

## Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of St. John of Chicago

The parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral here will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the martyrdom of [Saint John Kochurov](#) with a month of services and activities, according to Priest Alexander Koranda, Priest-in-Charge.

On Sunday, October 1, a Service of Thanksgiving was served, thanking God for all the blessings of the cathedral. On October 14 and 15, the cathedral will participate in Open House Chicago and anticipates hosting thousands of visitors. On Friday, October 20, Matins for the Departed will be celebrated at 6:30p.m., while on Soul Saturday, October 21, services will be held remembering all parishioners who have departed this life. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30a.m. On October 22 at 1:00 p.m., Dr. Lisa Gassin, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Olivet Nazarene University, will present a lecture on the work of Saint John and those he worked with during his missionary days in Chicago.

The feast of Saint John Kochurov will be celebrated by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, and the local hierarchs and clergy of Chicago. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 31. The newly formed Saint Mardarije Choir will sing the liturgical responses. On Monday, October 30, the festal Vigil will be celebrated at the cathedral at 6:30 p.m. Fellowship will follow both services in the cathedral hall.

The Wonderworking “Hawaiian” [Iveron Icon of the Mother of God](#) will be present for the Vigil and Liturgy on October 30 and 31.

According to Father Alexander, [Holy Trinity Cathedral](#), founded in 1892, is home to the oldest Orthodox Christian parish in Chicago. This beautiful church was designed by the famous American architect, Louis Sullivan. It was consecrated by Saint Tikhon of Moscow in 1903 and built under the leadership of Saint John Kochurov of Chicago, who was the first clergyman to be martyred at the outset of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Located in the heart of Chicago’s historic Ukrainian Village-Wicker Park neighborhood, the cathedral has been a vital part of the community for more than a century. It is an official City of Chicago Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, it’s the center of religious life for many Orthodox faithful and their families.

“We are dedicated to serving the people of God in the spirit of Christian love, and we invite you to come and worship with us whenever you are in the Ukrainian Village-Wicker Park area,” Father Alexander said.

Further information may be obtained by calling 773-486-6064 or writing to [ajkoranda@gmail.com](mailto:ajkoranda@gmail.com).

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## Celebrating 125 years of Orthodox Christianity in Chicago

Seven Orthodox Christian hierarchs and dozens of clergy, led by altar servers and Church school children, processed into Lane Tech Auditorium here on Saturday, September 30, 2017, to celebrate a Pan-Orthodox Hierarchical Divine Liturgy commemorating 125 years of Orthodox Christian presence in Metropolitan Chicago.



*Children and teens from dozens of parishes lead procession into Lane Tech Auditorium.*

“Sponsored by [Greater Chicago’s Orthodox Christian Clergy Association](#) [OCCA], which represents nearly 80 parishes across the metropolitan region, the anniversary honored the pioneers of Orthodoxy in Chicago and remembered in prayer the founders who built our communities with great faith and personal sacrifice,” said Gordana Trbuhovich, who coordinated the celebration with Archpriest Nicholas Dahdal, Rector of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL.

Concelebrating with His Grace, Bishop Ilia of Philomelion of the Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America, Ecumenical Patriarchate, were His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicolae of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas; His Eminence, Archbishop Peter of Chicago and Mid-America, Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia; His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA; His Grace, Bishop Longin of the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of New Gracanica and Mid-western America; His Grace, Bishop Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern America; and His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America. Over 60 priests, deacons and servers from 10 jurisdictions across Greater Chicago and neighboring states also served. Choral responses, under direction of Ms. Trbuhovich, were gloriously sung by the well known Pan-Orthodox Choir of Greater Chicago, whose singers represent 23 parishes and eight jurisdictions.

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## 125 Years of Orthodoxy Con't

“Bishop Irinej delivered a most inspirational homily, titled ‘Saints and Sanctity: Orthodoxy in Chicago,’” explained Ms. Trbuhovich. “The congregation listened attentively as His Grace intertwined the beginnings of Orthodox Christianity in Greater Chicago with five of today’s saints whose impressions on our growth were marked by their footsteps in this city. The homily concluded with the most recent impression in this city—also marked with a memorial Trisagion at the conclusion of the Liturgy—His Eminence, the recently departed Metropolitan Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. A tribute to him for being the ‘face of Orthodoxy’ for 38 years was also prominently dedicated in the 125th Commemorative Book.”

The Liturgy was followed by a banquet at Chicago’s Marriott O’Hare Hotel, at which Bishop Ilia delivered an encouraging directive for unity and harmony rather than independent divisions among Orthodox Christians living in the same city. The Rev. Dr. Stanley L. Davis, Jr. Executive Director of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, delivered a congratulatory message, while Father Dahdal and Ms. Trbuhovich extended their appreciation to the dedicated Pan-Orthodox committee of volunteers who helped produce this event. The altar iconography was graciously loaned by Chicago’s Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Parish, while the youth procession was organized by Presbytera Georgia Alikakos, Director of Education of Chicago’s Greek Orthodox Metropolis.

The historic Liturgy concluded with the exclamation, “Grant O Lord, a prosperous and peaceful life, health, safety and furtherance in all good things to all Chicagoland Orthodox Christians who are celebrating 125 years of their faith in this great city; and in appreciation, O Lord, of our ancestors who, since the year 1892, founded and established nearly 80 Orthodox churches throughout Greater Chicago, and to all who worship in them, O Lord, bless and preserve them for many years!”

History reveals that the Orthodox Christian presence in Chicago began in the late 1800s with the establishment of the “Greco Slavonic Brotherhood,” which included immigrants primarily from Sparta and Corfu, Greece; Montenegro and Hercegovina, in Serbia; and Carpatho-Russians and Galicians from what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After petitioning the ecclesiastical centers in their respective homelands, priests were sent in 1892 to serve the faithful under the existing Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska. This marked the establishment of Saint Vladimir Church [today’s Holy Trinity OCA Cathedral], Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, and Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral. Today, there are nearly 80 parishes in the greater Chicagoland area.



*Seven Hierarch's concelebrated the Divine Liturgy*



*Faithful from across upper mid-west attended this historic Liturgy*

*His Grace  
Bishop Paul*



*Bishop Irinej delivered a stirring homily reflecting on the lives of North America's saints.*