



Sunday, February 2, 2020
Gospel: St. Luke 2:22-40

Tone 8

Epistle: Hebrews 7:7-17

33rd Sunday after Pentecost
The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple
Sunday of Zacchaeus.

FEBRUARY Bulletin Sponsor: *Father Andrew in memory of His Eminence, Metropolitan Orestes*

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, February 2
9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy / Social / Woman's Club Meeting

Monday, February 3
10:00 am: Deanery Meeting in Mentor

Saturday, February, 8
4:00 pm: Great Vespers

Sunday, February 9
9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy Social

FEBRUARY BULLETIN AND CANDLE SPONSORS

- Bulletin:** (\$50) Fr. Andrew in memory of Metropolitan Orestes
- Chandelier:** (\$50) Laura: In loving memory of her dad, Steve
- Altar Candles:** (\$50) Fr. Andrew for the health of his spiritual father, Fr. James on the occasion of his birthday
- Candles on the Tomb:** (\$25) **Open Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** (25) Basil: In loving memory of all my sisters: Maryann, Pauline, Marian & Ruth

SPECIAL COLLECTION-FEBRUARY

Support a mission priest from OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center)

NOTE: We will send our January special collection to the Marblehead Police Department the first week of March. Please make sure your donation is in by the end of February.

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

VIGILS -JANUARY 26

Basil Glovinsky (3) In loving memory of God-mother, Helen Beadle; In loving memory of dear friend, Joan Lukac; Recovery of health and strength to Diane

Sandy Martin (1) Special intentions

Twarek (6) God's Blessings and Peace; Health of Carter; Health and recovery of Rick Schlotterer, Mary Dziak, Claudia McDonald, Christian Maple & Maria Rodrigues; Health of Margi & Joe, Tom, MaryAnn and Bob, Christine, Judy, Matushka Melania, Chuck, Steve, Bohdi, Nancy, Heidi; Health of Liz, Joe, Sonya, Julia, Diane, Stella, Ron, Jake, Helen; Special intentions; Special intentions

READER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday, February 2:	Wayne
Sunday, February 9:	Natalie
Sunday, February 16:	Ron
Sunday, February 23:	Tim



DANBURY FOOD PANTRY - FEBRUARY

Suggested donation of Apple Sauce (and other non-perishable goods) will be collected through February 9.

Donations will be delivered to the food pantry Thursday, February 13.



Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747
info@holyassumptionmarblehead.org

ATTENDANCE - JANUARY

Wednesday January 1: 9 attended Liturgy

Sunday, January 5: 22 Total (18 members; 1 non-reg member; 2 children; 1 guest; 9 communicants; Vespers for Sat were canceled; 13 attended the Vigil Sunday night)

Monday, January 6: 10 attended liturgy

Sunday, January 12: 25 total (17 members; 4 children; 4 guests; 16 Communicants; No Vespers

Sunday, January 19: 22 total (17 members; 1 non-reg member; 3 children; 1 guest; 14 communicants; No vespers

Wednesday, Jan. 22: 9 attended Liturgy

Sunday, Jan 26: 24 Total (14 members; 2 non-reg. Members; 3 children; 5 guests; 12 Communicants; 5 attended Vespers

Wednesday, Jan 29: 10 attended Vespers for Feast

Thursday, Jan 30: 9 attended Liturgy for Feast

MONTHLY OTHER FINANCIAL INCOME FOR JANUARY 2020

Candles:	\$123
Altar Candles:	\$50
Vigils:	\$240
Bulletin:	\$50
Chandelier:	\$50
Special Collection	
Police Dept.: \$231 + \$300 from Church: \$531 (to date- Check will be given first week of march. Please get donations in by end of Feb.	
Restoration:	\$125
Bookstore:	\$74

Sunday of Zacchaeus

Commemorated on [February 2](#)

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God’s mercy and compassion by Christ’s words to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation is come to this house” (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection “Today salvation has come to the world,” which echoes the Lord’s words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

PRAYER LIST Updated 1-30

Clergy:

