

KATHEDRA

A Monthly Newsletter for the Archdiocese of Washington, DC
Orthodox Church in America

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NOVEMBER 2019

Communication has consistently been identified in our Archdiocese as a priority. This publication is a simplified version of our impressive quarterly publication known as Kathedra which was edited by Fr. Dennis Buck. We welcome contributions from our parishes and from individuals.

A Word From the Metropolitan...

To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC:

Dearly beloved,

Christ is in our midst!

The second issue of our revived *Kathedra* newsletter has a focus on outreach and evangelism. Outreach and evangelism take many forms and are ministries not simply for those who may be formally trained as “missionaries” but for all Christians. Our Archdiocese has actively pursued such ministries in our past which is reflected in the growth of our Archdiocese over the past 25 years. In his editorial from the Spring of 1993 (see below), Archpriest Dennis Buck refers to the seven parishes within the Archdiocese. This means that we have added four (4) new communities to our Archdiocesan family since that time, including the most recently established Fairfax County Mission Station. This is a tremendous accomplishment and a witness to the missionary spirit of our clergy and faithful.

I was blessed to serve at the second Sunday Divine Liturgy offered at the new Fairfax Mission Station, which took place on Sunday, September 29, the day following our Annual Assembly. It was a joy to celebrate the sacred services of the Orthodox Church at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. It was a small space but beautifully appointed with all the necessary elements for worship. A large number of faithful attended and the choir, under the direction of Julianna Woodill, sang prayerfully and with inspiration, using music of various traditions, including American Orthodox composers. Please continue to offer your prayerful support to Fr. Sean Levine, Deacon Matthew Prentice, and all those who are diligently laboring to more firmly plant this missionary community within our Archdiocese.

The missionary work of the Orthodox Church in America will also be on the agenda for the Autumn Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, which will take place during the week of November 11-15. Although I chair that meeting as the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, I am always balancing those responsibilities with my care for our Archdiocese of Washington. Over the past several years, I have endeavored to maintain a more active presence in the Archdiocese and it is

my intention to maintain this active presence as we move forward. In order to help me with this goal, I will be presenting some concrete ideas to the Holy Synod to allow me to spend more time with the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese. This will include the possibility of electing an auxiliary bishop to assist me with my many Church-wide and international responsibilities. The possible election of an auxiliary bishop will not have any direct administrative effect or financial impact on the Archdiocese of Washington but will allow me to devote more attention to the local work that we are doing here in the Archdiocese of Washington.

May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to inspire and strengthen us for the apostolic work that lies before us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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From the Chancellor's Desk...

Join us for Fr. Michael Oleksa's retreat on Baptizing Cultures, Sat., Nov. 16

We are excited to announce that the Archdiocesan Mission Council is sponsoring a retreat by Fr. Michael Oleksa on "Baptizing Cultures." The retreat is open to all – Orthodox and non-Orthodox – and will be held from 10am – 4pm, Sat. Nov. 16 at St. Mark Orthodox Church, in Bethesda. Fr. Michael is married to a native Alaskan, has spent much of his priesthood in Alaska, is an expert on Alaskan and other cultures and is a recognized "Alaskan Elder". He is also a gifted, entertaining and charismatic speaker. As Orthodox, we are to take time to understand the cultures that we are witnessing to, so that with love, we can help transfigure and baptize them. The Orthodox outreach to Alaska is a wonderful example of doing this and Fr. Michael will speak of this and of baptizing other cultures.

So please join us for this wonderful retreat and invite your friends.

Successful Archdiocesan kick-off meeting for the 20th All American Council (AAC) meeting to be held in Baltimore in July 2021.

Our Archdiocese will be hosting the 20th All American Council (AAC) in July 2021 in Baltimore. Coming right upon the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the OCA and of the canonization of St. Herman, this will be an exciting opportunity to look to the future and also to showcase our Archdiocese and make new friendships. On Saturday, Oct. 26, we had our kickoff meeting to begin planning this AAC. Fr. Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the OCA, and Dn. Peter Ilchuk, the Council Manager for the AAC, came down to tell us the general structure of the Council and gave us a pretty detailed description of the dozen or so committees needed to support it. We were delighted that about 30 people attended and are considering participating in its planning and execution. We still need and are looking for more volunteers. So if you might possibly be interested – please contact our local co-chairs, Fr. Ted Boback (tboback@aol.com) and Lisa Mikhalevsky (lisamik56@gmail.com). There are plenty of "opportunities to help" – so whatever your skills and time availability we can find an important and satisfying role for you.

