

# Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector



**Sunday, July 14, 2019**

**Gospel:** St. Matthew 8:5-13

**Epistle:** Romans 6:18-23

**Tone 3**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Apostle Aquila of the 70 / Ven. Nicodemus the Hagiorite  
Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils**

**JULY Bulletin Sponsor: Diane Tryon**

In loving memory of Mom on the occasion of her birthday

## Liturgical & Events Schedule

**Sunday, July 14**

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy /  
Social / Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, July 15**

8:30 am: Baking  
6:30 pm: Orthodoxy 101

**Wednesday, July 17**

8:30 am: Baking

**Thursday, July 18**

5:30 pm: Monthly Council Meeting

**Saturday, July 20**

9:30 am: Divine Liturgy followed by blessing  
of vehicles  
4:00 pm: Great Vespers

**Sunday, July 21**

9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy /  
Memorial Sunday / Followed by  
slide show of Jerusalem trip and 1<sup>st</sup>  
Annual Picnic sponsored by Fr.  
Andrew

### DANBURY FOOD PANTRY - JULY

Suggested donation of Mac & Cheese (and other non-perishable goods) will be collected through July 14.

July donations will be delivered to the food pantry Thursday July 18. Thank You & God Bless.

### CANDLE / BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR JULY

**Chandelier** (\$50) Basil: In loving memory of his mother, Mary Martha and his father, Anthony

**Altar Candles** (\$50) Basil: In memory of his brother & sisters

**Candles on the Tomb** (\$25) OPEN

**Eternal Light & Icon Screen** (\$25) Susan :  
Memory of grandfathers Michael & John,  
Father Frank, God father Peter & brother  
William Peter

**Bulletin:** Diane Tryon in B-day memory of her mom

### 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

**July 21:** Deputy Joseph from Los Angeles

**July 28:** Police officer Tara From Sacramento /  
Police Officer Jose from TX/ Dan  
Alex

**August 4:** John Clay

**August 11:** Troy

### ATTENDANCE - JULY

**Sunday, July 7:** 23 Total (19 members; 4  
guests; 13 Communicants; 3 attended Vespers

### JULY SPECIAL COLLECTION

St Herman's Seminary in Alaska!

110 E Main Street, Marblehead, OH 43440  
www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org

Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747  
padrebartek@gmail.com



## Orthodox Christian youth invited to “Ring the Bell” for youth ministry

At the [19th All-American Council](#) [AAC] held in Saint Louis, MO in July 2018, college students Dimitrios Rentel and Miriam Sheehan [offered an inspiring, three-minute presentation](#) during the final plenary session, in which they implored the Church to take youth ministry and the work of the Orthodox Church in America’s [Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries](#) more seriously.

“Immediately afterwards—and to the surprise of everyone present—clergy and lay delegates spontaneously rose to make pledges to fund a national-youth program, which raised over \$80,000.00 in ten minutes,” Dimitrios reported. “This sent a clear message to the Church at large, young and old alike, to take better care of her young people through a more active ministry.”

As a first step in developing a youth ministry program that “is the best it can possibly be,” Dimitrios initiated a “listening tour” on July 1 in an effort to gather suggestions and ideas, which he explains in a [recently produced video](#). He will be visiting several OCA-sponsored summer camps to listen, “in person,” to what our youth have to say.

“I’ll be listening to everyone about the current state of youth ministry in America,” Dimitrios added. “What are we doing now that is really effective? What are we doing now that is really ineffective? What can we do to enhance and strengthen our youth ministry efforts on every level—Church-wide, diocesan, deanery, and parish—to bring our youth closer to Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church?”

In an effort to ensure that youth who may not be attending camps are heard, a [survey has been developed and is now available online](#) by which everyone—from youth to youth ministers—can offer their opinions and suggestions.

“We’re asking people to reach into the depths of their imaginations with regard to how they envision youth and young adult ministry,” Dimitrios continued. “Camps and retreats are awesome, and

of course the Church will try to host more of them, but they’re only one part of ministry. Do youth want more pilgrimages? More service projects? More travel? Pan-jurisdictional youth events? Of course, nothing is guaranteed, but whatever people find reasonable, ‘do-able,’ and beneficial for the Church will ‘ring a bell’ and be considered.”