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman
John Duranko (*Father's home pastor*)
James Gleason (*Father's Spiritual Father*)
Moses Barry
Joseph Gibson
Gregory Grivna
Emilian Hutnyan
Josef Von Klarr
Fr. Dan Kovolick
Vladimir Lecko
Myron Manzuk
Philip Lasbrook
Christopher Phillips
Benjamin Tucci
Peter Tutko
Deacon Nicholas Denysenko
Deacon Paul Gansle
Deacon Gregory Krutchak
Deacon Paul Mitchell
Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

Matushkii:

Pani Patricia Duranko
Myra Kovolick
Virginia Lecko
Maura McCartney
Jillian Rettig
Snezana Ruzic
Sonya Tutko

Parishioners / & their Family:

John Beadle (*Elcishko*)
MaryAnn Cook (*Cousin to Twarek's*)
John Richard Elchisco
Ruthe Flewelling
Debbie Garnek (*Roddie's sister*)
Michael Glovinsky (*Basil's nephew*)
Heidi Golob
Shirley Gresh (*Wife of Ernest*)
Julia Guzy
Joseph Habegger (*Laura brother-in-law*)
Tom Hileman
Alice Jackson (*Mazurik*)
William Jappsen (*Diane T.*)
Michael Kouznetsov (*Mary Hiser's son*)
Kristen (*Cassell's daughter*)
David LaValle (*Fr.'s cousin*)

Helen Lis
Greg Mazur
Judy Mazurik (*Paul Mazurik's*)
Toddler Stella Miller
Teresa Miller (*Darlene sister*)
Katelyn Pipenur (*Niece of Jean*)
Earl Rindfleisch
Helen Jean Rofkar (*Elchisco*)
Maryann Royhab
Steven Schirtzinger (*Soski*)
Christy Schutt (*Joe's sister*)
Peter Truta (*Jean H's cousin*)
Diane Tryon
Greg Tryon
Christine Twarek
Tom Twarek
Carter Twarek
Katie and her baby Bodhi
(*Cassell's daughter-in-law*)
Pani Stacey Mihaley & her
unborn baby
Nikki & her unborn baby

Other Requests:

Alexia
Dick Biro (*Natalie's friend*)
Anna Burch (*Wayne's friend*)
Marge Dziama
Mary Dziak (*Twarek*)
Ben Franklin (*Laura friend*)
Theodore Geletka
(*St. Michael Broadview Heights'*
choir director)
Brad George (*Christi's friend*)
Donald Gresh (*Basil*)
Elliot Joy (*Police chief's son*)
Scott Kluding (*Twarek*)
Tommy Leonchik (*Fr's friend*)
Jake Lipstraw (*Twarek*)
Mark Ludvik (*Guzy*)
Anna Maiani (*Friend of Wayne*)
Claudia McDonald (*Twarek*)
Pauline Meath (*Fr's*)
Charlie Nowak (*Avery's*)
Infant Isla Ohm (*Twarek*)
Beth Reinhard (*Diane friend*)
Sandy Scafaria (*friend of Jean*)
Matthew Sterling (*Tyron*)
Janice Timko

Philip (Andy) Timko
Steve Turinsky (*Twarek*)
Bob Van Osdol (*Twarek*)
Chuck Wiedenhoft (*Twarek*)
Rachel (*Darlene M.*)
Tracy (*Cassell*)
Kristina and her unborn baby
(*Fr. Friend*)
Molly & her unborn child

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 or come off the list.*

For Your Prayers

Julia Guzy (96 yrs old)
1601 Church Rd
Marblehead, OH 43440

Please remember her & Susan
(her daughter) in your prayers.
Send a card of greeting.

Will We See our Pets in Heaven?

By Fr. Lawrence Farley

I suspect that every pastor has been asked this question at one time or another, and it usually comes from one of the more junior members of the congregation who has just lost his beloved cat or dog. (The loss of goldfish seems not to provoke the same level of theological curiosity.) It is important for pastors to realize that the child asking the sometimes tearful question is not looking for theology, but comfort; he or she does not want a detailed discourse on what the Bible says, but assurance that the pain they are now feeling will somehow go away. They do not see how that pain could ever go away if they never saw their beloved pet again, and so they ask the priest (that infallible source of all knowledge) if they will see Fido or Fluffy when they go to heaven.

