

Metropolitan Tikhon attends funeral of former Librarian of Congress

On Tuesday, November 27, 2018, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, attended the funeral of the Former Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Hadley Billington, who led the world's largest library for nearly three decades and was credited with bringing it into the digital age. Dr. Billington died on November 20 at the age of 89.

Accompanying Metropolitan Tikhon were Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of [External Affairs](#) for the Orthodox Church in America and a personal friend of the Billingtons; Archpriest Dennis Bradley of the OCA's Archdiocese of Washington; Benedict Sheehan, Music Director at [Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary](#); and STOTS Seminarian George Davis.

Dr. Billington, Chief Librarian for 28 years until his retirement in 2015, doubled the size of the Library's traditional analog collections from 85.5 million items in 1987 to more than 160 million items. He also was credited with creating a massive new Library of Congress online, making research and legislative databases more easily accessible. Having a keen interest in Orthodox Christianity, he offered a great deal of assistance to the Orthodox Church in America over the years.

When Dr. Billington was beginning his academic teaching career at Harvard University, he entered into a close association with the late Archpriest Georges Florovsky, a Harvard Senior Professor in the late 1950s. After Father Georges' retirement from Harvard in 1964, Dr. Billington, who had moved to Princeton, NJ, was instrumental in having Princeton University offer a teaching position to Father Georges, where he would remain for the rest of his life. Dr. Billington repeatedly referred to Father Georges as a mentor.

As a scholar of Russian culture, Dr. Billington had a particular interest in the Russian Orthodox Church and its spirituality. In addition to Father Georges, he maintained contact with such Orthodox Christian scholars as Protopresbyters Alexander Schmemmann and John Meyendorff. He was an ardent supporter of Orthodox theological education, particularly [Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary](#) and [its Library](#), which he considered "the richest library of Eastern Christian holdings in the Western Hemisphere." After the fall of the Soviet Union, he assisted both secular and Church libraries in Russia in recovering their cultural and spiritual patrimony.

In conjunction with the 1994 Bicentennial of Orthodox Christianity in North America, the Library of Congress, under Dr. Billington's leadership, mounted a major exhibit titled "In the Beginning Was the Word: The Russian Orthodox Church and Native Alaskan Cultures." He joined

US President Clinton, Russian President Yeltsin and His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius for the [exhibit's opening](#). Dr. Billington was also the keynote speaker for the Bicentennial celebration in Washington, DC.

Throughout the 1990s, when hierarchs or Church dignitaries would travel to the nation's capital, Dr. Billington would invariably host them, either to discuss matters of mutual interest at his office or in less formal settings. In its [tribute to Dr. Billington](#), the *National Review* aptly referred to him as "a Christian gentleman."

Dr. Billington's funeral was celebrated at Washington, DC's Saint Alban Church, after which Metropolitan Tikhon read the Paschal Homily of Saint John Chrysostom.

Luke 8:16-21 (Gospel, St. Anna)

No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him." Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

THANK YOU

Thanks to the following you helped decorate the church:

Basil
Tim
Laura
Natalie
Carter (Natalie's grands)
Bobbie



Galatians 4:22-31 (*Epistle, St. Anna*)

For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar – for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children – but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.” Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Family Prayer: One Other Option

As I looked at the outlines in last week’s reflection, I realized that some families may want to observe morning and evening prayers as an individual rule. Therefore, I am offering another option that could be offered daily before or after dinner.

Begin with “Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers...”

- *Trisagion Prayers, the Lord’s Prayer*
- *Short reading of Saint of the Day*
- *Intercessory Prayers (see “Building a Habit of Prayer” booklet mentioned last week)*
- *Conclude with “Through the prayers of the Holy Fathers...”*
- *During dinner consider discussing the life of the saint that was read*

When I write such things, they seem reasonable, but I sometimes have no concept of being able to understand the reality of family life. I am assuming that everyone gathers at a daily meal, before or after which prayers may be offered. Some people may feel that even something as brief as the above may be too lengthy. But I would encourage you to do the best you can and pray even if the whole family cannot be present.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,
The unworthy +Paul

Metropolitan Tikhon attends services for President George H. W. Bush

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, was among the nation’s invited religious leaders who attended funeral services at the National Cathedral honoring the late President George Herbert Walker Bush on Wednesday, December 5, 2018.

The 41st President died at the age of 94 in Houston, TX late Friday evening, November 30, nearly eight months after the death of his wife, Barbara Bush, on April 17. He was the oldest living President in US history.

Also in attendance was His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Archpriest John Vitko, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America’s Archdiocese of Washington, DC, was also present.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

(If anyone would like to help defray the cost of the Christmas flowers and having your loved ones be remembered during the Christmas Liturgy please let Father Andrew know by December 23. You can remember those in “health” or those “reposed” The cost this year will be only \$15 per flower.

Fr. Andrew: (9 flowers)

- For the health of all my family & friends
- For the health of the Marblehead Police and Danbury Fire Departments, and all first responders in the nation
- For the health of all the parishioners and their families, and all those who help this parish in anyway.
- For the health of the Village Gov’t, all residents of Marblehead and the surrounding areas
- For all the less fortunate of this community and the world, and those who need our unworthy prayers
- For the repose of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, my ordaining Bishop
- For the repose of my parents, George and Dorothy, and all of my family and friends
- For all the founders and benefactors of this parish and all those listed and are remembered in the Diptychs of the Church
- For all those who have no one to remember them

Mike & Diane Tyron: (2 Flowers)

- In Loving Memory of Aunt Marian
- In Loving Memory of Uncle Norm