

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith



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Marblehead, OH 43440

Rev. Fr. Peter Tomas, Rector

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*Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest*

OCTOBER 8, 2023

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Liturgical Schedule

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9
Glorification of Saint Tikhon, Apostle to America

SATURDAY – OCTOBER 14
Venerable Paraskevi (Petka) of Serbia

NO VESPERS

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 15
19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
*Ven. Euthymius the New, of Thessalonica,
Monk of Mt. Athos
Martyr Lucian the Presbyter of Antioch*

9:10 AM HOURS, 9:30 AM
DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour



Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Brethren: Let me say this much: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” Now may He who supplies seed to the Sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have

sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 13:7-16

Brethren: Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore, let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

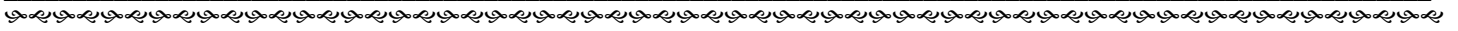
GOSPEL: Luke 7:11-16

At that time, Jesus went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So, he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us;" and, "God has visited His people."

GOSPEL: John 17:1-13

Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Basil Glovinsky, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; Subdeacon Roger Pinta, P.O. Box 39, Middle Bass, OH 43446; Diane Tryon, 109 Joslyn Street, Arcadia, OH 44804; Ed & Irene Vangeloff, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870



OCTOBER CANDLE SPONSORS

Altar Candles: Available **(\$50)**; **Chandelier:** God's Blessings upon Barbara Wroblewski **(\$50)**; **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Available **(\$25)**; **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Katelyn and in memory of Uncle Alex and John Kovach **(\$15)**; **Candles at St. Tikhon's Icon:** For Safety and Health of Nicholas, Tikhon, Gleice, & Chloe **(\$15)**



VIGILS FOR OCTOBER 1

Susan Guzy 2 In loving memory of Uncle Vasily September 28, Vichnaya Pamyat, In loving memory of father Frank's birthday 10/4/1915, Vichnaya Pamyat

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Hannah S., Barbara D., Pauline O., George K., Joe H., Margi H., Betty K., Ben F., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Sharon D., John D., and Karen D. Prayers for resolution for Lynn.

Sandy Martin 2 In loving memory of Marguerite on her birthday 10/2, Special intentions

Natalie Twarek 8 In loving memory of Doris Biro, Safe travel for Matushka, For the health and recovery of Barbara, Basil, Diane, and Don Kiser, Health of Roger, Tony, Irene, Father David, Marilyn, Pauline, Judy, Mimi, Tina, Ed, Ron, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Kurt, Leslie, Amber, Zach, Jeanne, Dottie, Jamie, Ezra, David, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Tom, Loren, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Chuck, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, Karen, special intentions, special intentions



OCTOBER REPOSED

William Martin (1982) No date provided; **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-** Michael Mazurik (2018); **14-** George Kaitsa (1991); **15-** Michael Mazurik (1972); **15-** John Kovach (1983); **16-** Mary Kobb (2017); **16-** Tom Wiseman (2020); **18-** Nadežda Kaitsa (1992); **20-** Elizabeth Naiser Royhab (2006); **20-** Terry Fink (2017); **21-** Alex Mazur (1920); **21-** Terry (Bobbie's cousin) (2017); **27-** Gordon J. Schutt (2021); **28-** George Elchisco (1996); **28-** Anthony Glovinsky (1946); **31-** George Rusincovitch (1994)

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Don Kiser / Ruth / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Jeanne Smith / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Subdeacon Roger Pinta / Ed Vangeloff / Irene Vangeloff / Diane Tryon / Sonja Rose / Ron Royhab / James Bargdill / John Beadle / Carole Conaway / Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Elaine Hileman / Betty Kovach / Helen Lis / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar

/ George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Stephanie Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice & Chloe / Gabrielle and her newborn Josey / Carol / Debbie & Marco / Nora. **Other Requests:** Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Barbara Wroblewski / Sidharth Bijilani – friend of Subdeacon Roger and Debbie Pinta / Anthony / Archpriest David Lis / Bishop Matthias / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Marge Dziama / Kurt Franck / Ben Franklin / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Marsha / Mark Masica / Robert Piznar / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chuck Wiedenhoft / Chris. **Military:** Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military

ATTENDANCE

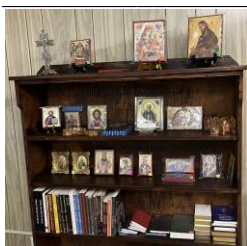


9/30 Vespers, 10 attending (1 Guest); 10/01 Divine Liturgy, 23 attending (1 Guest)

READERS LIST



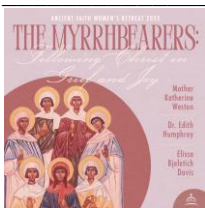
Sunday Oct 8 – Ron
Sunday Oct 15 – Natalie
Sunday Oct 22 – Jake
Sunday Oct 29 – Joe



HOLY ASSUMPTION BOOKSTORE - STOP BY TO SHOP!