We clergy, infallible sources of all knowledge that we are, of course realize that the answer is this question is, “I really don’t know”, but this will hardly do, and anyway it presupposes that the child is looking for a theological summary of what the Church teaches. But the Church has never spoken definitively about this question, and so an authoritative reply is not possible. But since the child is looking for comfort and assurance rather than a Bible lesson, perhaps it is best to approach the matter differently.

As suggested above, the Scriptures do not say much about the matter of animal immortality. Some might suggest that the creation stories in Genesis 1-2 answer the question, since they say that Man has a soul, but animals do not. Actually, those texts say no such thing, and if by “a soul” one refers to the creation of Adam in Genesis 2:7, then they say the opposite. The term used in Genesis 2:7 describing the creation of Adam and rendered “soul” is the Hebrew *nephesh*, which is also used in Genesis 1:20 and 1:24. There it described the creation of animals, which are termed *nephesh hayya*, “living souls”—perhaps better rendered “animate beings” (the Latinate among us will recognize the Latin for “soul”—*anima*—in the English word “animate”). The texts simply said that after their creation both the animals and Adam were alive and could feel and move.

Perhaps more to the point is the question asked in Ecclesiastes 3:21, which speaks of the spirit of man

going upward and the spirit of beasts going downward. This is a pretty slim foundation upon which to build a doctrine for or against the immortality of animals, especially since the author here expresses his agnosticism about the distinction between man and beast. Indeed, he says, “The fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts” (v. 19)—an expression of pessimistic nihilism with which the Church does not endorse. Perhaps Ecclesiastes should be read more as asking questions than as offering answers.

So, the Scriptures seem not to offer much guidance to the question of the fate of animals. This being so, I would like to begin by speculating and guessing—and also by differentiating. I differentiate between all animals and our beloved pets—i.e. between the wild dogs and feral cats roaming in the wilderness and the dogs and cats which have become part of a family through being loved. (I also differentiate between heaven and the age to come: Christians will go to heaven after dying, but our final reward and destiny is not heaven, but the new heavens and the new earth in the age to come, which we will inherit after the final universal resurrection. But this latter distinction is rather less significant than the former one.)

I would also begin by fantasizing a bit. We have all heard of how some saints experienced a special connection with animals—how St. Sergius tamed a bear, how St. Herman tamed an ermine, and how St. Gerasimos tamed a lion, who followed him about as a kind of large pet cat. (The similarity in names in Latin between him and St. Jerome led to Gerasimos’ lion ownership being erroneously transferred to St. Jerome.) I have always thought and fantasized that I would love to make friends with such a lion myself in the age to come.

Thinking about the possibility of having a lion for a pet in the coming age also made me think of lines from *Watership Down*, Richard Adam’s famous novel about rabbits. This story features the adventures of a number of very human-like rabbits, who start a new warren, led by their leader (or “chief rabbit”) named Hazel. The final death of Hazel is described as follows, after Hazel meets his Lord, the Black Rabbit of Inlé, who calls him out of his body and out of this world. The passage is worth quoting at length. The Black Rabbit, identified by his shining silver ears, meets Hazel **Con’t Pg 6**

FEBRUARY Celebrations

ANNIVERSARY	BIRTHDAY	
2-10-1973: Retired Metropolitan Herman 2-14-2004: The Most Blessed Tikhon 14- Jim & Rita Mazur 18- Joe & Sonya Rose 2-21-2014: Bishop David of Alaska	Nathaniel Bremer 5- Christi Soski 5- Thomas Hileman 5- Zoland Zile 6- Alex Zarynow 8- Thomas Hileman 10- Fr. Eli Bremer 12- Fr. James Gleason 12- Michael Sumner 14- Sandy Martin	14- Mat Ann Lardas 16- David Mazurik 16- Silas Issler 20- Julianna Kusinski 22- Wayne Golob 24- Sonya Rose 25- Heidi Golob 26- Bill Glovinsky 26- Pani Bernadette Zarynow 27- Andy Schlotterer

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.