In early July, Dimitrios is slated to visit Saint Vladimir Camp in Ohio. Dimitrios also will visit Saint John Camp in Indianapolis, the youth program held in Miami in conjunction with the Diocese of the South’s annual Assembly, and Alaska, where he will meet with youth during the annual Saint Herman Pilgrimage in August. Additional venues are “in the works.”

“I’m not visiting these places to tell others what to do; I’m going to listen, to serve, to ‘ring some bells’ by asking how can a national youth program help youth, parents, clergy, and churches? How can we help and collaborate with everyone we can,” Dimitrios emphasized, adding that he is incredibly excited to serve the Church in the best way possible.

“I grew up with a priest for a dad, in a great community, and attended Orthodox camps every summer, but I still struggle with my faith and the Church,” Dimitrios explained. “And if I struggled, with all these advantages, then I can only imagine what it must be like for a kid who didn’t have what I had. I want to help that kid.”

Through his listening tour and the youth survey, Dimitrios hopes to be “bombarded” with others’ experiences, knowledge, comments, questions, and thoughts about youth and young adult ministry.

“We would love people to fill out our official survey, no matter who they are, and we would also love it if people shared their experiences and ideas by sending emails to [youth@oca.org](mailto:youth@oca.org),” Dimitrios added. “We want people to spread the word—the more voices we hear, the more opinions we get, the better the program will be. The project is going on all summer, so this offers a two-month window for being heard. We will read each and every response.

“We want people to spread the word by [taking the survey](#)—the more voices we hear, the more opinions and fresh ideas we can gather and the better the program will be,” Dimitrios said. “And we hope everyone will [follow us on Facebook](#), which already features photos from Saint Vladimir Camp.”

# PRAYER LIST Updated 7-10

## Clergy:

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius  
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman  
Archbishop Nikon from New England  
John Duranko (*Father's home pastor*)  
James Gleason (*Father's Spiritual Father*)  
Joseph Gibson  
Emilian Hutnyan  
Josef Von Klarr  
Vladimir Lecko  
John Matusiak  
Zachariah Trent  
Peter Tutko  
Deacon Paul Mitchell  
Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

## Matushkii:

Pani Patricia Duranko  
Virginia Lecko  
Sonya Tutko  
Victoria Kopistiansky

## Parishioners / & their Family:

Rachel Adamcio  
John Beadle (*Elcishko*)  
Nancy Bunge  
Carol Chevenger (*Roddie's mom*)  
MaryAnn Cook (*Cousin to Twarek's*)  
John Richard Elchisco  
Trudy Ellmore  
Debbie Garnek (*Roddie's sister*)  
Michael Glovinsky (*Basil's nephew*)  
Heidi Golob  
Ernest Gresh (*Basil's nephew*)  
Shirley Gresh (*Wife of Ernest*)  
Aldin Griffith (*Soski*)  
Julia Guzy  
Joseph Habegger (*Laura brother-in-law*)  
Kathy Jacobs  
Michael Kouznetsov (*Mary Hiser's son*)  
Kristen (*Cassell's daughter*)  
Eileen Libb (*Royhab*)  
Helen Lis  
Walter Litzie (*Fr.'s cousin*)  
Maria (*Terrie's mom*)  
Greg Mazur  
Jim Mazur  
Judy Mazurik (*Paul Mazurik's*)  
Baby Stella Miller

Katelyn Pipenur (*Niece of Jean*)  
Helen Jean Rofkar (*Elchisco-*)  
Joe Rose  
Margaret Rose  
Steven Schirtzinger (*Soski*)  
Christy Schutt (*Joe's sister*)  
Joe Schutt  
Peter Truta (*Jean H's cousin*)  
Diane Tryon  
Greg Tryon  
Christine Twarek  
Valentin (*Cassell*)  
Lauren Jerome & her unborn  
baby (*Jean H's daughter*)  
Nikki and her newborn baby  
Brantly  
Brianna and her unborn baby  
(*Trudy's daughter*)  
Katie and her newborn Bodhi  
(*Cassell's daughter-in-law*)