Fr. Peter and Matushka Michelle have donated many great religious items to Holy Assumption Bookstore! Mostly from Ukraine and Russia, they include: icons; neck and wall crosses; large and small religious pouches; key rings; rope prayer bracelets from a monastery; men's leather bracelets; "egg" pendants; needlepoint crosses for refrigerator; a standing cross.

We also have purchased new icons. The bookstore/gift shop is a means of outreach of Holy Assumption Church. We sell items at cost and the church does not profit from sales.



2023 ANCIENT FAITH WOMEN'S RETREAT

The 2023 Ancient Faith Women's Retreat will be held **Thursday Nov. 9 through Sunday, Nov. 12** at **Antiochian Village Conference Center**, 140 Church Camp Trail, Bolivar, PA. The retreat "seeks to create a peaceful, loving, and reflective gathering of women who have come to learn, worship, make friends, and rest at the entrance into the holy Nativity season." For more information see 3-page posting on bulletin board in church hall.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

October **6** – Ron Royhab; October **17** – Tim Glovinsky



MARKET DAY – THANK YOU!

Our last Market Day of the season will take place on **Saturday, October 14th** starting with set up at **8:00 AM**. We will have perohi, kielbasa and kraut, spanakopita, and a large variety of baked goods. Your help is greatly appreciated!



CLEANING SCHEDULE

Oct 9, Laura
Oct 16, Natalie
Oct 23, Laura
Oct 30, Basil & Tim



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, October 1, 2023

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Tithe | \$1,022.00 |
| Candles | \$ 49.00 |
| Vigils | \$ 60.00 |
| Donations | \$ 140.00 |
| Chandelier | \$ 50.00 |
| Candles at the Cross | \$ 15.00 |
| Total: | \$1,336.00 |

May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Danbury Holiday Bureau” is the charity we donate to for the month of October.



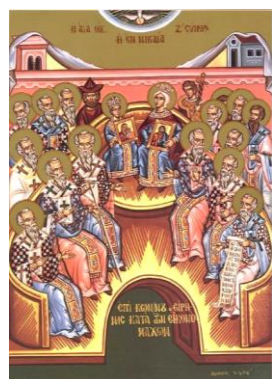
SINCERE THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Jim Kovach for hanging the icon of St. Tikhon in the church vestibule and for helping Father with the new discos and asterisk which are used for the Holy Gifts during the Divine Liturgy. We are also very grateful to Jim for repairing the white reader’s stand to its pristine condition. May Our Lord and God bless him and grant him Many Happy and Blessed Years!

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- Oct. 14th** Last Market Day of the season at 8 AM (*Saturday*)
- Oct. 14th** NO VESPERS
- Oct. 16th** Parish Council meeting at 6:00 PM (*Monday*)
- Nov. 5th** Daylight Saving time ends (*Sunday*)
- Nov. 15th** Nativity Fast begins (*Wednesday*)
- Nov. 21st** Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple (*Tuesday*)
- Dec. 6th** St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (*Wednesday*)
- Dec. 9th** Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos (*Saturday*)
- Consider sponsoring a Sunday coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy



Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

Commemorated on October 8

Today the Church remembers the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council under the holy Patriarch Tarasius (February 25).

The Synod of 787, the second to meet at Nicea, refuted the Iconoclast heresy during the reign of Empress Irene and her son Constantine VI.

The Council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes

to the prototype (the person depicted). It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because “no man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18).

In Greek practice, the holy God-bearing Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council are commemorated on October 11 (if it is a Sunday), or on the Sunday which follows October 11. According to the Slavic menaion, however, if the eleventh falls on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, the service is moved to the preceding Sunday.



Glorification of Saint Tikhon, Apostle to America

Commemorated on October 9

Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Apostles to America was born as Vasily Ivanovich Belavin on January 19, 1865 into the family of Ioann Belavin, a rural priest of the Toropetz district of the Pskov diocese. His childhood and adolescence were spent in the village in direct contact with peasants and their labor. From his early years he displayed a particular religious disposition, love for the Church as well as rare meekness and humility.