FEBRUARY Reposed

2- Nancy Pipenur (2018)	14- Rose Polosky (1953)	22- Fr. Andrew Hutnyan (2004)
5- Peter Kowal (2004)	17- Metropolitan Orestes (1977)	23- George Elchisco Sr. (1961)
6- Steve Michael Mazur (1970)	17- Stanley Guzy (1986)	26- Elizabeth Millie (1998)
6- Elizabeth Kravetz McMahon (1984)	20- Infant Linda Sue Alber (1969)	29- Mary Uka Kosteary (1996)
12- Glenn Schoonmaker (2002)	21- Mary Tomka Matso (1956)	Helen Hritsko (1908)
12- Lawrence Beck (2018)	22- Metro Mazur (1973)	Alexandra Brendza (1909)
		Steve Danchisen (1909)

MONTHLY TITHING ONLY JANUARY

Goal Pledged per month: \$4,600

Sunday, January 5: \$496

Sunday, January 12: \$732

Sunday, January 19: \$1,531

Sunday, January 26: \$855

TOTAL FOR MONTH: \$3,614 (~~\$986~~)

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

Feb. 2: Fr. John / Police officer killed in TN / TX Police Officer / TX Church shooting victims / Ed Pehanich, Sr /

Feb 16: Clyde Madison / 2 soldiers killed in Afghanistan / Uk plane crash victims / Victims from Australia wild fires including the 5 FF

Feb 22: Harley Dilly

March 1: Fr. Michael Shuster / 2 police officers from HI / Dc. Mike Cinali / Police office from VA / Debbie Pribanic

March 8: Ernest Gresh & Rick Schlotterer

OTHER WEEKLY INCOME

Sunday, January 5: \$26 Candles; \$90 Vigils; \$50 Bulletin; \$50 Chandelier; \$10 Special Collection -Police Dept

Sunday, January 12: \$60 candles; \$50 altar candles; \$45 Vigils; \$158 (Special Collection (Police)); \$24 bookstore; Check rec'd for \$5,500

Sunday, January 19: \$20 Candles; \$60 Vigils; \$35 Special Collection (Police); \$50 bookstore; \$75 restoration

Sunday, January 26: \$17 for Candles; \$45 Vigils; \$28 Special Collection (Police Department); \$ 50 restoration

Pets in Heaven Con't

in his underground burrow and says,

“You know me, don’t you?” “Yes, of course”, said Hazel. Then he saw that in the darkness of the burrow, the stranger’s ears were shining with a faint, silver light. “Yes, my lord,” he said. “Yes, I know you.” “You’ve been feeling tired,” said the stranger, “but I can do something about that. If you’re ready, we might go along now.” They went out past the young sentry, who paid the visitor no attention. It seemed to Hazel that he would not be needing his body any more, so he left it lying on the edge of the ditch, but stopped for a moment to watch his rabbits and to try to get used to the extraordinary feeling that strength and speed were flowing inexhaustibly out of him into their sleek young bodies and healthy senses. “You needn’t worry about them,” said his companion. “They’ll be all right—and thousands like them. If you’ll come along, I’ll show you what I mean.” He reached the top of the bank in single, powerful leap. Hazel followed, and together they slipped away, running easily down through the wood, where the first primroses were beginning to bloom.”

It is fiction of course. But I would like to focus upon a particular image—that of the life of Hazel flowing inexhaustibly out of him into the other rabbits. Reading this I wonder if perhaps something like this might not be possible in the age to come. That is, the life and love of our pets flow out into the animals we will know and love in the age to come. In my case, the cats I have known, loved, and wept over will perhaps find a final home in that lion. One thing I know for sure: nothing that is loved is ever finally lost.

It is all just a guess of course. But John Wesley offered a similar kind of guess about the enhanced capacities of animals in the age to come in his sermon *The Great Deliverance*, and if Wesley was allowed to speculate, I am too. But, to quote C.S. Lewis about the future hope of heaven, “if this opinion is not true, something better is”. When a child asks me about a possible reunion with Fido or Fluffy, I feel like the man faced with the famous question from Virginia about the existence of Santa Claus. And I

remember that Virginia here is not asking for an exegesis of Genesis or Ecclesiastes, but asking if God will take away her pain. And yes, Virginia, He will. If not through a happy, tail-wagging reunion, than by something better. The precise details of our future joy are not given to us, but of the reality of that joy there can be no doubt.

Metropolitan Tikhon Welcomes Marchers to Saint Nicholas Cathedral

On Friday, January 24, 2020 following the Divine Liturgy for the feast of Saint Xenia of Petersburg, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon addressed the bishops, clergy, and faithful who, having traveled from various locations throughout the Northeast, gathered in his Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, to worship and celebrate the Holy Eucharist together before participating in the annual March for Life. His Beatitude’s full comments appear below.

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated by His Grace Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, who is today celebrating his 5th anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Episcopacy. Also present at the Divine Liturgy were Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh, Archbishop Michael of New York, Archbishop David of Sitka, Bishop Paul of Chicago, Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, of the [Greek Archdiocese of America](#), and Bishop Thomas of Charleston, of the [Antiochian Archdiocese of North America](#).

His Beatitude’s remarks at the end of Divine Liturgy Friday, January 24, 2020 Prior to the March for Life

Esteemed Seminarians, Monastics, Faithful lay men and women,

I greet you in the Name of the Lord, in his Peace, after celebrating this liturgy together and coming to know in it the full Power, Wisdom, and Word of God. May our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has received our offering, being Himself what is offered, grant us the unity as Orthodox Christians this day, so that in the strength of our convictions, we are able to confess, in ways that are appropriate and effective, our faith in Him. May the powerful, the mighty, those who make decisions hear with all clarity the words of Solomon, “God did not make death, and He does not delight in the death of the living. For He created all things that they might exist (Wis Sol 1.13-14).”

Con’t PG 7

Metropolitan remarks Con't

These are the words we speak to the whole world as we march today, as we march for *life*! Let the patter of feet, the march of our steps, the movement of our bodies testify that we hold firm to the words of scripture about creation: when God beheld what He created, He saw that it was *good*! From the first day of creation until these very days, God beholds His creation in love. What He beheld to be good, He now redeems. From His throne on high, where He created all things, He remains fully engaged with His creation, looking “down from heaven to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die (Ps 102.20),” because life is precious. Life is precious because it comes from above, from the Author of “every good gift, every perfect gift.”

And so, as we march on the woeful anniversary of Roe v. Wade, as we march to defend life, let us proclaim *life* with the Defender of *life*, our Lord Jesus Christ, let us proclaim *life* to a culture that has confused life with death, a society that has confused a staggering and incomprehensible number of abortions since this case was decided – over 50 million abortions – with notions of choice and quality of life. We love *life*, the *life* that He has given us, we seek to protect *life*, foster *life*, care for the *living*, because *life*, being *alive*, *existing* is good.

The path that we march on today, of course, extends far beyond the National Mall, far beyond Washington, DC, far beyond our nation’s capital. Indeed, our march does not end today. It is a path that we must tread every day of our life. Our deeds, and work, as well as our words must be committed to the proclamation of the gift of life, from conception to the end of life, from the newly born to the elderly. Only by bearing witness to what we believe, our faith in Jesus Christ, renewed in knowledge of him, and by his Grace, will change be effected in the world around us, and life will come to be known as it is: a great gift from God for us.

I give thanks to God for the community of believers who have gathered from afar this morning in my Cathedral. In the midst of so much of the fractured existence that we experience day by day, with political polemics, enmity between nations, difficulties even within the Church, it is by the Grace of God that we are able to come together in the unity of faith and

oneness of purpose. We should not be misled, or consider this situation unremarkable. A great mystery has been revealed to us, and God himself has allowed us to participate in it: we have come together to worship our Heavenly Father, who has given us his Son, by his Holy Spirit. And now we leave here nourished, strengthened, and renewed for our common purpose: the proclamation of life. This mystery should not be ignored. The love and goodness that we insist undergirds our defense of life, the love and goodness that God has revealed to us in this liturgy we have just celebrated, this same love should burn within our hearts for each other, just as this same goodness needs to be the substance of our actions towards one another. Let the first steps on our march in defense of life be made showing the love that we have for the life of the other, beginning right now.

May God be with each of us today as we march!

May the Lord direct our steps!

May the Lord remember each of us in his heavenly kingdom!

