

# St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

# *Weekly Bulletin*

## Week of April 3, 2016

## Veneration of the Cross

### Third Sunday of Lent

Tone 3

### Readings

Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)

### Troparion (Tone 1)

O Lord, save Thy people,  
and bless Thine inheritance!  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians  
over their adversaries;  
and by virtue of Thy Cross,  
preserve Thy habitation!

### Kontakion (Tone 7)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards  
the gates of Eden;  
it has been mysteriously quenched by the  
wood of the Cross.  
The sting of death and the victory of  
hell have been vanquished;  
for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried  
to those in hell:  
Enter again into Paradise!



*The Sunday after the Veneration of the Cross is the Sunday of St John of the Ladder.*

### *Liturgical Responsibilities*

#### Readers

Divine Liturgy: Pelinsky

#### Prosphora

Divine Liturgy: Jennifer Wykes

## Weekly Calendar: April 2-9

Sat 2	Sun 3	Mon 4	Tues 5	Wed 6	Thurs 7	Fri 8	Sat 9
<p><b>4:00 PM</b> Confessions (by Appt.)</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Vigil of the Cross</p>	<p><b>9:30 AM</b> Divine Liturgy</p>		<p><b>NO MORNING SERVICE</b></p>	<p><b>4:00 PM</b> Confessions</p> <p><b>5:30 PM</b> 9th Hour and Typika</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Presanctified Liturgy (Meal After)</p>	<p><b>6:30 PM</b> OCF at Furman</p>	<p><b>5:00 PM</b> Confessions</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Panikhida</p>	<p><b>SJOTL Spring Cleanup Day</b></p> <p><b>8:00 AM</b> Divine Liturgy</p> <p><b>4:00 PM</b> Confessions (by Appt.)</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Great Vespers</p>

### *Please Keep in Your Prayers*

**Sick and Suffering:** Doris

**Grieving:** Valerie and Chris

**Suffering from Cancer:** Vladimir, Alex, Rich, Bill, Natalya, Douglas, Tara, Jay, Joyce, Debbie, Anne, Reg, Larry, Jurgen, Margie, Julie, Beverly, Kathy, Anna, Carol, and Yvonne

**Others:** Zachary, Priest Peter, Pr Kyriake & family, Michael, Cecil, Ann, John and Georgia

**Expecting:** Amanda, Kathy, Rebecca, Melody, Kara, Mary Katherine, and Jean

**Catechumens:** Jack, Darlene, Samantha

**Missionaries:** Floyd and Ancutsa Frantz (Romania), Fr Daniel Byantoro (Indonesia), Peter & Sharon Georges (Uganda)

For all those suffering in the world in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and throughout the Middle East.

See the following link to read about the election of Bishop Alexander [Golitzin] as Bishop of Dallas and the South: [Click Here](#)



## *Letter from Metropolitan Tikhon*

March 31, 2016

The Feast of the Repose of St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America:

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Diocese of the South:

Christ is in our midst!

So that you might greet the Great and Holy Feast of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ's Resurrection not widowed and without an Archpastor, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America prayerfully gave consideration to filling the vacant See of Dallas and the South.

Pursuant to its prerogative set forth in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, VIII.7.e, the Holy Synod of the Church, after prayerful and careful deliberation, has elected His Grace, Bishop Alexander of Toledo in the Bulgarian Diocese, to be the Bishop of Dallas and the Diocese of the South. The Bishops of the Holy Synod ask the clergy, monastics and faithful of the Diocese to receive this news with thanksgiving to God and to welcome their new Bishop with joy. Chief among the priorities of the Holy Synod in making this election was the pastoral, administrative and spiritual need on the part of the Diocese of the South and its people to fill the vacancy of the see of Dallas which had gone unfilled for many years.

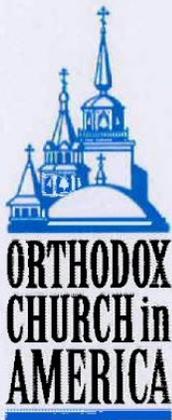
The Metropolitan and the Bishops of the Holy Synod unanimously recognize and appreciate the services to the Church and to the Diocese rendered by Archimandrite Gerasim (Eliel) who has faithfully led the Diocese of the South as its Administrator. His commitment to and love for the people of the Diocese and their spiritual welfare has been evident in all that he has accomplished in the Diocese of the South. The Holy Synod is of one mind in viewing the labors of Archimandrite Gerasim as those of the good and faithful servant of whom our Lord so lovingly spoke.

The Holy Synod asks all of the Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Diocese of the South prayerfully and humbly to receive the election of Bishop Alexander as a providential decision that seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to the Bishops gathered in Council.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



TIKHON  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



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## *Our Episcopal Election: A Personal Reflection*

All the blessings of the fast!

I want first and foremost to ask your prayers and forgiveness as we continue our lenten journey toward the Great and Holy Week and the Three-Day Pascha of our Lord.

It is not lost on me that as I sit and write this brief reflection it is the seventh anniversary of the retirement of our beloved Archbishop Dmitri of blessed memory. For YEARS now we have been praying in our liturgical services "that the Lord our God, in His mercy and providential care for us, will call forth for His flock a true shepherd of wisdom and strength, blessing us with a Bishop to care for the well-being of our Diocese, and to unite His faithful people in a zealous confession of the Orthodox faith", and yesterday we received the news that FINALLY a bishop has been elected for the Diocese of the South.

This is indeed a momentous day for our diocese; a day in which would should "rejoice and be glad". It is also a day, too, that is tinged by something of the "bright sadness" which accompanies this season of Great Lent. We all (or at least most of us) were hoping for a different outcome. Let me be the first to say that I am disappointed. I too had hoped the Synod would accept our nomination. Alas, they have seen fit to provide us with another.

While I am in no way privy to the workings of the Synod, I have had ample opportunity to work with Metropolitan Tikhon in these last weeks leading up to this election. Even not having received my hoped for outcome, I am instilled with the confidence that His Beatitude, as our locum tenens, represented the concerns of our diocese to his brother bishops and worked to garner a consensus on the Synod for our nomination.

With this decision made, the "purple demons" of lent will no doubt work to lead many of us to temptation. They will tempt us to feel rebuked and rejected, and this may lead to sadness and anger. We all need, therefore, consciously to strive to see the election of Bishop Alexander as God's answer to our prayer of these many years. In Bishop Alexander we now have as our second ruling hierarch a man who is both a scholar and a monk. More importantly, we have a man who is a gentle and thoughtful pastor, one whom we should receive in joy and gratitude as the fulfillment of God's providence towards us.

Bishop Alexander will meet with Archimandrite Gerasim, the deans, and me in a couple of weeks' time. There will be more details concerning the transition then. In the meantime, the work of the church continues. Please do not lose sight of this.

I will close with a quotation from Archbishop Dmitri's [letter](#) announcing his retirement:

"I feel confident that with our current Synod of Bishops as well as Diocesan leaders (both clergy and laymen) already in place, that the work of the Orthodox Church in the South will continue. Together we have helped to lay the foundation which is Christ, and now it is time for others to build upon our labors (1 Corinthians 3)."

His words have proved true thus far, and it is my fervent conviction that they will continue to do so.

If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I remain faithfully yours in Christ Jesus, the Lord,  
Archpriest Marcus

## *DOS Assembly 2016*

The new DOS Assembly Website is Live at [dosconferences.com](http://dosconferences.com)!

Building on the theme of Expanding the Mission from last year's All-American Conference, our theme this year is **Mission Possible: Making Faith Significant in an age of Religious Irrelevance**, and our keynote speaker will be Sister Vassa (Larin), world renowned expert in liturgical theology, and host of the popular YouTube Channel, "[Coffee with Sister Vassa](#)."