When Vasily was still a boy, his father had a revelation about each of his children. One night, when he and his three sons slept in the hayloft, he suddenly woke up and roused them. He had seen his dead mother in a dream, who foretold to him his imminent death, and the fate of his three sons. She said that one would be unfortunate throughout his entire life, another would die young, while the third, Vasily, would be a great man. The prophecy of the dead woman proved to be entirely accurate in regard to all three brothers.

From 1878 to 1883, Vasily studied at the Pskov Theological Seminary. The modest seminarian was tender and affectionate by nature. He was fair-haired and tall of stature. His fellow students liked and respected him for his piety, brilliant progress in studies, and constant readiness to help comrades, who often turned to him for explanations of lessons, especially for help in drawing up and correcting numerous compositions. Vasily was called “bishop” and “patriarch” by his classmates.

In 1888, at the age of 23, Vasily Belavin graduated from the Saint Petersburg Theological Academy as a layman, and returned to the Pskov Seminary as an instructor of Moral and Dogmatic Theology. The whole seminary and the town of Pskov became very fond of him. He led an austere and chaste life, and in 1891, when he turned 26, he took monastic vows. Nearly the whole town gathered for the ceremony. He embarked on this new way of life consciously and deliberately, desiring to dedicate himself entirely to the service of the Church. The meek and humble young man was given the name Tikhon in honor of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk.

He was transferred from the Pskov Seminary to the Kholm Theological Seminary in 1892, and was raised to the rank of archimandrite. Archimandrite Tikhon was consecrated Bishop of Lublin on October 19, 1897, and returned to Kholm for a year as Vicar Bishop of the Kholm Diocese. Bishop Tikhon zealously devoted his energy to the establishment of the new vicariate. His attractive moral make-up won the general affection, of not only the Russian population, but also of the Lithuanians and Poles. On September 14, 1898, Bishop Tikhon was made Bishop of the Aleutians and Alaska. As head of the Orthodox Church in America, Bishop Tikhon was a zealous laborer in the Lord’s vineyard.

He did much to promote the spread of Orthodoxy, and to improve his vast diocese. He reorganized the diocesan structure, and changed its name from “Diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska” to “Diocese of the Aleutians and North America” in 1900. Both clergy and laity loved their archpastor, and held him in such esteem that the Americans made Archbishop Tikhon an honorary citizen of the United States.

On May 22, 1901, he blessed the cornerstone for Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York, and was also involved in establishing other churches. On November 9, 1902, he consecrated the church of Saint Nicholas in Brooklyn for the Syrian Orthodox immigrants. Two weeks later, he consecrated Saint Nicholas Cathedral in NY.

In 1905, the American Mission was made an Archdiocese, and Saint Tikhon was elevated to the rank of Archbishop. He had two vicar bishops: Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) in Alaska, and Saint Raphael (Hawaweeny) in Brooklyn to assist him in administering his large, ethnically diverse diocese. In June of 1905, Saint Tikhon gave his blessing for the establishment of Saint Tikhon's Monastery.

In 1907, he returned to Russia, and was appointed to Yaroslavl, where he quickly won the affection of his flock. They came to love him as a friendly, communicative, and wise archpastor. He spoke simply to his subordinates, never resorting to a peremptory or overbearing tone. When he had to reprimand someone, he did so in a good-natured, sometimes joking manner, which encouraged the person to correct his mistakes.

When Saint Tikhon was transferred to Lithuania on December 22, 1913, the people of Yaroslavl voted him an honorary citizen of their town. After his transfer to Vilnius, he did much in terms of material support for various charitable institutions. There too, his generous soul and love of people clearly manifested themselves. World War I broke out when His Eminence was in Vilnius. He spared no effort to help the poor residents of the Vilnius region who were left without a roof over their heads or means of subsistence as a result of the war with the Germans, and who flocked to their archpastor in droves.

After the February Revolution and formation of a new Synod, Saint Tikhon became one of its members. On June 21, 1917, the Moscow Diocesan Congress of clergy and laity elected him as their ruling bishop. He was a zealous and educated archpastor, widely known even outside his country.

On August 15, 1917, a local council was opened in Moscow, and Archbishop Tikhon was raised to the dignity of Metropolitan, and then elected as chairman of the council. The council had as its aim to restore the life of Russian Orthodox Church on strictly canonical principles, and its primary concern was the restoration of the Patriarchate. All council members would select three candidates, and then a lot would reveal the will of God. The council members chose three candidates: Archbishop Anthony of Kharkov, the wisest, Archbishop Arseny of Novgorod, the strictest, and Metropolitan Tikhon of Moscow, the kindest of the Russian hierarchs.

On November 5, following the Divine Liturgy and a Molieben in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, a monk removed one of the three ballots from the ballot box, which stood before the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God. Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev announced Metropolitan Tikhon as the newly elected Patriarch. Saint Tikhon did not change after becoming the primate of the Russian Orthodox Church. In accepting the will of the council, Patriarch Tikhon referred to the scroll that the Prophet Ezekiel had to eat, on which was written, "Lamentations, mourning, and woe." He foresaw that his ministry would be filled with affliction and tears, but through all his suffering, he remained the same accessible, unassuming, and kindly person.

All who met Saint Tikhon were surprised by his accessibility, simplicity and modesty. His gentle disposition did not prevent him from showing firmness in Church matters, however, particularly when he had to defend the Church from her enemies. He bore a very heavy cross. He had to administer and direct the Church amidst wholesale church disorganization, without auxiliary administrative bodies, in conditions of internal schisms and upheavals by various adherents of the Living Church, renovationists, and autocephalists.

The situation was complicated by external circumstances: the change of the political system, by the accession to power of the godless regime, by hunger, and civil war. This was a time when Church property was being confiscated, when clergy were subjected to court trials and persecutions, and Christ's Church endured repression. News of this came to the Patriarch from all ends of Russia. His

exceptionally high moral and religious authority helped him to unite the scattered and enfeebled flock. At a crucial time for the church, his unblemished name was a bright beacon pointing the way to the truth of Orthodoxy. In his messages, he called on people to fulfill the commandments of Christ, and to attain spiritual rebirth through repentance. His irreproachable life was an example to all.

In order to save thousands of lives and to improve the general position of the church, the Patriarch took measures to prevent clergy from making purely political statements. On September 25, 1919, when the civil war was at its height, he issued a message to the clergy urging them to stay away from political struggle.

The summer of 1921 brought a severe famine to the Volga region. In August, Patriarch Tikhon issued a message to the Russian people and to the people of the world, calling them to help famine victims. He gave his blessing for voluntary donations of church valuables, which were not directly used in liturgical services. However, on February 23, 1922, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee published a decree making all valuables subject to confiscation.

According to the 73rd Apostolic Canon, such actions were regarded as sacrilege, and the Patriarch could not approve such total confiscation, especially since many doubted that the valuables would be used to combat famine. This forcible confiscation aroused popular indignation everywhere. Nearly two thousand trials were staged all over Russia, and more than ten thousand believers were shot. The Patriarch's message was viewed as sabotage, for which he was imprisoned from April 1922 until June 1923.

His Holiness, Patriarch Tikhon did much on behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church during the crucial time of the so-called Renovationist schism. He showed himself to be a faithful servant and custodian of the undistorted precepts of the true Orthodox Church. He was the living embodiment of Orthodoxy, which was unconsciously recognized even by enemies of the church, who called its members "Tikhonites."

When Renovationist priests and hierarchs repented and returned to the church, they were met with tenderness and love by Saint Tikhon. This, however, did not represent any deviation from his strictly Orthodox policy. "I ask you to believe me that I will not come to agreement or make concessions which could lead to the loss of the purity and strength of Orthodoxy," the Patriarch said in 1924.

Being a good pastor, who devoted himself entirely to the church's cause, he called upon the clergy to do the same: "Devote all your energy to preaching the word of God and the truth of Christ, especially today, when unbelief and atheism are audaciously attacking the Church of Christ. May the God of peace and love be with all of you!"

It was extremely painful and hard for the Patriarch's loving, responsive heart to endure all the Church's misfortunes. Upheavals in and outside the church, the Renovationist schism, his primatial labors, his concern for the organization and tranquility of Church life, sleepless nights and heavy thoughts, his confinement that lasted more than a year, the spiteful and wicked baiting of his enemies, and the unrelenting criticism sometimes even from the Orthodox, combined to undermine his strength and health.

In 1924, Patriarch Tikhon began to feel unwell. He checked into a hospital, but would leave it on Sundays and Feast Days in order to conduct services. On Sunday, April 5, 1925, he served his last Liturgy, and died two days later. On March 25/April 7, 1925 the Patriarch received Metropolitan Peter and had a long talk with him. In the evening, the Patriarch slept a little, then he woke up and asked what time it was. When he was told it was 11:45 P.M., he made the Sign of the Cross twice and said, "Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee." He did not have time to cross himself a third time.

Almost a million people came to say farewell to the Patriarch. The large cathedral of the Donskoy Monastery in Moscow could not contain the crowd, which overflowed the monastery property into the

square and adjacent streets. Saint Tikhon, the eleventh Patriarch of Moscow, was primate of the Russian Church for seven and a half years.

On September 26/October 9, 1989, the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified Patriarch Tikhon and numbered him among the saints. For nearly seventy years, Saint Tikhon's relics were believed lost, but in February 1992, they were discovered in a concealed place in the Donskoy Monastery.

It would be difficult to imagine the Russian Orthodox Church without Patriarch Tikhon during those years. He did so much for the Church and for the strengthening of the Faith itself during those difficult years of trial. Perhaps the saint's own words can best sum up his life: "May God teach every one of us to strive for His truth, and for the good of the Holy Church, rather than something for our own sake."



ARCHPASTORAL DECREE
PROCLAIMING THE MOTHER OF GOD OF TIKHVIN
AS SOVEREIGN LADY, QUEEN, AND PROTECTRESS
OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND THE MIDWEST

O people, let us have recourse to the Virgin Theotokos and Queen, thanking Christ God;

and, gazing tenderly at her wonderworking Icon, let us come and cry out to her: "O Sovereign Lady Mary, you visited this land by the wondrous appearance of your sacred image; preserve all Christians in peace and well-being and make all of them heirs of the heavenly life, for we cry out to you with faith: "Rejoice, O Virgin, salvation of the world." (Kontakion – Tone 8)

WHEREAS in the Gospel of Saint Luke, we read of the visitation of the Virgin Mary to her kinswoman Elizabeth immediately after the Annunciation and Elizabeth greets her with the words: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43); and

WHEREAS our Lord Jesus Christ entrusted His Church to the maternal care of His own Mother when, upon the Cross, He spoke to His Beloved Disciple and Apostle John, saying: "Behold your Mother" (John 19:27); and

WHEREAS the Holy Church has always sought the prayers and intercession of the Mother of its Lord, honored Her as "Blessed Among Women" and venerated her in the Holy Icons; and

WHEREAS the Icon of Mary, the One Who Shows the Way, *of Tikhvin* has been venerated by the faithful throughout the centuries of its recorded history, first in Jerusalem, then in Constantinople, Tikhvin, Riga, the war-torn countries of Europe, and Chicago and the Midwest; and

WHEREAS this venerable and Wonderworking Icon was preserved and protected by the ever-memorable Archbishop John, Bishop of Chicago, and then by his family, most notably the ever-memorable servants of God, Archpriest and Sergei Matushka Alexandra Garklavs, inviting special veneration at Saint Panteleimon Church, Summit, Illinois, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Chicago, Illinois, and throughout the Diocese of the Midwest; and

WHEREAS in July 2004, after almost five decades in America, the Icon was returned to its Shrine within the Monastery of the Holy Dormition in Tikhvin, Russia; and

WHEREAS an Icon of the *Tikhvin* Mother of God, made as a true copy and then blessed upon the original in the Tikhvin Monastery Church, was presented to Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Diocese of the Midwest by His Grace Bishop Mstislav of Tikhvin during the Archpastoral Ministry of the ever-memorable Archbishop Paul; and

WHEREAS this Icon has been enshrined within the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, the Mother Church and Diocesan Cathedral of the Diocese of the Midwest, resulting in an increasing knowledge and veneration to the Mother of God invoked in Her Tikhvin Icon; and

WHEREAS the God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest continues to be blessed through the presence of the Icon and invites the diocesan Clergy and Faithful and others to prayerfully turn to the Most Pure Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, seeking her prayers and protection, asking her help in times of need and glorifying the All-Holy Trinity and recalling Her own words “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;” and

WHEREAS the Holy Church continues to turn to the Mother of God invoked in Her wonder-working and miraculous Icon, a source of heavenly blessing and graces; and

WHEREAS this love and devotion to the Tikhon Mother of God is to be cultivated and promoted throughout the Diocese of the Midwest, in its parish and mission communities, and in the hearts of all the Faithful People of God.

I HEREBY PROCLAIM that the Mother of God *of Tikhvin* is to be honored and venerated as the Sovereign Lady, Queen, and Protectress of the Clergy and Faithful of this God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest.

Given this fourth day of October in the year of Our Lord 2023, in the presence of the Clergy and Faithful gathered in solemn assembly in the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Burr Ridge, Illinois.

May our Most Pure, Most Blessed, Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, our Mother and Queen, invoked in her Holy Icon *of Tikhvin*, ever intercede for us before the Throne of Her Son, our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory now and forever. Amen.

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest