

## VIGILS - 8-30

**Laura Kovach (4)** God's healing to everyone battling or suffering during the COVID-19 pandemic; God's blessings of peace and healing for our country; For healing or health of Sarah and her unborn baby, Betty, Betty, Julia, Andrea, Mark, Jim, Dana, Bodhi, Chuck, Steve, Jeanne, Mary, Joe, Sonya, and Ron; God's blessings to Julia Guzy on her 97th birthday.

**Sandy Martin (1)** Special intentions

**Jim Mazur(2)** In memory family and friends;  
For health of family and friends

**Twarek (6)** Birthday blessings to Julia; For health of Abby and unborn baby; Health and recovery of Ron, Mary, JC, Loren, Sonya, David; For the health of Tom, Sarah, Jason, Nancy, Margi & Joe, Betty, MaryAnn & Bob, Judy, Chuck, Steve, Bohdi, Liz, Joe, Diane, Stella, Jake, Helen; Health of Jewel and unborn baby; Special intentions

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### The Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year 2020

September 1, 2020  
Protocol 09/001

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Grace, mercy, peace and love to my beloved children in the Lord, and to all who read this message. The feast of the Ecclesiastical New Year, September 1, in our contemporary Orthodox practice, has become an opportunity to consider and reflect on the natural world, those things that our great God, when He first created them and beheld all that He done, declared "very good (Genesis 1:31)." This day serves as an opportunity for us to further our knowledge and deepen our faith in God by contemplating the manifold blessings of creation.

These words, what God has created is "very good," reveal to all people of faith a profound mystery, namely that our God is nothing other than the source of all good, because he is himself very good. He is not **Con't Next Page**

### Met. Tikhon's remarks con't

The ever-memorable servant of God, Archbishop Nikon lived, preached, and served with the heart of one who longed to make real these words of the Apostle. He always care for others more than he cared for himself, as a shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep.

He was a priest in his whole being, as a brother and concelebrant to the members of the Holy Synod, as Father and Archpastor to Diocese of New England, as well as to the Albanian Archdiocese and, as locum tenens, to the Diocese of the South.

Archbishop Nikon entered into his rest on September 1st, the day which marks the beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year. We gather on that same date, one year later and we are mindful both of the sorrow that his parting has brought and of the joy that his life and ministry has given to us.

It is fitting that the Lord should have taken him from us on that day of renewal, the day on which we bless the crown of the ecclesiastical new year, reminding us that, though he has departed from our midst, we ought to pay attention to the new beginning that is offered to all of us, the new beginning that is revealed, not only in the Church New Year but in the light of the resurrection of Christ and in the hope of our own resurrection.

On behalf of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, I extend the condolences of our entire Church to the family and friends who have gathered here today on behalf of the entire Diocese of New England, which Archbishop Nikon served so faithfully. I am certain that he would be humbled and perhaps a little embarrassed to know that the first occasion for a large number of his clergy to gather around the locum tenens in person during this pandemic would be his own memorial service. But for all of us it is a great honor and a moving testimony to his ability to gather clergy and faithful together in the love of Christ and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

May we all remain grateful for his person, his ministry, and his great example, and may we heed what surely would have been his exhortation to us today: to place our hope and our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

May Archbishop Nikon's memory be eternal!

## Archbishop Paul's Travel Schedule: August 24th to September 21st

Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Madison, IL,  
September 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL,  
September 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, Nativity of the Virgin Mary

- *Ordination of Deacon Phillip Maikkula to the Priesthood*

Christ the Savior, Chicago, IL,  
September 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>,

- *Feast of Exaltation of the Cross*

St. Panteleimon, Summit, IL, September 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>

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### OTHER NEWS

**Bishop's Council**, Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 1 PM,  
central time

**Diocesan Council**, Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM  
central time

**Diocesan Assembly**, Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM  
via Zoom or Go-to-My-Meeting

**Diocesan and Bishop's Councils**, November 30<sup>th</sup> to  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Burbank, IL

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### SEPTEMBER CANDLE AND BULLETIN SPONSORS

**Bulletin: (\$50)** Fr. Fr. Andrew in memory of  
His Grace Bishop John & His Eminence  
Archbishop Michael's mother, Anna

**Chandelier: (\$50)** From Joe and Valerie in  
memory of Rose Haburt

**Altar Candles: (\$50)** Fr. Fr. Andrew in  
memory of my My Grandfather Steve Bartek

**Candles on the Tomb: (\$25)** From Athanasia  
in memory of her family

**Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (25)** From Joe  
& Valerie in memory of Violet Bargdill &  
LaVerne Schutt

Note: If something is already taken and you want  
to sponsor it, please let Fr know. There can be  
more than one sponsoring family/individual.

