses of the Russian Church cut off from the Moscow Patriarchate should govern themselves and carry on their church life under local supervision—declared that the archdiocese would be a self-governing metropolitanate, maintaining only a spiritual bond with the Church in Russia, until such time as normal relations could be resumed with the Russian Church. Archbishop Platon was officially installed as the metropolitan, and the Church came to be called the American Metropolia. It was legally incorporated as the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America.

The American Metropolia

In 1926, Metropolitan Platon met with members of the Russian Synod in Exile to discuss the problems involved with caring for the Russian Orthodox Christians in the “diaspora”—meaning everywhere in the world beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union. By this time, many new Russian immigrants had come to America and joined the American Metropolia. When the Synod in Exile attempted to extend its jurisdiction over the American Metropolia, Metropolitan Platon objected. Thus, he and his Church were “suspended” by the Synod in Exile in 1929.

At this same time, Metropolitan Evlogy (Georgievsky) (d. 1946), head of a number of parishes in Western Europe established by Russian immigrants, also met with the bishops of the Synod in Exile. He likewise was “suspended” by them for refusing to recognize their alleged jurisdiction over all Russian Orthodox Christians outside of Russia.

Pressure from Moscow

In the 1930s, pressure was applied by Moscow upon the American Metropolia, as well as upon the Western European Exarchate under Metropolitan Evlogy. In 1933, Archbishop Benjamin (Fedchenkoff) (1880–1961) came to America from the USSR demanding the Metropolia's allegiance to the Moscow Patriarchate. The fact that a pledge of allegiance to the Soviet State was also demanded showed that the Russian Church was not really free, which made it impossible for the American Metropolia to enter into normal relations with it. In response, in 1934 the Church in Russia officially declared the Metropolia to be illegal, and opened the Exarchate of the Moscow Patriarchate in America, headed by Archbishop Benjamin. Most of the Russian-American parishes remained faithful to the Metropolia, rather than joining either this new exarchate of the Moscow Patriarchate or the Russian Synod in Exile.

In the same year, Metropolitan Platon died. He was succeeded by Archbishop Theophilus (Pashkovsky) (r. 1934–1950), who was elected primate at the Fifth All-American Sobor of the Metropolia, held in Cleveland, Ohio.

wisdom of the Holy Fathers

*The more the mind concentrates on praying,
and is being humbled, the more it is
enlightened by the grace of God.
+ St. Paisios of Mt. Athos*