## Other Requests:

Alexia  
Dick Biro (*Natalie's friend*)  
Anna Burch (*Wayne's friend*)  
Mary Ann Cook (*Twarek*)  
Bob Cook (*Twarek*)  
Danielle (*Cassell's friend*)  
Ben Franklin (*Laura friend*)  
Theodore Geletka  
(*St. Michael OC-Broadview  
Heights' choir director*)  
Brad George (*Christi's friend*)  
Donald Gresh (*Basil*)  
Tom Hutnyan (*Fr. Emil*)  
Elliot Joy (*Police chief's son*)  
Jake Lipstraw (*Twarek*)  
Andy Kukay (*Village resident*)  
Tommy Leonchick (*Fr's friend*)  
Anna Maiani (*Friend of Wayne*)  
Pauline Meath (*Fr's friend*)  
Charlie Nowak (*Avery's*)  
Marsha Ontko (*Sonya's friend*)  
Beth Reinhard (*Diane friend*)  
Elvis Reyes  
John Rust (*Heffernan*)  
Sandy Scafaria (*friend of Jean*)  
Matthew Sterling (*Tyron*)  
Janice Timko

Becky Yatsko (*Twarek*)  
Rachel (*Darlene M.*)  
Bonnie (*Cassell*)  
Kim (*Cassell*)  
Sharon (*Cassell*)  
Dominic (*Cassell*)  
Allison Spoerl (*Cassell*)  
Troy (*Cassell*)  
Cheyenne Welch & her two  
newborn babies (*our  
catechumens*): Luke & Lydia  
Katie & her unborn baby  
(*manager at Bruno's wife*)  
Mat. Carley & her unborn  
baby

## Military:

Craig Cassell  
Nathan Brown

## Captives:

Metropolitan Paul  
(*Orthodox Archdiocese of  
Aleppo*)  
Archbishop John  
(*Syriac Archdiocese of  
Aleppo*)  
The UN & IOCC humanitar-  
ian aid workers in & around  
Syria; Those suffering perse-  
cution in Iraq, Syria, Israel,  
Egypt, Ukraine and through-  
out the world  
*NOTE: Please let Fr. Andrew  
know when someone needs to  
go on list and come off.*

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## For Your Prayers

Julia Guzy (95 ½ yrs old)  
1601 Church Rd  
Marblehead, OH 43440  
Please remember her & Susan  
(her daughter) in your prayers.  
Send a card of greeting.

## Baking Schedule:

**Monday, July 15:** Kolachke  
**Wednesday, July 17:** Kolachke  
**Monday, July 22:** Kolachke  
**Wednesday, July 24:** Kolachke



## Matushka Vera Mironowicz

Matushka Vera Mironowicz, wife of the late Archpriest Oleg Mironowicz, fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

Born Weronika [Vera] Kunawicz, she and her husband of 59 years were married in Great Britain in 1953. After Father Oleg's ordination to the diaconate and priesthood by His Eminence, Archbishop Athenagoras of Thyateira of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in April and May 1954 respectively, the Mironowiczes selflessly ministered to Belarusian and immigrant communities and displaced persons in Great Britain. After resettling in the US, they were received into the Orthodox Church in America and in 1980 were attached to Chicago's Saint George Cathedral, of which Father Oleg was assigned as Rector two years later, serving with distinction until his retirement in 1994.

Matushka Vera was [predeceased by Father Oleg](#) in 2012. She is survived by their daughter, Lidia, and grandson Jonathan.

## Dr. Paul Meyendorff represents OCA at Faith and Order Commission gathering

Dr. Paul Meyendorff, Professor Emeritus at [Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary](#), Yonkers, NY, and Editor of *Saint Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, was one of numerous Orthodox delegates who participated in the Plenary Session of the [Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches](#).

Held in Nanjing, China June 13-19, 2019, the gathering was hosted by the China Christian Council, which Dr. Meyendorff noted is an organization recognized and controlled by the

Chinese government.

With the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, he represented the Orthodox Church in America.

"Orthodox representation was quite good with numerous delegates and staff members," Dr. Meyendorff reported. "Of note is that the Russian Orthodox Church, represented by Archpriest Vladimir Shmalyi, resumed its participation in Faith and Order."

Dr. Meyendorff serves on a subcommittee that received and analyzed responses to "The Church, Toward a Common Vision," a significant convergence statement on the nature of the Church.

