



Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector Parish Council President: Ron Royhab



OCTOBER Bulletin Sponsor:

Fr. Andrew in memory of his family & friends

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, Oct 16

9:10 AM: Hours / Divine Liturgy/ Social
3:30 PM: 125TH Ann. Divine Liturgy @ St Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church
5:00 PM: Anniversary Banquet

Monday, October 17

4:00 pm Respect Life Meeting

Saturday, October 22

4:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, October 23

9:10 am Hours / Divine Liturgy / Social / Council Meeting

Sunday October 16, 2022

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15 / John 17:1-13

Epistle: 2nd Corinthians 9:6-11 / Hebrews 13:7-16

Tone 1. 18th Sunday After Pentecost. Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the 7TH Ecumenical Council. Martyr Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the Cross of the Lord. St. Gall of Switzerland. Ven. Longin (Longinus) the Gatekeeper of the Kiev Caves.



40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

Oct. 2: Metro. Kallistos Ware

Oct. 15: His Beatitude Metropolitan .Herman

Oct. 23: Eileen Libb / William Deaton

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Diane Tryon
109 Joslyn Street
Arcadia, OH 44804

Joe & Sonya Rose
4351 East Norma Drive
Port Clinton, OH 43452

Ed & Irene Vangeloff
454 Strouse Lane
Sandusky, OH 44870



OCTOBER BULLETIN CANDLE SPONSORS

Bulletin: (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of his family & friends

Chandelier: (\$50) From Basil in memory of his father Anthony

Altar Candles: (\$50) Fr. Andrew in Memory of His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius and AP Michael (Former Pastor)

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25) From Jean in memory of her mother Helen Pipenur

Candles @ the Cross: (\$15) Laura Birthday blessings to Katelyn & in memory of Uncle Alex & John Kovach

Candles @ St Tikhon's Icon: (\$15) For the safety of Nicholas, Tikhon & Gleice and her unborn baby

Diocesan Seminarians Take Part in Enthronement

The seminarians of the Diocese of the Midwest joined in the celebrations for the enthronement of His Grace Bishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest, who was enthroned on October 1, 2022 at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL.

The seven seminarians of the diocese, who study at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, and St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, respectively, were invited by their Diocesan Hierarchy to partake in the services that were held throughout the weekend of September 30 through October 2 in Chicago. As previously reported, the Deans of both of these respected institutions, Archpriest Chad Hatfield, and Archpriest John Parker, were present throughout the weekend representing their seminaries.

"The presence of the seminarians at this event is significant," said Bishop Daniel. "This event is a time to celebrate the Diocese and our students are an important part of the life of the diocese, and can inspire new vocations by their presence."

"When we, as a diocese, are able to see the seminarians at events such as these, we are reminded about the important role that vocations play in the life of the Church. Additionally, it communicates our love and commitment to them during their time of training and preparation for future leadership roles in the diocese."

The seminarians were included in various parts of the services throughout the weekend, and had a private dinner with Metropolitan Tikhon, Bishop Daniel, and other clergy in the Cathedral Dean's apartment.

Metropolitan Tikhon Celebrates "Church Musician Sunday" in Chicago

Sunday, October 2, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada presided over Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago, IL, the Diocesan Cathedral of the Diocese of the Midwest.



His Beatitude was greeted by His Grace Bishop Daniel of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest who was a concelebrant at the Divine Liturgy. The Hierarchy were joined by Priest Alexander Koranda, Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Archpriest John Zdinak, Archpriest John Parker, Archpriest Alexy Karlghut, Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Priest Jan Cizmark, Deacon Peter Ilchuk, Deacon John Weiss, Protodeacon Thomas Keith, Deacon Paul Garklavs, Deacon Joseph Whittaker. The choir was led by Reader Philip Sokolov.

This particular Sunday was one of importance in the OCA as it was designated "Church Musician Sunday" by the His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, to honor the important ministry in the Church.

