



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday, March 7, 2021

Upcoming Meetings

- Choir practice - Tuesday 3/2, 7pm
Contact [Matt Gordon](#) for Zoom link
- OCLI Working Session – Sat 3/13, 9am
Office will send Zoom link

Philly OCF

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

Sign up for Home Blessings:

<https://forms.gle/Duy8KewHKydZkYjU8>

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](#).

Meatfare Sunday
1 Corinthians 8:8-13, 9:1-2
Matthew 25:31-46

- The following services will be held in the church and streamed on the [website](#):
 - **Tuesday 3/2** – Akathist, 7pm
 - **Thursday 3/4** – 3rd Hour, 9am
 - **Friday 3/5** – prayer walk in your neighborhood, 8:30pm
 - **Saturday 3/6** – Vespers, 5pm
 - **Sunday 3/7** – Orthros and Liturgy, 9:30am
 - **Tuesday 3/9** – 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 4-7: Eastern Dioceses Spring Retreat

March 7: Antiochian Village Adult Camp Micro-Retreat

March 13: National Orthodox Youth Lenten Retreat

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

[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.): 1907–1917

After Archbishop Tikhon was transferred to a diocese in Russia in the Spring of 1907, the American diocese was headed by Archbishop Platon (Rozhdestvensky) (1866–1934; r. 1907–1914 and 1922–1934). One of the highlights of his tenure was moving the ecclesiastical seminary, called St Platon’s, from Minneapolis to Tenafly, New Jersey (across the river from Manhattan), in 1912, so that it could be much closer to the central administration of the archdiocese. He served as Archbishop of the American Church until 1914, when he was recalled to Russia to serve as a bishop there. He was succeeded by Archbishop Evdokim (1869–1935; r. 1914–1917).

From Saint Tikhon’s last sermon preached in America, at Saint Nicholas Cathedral, New York City, on the first Sunday of Great Lent, 1907

But it is not enough, brethren, to only celebrate “The Triumph of Orthodoxy.” It is necessary for us personally to promote and contribute to this triumph. And for this we must reverently preserve the Orthodox Faith, standing firm in it in spite of the fact that we live in a non-Orthodox country, and not pleading as an excuse for our apostasy that “it is not the old land here but America, a free country, and therefore it is impossible to follow everything that the Church requires.” As if the word of Christ is

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

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

March 21

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

March 28

Family Ask Abouna

ST. KATHERINE WOMEN

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

only suitable for the old land and not for the entire world! As if the Church of Christ is not “catholic”! As if the Orthodox Faith did not “establish the universe”!

Furthermore, while faithfully preserving the Orthodox Faith, everyone must also take care to spread it among the non-Orthodox. Christ the Savior said that having lit the candle, men do not put it under a bushel but on a candlestick so that it gives light to all (Mt 5.15). The light of the Orthodox Faith has not been lit to shine only for a small circle of people. No, the Orthodox Church is catholic; she remembers the commandment of her Founder, “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature and teach all nations” (Mk 16.15; Mt 28.19).

We must share our spiritual richness, truth, light, and joy with others who do not have these blessings. And this duty does not only lay upon the pastors and the missionaries but on the lay persons as well, since the Church of Christ, according to the wise comparison of the Holy Apostle Paul, is the body, and every member takes part in the life of the body. By means of all sorts of mutually binding bonds which are formed and strengthened through the action of every member according to his capacity, the great Church body receives an increase unto the edifying of itself (Eph 4.16).

In the first centuries it was not only the pastors who were tortured, but lay persons as well—men, women, and even children. And it was lay people likewise who enlightened the heathen and fought heresies. And now in the same way, the spreading of the Faith should be a matter that is personal, heartfelt, and dear to each one of us. Every member of the Church must take an active part in it—some by personal podvig spreading the Good News, some by material donations and service to “the needs of the holy persons,” and some by profuse prayer to the Lord that He “keep His Church firm and multiply it”—and concerning those unaware of Christ, that He would “proclaim the word of truth to them, open to them the Gospel of Truth, and join them to the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.” I have told this numerous times to my flock. And today, upon my departing from this land, I once more command all of you to preserve and act upon this, and especially you brethren of this holy temple. . . .

Farewell to you, this country! For some you are the motherland, the place of birth; for others you gave shelter, work, and well-being. Some received the freedom to profess the right Faith in your liberal land. . . .

Let God’s blessing be upon this country, this city, and this temple. And let “the blessing of the Lord, with grace and love for man,” rest upon you all, “now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

Wisdom of the Holy Fathers

*Love, my child, hospitality, because it opens the gates of paradise. Being hospitable, you can be rewarded with receiving angels.
Hospitality is the greatest virtue.
+ Elder Amphilochius of Patmos*

Father Leonid Turkevich (1876–1965), the future Metropolitan Leonty, rector of the Seminary in Minneapolis and then in Tenafly, became the Dean of Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York City. He wrote many articles during this period about the destiny of the American missionary archdiocese to become a self-governing Orthodox Church. Along with Archbishop Evdokim and Father Alexander Kukulevsky (1873–1963), he represented the American diocese at the great Russian Church Council of 1917–1918.