"The Commission has thus far received over 70 responses, and I am a member of the drafting team that is preparing a summary report of the subcommittee's analysis, with recommendations for further Faith and Order work," said Dr. Meyendorff. "Of particular note was the official announcement of an upcoming World Conference on Faith and Order, to be held in 2025 to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council, the focus of which will center on issues of Apostolic Faith."

A group from Faith and Order was tasked with preparing and organizing this conference, he added.

Dr. Meyendorff's sub-group will meet in Bossey, Switzerland, in January 2020 to continue working on the analysis of "The Church, Toward a Common Vision."

The next plenary meeting of the entire Commission is scheduled for January 14-20, 2021.

"In the meantime, the various sub-committees will continue to meet," Dr. Meyendorff continued. "We were informed that it is at the 2021 meeting, a nominations committee will consider candidates for the next Commission."

St. John the Ladder on what is a Christian:

**A CHRISTIAN IS AN IMITATOR OF CHRIST IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED, AS FAR AS THIS IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE, AND HE BELIEVES RIGHTLY AND BLAMELESSLY IN THE HOLY TRINITY!**

## JULY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY	ANNIVERSARY
2- Matt Essex 4- Stephanie Kowal 8- Ed Vangeloff 12- Justin Stokley 12- Joe Stokley 12- Joey Hileman 13- Police Chief Casey Joy 17- Jonah Bremer	10- Matt & Rachel Adamcio 16- Peter & Stephanie Kowal 7-22-2002: Retired Metropolitan Herman (Elected as Primate) 24- Frank & Laurie Batura 27- Greg & Natalie Twarek 30- Tim & Jennifer Heffernan <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NAMESDAY</b></p> 7-31: Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco
<p><i>If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.</i></p>	

### Fathers of the First Six Councils Commemorated on [July 14](#)

The Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils.

In the Ninth Article of the Nicea-Constantinople Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in “One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” By virtue of the catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church’s supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life. An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the “oikumene” (i.e. from all the whole inhabited world).

The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils:

The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) (May 29, and also on seventh Sunday after Pascha) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under Saint Constantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.

The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) (May 22) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonias, by the emperor Theodosius the Great.

The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) (September 9) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) (July 16) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.

The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II) (July 25) “Concerning the Three Chapters,” was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great.

The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) (January 23) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today’s celebration. The Seventh Council, commemorated on the Sunday nearest to October 11, was convened at Nicea in the year 787 against the Iconoclast heresy, under the emperor Constantine and his mother Irene.

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as “lights upon the earth,” guiding us to the true Faith. “Adorned with the robe **Con’t PG 7**

## Remembering Archbishop John of San Francisco: 1902—1989

On Thursday May 30, 2019, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in San Francisco to mark the 30th Anniversary of the repose of the outstanding hierarch and former archpastor of the Orthodox Church in America's Diocese of San Francisco and the West, Archbishop John [Shahovskoy], who served as the diocese's ruling hierarch for nearly three decades. The Liturgy was celebrated by Priests Philip Halliwell and Timothy Winegar at Christ the Savior Church, a parish founded by Archbishop John as well as his former residence. Father Philip shared a sermon of Archbishop John, offering a sense of his poetic and vivid preaching style. Father Timothy spoke of the Archbishop's monastic cross, which he had received on Mount Athos and which contains a number of relics, and how it came to be enshrined at the Elevation of the Holy Cross Church, Sacramento, CA—a parish also planted with Archbishop John's blessing.

A prolific writer and poet, Archbishop John remains widely known for his classic treatise on the priesthood – *The Orthodox Pastor: A Guide to Pastoral Theology*—which continues to inspire seminarians and clergy to this day. Most of his publications appeared in Russian and await translation into English. His life reflects the stormy path of the Church during the 20th century, taking him from his native Russia to western and central Europe and finally to the United States, where he fell asleep in the Lord in Santa Barbara, CA and was interred on June 1, 1989, in San Francisco's Serbian Orthodox Cemetery.

Born Prince Dimitry Shahovskoy in Moscow on August 23, 1902, Archbishop John was educated in Saint Petersburg. The Russian Revolution engulfed his family with its endless tragedies. He served in the White Army during the Civil War, after which he was evacuated from Crimea to France. He received his higher education at Louvain University in Belgium, studying in the Faculty of History and Political Economy. In the years 1923 through 1926, he published three collections of his poetry, and in 1925 and 1926 he served as editor of a journal dedicated to philosophy and literature. Some of the most prominent writers, poets, and philosophers of the Russian emigration contributed to this publication.