In a letter issued earlier this month, addressed to the clergy and faithful, the Metropolitan wrote, "Today in our churches, we carry on the tradition of sacred song, bridging the gap, as it were, between those ancient songs sung by prophets and patriarchs and the eternal song sung by angels and saints. Our traditions of church music are both a continuation of the ancient worship of the Old and New Covenants and a participation in the heavenly liturgy. This is why the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has set aside the Sunday following the feast of Saint Romanus the Melodist for an annual celebration of church musicianship, to honor singers, choir directors, composers, arrangers, chanters, readers, bell-ringers, hymnologists, translators, hymnographers, and all who help our parishes and their congregations to make a 'joyful noise unto the Lord' (Ps. 98:4) so that **Con't Next Pg**

Metro. Tikhon con't from previous pg

our temples resound with the praise of God.”

The Metropolitan, who was in Chicago for the enthronement of Bishop Daniel on the previous day, congratulated the singers following the Divine Liturgy and offered a word to those gathered about the significance of Church Musicians in the life of the Church, and the importance of building up that ministry by welcoming future generations.

Bishop Daniel welcomed His Beatitude and also offered his gratitude to the singers for their efforts throughout the weekend, especially.

Following Divine Liturgy a festive meal was held in the hall in honor of the Enthronement weekend and “Church Musician Sunday.”

**ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE
RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL BISHOP OF
CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST on the oc-
casion of the first Church Musician Sunday**

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has designated the Sunday following the commemoration of Saint Romanus the Melodist (October 1) as Church Musician Sunday. This new yearly designation, beginning today, is intended to highlight the essential role of liturgical music in Orthodox Christian worship and the important role of all church musicians in the life of the Church.

The Divine Liturgy and all the Divine Services of our Church are beautified by the voices and talents of those who serve the Church as musicians. In this role of service, we also see a missionary effort. As all communities are involved in the work of evangelizing, so each parish choir adds its voice to the proclamation of the Gospel. Through the beauty of the music and the singing and chanting of the sacred texts, the Gospel is proclaimed in a way that touches hearts and inspires both newcomers and longtime faithful to deepen their faith and, in turn, to share that faith with the world. In this way, our church musicians stand at the forefront of our constant and continuing evangelizing efforts.

**OCTOBER CLEANING
SCHEDULE**

Week of the 16	Susan
Week of the 23:	Laura
Week of Oct. 30:	Stephanie

READER

October 16	Tim
October 23	Joe
October 30	Tim

The important role of church musicians and choirs is also acknowledged and extoled by Saint John Chrysostom. He writes: “Above, the hosts of angels sign praise; below men form choirs in the churches and imitate them by singing the same doxology. Above, the seraphim cry out in the thrice-holy hymn; below, the human throng sends up the same cry. The inhabitants of heaven and earth are brought together in a common assembly; there is one thanksgiving, one shout of delight, one joyful chorus.”

I encourage all of the parish and mission communities in the Diocese of the Midwest to offer recognition and gratitude to those who serve in the various roles involved in Church music: choir directors, singers, chanters, readers, composers, arrangers, and bellringers. This appreciation is something that need not be relegated to one Sunday a year but should be expressed throughout the weeks and months in which the dedication of our church musicians enables us all to experience the fullness and beauty of the yearly liturgical cycle.

Offering my personal gratitude to those who exercise this ministry in our diocese and invoking God’s blessing upon them all, I remain

Yours in Christ,

DANIEL

Bishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest

PRAYER LIST- UPDATED October 9

HIERARCH'S / CLERGY: Archbishop Benjamin from San Fransico; Archbishop Melchizedek of Western PA; His Grace Bishop Matthias; John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Berry; Emilian Hutnyan; Deacon Paul Gansle ;Deacon Peter Rentsch; Deacon Michael Wilson; Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

MATUSHKII: Pani Patricia Duranko; Pani Helen Shuytak; Virgina Lecko

PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES: James Bargdill (Schutt); John Beadle (Elchisco); Carole Conaway (Twarek); Maryann Cook (Twarek); Sharon Dietrich (Twarek); Charlie Dietrich (Twarek); Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Elaine Hileman; Joe Kollar (Fr.); Betty Kovach; Helen Lis; Walter Litzie; Sandy Martin; David Martin; David Mazurik; Mark Mazurik; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); Trisha Monschein; William Pipenur(Hileman); Earl Rindfleisch; Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Stephanie Royhab; Donna Schoonmaker; Valerie Schutt; Joe Schutt; Tom Twarek; Diane Tryon; Ed Vangeloff, Child Bodhi (Cassell); Brittany Lariccia & her newborn child (Fr.); Nikki and her unborn child; Gleice & her unborn child; Trisha and her unborn baby.