News from Around the Archdiocese

As reported by Lisa Mikhalevsky:

On Sunday October 20, faithful in the DC area gathered for an International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Craft Beer and Wine Tasting event at St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church in Potomac, Maryland. The evening included local craft beer, Serbian and Georgian wines provided by Noel Brockett (Holy Archangels Mission, Annapolis) of The Georgian House of Fine Wines, Aleks Krsmanovic of The Balkan Wine Project and local craft beer brewer, Sava Eremic. His Grace, Bishop Irinej (Dubrijevic) of the Serbian Orthodox Church of North and South America, offered inspiring words about IOCC's impact in the Balkans and around the world, and IOCC Gift Officer, Lou Zagami provided a short presentation. Natasha Haines of Saint Nicholas Cathedral (center in photograph) made her debut as the background pianist. Coordination of the event and refreshments were provided by Lisa Mikhalevsky (Saint Nicholas Cathedral), Marijanna Barr (All Saints of North America & St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, Potomac, MD) and Alyssa McCrea (St. Nicholas Cathedral). Nicholas and Emilia Barr assisted with set up and centerpieces. Despite the rainy weather a good time was had by all!



A Glimpse Into the Archives

The following words were written for the inaugural issue of *Kathedra* in the Spring of 1993. The first passage is from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius:

The "ruler of the world" has many weapons at his disposal, but one of the most effective is isolation. Knowing this, the Church insists on gathering together and seeing each other face to face: in our parishes, in diocesan assemblies, in the All-American Councils. For where two or three are gathered together in Christ's name, there He is in the midst of them dispelling the darkness of isolation. Indeed, anything that increases communication between us and breaks down isolation is to

be applauded. It is for this reason that I am very pleased to see once again the restoration of a diocesan newspaper. I pray that it will be a force to unite the widely scattered parishes of our small diocese.

The second passage is by the editor, Fr. Dennis Buck:

Welcome to the pages of *Kathedra*, our new diocesan quarterly newsletter. The staff of *Kathedra* hopes that our efforts will be a means of breaking down the isolation to which His Beatitude refers in the lead article in this edition.

We see this as a diocese of great potential, however small. Our parishes are all close by. Most, if not all, are growing. Our clergy all know each other and relate to each other well. The diocese is regularly a leader in Church-wide appeals. Many significant lay persons in the life of the Orthodox Church in America come from the Diocese of Washington.

Often, though, we seem to need a greater sense of our diocese as a “family”, of cohesiveness and joint purpose among our parishes. Our staff hopes to contribute to this need by expanding the lines of communication through the seven parishes of our diocese.

Look for more history from the archives of the Archdiocese in future edition of this newsletter.

Upcoming Archdiocesan Events

November 16, 2019: Mission Retreat at St Mark Orthodox Church in Bethesda with Archpriest Michael Oleksa as retreat leader on the topic: *Baptizing Cultures from St Herman to the Present*. 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

January 24, 2020: Annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

February 22, 2020: Semi-annual Archdiocesan Council Meeting.

Metropolitan's Schedule

November 8, 2019: Fall meeting of the Board of Trustees of St Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary.

November 10, 2019: Pastoral visit to the Diocese of New England.

November 12-15, 2019: Autumn Session of the Holy Synod.

November 23-26, 2019: Residency in Washington, DC.

December 1, 2019: Pastoral visit to Saint Catherine Orthodox Church in Hagerstown.

December 4-10, 2019: Visit to Moscow for the 25th Anniversary celebration of the establishment of Saint Catherine-in-the-Fields Church as the representation of the Orthodox Church in America to the Moscow Patriarchate.

Kathedra is an official publication of the Archdiocese of Washington of the Orthodox Church in America. The Diocesan Bishop is His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada.

Chancellor: Archpriest John Vitko

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To submit news or information for this Newsletter, please contact XXXX