In 1926, the young Dimitry left all to follow Christ. He went to Mount Athos, where he was tonsured to monastic orders with the name John, after the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian. From Mount Athos, he returned to France, to the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Metropolitan Evlogy, and studied at the Saint Sergius Theological Institute. Soon after his ordination to the diaconate by Metropolitan Evlogy, he was ordained to the priesthood in Yugoslavia by Bishop Benjamin. Assigned by Metropolitan Anthony [Khrapovitsky] to serve in Belaya Tserkov, Yugoslavia, Hieromonk John began his life-long priestly, missionary, and educational ministry. He established a publishing house which disseminated religious tracts throughout Yugoslavia, attracting many young Russian refugees to the Church. After returning to France once again, he was assigned by Metropolitan Evlogy to serve as pastor of Saint Vladimir Church, Berlin, Germany, where he greatly expanded his missionary and educational work, thereby reaching far beyond the boundaries of his parish. In 1937, he was elevated to the dignity of archimandrite.

During the Second World War, he and his flock assisted many “workers from the East”—people brought by force from Russia and Ukraine as laborers in Germany—and refugees, and provided assistance to missionaries going to the German-occupied territories of the USSR to reopen churches that had been closed during the Soviet Union's relentless religious persecutions.

After the war, Archimandrite John came to the United States. For about one year he served as pastor of Los Angeles' Holy Virgin Mary Church, where he organized the faithful to provide help to refugees in Europe, both in the form of CARE packages with food, clothing and medicine, and in the form of sponsorships to refugees who were immigrating to the United States as displaced persons.

In 1947, Archimandrite John was elected Bishop of Brooklyn, NY, and appointed Dean of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, New York, NY. At this time he began his 40-year ministry as a religious broadcaster to Russia. He also pursued his love of writing, authoring numerous books, articles, and poems.

Elected to the See of San Francisco in 1950, Bishop John accepted pastoral responsibilities in a far-flung diocese while continuing his enormous labors as broadcaster and writer. From 1954 through 1968,

## Archbishop John Con't

he represented the American Metropolia in the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches. It was in the midst of this work that Bishop John—elevated to the dignity of Archbishop in 1961—established contacts with representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, which had joined the World Council of Churches in 1961. He was instrumental in beginning the conversations which led to the reestablishment of canonical relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Metropolia, culminating in the granting of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church in America in 1970.

Archbishop John retired in 1973, only to be called back to active episcopal ministry in his diocese in 1975. At his final retirement in 1979, despite declining health, he continued to grow in his spiritual clarity, his goodwill to every person, and his prayerful insight.

May the memory of Archbishop John, especially as we prepare to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Granting of Autocephaly in 2020, be eternal!

## Fathers of Councils con't

of truth,” the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.

The Orthodox Church’s conciliar definitions of dogma have the highest authority, and such

definitions always begin with the Apostolic formula: “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” (Acts 15: 28).

The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church’s teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. The Church, in expounding its dogmas, is dealing with the concerns of a given historical moment, “not revealing everything in haste and thoughtlessly, nor indeed, ultimately hiding something” (Saint Gregory the Theologian).

A brief summary of the dogmatic theology of the First Six Ecumenical Councils is formulated and contained in the First Canon of the Council of Trullo (also known as Quinisext), held in the year 692. The 318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council are spoken of in this Canon I of Trullo as having: “with unanimity of faith revealed and declared to us the consubstantiality of the three Persons of the Divine nature and, ... instructing the faithful to adore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with one worship, they cast down and dispelled the false teaching about different degrees of Divinity.”

The 150 Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council left their mark on the theology of the Church concerning the Holy Spirit, “repudiating the teaching of Macedonius, as one who wished to divide the inseparable Unity, so that there might be no perfect mystery of our hope.”