OTHER REQUESTS: Jane Collins; Donny (Jake); Marge Dziama; Child Ezra; Kurt Franck (Royhab); Ben Franklin (Kovach); Dorothy Goldman (Twarek); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Marsha (Rose); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath; Karen Muzyka; Jamie Philpot (Twarek); Robert Piznar (Rentz); William Romanchak; Rick Rowe (Kovach); Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); David Warner (Schutt); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Sara (Jake); Chris Quotap; Zoland Zile; Ashley and her newborn child (Fr.); Elizabeth And her unborn child (Fr.)

MILITARY: Craig Cassell, Cory Deaton , Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton, Alena Grabavoy, Justin Issler; Nicholas & Tikhon

CAPTIVES: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo), Archbishop John Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo, The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world



NOTE: Please let Fr. Andrew know who can come off the list or be put on.

CATASTROPHIC RELIEF FUND

Purpose of fund: To provide some small financial assistance to a parishioner, family member or community member who has suffered a catastrophic event.

Funds will be offered at the discretion & blessing of the Rector and the discretion of the Board.

This money can also be used for outreach programs in the parish. Thank you and God bless!

BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125th Anniversary is coming!
Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.
Please consider contributing generously to the *Building/Restoration Fund*.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES	BIRTHDAYS	
10-1-2009: Archbishop Irenee of Canada 2- Fr. Matthew & Pani Eleni Stagon 3- Fr. Matt Stagon Priestly ordination 7- Fr. Eli & Mat. Larissa Bremer 9- Sub-deacon Wylie & Pauline Meath 19- Archpriest John & Mat. Cynthia Zidinak 31- Paul & Layne Demkosky <p style="text-align: center;">NAMESDAY</p> 10-9: The Most Blessed Tikhon	1-Trudy Ellmore 2- Tina Litzie 3- Ethan Chendorain 3- Alicia Calzone 6- Brian Lariccia 6- Ron Royhab 10- Walter Litzie 10- Craig Cassell 11- Karen Muzyka	12- Fred Soski 13- Mary Hiser 14- Fr. Andrew Groom 16- Fr George Lardas 17- Tim Glovinsky 20- Helen Lis 20- Hayden Issler 25- Sam Dardovsky 31- Fr. Peter Zarynow



