

**TODAY: STEWARDS LAUNCH 2017
ANNUAL APPEAL**

The Orthodox Church in America relies on the stewardship of its faithful to support ministries in communities across North America and around the world. Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, Director of the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America, announced on Monday the launch of the 2017 annual appeal, which leads up to Steward Sunday on Nov. 19. A transcript of Fr. Joseph's message is below.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops have directed that this Sunday, Nov. 19, be designated as Steward Sunday, on which we ask each parish community to take a second collection to help support the work of the Stewards and the ministry departments.

I have no doubt that our ministry departments have been essential to the growth of our parish communities throughout North America.

Our Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, through the many resources they provide, helps to keep our children connected to the Orthodox Church and to their faith.

Our Department of Liturgical Music and Translations helps to provide essential resources for the liturgical life of our parishes.

And our Department of Evangelization, through its very successful Mission Planting Grant program, has given away more than \$1 million to help plant, support and grow mission communities throughout North America.

These are just a few examples of the tremendous work being done by all of our ministry departments, and I encourage you to learn more about what they do by visiting our website and our Facebook page.

I invite you to join us this Sunday, November 19, in financially supporting the work of these department ministries.

It is with your help and with your support that we can effectively expand the mission of Christ and His Church here in North America.



Prophet Obadiah (Abdia)
Commemorated on November 19

The Holy Prophet Obadiah [or Abdia] is the fourth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, and he lived during the ninth century B.C. He was from the village of Betharam, near Sichem, and he served as steward of the impious Israelite King Ahab. In those days the whole of Israel had turned away from the true God and had begun to offer sacrifice to Baal, but Obadiah faithfully served the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in secret.

When Ahab's wife, the impious and dissolute Jezebel, hunted down all the prophets of the Lord (because of her quarrel with the Prophet Elias), Obadiah gave them shelter and food (3/1 Kgs 18:3 ff). Ahab's successor King Okhoziah [Ahaziah] sent three detachments of soldiers to arrest the holy Prophet Elias (July 20). One of these detachments was headed by Saint Obadiah. Through the prayer of Saint Elias, two of the detachments were consumed by heavenly fire, but Saint Obadiah and his detachment were spared by the Lord (4/2 Kgs 1).

From that moment Saint Obadiah resigned from military service and became a follower of the Prophet Elias. Afterwards, he himself received the gift of prophecy. The God-inspired work of Saint Obadiah is the fourth of the Books of the Twelve Minor Prophets in the Bible, and contains predictions about the New Testament Church. The holy Prophet Obadiah was buried in Samaria.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The Marblehead Police Association invites you to the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, November 24TH at James Park in Marblehead at 7:00pm.

(The day after Thanksgiving) There will be a free Bike raffle, gifts, cookies, hot chocolate, carolling, tree lighting and a special visit from SANTA CLAUS!

NOTE: Monetary donations are needed and can be dropped off at the Marblehead Police Department. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Twin Cities Pan-Orthodox Advent Retreat to explore the Orthodox Christian Family

Dr. Katina Kostoulias will be the featured speaker at a pan-Orthodox Advent retreat at Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN November 11-12, 2017. The theme of the retreat is "The Orthodox Christian Family: Helping Our Children To Grow Spiritually."

On Saturday, November 11, sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. and run through noon. Concurrently, a youth retreat for children and teens in grades K through 12 will be held. An additional presentation will be offered on Sunday, November 12, at noon.

The goal of this retreat is to present child development issues to parents from an Orthodox Christian perspective by examining the writings of such Church Fathers as Saint Theophan the Recluse and Elder Porphyrios on parenting in light of contemporary child developmental and psychoanalytic writings on the same subject.

"The Church in the Public Square" theme of November 18 presentation at Detroit's Holy Trinity Church

Archpriest Joseph Abud, Pastor of Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Flint, MI, will speak on "The Church in the Public Square" at Holy Trinity Church [OCA], 20500 Anglin Street (at Eight Mile Road), Detroit, MI on Saturday, November 18 at 10:00 a.m.

The presentation is being sponsored by Orthodox Christian Women of Michigan [OCW]. It is free of charge and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Archpriest Lev Kopistiansky is Rector of Holy Trinity Church.

OCW was founded in 1993 to provide spiritually enriching and educational presentations and activities, to promote Orthodox unity, to provide opportunities for Inter-Orthodox fellowship, and to perform charitable works. All women who are members of Orthodox Christian parishes in metropolitan Detroit are invited to become supporting members and participate in the organization's activities.

For further information, please contact OCW President Mary Ann Dadich at 586-775-4799 or mdadich811@gmail.com.

Bishop Paul visits Athens, OH's St. Ephraim Community, Ohio University OCF

What a blessing it was to spend the weekend of November 4-5, 2017 with His Grace, Bishop Paul, during his visit to Saint Ephraim Community, Athens, OH and the members of Ohio University's Orthodox Christian Fellowship [OCF]!

On Saturday evening, the community came together to provide a great meal, and even better conversation — we were blessed to have a wonderful turnout for this event and the Great Vespers service that followed. Bishop Paul also led a fruitful conversation with OCF members about our strengths (we are sustaining membership and have an incredibly supportive community backing us) while providing some suggestions for our continued growth.

Two of the biggest "takeaways" concerned serving our Athens community in meaningful ways and being prepared and willing to openly live our faith in the midst of the temptations that surround us. While both of these can be difficult for us as college students, with time constraints and peer pressure ever present, by God's grace we have been given our OCF group and the Saint Ephraim community as supports whenever we need them.

We are very thankful for the support of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd for graciously allowing us to use their space for these events.

On Sunday morning, we formally greeted Bishop Paul as he arrived for the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Father Stephen Frase, our priest and OCF Spiritual Advisor. After the Liturgy, our community hosted a catered lunch in Bishop Paul's honor, affording us an opportunity to grow as a community.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE / FEAST DAY VESPERS TIME CHANGE

This coming Monday night, November 20, our Great Vespers will be celebrated @ 5:00pm so we can participate in the Ecumenical Service @ St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church @ 6:30pm.

I hope many of you will come to our Vespers & then attend the Thanksgiving Service to give thanks to God for all of our blessings in life!

