



FOLLOWING THE STEPS OF CHRIST

Quarterly Bulletin of Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church

Diocese of the West - Orthodox Church in America

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Priest Edward Henderson

This Moment in the Life of the Church

In October of this year, I travelled with one of our parishioners to Portland, Oregon in order to attend the annual assembly of our local diocese. Similar to our own annual parish assembly, clergy and lay delegates from all the communities in our diocese gather every year for common fellowship, common worship, discussing the life of and challenges within the Diocese of the West, voting on necessary measures, and electing officers to various positions within the diocese.

This year's assembly was especially important due to the presence of the primate of our local church, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon. He came to support all of us, and especially His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, who officially announced his intention to request retirement from the Holy Synod. He will, God willing, remain our ruling bishop until July of 2025. His Beatitude assured us that the Holy Synod is working diligently to find a suitable successor to our Archbishop to serve us as our next archpastor. Archbishop Benjamin's retirement has an especial meaning for our parish:

when he was first consecrated as a vicar bishop in our diocese, he was given the title “Bishop of Berkeley”.

In 2025, the Orthodox Church in America will again convene an All-American Council. Clergy and lay representatives will gather from across the continent, as we do every three years. In preparation for this, His Beatitude has called upon us to reflect on this life of our church in America here and now. In a recent epistle, he wrote: “In preparation for that gathering, I am calling on all the communities of the Orthodox Church in America—parishes, missions, seminaries, monasteries, and all institutions—to consider submitting a reflection on this moment in the life of the Church: whence we have come, where we are now, and whither the Spirit may be calling us. As a Church, we have passed through seasons of inner struggles and, even today, we face any number of difficulties; yet, by the grace of God, the Orthodox Church in America finds herself today in a place of stability and great opportunities. As the Primate of the Church for close to 12 years, I possess the conviction that this is no mere ephemeral phase but rather a firm foundation upon which we can not only weather external storms but, more importantly, build further. To build further upon this foundation, one key body to which we look is the All-American Council, and hence it is that, prior to the upcoming council, I request that all of your communities join in helping us as Church reflect on the possibilities of the present moment.”

As Orthodox Christians and parishioners at our church, you are all invited to answer the Metropolitan’s call. You need only go to our national church website: (<https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon-calls-for-reflections-in-preparation-for-21st-all-american-council>). Therein are all the instructions and materials necessary to carry out this reflection and submit your comments to the higher church authorities.

In reflecting on the life and future of our Orthodox Church in America, perhaps we can also examine the life and future of our own parish. Let us carry out such reflections guided by the wisdom of the Holy Apostle Paul, who once wrote: “You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; in Whom all the building fitly framed together grows into an holy temple in the Lord: in Whom you also are built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19-22)



photo: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, concelebrating at the Divine Liturgy during the 2024 Annual Assembly of the Diocese of the West

Namesdays, Birthdays, and Anniversaries

November 1- Birthday of Mariana Katich

November 15- Wedding Anniversary of Santiago and Claudia Drexler

November 20- Namesday of Valeriy Okulov

November 27- Birthday of Michael Temerin and Sofia Katich

December 5- Namesday of Michael Temerin

December 8- Birthday of Joseph Katich

December 13- Namesday of Andrew Fulgham

December 17- Namesday of Barbara Roquemore

December 19- Namesday of Nikolay Lukoyankov and Nicholas Timokhin

January 6- Birthday of Arseny (Arnold) Kloian and Tatiana Ozerov

January 25- Namesday of Tatyana Lukoyanova and Tatiana Ozerov

January 27- Namesday of Nina Kloian

If you would like your namesday, birthday, and/or anniversary included in the future, please contact Fr. Edward at revedwardhenderson@gmail.com.

Schedule of Services

Sundays: Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

Saturdays: Vigil *or* Great Vespers at 5:00pm*

November, December, January services

Tuesday, December 3		Vigil	6:00pm
Wednesday, December 4	Entrance of the Theotokos	Liturgy	10:00am
Wednesday, December 18		Great Vespers	6:00pm
Thursday, December 19	Saint Nicholas	Liturgy	10:00am
Monday, January 6	Christmas Eve	Vesperal Liturgy Vigil	10:00am 6:00pm
Tuesday, January 7	Nativity of Christ (Christmas)	Liturgy	10:00am
Monday, January 13	Leave-taking of the Nativity	Great Vespers	6:00pm
Tuesday, January 14	Circumcision of the Lord and Saint Basil the Great	Liturgy	10:00am
Saturday, January 18		Vigil	5:00pm
Sunday, January 19	Theophany	Liturgy Blessing of Waters	10:00am

*In connection with Fr. Edward's vacation, Vigil is cancelled on November 16 & 23.

More detailed service schedules are available on the parish website and at the candle desk.

Confession is available after Vigil/Vespers, before Liturgy, and as arranged with Fr. Edward.

Choir rehearsal is on Thursday at 7:00pm in the parish hall and 30 minutes prior to Vigil/Vespers and Liturgy. For further information about the parish choir, please contact Fr. Edward at revedwardhenderson@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events: November 3: Daylight Saving Time End

November 28: Nativity Fast Begins