OCTOBER REPOSED

2- His Grace Bishop Antoun (2017) 3- Anna Tomko (1990) 4- William Peter Guzy (1974) 5- John Elchisco Sr. (1982) 5- Mark Conroy (2018) 5- Patricia Schirtzinger (2021) 6- Andrew Tomko (1970) 6- Helen Elchisco (1956) 7- Michael Gresko (1963) 8- Archpriest Michael Kostyk (1964) Former Pastor 11- Helen Pipenur (2009) 12- Pauline Mary Gresh (1981) 13- James E Jump (2011) 13- Tom Grgich (2018) 13- Mary Basala (2006) 13- Michael Mazurik (2018) 14- George Kaitsa (1991) 15- Michael Mazurik (1972) 15- John Kovach (1983) 16- Mary Kobb (2017)	16- Tom Wiseman (2020) 16- Frank Flaherty (1999) 18- Nadexda Kaitsa (1992) 19- Archpriest Sergei Garklavs (2015) 19- Gori Pietropolo (Trudy's dad) (2017) 19- His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius (2020) 21- Alex Mazur (1920) 21-Terry (Bobbie's cousin) (2017) 21- Regina Lomme (2021) 25- Serge Mihaly Jr (2019) 28- George Elchisco (1996) 28- Anthony Glovinsky (1946) 30- Joseph Malchisky (1993) 31- Margaret Basala (2002) 31- George Rusincovitch (1994) William Martin (1982) Joseph L. Mazurik (1944) Anna Mazur (1945) Anna Danchisen (1945)
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Enthronement Address of The Right Reverend Daniel Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces; Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers; Honorable Deacons; Venerable Monastics; Diocesan Seminarians; Esteemed Guests and Friends, Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Throughout the history of salvation, we are able to observe a consistent dynamic in the relationship between the Lord God and His people. The Lord has called those chosen to be servants to draw near to Him and to hear His voice; He then sends them out to speak His word and to serve His people. This dynamic of calling and sending, proclaimed in the Holy Scriptures and echoing through the centuries in the life and mission of the Church, continues in our time, in our very own day. This enduring call has been given to each one of us in Holy Baptism. Each one of us is called to serve the Lord and to build up the Church, each using our own talents and abilities and gifts in their uniqueness and in their variety. As the Holy Apostle Paul reminds us in the twelfth chapter of his First Epistle to the Corinthians, we have been given a diversity of gifts for this very task of building up the Church. “And God has appointed these in the Church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that, miracles, then gifts of healings, of help, of administration, and varieties of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:28). The Holy Apostle then urges us to desire the best gifts and reminds us that love is the most excellent way in which these gifts are exercised and realized.

And now, a call to serve Christ and to build up His Church has been given to me in a new way as I embark upon the archpastoral ministry as Bishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest.

I accept this as God’s will and design for my life, but I also want to acknowledge that this is not for me alone. God’s marvelous and merciful plan also includes each one of you, the dedicated clergy and faithful of this God-protected Diocese. I am grateful that you are willing to join me in accepting this plan and in living it. In entering upon this role of service, today in a formal way, I express my gratitude to

Almighty God for His many mercies and pray that His merciful love will continue to work within me and within us all as I take up this yoke, this responsibility that has been placed upon me by the Holy Synod of our Orthodox Church in America.

As Orthodox Christians, we understand the importance that the office and role of bishop has in the Church’s life and mission. The Bishop is described as Shepherd, Icon of Christ, Teacher, Priest, Successor of the Apostles, Brother, Overseer, Pastor, Father, Celebrant, Steward, Administrator, Unifier, and Servant. These are but some of the roles ascribed to the bishop in the exercise of the archpastoral ministry.

Among all these roles and functions, I fully realize that the first and foremost role of a bishop is to reflect the image of Christ the Servant, the one who came “not to be served but to serve” and “to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). All the other roles and titles assigned to the episcopal ministry can be summed up into this one role of bishop as servant. And we find this image of Christ the Servant most movingly and powerfully expressed when the Lord, gathered with His Holy Apostles and Disciples in that Upper Room on the night before He died, and washed their feet. I offered a reflection on this image almost eight years ago, at the time of my episcopal ordination, and it has inspired me and challenged me every day since then. I recall it again today as a reminder to me personally, to my brother bishops, and to all of you who have been called to serve within the Church.

There in the Upper Room, facing His Passion and Death, the Lord Jesus Christ, in a last example of loving service and in a last gesture of teaching, as a last testimony, knelt on the floor—He got down on his hands and knees— and humbled Himself before His followers, He who was Lord and Master, He Who had healed the sick and raised the dead and proclaimed the message of God’s saving love in word and in deed, lowered Himself to the floor and went from apostle to apostle and washed their feet; something that not even the lowliest of slaves wanted to do. The Master of All became the Servant of All.

As we sing at Matins of Great and Holy Thursday... “The Master shows to His disciples an example of humility; He who wraps the heavens in the clouds girds Himself with a towel; **Con’t Next Pg**

Enthronement address con't from previous Pg

and He in whose hands is the life of all things kneels down to wash the feet of His servants” (Holy Thursday Matins, Fifth Ode of the Canon). The Lord and Master of All, the Son of God, the Savior and Redeemer of the World condescended to perform this self-effacing act as He humbled Himself and provided His apostles and disciples, and us, with an example of service, of what it means to be a servant who serves with humility, who puts himself in the place of the last and the least.