As announced previously, the 2016 Assembly of the DOS will be held in Wilmington, NC, and hosted by St. Basil Mission. There are many positive changes this year, and there are many reasons to begin making plans now:

- There are many events that your parishioners will enjoy attending - the events of the week (along with the historic, coastal location) makes this an ideal vacation. Encourage as many of your parishioners to attend as possible!
- Registration will be online at the dedicated conference site: <http://www.dosconferences.com/>
- There is travel and planning information online.
- Hotel reservations are open now - book soon so that we know if we need to seek another hotel for overflow rooms.
- There will be childcare provided during two major events, and a list of drop-in childcare options will be provided for other times when it might be needed.
- There will be a large exhibitor hall with SVS Press books, devotional items, liturgical goods and more for sale - send your bookstore stewards prepared to stock up!
- Ministries such as YES and the OCMC will be on hand to help parishes learn about ministry and mission opportunities.

Please use the [registration section](#) at the bottom of the main page, and **read the instructions carefully!** There are many things to register for, and this is intended to facilitate the laity picking their events a la carte.

### **The DOS Youth Conference:**

The youth conference, which will run concurrently with the assembly, and it will be an amazing week for the young people in our diocese!

- We are bringing in two staff members from Youth Equipped to Serve (YES), part of FOCUS North America, to lead the older group (13-18) in an immersive ministry event. There will also be an event for the 7-12 year olds during this time.
- Lots of time to laugh, play and have fun at the beach!
- Our retreat master is Father John Cox, who will help the youth to apply what they learn during the week.
- More details will be added to the [Youth Conference section](#) of the conference website.
- Registration is FREE (but you have to register on the main conference page by June 15).

We hope that you will take Father Gerasim's admonition to use this conference as a time to draw our parishes, families and youth into broader work of the diocese and the Church. Please register soon so that the host committee can adequately prepare for the event.

Should you have any questions at all about registration, schedule, et al, feel free to contact Fr Peter Robichau at [fatherpeter@wilmingtonoca.org](mailto:fatherpeter@wilmingtonoca.org)

## *Easter Egg Hunt: May 1, 2016 at Noon*

Please consider contributing to the SJOTL Easter Egg Hunt to be held after Paschal Vespers (May 1 at noon). Donations by check are appreciated (please mark your check "Easter Egg Hunt"), as are contributions of plastic eggs and candies. Please buy only fruit candies, as chocolate ones will melt in the sun. If you stuff the eggs yourself, please keep candies that are appropriate for only older children (hard candies) separate from candies that all ages can have (gummies, jelly beans, etc.). If you don't wish to stuff the eggs, you can bring your packages to church and leave them on the counter in the kitchen.

## *Volunteer Needed!*

We need a person or persons to deliver non-perishable food items collected at SJOTL to United Ministries at: 606 Pendleton St. Greenville, SC 29601. This person would need to take the donations to the above location whenever the bins or vestibules are full. Ideally a few people could rotate doing this on an "as needed" basis. Please speak with Margie Wamboldt if you are interested in volunteering.

## *Praying the Psalms for Lent*

Matushka Natalia would like to invite everyone to please join us for another wonderful season of prayer during the upcoming fast. During the Lenten season, we will be praying one Kathisma per day.

From now on, the sign-up for prayers will be coordinated through a new website. Sign up and find more information at [www.prayersinsc.blogspot.com](http://www.prayersinsc.blogspot.com)

**Note to mobile users:** you may not see the form or other instructions and options on the mobile site. From a desktop computer, the form to sign up is visible, as are other pages on 'How to pray the Psalter', etc.

Before the fast begins, your starting Kathisma and a prayer list will be posted. See the directions in the 'Resources' section on the right-hand sidebar for more details on how to pray the Psalter.



## *Please Sign Up!*

A sign-up sheet to provide meals after presanctified liturgies is in the kitchen, as well as sign-up sheets for flowers during Great Lent and at Pascha, and other Parish events during Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha.