

“Dealing with doubt” topic of February 9 live stream meeting with Bishop Paul

“Dealing with doubt” will be the topic of an interactive live stream video meeting with His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET on Sunday evening, February 9, 2020.

The live stream will be hosted by the [Midwest Diocese Centre for Family Life](#). It offers an exciting opportunity for parents, grandparents, godparents, teachers and others to pose their questions “live” to Bishop Paul. Videos of previous live streamed meetings, in which Bishop Paul addresses such topics as “Fasting as a family,” “Sex, Gender, and Identity,” “Why Can’t Church Be More Fun,” “Making Friends, Loving Enemies: Helping our kids navigate an unorthodox world,” and other topics also are available for viewing online.

To register for the event, [subscribe to the Midwest Family website](#) online. An email with connection information will be sent prior to the event.

Metropolitan remarks con’t

As I said this morning after the Divine Liturgy, we proclaim life with the Defender of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ. We firmly proclaim life from the moment of conception to the end of life and urge our nation to proclaim the same truth. We show our nation that we can allow no excuse for abortion. At the same time, we proclaim the love and forgiveness that Christ offers to all of us, and we extend our open arms in love and mercy to those who have participated in the sin of abortion.

May God guide our nation to the knowledge of His truth and to the commitment to life, so that all human beings may be given the opportunity to glorify Him, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Episcopal Consecration of Bishop Alexis of Bethesda

On Saturday, January 25, 2020, clergy and faithful from the Archdiocese of Washington D.C., the Monastery of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk, Saint Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary [SVOTS], Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary Seminary [STOTS], and New Skete

Monastery gathered at Saint Nicholas Cathedral here for the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, during which Bishop-elect Alexis [Trader] was ordained to the Episcopacy as Bishop of Bethesda, Auxiliary to His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon.

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America [elected Archimandrite Alexis \(Trader\) as Bishop-elect of Bethesda, Auxiliary to the Metropolitan for Stavropegial Institutions](#) during its Regular Fall Session on Tuesday, November 12, 2019.

On the eve of the Ordination, the hierarchs celebrated the Nomination and Proclamation of a Bishop, after which Bishop-elect Alexis [delivered an acceptance speech](#) and then served Great Vespers for the feast of Saint Gregory the Great.

Concelebrating with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon were His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, 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.

Before the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, Bishop-elect Alexis offered his statement of faith, proclaiming the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, and offered a detailed explanation of the Church’s Trinitarian and Christological doctrines in the presence of Metropolitan Tikhon and the assembled hierarchs, clergy, and faithful. He pledged his commitment to uphold the Church’s canons and the teachings of the Holy Fathers and to preserve unity with his brother bishops.

During the singing of the Trisagion, Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, and Archimandrite Sergius (Bowyer), Abbot of Saint Tikhon Monastery, presented Bishop-elect Alexis to the bishops in the altar. With the open Gospel Book placed over Bishop-elect Alexis’ head Metropolitan Tikhon proclaimed, “By the election and approbation of all the Venerable Bishops of the Holy Synod, the Grace Divine, which always heals that which is infirm and fulfills that which is lacking through the Laying-on-of-Hands, elevates you, most beloved of God, Archimandrite Alexis, to be the Bishop of Bethesda, which enjoys the protection of ***Con’t Pg 11***

Bishop Paul's Travel Schedule

Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI,
February 1st to 2nd

Chicago Deanery 50th Autocephaly Celebration,
February 7th to 8th

- February 7th, Akathist to North American Saints, talk by Fr. Andrew Harrison at Holy Resurrection, Palatine, IL, at 7 pm, Refreshments at 6 pm
- Discussion with Deanery Youth during presentation
- February 8th, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Ss. Peter & Paul Burr Ridge IL, 9:30 AM, Entrance of Hierarch at 9:10 AM

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, February 8th and 9th

Ss. Peter & Paul, Lakewood, OH, February 14th to 16th

PRAY FOR OUR CATECHUMENS

Rachael Adamcio

Luke Welch

Tristen Welch

Lydia Welch

Jake Muscaro

Possible Catechumens:

Loreen Welch

Cheyenne Welch

May God & the Holy Spirit guide them in their journey in the Orthodox Church and the Orthodox way of Life.



Zaccheus! Come down outta that tree!
Lunch is at your house today!!

BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125th Anniversary is coming!

Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.

Please consider contributing generously to the *Building/Restoration Fund.*

Seventh Anniversary of Metropolitan Tikhon's Enthronement

January 27, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon celebrates the 7th anniversary of his [enthronement as the Archbishop of Washington, and Metropolitan of All America in Canada.](#)

Elected by the [17th All American Council](#) in November 2012, His Beatitude was enthroned on January 27, 2013 at the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, Washington D.C.

May God continue to grant His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon good health, strength, wisdom and many years of primatial leadership of the Orthodox Church in America.

A gallery highlighting Metropolitan Tikhon's ministry also is available for viewing on the [OCA website](#) and [Facebook page.](#)



Consecration Con't

Almighty God.... O Lord our God Who, in that it is impossible for the nature of man to endure the Essence of the Godhead, in Thy Providence hast provided for us teachers of like nature with ourselves to maintain Thine Altar, that they may offer to Thee sacrifices and oblations for all Thy People. O Lord, make this man also, who has been proclaimed a steward of the Episcopal Grace, to be an imitator of Thee, Who art the True Shepherd, Who laid down Thy Life for Thy sheep. Grant that he will be a leader of the blind, a light to those in darkness, a reprover of the unwise, a teacher of the young, a lamp to the world. Grant also that he, having perfected the souls entrusted to him in this present life, may stand unashamed before Thy Throne, and that he may receive the great reward which Thou hast prepared for those who have fought with valor for the preaching of the Gospel.”

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Tikhon presented Bishop Alexis with the pastoral staff, signifying his responsibility and authority as Bishop of Bethesda, and offered the following words of exhortation:

Your Grace, Bishop Alexis, newly ordained bishop of the city of Bethesda:

On behalf of all the bishops, clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, and on behalf of all those who have gathered here today to give expression to the fullness of the Church: I wholeheartedly congratulate you on your ordination as auxiliary bishop to the Primate and Metropolitan of our Church.

Through the mystery of the All-Holy Spirit and the laying on of hands, our Lord has bestowed upon you the apostolic grace to give life to you and to your Episcopal labors.

My dear brother, I pray that our Lord will grant you good health and a plenitude of spiritual gifts so that you may in peace and love nourish the people of God and be a witness to all those who are searching and seeking for the truth as offered by Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

From my heart I wish you inexhaustible energy, peace, and joy as you undertake this awesome ministry as a Bishop of Christ's Church.

I exhort you to have care for the clergy, their wives

and their families, so many of whom have joined us today to participate in this great event. The brotherhood of the clergy is a sacred bond which it is necessary to preserve and nurture through mutual support and the guidance of the chief pastor. Have care for your fellow monastics, the monks and nuns of our sacred monasteries, who faithfully and sacrificially impart to the rest of us of the value of prayer as well as the pains and joys of the communal life.

Have care for the faithful, without whose prayers, your ministry and service will wither as a dry branch. It is your love and friendship with them that will both water their souls and bring refreshment to your own life and ministry.

St. Silouan the Athonite asks: “What shall I say of a bishop? To bishops is given great grace of the Holy Spirit. They are placed highest of all men. Like eagles they soar aloft and there contemplate infinite expanse, and by their understanding of things divine they feed Christ's flock.”

But along with this high calling, he also reminds us of our human frailty, even those of us who are bishops: “In His omniscience the Lord instructs the soul by His grace, like a kind teacher and father. But even a father can make mistakes, whereas the Lord is always faithful and true; and a teacher is not versed in all things, whereas the Lord is all-knowing.” (Archimandrite Sophrony)

Your Grace, Bishop Alexis of Bethesda, you have around you in the present, and before you in the past, countless examples of good, kind, and faithful pastors. Follow their examples, both in strength and in weakness. Among the first, look to St Gregory the Theologian to find your inspiration by immersing yourself in the tradition of the Church, by appreciating the value sacred liturgical hymnody, by agonizing in the careful preparation of homilies and words of encouragement, and above all by preserving in your heart a deep gratitude for God's love for all of humanity.

On Sunday, January 26, Bishop Alexis celebrated his first Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Church of Saint Mark, Bethesda, Maryland. Before the beginning of the Divine Liturgy His Grace tonsured Alexander Norton [STOTS 2019] a reader of the Church.

**The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ in the Temple
Commemorated on [February 2](#)**

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: Saint Andrew of Crete in the seventh century; Saint Cosmas Bishop of Maium, Saint John of Damascus, and Saint Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the eighth century; and Saint Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica in the ninth century.

On this day we also commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy." The Mother of God is depicted without Her Child, with seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

A similar icon, "Of the Seven Swords" (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right.

The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: "a sword shall pierce through your own soul" (Luke 2:35).