The 200 God-bearing Fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council expounded the teaching that **Con't Pg 9**

## JULY Reposed List

2- John Danchisen (2009)	14- John Gulla (1968)	29- Robert Zgonc (2018)
6- Anna Mazur (1969)	20- Fr. Dc. John Youhas (2012)	29- Charles Hagmaier (2018)
6- Joseph Golob Jr	20- Mitered Archpriest Sava Chaly	Triantafilos Lefas (1995)
7- Mary Martha Glovinsky	(1991) Former Pastor	Mary Danchisen (1927)
(1975)	21- Anna Mazurik (1973)	Michael Wolf (1929)
9- Andrew Holodnak (1971)	27- Father Vladimir Meschersky	
10- Gretta Gresh (2018)	(1937) Former Pastor	
	29- Sally Franklin (2018)	

## Archbishop Irénée participates in celebrations in Ekaterinburg, Moscow

During the last week of June and first week of July 2019, His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée of Ottawa and Canada was on pilgrimage to Russia, where he visited Ekaterinburg and the Moscow region. He was accompanied by Archpriest Daniel Andrejuk, Representative of the Orthodox Church in America to the Russian Orthodox Church and Dean of the OCA's [Representation Church of the Great Martyr Catherine](#), Moscow, and Protodeacon Jesse Isaac.

Archbishop Irénée was welcomed at the Ekaterinburg airport on Friday, July 28, by His Eminence, Metropolitan Kirill of Ekaterinburg, after which they visited Ganina Yama, the place where the remains of Tsar Nicholas II and his family were burned and buried. The following afternoon, they traveled to Alapayevsk, where they were greeted by His Grace, Bishop Leonid and celebrated Vigil. It was in Alapayevsk that the New Martyr Elizabeth and the Nun Barbara were martyred.

On Sunday, June 30—the Feast of All Saints Glorified in the Russian Lands—Archbishop Irénée concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Kirill and His Grace, Bishop Alexei of Serov at Ekaterinburg's Church on the Blood, which marks the site of the martyrdom of Tsar Nicholas II and his family. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Metropolitan Kirill offered Archbishop Irénée and the OCA delegation a warm welcome and presented an icon of the Royal Family. Archbishop Irénée in turn thanked Metropolitan Kirill for the invitation and his hospitality, recalling the connection between many of the North American saints and Russia while presenting an icon of Saint Herman of Alaska to the Metropolitan.

On July 1 and 2, the Feast of Saint John (Maximovich) of Shanghai and San Francisco was celebrated by Archbishop Irénée, Father Daniel, and the clergy of the Representation Church of the Great Martyr Catherine in Moscow. During the Vigil, the Akathistos to Saint John was sung. Archbishop Irénée presented an icon of Saints John and Catherine to the parish. The following morning, the festal Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop Irénée and Father Daniel. Among the concelebrants were representatives of a

number of the Local Orthodox Churches, including Archimandrite Seraphim (Shemyatovsky), Representative of the Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia; Archpriest Kakhaber Gogotishvili, Representative of the Georgian Orthodox Church; Hieromonk Iriney (Pikovsky), Representative of the Sretensky Monastery; Hieromonk Alexander (Galushka), Secretary of the Church of Saint Nicholas in Kotelniki, the Representation Church of the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia; and the clergy of Saint Catherine's Church. In attendance at the Liturgy was the Charge d'Affairs of Canada to Russia, Mr. Stefan Jobin, who received a warm welcome from Father Daniel.

Of particular note was the veneration of a belt from the vestments of Saint John, which had been brought to Saint Catherine's in early May with the blessing of Archbishop Irénée, who is the guardian of the belt. The belt will remain through mid-August at Saint Catherine Church, where daily akathistos hymns are celebrated.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Charge d'Affairs Jobin said that it is a great honor for him to attend the festal services as a representative of Canada. He went on to say that he appreciates the relationship with the Church of Saint Catherine and expressed thanks for the invitation to participate in the celebration. In response, Archbishop Irénée expressed his hope that Saint John would continue his intercession and prayers for all present.

Before his return to Canada on July 4, Archbishop Irénée also visited the New Jerusalem Monastery, the Sretensky Monastery and Seminary in Moscow, and other ecclesiastical sites.

### THE FATHERS SPEAK

Of all created and rational beings, endowed with the dignity of free will, some are friends of God, some are His true servants, some are useless servants (Luke 17:10), some are entirely estranged, and there are some who, for all their weakness, take their stand against Him! St. John Climacus

NOTE: Where do we fall? And what are we trying to do to fix it?