Undergirding, upholding and defining every other role of the bishop, is this type of humble servanthood. The servant who readily responds to the call and commandment of Christ given on that night in that Upper Room: “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15). I hear these words clearly today and accept them as spoken to me very directly and very personally—as the Lord has done, so I am also to do.

I am limited and unworthy, but it is my hope, my aspiration, and my prayer that my response to the call to be the archpastor and chief servant of this Diocese will be based and modeled upon the example of humble service of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Shepherd Who lays down His life for His sheep; the Servant Who serves humbly, the Condescending One who washes feet and Who commands us to do the same.

What a blessing it is to be called to servanthood in this Diocese which has as its mother church, Holy Trinity Cathedral. Saints have stood and prayed in this very place, where we ourselves stand and pray today. This historic temple has been sanctified throughout its long history in so many ways. Beginning with the priest who pastored the local flock and led that flock in building this cathedral, Saint John of Chicago, whose priestly life and faithful ministry were crowned with martyrdom as he became the first priest-martyr under the Bolshevik yoke. And it was Saint Tikhon, our father among the saints, our Archbishop in America, the Patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America who, as diocesan bishop in America, consecrated

this very temple in which we have just celebrated the Divine Liturgy. Others who have been numbered among the saints and those whose holiness is known only to God, whose faith has shone forth in these lands have also served and worshipped here.

And we cannot forget that, for several decades, this cathedral church also was the home of the wonder-working Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God. Built in 1903, for almost 120 years this very temple has been the spiritual home to countless faithful people here in Chicagoland and beyond. I ask you to join me in giving thanks for this temple built of wood and stones, but, even more importantly, for the temple of living stones that continues to worship here and in every parish and mission of our Diocese.

Today, I am filled with much gratitude and humbled by the support and guidance I have received throughout the years. I wish to thank His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops for calling me, in the name of the Church, to serve here in this corner of the Lord’s Vineyard. And I want to express my special and heartfelt gratitude to His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, for his trust and confidence and the support he has shown me in the almost eight years I served as his auxiliary bishop. I also recall, with all of you and with thankfulness, the memory of my brother concelebrant, and ever-memorable predecessor in this See, His Eminence Archbishop Paul. May his memory be eternal!

On this, the feast of her Protection, I ask the Mother of God, invoked in her Tikhvin Icon, to accept us all under her protecting veil. Looking to her example, may we, too, be numbered among the most faithful of Her Son’s family of disciples. Like her, may we all hear the word of God and keep it with every fiber of our being. I also ask the prayers of the Saint Tikhon, Enlightener of North America, the prayers of Saint John of Chicago and Saint Alexis, Saint Sebastian, and Saint Alexander who all worshipped in this cathedral; as well as the intercessions of our venerable father Herman of Alaska and of all the men and women, both known and unknown, who have served Christ and His Holy Church in North America. May their example continue to guide, and may their prayers continue to bless the Church in this Diocese and throughout this American continent

.Lastly, I presume to ask each one ***Con’t next Pg***

Enthronement address con't from previous Pg

of you here today for your prayers and your support. As I respond to the call that has been given me and commit myself to serve Christ's Holy Orthodox Church as the bishop of the God-protected Diocese of the Midwest, I am deeply aware that each and every one of us – each and every one of you — participates uniquely in the one work and common mission of the Church. Each one of us is called to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation in our own unique way. But no one—bishop, priest, deacon, monastic, or lay member of the faithful—serves in isolation or on their own. Each one of us relies upon the support of those around us—I rely upon you and will rely upon you for your support and the inspiration your lives give me. Let us, therefore, “encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Here with you in this revered and venerable Cathedral, encouraged by your faith, surrounded by your love and supported by your prayers, I trust that the Lord will accept my willingness to serve—and that He will supply what is lacking within me. And I pray that the Lord will grant me, unworthy though I am, to be a Servant in His own image and likeness and to be a Shepherd according to His very own heart (Jeremiah 3:15). Amen.



Metropolitan Tikhon hosts OCMC's Executive Director and Assistant Development Director

On Thursday, October 6, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed Father Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, and Father Christopher Rowe, Assistant Development Director, to the new temporary Chancery office in Virginia. His Beatitude, Father Martin, Father Chris, and Father Alessandro Margheritino, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America, discussed a number of topics concerning mission and the work of OCMC.

Banquet Remarks on the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, and the Enthronement of Bishop Daniel by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

Your Eminences and Your Graces,

Your Grace Bishop Daniel,

Clergy and faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest,

I greet you with joy on this holy occasion. And I thank you all for your gracious hospitality.

I do not intend to speak at length, but I hope you will allow me to reflect briefly on what has happened today.

In the epistle at this morning's liturgy, we heard how the high priest of the first covenant performed his divine service to the Most Holy Trinity, offering sacrifice for himself and for the ignorance of the people. We heard about the lampstand, the table, the shewbread, the censer, the ark, the mercy seat, and the cherubim.

And today, as we celebrated the Protection of the most holy Theotokos—her who is the true temple and the true ark—we came together in a temple dedicated to the Most Holy Trinity to enthrone an archpastor and a high priest for the Diocese of the Midwest.

I congratulate you, Bishop Daniel, on this occasion, and I also congratulate your clergy and faithful, both those who are gathered here to celebrate with us and those who are absent in the body ***Con't Next Pg***

Metro. Tikhon remarks con't from previous Pg

but with us in prayer and the Spirit.

Your Grace, one of the first times that I had the pleasure of collaborating with you was in 2005 when you travelled with me as a recently consecrated auxiliary bishop to represent the Orthodox Church in America at the enthronement of Pope Benedict XVI in Rome. Your administrative competence was already well known in the Church and our brief time in Rome also made evident your facility for navigating the area external relations, not only in that context but many other contexts both locally and internationally. In addition, your seven years as an auxiliary bishop to His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin have allowed you to add pastoral care to your portfolio of talents, which also includes theological wisdom and expertise in canon law, as well as a gift for clarity in speaking and writing. But beyond all these talents, Your Grace has also proven to be a good friend to many, including me, and I am confident that both your friendship and your pastoral talents will be well appreciated by the clergy and faithful of the flock that now comes under your omophorion.

It is a great joy for the priesthood of the Diocese of the Midwest to receive a new high priest to serve at their head; it is a great blessing for the faithful of the Diocese to receive a new archpastor and intercessor.

All of you, please be assured of my prayers and the prayers of the Orthodox Church in America, both on this joyous occasion and into the future.

Bishop Daniel, may your ministry prosper through the mediation and protection of the most holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, and may the Lord God remember your high priesthood in the kingdom. And may the clergy and the faithful and the entire diocese of the Midwest continue to flourish, by your prayers and under your direction.

Once again, please accept my congratulations, and also my thanks for all the hard work and generosity on display at this banquet and throughout the events of the past day.

OCA Delegation Sent to Eleventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches

The Orthodox Church in America was represented at the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe, Germany, August 31-September 8, 2022, by His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland, who led the delegation, Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, and Dr. Rebecca Luft.

The Assembly of the World Council of Church brings together Christians from all over the world and of all denominations in order to meet, deliberate, and plan for future programs and plans for the WCC. The delegation from the Orthodox Church in America joins those from other local Churches of the Orthodox Church, almost all of which are present at these assemblies. Additionally, the different Oriental Orthodox Churches are all also represented.

The delegation of the Orthodox Church in America not only attended and participated in the different programs of the Assembly, but members also served the Assembly further in different ways. Father Alexander served on the Message Committee, which drafted a final message from the Assembly.

Dr. Luft served on the Programme Guidelines Committee, and its subcommittee, Ecumenical Formation and Education.

During the Assembly, the delegation from the OCA met formally and informally with the delegations of the other local Orthodox Churches, as well as other Assembly delegates, advisors, and guests. An early highlight of the Assembly was the arrival of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch, who had been one of the eight regional Presidents of the WCC. To conclude his visit, Patriarch John X offered the Assembly a sermon at the end of the day on August 31, in which he called those present at the Assembly to speak out in defense of Christians in the Middle East. Father Alexander was able to receive the blessing of Patriarch John X and convey to him the fraternal greetings of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon.

At the end of the Assembly, Father Alexander was elected to be a member of the Central Committee of the WCC.

Martyr Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the Cross of the Lord

Commemorated on October 16

The Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion, a Roman soldier, served in Judea under the command of the Governor, Pontius Pilate. When our Savior Jesus Christ was crucified, it was the detachment of soldiers under the command of Longinus which stood watch on Golgotha, at the very foot of the holy Cross. Longinus and his soldiers were eyewitnesses of the final moments of the earthly life of the Lord, and of the great and awesome portents that appeared at His death. These events shook the centurion's soul. Longinus believed in Christ and confessed before everyone, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Mt. 27:54).

According to Church Tradition, Longinus was the soldier who pierced the side of the Crucified Savior with a spear, and received healing from an eye affliction when blood and water poured forth from the wound.

After the Crucifixion and Burial of the Savior, Longinus stood watch with his company at the Sepulchre of the Lord. These soldiers were present at the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ. The Jews bribed them to lie and say that His disciples had stolen away the Body of Christ, but Longinus and two of his comrades refused to be seduced by the Jewish gold. They also refused to remain silent about the miracle of the Resurrection.

Having come to believe in the Savior, the soldiers received Baptism from the apostles and decided to leave military service. Saint Longinus left Judea to preach about Jesus Christ the Son of God in his native land (Cappadocia), and his two comrades followed him.

The fiery words of those who had actually participated in the great events in Judea swayed the hearts and minds of the Cappadocians; Christianity began quickly to spread throughout the city and the surrounding villages. When they learned of this, the Jewish elders persuaded Pilate to send a company of soldiers to Cappadocia to kill Longinus and his comrades. When the soldiers arrived at Longinus's village, the former centurion himself came out to meet the soldiers and took them to his home. After a meal

the soldiers revealed the purpose of their visit, not knowing that the master of the house was the very man whom they were seeking. Then Longinus and his friends identified themselves and told the startled soldiers to carry out their duty.

The soldiers wanted to let the saints go and advised them to flee, but they refused to do this, showing their firm intention to suffer for Christ. The holy martyrs were beheaded, and their bodies were buried at the place where the saints were martyred. The head of Saint Longinus, however, was sent to Pilate.

Pilate gave orders to cast the martyr's head on a trash-heap outside the city walls. After a while a certain blind widow from Cappadocia arrived in Jerusalem with her son to pray at the holy places, and to ask that her sight be restored. After becoming blind, she had sought the help of physicians to cure her, but all their efforts were in vain.

The woman's son became ill shortly after reaching Jerusalem, and he died a few days later. The widow grieved for the loss of her son, who had served as her guide.

Saint Longinus appeared to her in a dream and comforted her. He told her that she would see her son in heavenly glory, and also receive her sight. He told her to go outside the city walls and there she would find his head in a great pile of refuse. Guides led the blind woman to the rubbish heap, and she began to dig with her hands. As soon as she touched the martyr's head, the woman received her sight, and she glorified God and Saint Longinus.

Taking up the head, she brought it to the place she was staying and washed it. The next night, Saint Longinus appeared to her again, this time with her son. They were surrounded by a bright light, and Saint Longinus said, "Woman, behold the son for whom you grieve. See what glory and honor are his now, and be consoled. God has numbered him with those in His heavenly Kingdom. Now take my head and your son's body, and bury them in the same casket. Do not weep for your son, for he will rejoice forever in great glory and happiness."

The woman carried out the saint's instructions and returned to her home in Cappadocia. There she buried her son and the head of Saint Longinus. *Con't Next Pg*