



Upcoming services

- Tuesday 8/24 – NO Matins
- Tuesday 8/24 – Akathist, 7pm
(online – [email Dn. Joseph for link](#))
- Thursday 8/26 – 3rd hour, 9am
- Saturday 8/28 – Vespers, 5pm
- Sunday 8/29 – Orthros and Liturgy, 9:30
- Tuesday 8/31 – Matins, 9am

Upcoming Meetings / Events

- Choir practice – Tues 8/24, 7pm
- Planning Meeting – Sat 8/28,
10:30am
- Orthodoxy 101 – Sat 8/28, 6:30pm
[Google meeting link](#)
- Sunday School Teacher Meeting –
Sun 8/29, 12:30pm

Coffee Hour

[To sponsor a coffee hour or join a clean team, please sign up here.](#)

9th Sunday of Matthew

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Matthew 14:22-34

Adopt a College Student

It's that time of year again! If you / your family are interested in "adopting" a college student for the upcoming academic year, [please complete and submit this brief form](#). We will be working to pair families and students by mid-September.

Fall Retreat, September 10-12

We will be hosting a fall retreat on September 10-12 with speaker Rita Madden. She will be speaking to us about stress management and eating in an attentive manner. Stay tuned to the website and upcoming parish life notes for session times!

Fall Parish Picnic

The fall parish picnic will be on Sunday, September 26, after Liturgy at Ridley Creek State Park. [Sign up here to attend and bring a dish!](#)

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 Two: Other Orthodox Jurisdictions

The Albanian Orthodox in America

In 1908, Theophan (Fan) (Noli) (1882–1965), an Albanian, was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Platon, Archbishop Tikhon's successor as head of the Russian Missionary Diocese, to be the leader of the Albanian Orthodox community in Boston—which was the earliest Albanian immigrant community in North America. He translated the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom into modern Albanian, and conducted the services in that language for the first time anywhere in the world.

In the 1918 list of parishes of the Russian Diocese in America, we find four Albanian churches listed, with "Rev. F. S. Noli" given as the pastor of Saint George Church in Boston. In that

year, Bishop Alexander, Metropolitan Evdokim's successor, raised Father Theophan to the rank of mitred archimandrite and appointed him as Administrator of the Albanian Orthodox Mission in America. At the Second All-American Sobor of the Russian Diocese in America, held in Cleveland in 1919, Archimandrite Theophan was elected to be bishop over the Albanian parishes. However, approval for this consecration never came from the Church in Moscow, as we have noted.

In 1932, after about a dozen years spent in Albania (where he served for a short time as Prime Minister) and then in exile in Germany, Noli returned to the U.S. as a bishop, but without official authorization to oversee the Albanian parishes in America. As a result, several of the 15 parishes at that time stayed aloof from him. In 1949 these few parishes were accepted by the Patriarchate of Constantinople under the leadership of Bishop Mark (Lipa). This new jurisdiction was called the Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America.

Archbishop Theophan was soon generally accepted as the legitimate leader of the Albanian Orthodox parishes which stayed loyal to him. During his long tenure, until his death in 1965, Metropolitan Theophan translated eight service books from Greek into English for his flock, and he was one of the most outspoken of the Orthodox hierarchs in America for Orthodox unity here. He even called for the establishment of a patriarchate for the American Church.

Bishop Stephen (Lasko) was appointed by the Church in Albania in 1965 to be Metropolitan Theophan's successor. In 1971 Bishop Stephen led his flock into the newly formed Orthodox Church in America (OCA), within which it became a distinct diocese. This move finally resolved the canonical status of the majority of Albanian parishes in America. In 2013, the Albanian diocese of the OCA, under the leadership of Bishop Nikon of New England, had about a dozen parishes.

Meanwhile, Bishop Mark's diocese continued its existence within the Patriarchate of Constantinople. After the fall of the extremely atheistic Communist government in Albania in 1990, this very small group of parishes helped significantly with the restoration of the Church in Albania, which had been virtually destroyed by the Communists. In 2013 this jurisdiction was led by Bishop Ilia (Katre), who began his tenure in 1982.

Wisdom of the Holy Fathers

We must not allow Christ to be overshadowed by any regulations, any customs, any traditions, any aesthetic considerations, or even any piety.

+ St. Maria of Paris