### *Metro. Tikhon New Year Con't*

the source of wickedness, evil, decay, or sin, but of life, love, and goodness. Jesus Christ is for us the supreme testimony of this mystery. The One by whom all things were created, himself became truly a human, born in the fullness of time, while remaining true God. His death on the cross, resurrection from the dead, and his presenting himself, his resurrected body, "living after his passion (Acts 1:3)" to his apostles, points to the last days when creation will be restored, and will do nothing else than reveal the glory of God: the oaks will whirl (Psalm 29:1), the river of God will be full of water (Psalm 65:9), the threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil (Joel 2.24), both the sanctuary and the mighty firmament of the heavens will praise God (Psalm 150:1). In those days, what was spoken of in the holy scriptures will come to pass, "For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people (II Corinthians 6:16; quoting Leviticus 26:12, Jeremiah 32:38, Ezekiel 37:27).'"

Creation reveals this mystery to us, the mystery of our salvation. From the first days to the last days, God beholds creation and it is very good, because the Creator, who is also our Redeemer, is very good. Amidst so much uncertainty, suffering, distress, and anxiety, which we are experiencing presently, the mystery revealed to us once again should give us comfort and consolation. The goodness and the love of God remain with us, no matter what else happens. The mystery given over to us in creation should also serve to challenge us to have proper stewardship of it. God has given us the gift of creation ultimately for our life here and now, and to lead us to the life in the age to come. Having lordship over creation does not mean that we can destroy or do violence to the earth, but that we can live here and now, and that we can remain alive in Christ Jesus to the ages of ages.

I pray that all Orthodox Christians can each use this day as a day to come to a deeper and more profound faith in our Creator by reflecting on all that He has created.

With Archpastoral blessings for the Ecclesiastical  
New Year,

+ Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

## “Support Our Seminarians” Campaign Launched – Your Help is Needed

Once again, September has been designated “Support Our Seminarians” Month in the Diocese of the Midwest as His Eminence Archbishop Paul, calls upon the faithful to support the diocesan seminarians — many of whom are married with children.

“Our Diocese needs to send people to seminary so that they can be properly formed in the Orthodox Christian Faith for service to the Church in various capacities,” wrote Archbishop Paul in a recent letter diocesan faithful. “The Diocese of the Midwest is particularly calling people who could be candidates for the priesthood. There will be a great need for priests in our Diocese in the next two to eight years. So I would be grateful to God for the support that individuals and parishes can offer to assist those who are now and will be answering that call in the years to come.”

This is a topic that is close to the heart of Archbishop Paul. Just this past year, His Eminence has had his parishes offering special petitions asking God to call individuals in the diocese to His service. The diocese is a very large territory with over 70 communities that need spiritual care.

In an effort to build awareness of our seminarians’ needs, SOS flyers are available for downloading and distribution in all parishes during the month of September. All donations from parishes as well as individuals — culminating in “SOS Sunday” on September 27 — will be distributed directly to the seminarians to offset the cost of their educational and living expenses.

Regardless of how a parish chooses to raise SOS funds, the result will help ensure that our seminarians and their families will find some measure of “relief” from increasing living and educational expenses.

Individuals are encouraged to donate through their parishes, by mailing a check to the diocese, or [online](http://www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org).

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Pandemic related to Covid-19 has had a big impact on Church life in the Orthodox Church in America, especially our seminaries. Our two seminaries in the lower 48 closed down campus-based programming. Students completed the remainder of the school year taking on line classes. Plus, students were not allowed to attend church services at either seminary. This was tough on everyone, but especially students and their families, as they couldn’t attend church anywhere and could only view live-streamed services.

The good news is that both Saint Tikhon’s and Saint Vladimir’s Seminaries are resuming their campus-based instruction and worship this coming year. Appropriate protocols have been instituted to maximize student and teacher safety, and the safety of the monks from St. Tikhon’s Monastery.

We currently have one new student from the Diocese of the Midwest (DOM), Andrew Prather, from St. Nicholas Mission in Pella, Iowa, starting at St. Vladimir’s this coming year. There are three more persons that are seeking to begin studies for the following year.

Here is a summary of our current student population:

### St. Tikhon’s Seminary

Deacon Matthew McDonald (3<sup>rd</sup> year student)  
Deacon Peter Simko (3<sup>rd</sup> year student)  
Payton Saunders (2<sup>nd</sup> year student)  
Jacob Ponomarenko (2<sup>nd</sup> year student)  
Matthew Pings (2<sup>nd</sup> year student)

### St. Vladimir’s Seminary

Andrew Prather (1st year student)

During the past year, **Fr. Ephraim Tauck** completed his M.Div. studies at St. Tikhon’s. He is now assigned as Acting Rector of Theotokos of Unexpected Joy Orthodox Church in Ashgrove, MO. **Aaron Rutz** completed his M.Div. studies at St. Vladimir’s. He has secured a Chaplaincy Residency position in an Eastern Pennsylvania Hospital. He is committed to returning to the Diocese of the Midwest to eventually seek ordained ministry once his circumstances allow for it. Finally, **Deacon Matthew McDonald** completed a 6-week internship at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in St. Louis, MO. *Con’t Next Page*

## LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP CON'T

Once again I am asking all of our parishes in the Diocese to contribute to our Annual Support Our Seminarians Drive we inaugurate at this time of the year. I have received thank you notes from many of our students expressing their appreciation for the financial support they have received from the Diocese of the Midwest. Through this drive, our goal is to provide students and their families with a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 per semester to assist them in their studies. Students are unable to seek employment while at seminary. Seminarian wives have children to care for along with their seminarian husbands making it difficult for some to seek employment.

So even during the Covid Pandemic, I would ask you to be as generous as possible in supporting our seminarians this upcoming year. You can make your contributions to your parish, which in turn would remit those collections to the Diocese. Any checks you submit to the parish should be noted with the words "Support our Seminarians." If you wish to make your donation to the Diocese, make out your check to "Diocese of the Midwest" and note that the check is for "Support our Seminarians." Mail it to the Chancery (the address is included in the letterhead at the bottom).

Thank you for your generosity and kindness. The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

With love in Christ,

+PAUL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

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### 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

**September 6:** Detective Tanisha from AL

**September 13:** 9 Marines killed in boating accident

**September 27:** Tim Nash / Police officer Rasheen from Detroit

**Oct. 4:** Matushka Mary Maksimoff / Matushka Janet Mihalick

**Oct. 11:** Police officer from St. Louis / Police

## Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae Commemorated on [September 6](#)

In Phrygia, not far from the city of Hieropolis, in a place called Cheretopos, there was a church named for the Archangel Michael, built over a miraculous spring.

This church was built by a certain inhabitant of the city of Laodicia in gratitude to God for healing his mute daughter. The holy Chief Commander Michael appeared to this man in a dream and revealed to him that his daughter would receive the gift of speech after drinking from the water of the spring. The girl actually did receive healing and began to speak. After this miracle, the father and his daughter and all their family were baptized. In fervent gratitude, the father built the church in honor of the holy Chief Commander Michael. Not only did Christians begin to come to the spring for healing, but also pagans. In so doing, many of the pagans turned from their idols and were converted to the faith in Christ.

At this church of the holy Chief Commander Michael, a certain pious man by the name of Archippus served for sixty years as church custodian. By his preaching and by the example of his saintly life he brought many pagans to faith in Christ. With the general malice of that time towards Christians, and especially against Archippus, the pagans thought to destroy the church in order to prevent people from coming to that holy place of healing, and at the same time kill Archippus.

Toward this end they made a confluence of the Lykokaperos and Kufos Rivers and directed its combined flow against the church. Saint Archippus prayed fervently to the Chief Commander Michael to ward off the danger. Through his prayer the Archangel Michael appeared at the temple, and with a blow of his staff, opened a wide fissure in a rock and commanded the rushing torrents of water to flow into it. The temple remained unharmed. Seeing such an awesome miracle, the pagans fled in terror. Archippus and the Christians gathered in church glorified God and gave thanks to the holy Archangel Michael for the help. The place where the rivers plunged into the fissure received the name "Chonae", which means "plunging."

The Chudov ("of the Miracle") monastery in Moscow is named for this Feast.