Metropolitan Tikhon Leads Annual Orthodox Prayer Service at 47th March for Life

On Friday, January 24, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, joined by members of the Holy Synod, and brother bishops from other jurisdictions, led Orthodox faithful gathered at the 47th March for Life in Washington D.C. in a prayer service for the innocent children whose lives have been taken.

[Following the prayer service](#), Metropolitan Tikhon addressed the faithful, “Today, we march in solidarity with many others from across our nation to show our government leaders our commitment to life—to life that begins from the very moment of conception. As we march today, we sing praises to God, our God Who does wonders, praying that He work His wonders and move the heart of our nation to repentance.” Recalling the words from the Wisdom of Solomon, “God did not make death, and He does not delight in the death of the living. For He created all things that they might exist (Wis Sol 1:13-14)”, Metropolitan Tikhon prayed that our Lord would, “open the hearts of our government leaders to have pity for His little ones, so that our leaders may overturn the sorrowful legislation which legalized abortion 47 years ago.” **Con't Pg 8**

Prayer Service Con't

You can read Metropolitan Tikhon's address in full below.

Metropolitan Tikhon then lead the Orthodox faithful in the march down Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court. Marching with Metropolitan Tikhon, from the Orthodox Church in America were [His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek](#) of Pittsburgh, [His Eminence Archbishop Michael](#) of New York, [His Eminence Archbishop David](#) of Sitka, [His Grace Bishop Paul](#) of Chicago and [His Grace Bishop Daniel](#) of Santa Rosa. [His Grace Bishop Thomas](#) of the Antiochian Archdiocese in North America, and [His Eminence Archbishop Daniel](#) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA also marched with Metropolitan Tikhon.

This was the 33rd year in which the Orthodox Church in America has participated in the March for Life. In 1987 His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman, then Bishop of Philadelphia, and Archpriest John Kowalczyk marched for the first time. Bishop Herman addressed the marchers that year, becoming the first Orthodox hierarch to address the annual march.

Others participating in the march were seminarians, faculty and their families from [Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary](#) and [Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary](#) lead by their deans Archpriest John Parker and Archpriest Chad Hatfield respectively; and Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, together with clergy and faithful from the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, the Diocese of the Midwest, the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania and the Diocese of the South.

On the eve of the March, Metropolitan Tikhon and his delegation attended the Prayer Vigil at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where they were welcomed by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Archbishop Joseph extended a warm welcome to those representing the Orthodox Church. Also in attendance were [His Grace Bishop Apostolos](#) of

Medeia, representing the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and representing the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch, [Archbishop Dionysius John Kawak](#).

Address of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon to the Faithful at the March for Life

Your Eminences, Your Graces, Reverend Fathers, Esteemed Seminarians, Distinguished Guests, and fellow marchers,

I greet you all today as we gather here in our nation's capital for the March for Life. We gather today in prayer and somber remembrance for the innocent children whose lives have been taken while still in the womb. We weep for these children, as once did Rachel who wept for her children. We ask God to grant them a place in His Heavenly Kingdom, as our Lord Jesus Christ says to us, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt 19:14)."

We pray as well for healing and repentance for those who, for whatever reason, have participated in the act of abortion. Our Lord tells us, "He who comes to Me, I will never cast out (John 6:37)." We know that Christ, Who desires not the death of a sinner but that he might turn from his wickedness and live, grants forgiveness for any and every sin when we come to Him in repentance. We entreat Him to move to repentance those who have participated in the act of abortion, so that they may find that forgiveness and healing which our Lord so freely gives. Today, we march in solidarity with many others from across our nation to show our government leaders our commitment to life—to life that begins from the very moment of conception. As we march today, we sing praises to God, our God Who does wonders, praying that He work His wonders and move the heart of our nation to repentance. We implore Him to open the hearts of our government leaders to pity for His little ones, so that our leaders may overturn the sorrowful legislation which legalized abortion 47 years ago. We proclaim to them the words of Solomon, "God did not make death, and He does not delight in the death of the living. For He created all things that they might exist (Wis Sol 1:13-14)."

By our presence here, we show our government leaders that the Orthodox Church stands firmly with our forefathers throughout the ages on the side of life. *Con't Pg 9*