

**17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council**  
**November 13, 2012**  
**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**  
**Parma, Ohio**



**DELEGATE HANDBOOK**

***Bring this handbook to the All-American Council  
and refer to it during the Plenary Session***

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The Preconciliar Commission has prepared this Delegate Handbook to help you to understand the role, structure, procedures and special features of the Seventeenth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, to be held at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Parma, Ohio on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. It also outlines your responsibilities as a delegate and the procedures related to your preparation for and participation at the 17th All-American Council.

In anticipation, we welcome you to the Council, and prayerfully hope that it will be a meaningful and productive gathering for The Orthodox Church in America.

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September 4, 2012  
Feast of the Holy Prophet Moses

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!**

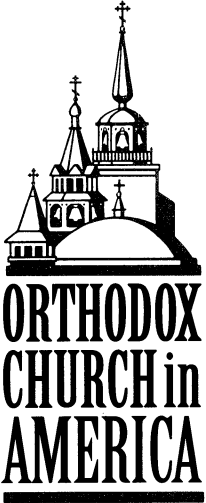
*“All of us come together, however, with a deep and abiding love for Christ and the vine He planted with His Right Hand from His holy dwelling place here in this land.”* These sincere pastoral words of His Eminence, Archbishop Dmitri of Thrice-blessed memory, Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan See, to the 15<sup>th</sup> All American Council apply to all of us gathered into the 17<sup>th</sup> All- American Council.

Hierarchs, Clergy and Laity of our Holy Church are called to Parma, Ohio, into the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council, the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Church. We are to fill the vacancy in the office of Metropolitan (Art. IV, Sec.3) through the process of election by the delegates as given in the Statute with submission of names to the Holy Synod “for their choice by majority vote” (Art. IV, Sec.4, d).

Prior to this special Electoral Council, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, including our Holy Synod, met together in September in Chicago to hear matters affecting the life of the various members of that assembly. That body is not *“the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Church”* for it cannot elect a head for the Church in North America. It cannot call together hierarchs, clergy and faithful to decide on fundamental issues and policies. That Assembly of Bishops is, at this time, not a Holy Synod. The 17<sup>th</sup> All American Council, however, will act as a single body with a unique purpose for the Church in North America; to elect the next Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America. What a great privilege has been bestowed on us by Our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, our Chief and Good Shepherd; to work together in this 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council.

The Orthodox Church in America consists of fourteen dioceses, each one with a bishop chief-shepherd. Each diocese has clergy, faithful, monastics, parishes, institutions and a financial and pastoral life of its own. The bishops together comprise the Holy Synod. The Orthodox Church in America then, is a composite of dioceses whose hierarchs represent them in the Holy Synod, a single body united in Christ.

In the Statute of our Church, Article II defines the Holy Synod. (Sec.1) *“The Holy Synod is the supreme canonical authority in the Church.”* (Sec. 2) *“The Holy Synod includes, as voting members, all the diocesan bishops of the Church.”*



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*The Metropolitan is ex officio Chairman of the Synod.*” There are 21 matters listed as being the Competence of the Holy Synod. Among these is (h) *”Examination of annual reports by the Metropolitan and the bishops in fulfillment of their pastoral office.”* Thus even the Metropolitan must also respond to his brother bishops, working as one with them.

Further on in the Statute, Art. IV defines the Metropolitan. *”Among the bishops of the Church, the Metropolitan enjoys primacy, being the first among equals. He is the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, and is the diocesan bishop of one of the dioceses of the Church and bears the title, ‘Metropolitan of All-America and Canada.’ He supervises the internal and external welfare of the Church and represents it in its relations with other Orthodox Churches....”* There are 10 specific matters which are the duties of the Metropolitan. Among these are (h) *”Gives advice to his brother bishops, and in cases of necessity, submits their cases to the Holy Synod,”* and (i) *”Has the right of pastoral initiative and guidance, and when necessary the right of pastoral intervention in all matters concerning the life of the Church within the framework of the holy canons.”*

I have taken of your precious time to ask you to reflect on the harmony which must exist among all members of the Body of Christ as called for by Holy Scripture, the Holy Fathers, and the Holy Canons. I have quoted from our Statute to remind us all of the oneness which must exist between the Metropolitan as Chairman of the Holy Synod, as first among equals, as Primate and the Brother Hierarchs of the Holy Synod for it is the Holy Synod as a united body which acts in the name of all the clergy, laity and monastics, in other words, in the name of the Holy Church of Christ. It is the Holy Synod that, in the end, elects the Metropolitan.

Therefore the absolute need for all of us is *”to desire that the Church, this Church, the Orthodox Church in America be a productive witness to the truths of Christ’s Church and transparent to His Kingdom,”* closing words of Archbishop Dmitri. Amen!

The Lord Bless!

Yours in Christ:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+Nathaniel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'N'.

+NATHANIEL

Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate  
Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan See

## **2. Introduction**

The Seventeenth All-American Council is being assembled by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America as a result of the resignation of Metropolitan JONAH on July 7, 2012. While this was an unexpected development, the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America provides for the selection of a new Metropolitan. As such this Council is being called exclusively to fill the vacancy of that office (Metropolitan) so that the work of the Church may continue without further interruption.

It should be noted that there is precedence in the history of the Orthodox Church in America for calling a special Council with the sole purpose of electing a new Metropolitan. The Twelfth All-American Sobor in 1965 was convened with the single purpose of electing a successor to Metropolitan LEONTY of Blessed Memory, who had reposed earlier in that year. The Councils were called Sobors before the granting of autocephaly in 1970 and subsequently, they are called All-American Councils beginning with the Fourteenth All-American Sobor/First All-American Council in 1970. This current Council follows the agenda and procedures of that special Sobor in 1965.

We are gathering together at a time not unlike the uncertainty in 1965. There were serious questions about the vision and legacy of the Church in North America. There were major discussions about the roots of the Church as well as a need for a vision for the future of Orthodoxy in North America. In addition, there was even conversation about whether the newly-elected Metropolitan was able to truly understand the “American” experience. Yet it was this same Metropolitan IRENEY who would lead the Church to autocephaly and a deeper enactment of conciliarity. It helps to remember that the Holy Spirit works in and through the Church.

This special All-American Council should be seen as a uniquely penitential moment for the Church as we consider our corporate actions of the past, but also strive for the future of the Orthodox Church in America. We need to remember the vision of the Orthodox Church in America; which is a Church that is authentically Orthodox yet uniquely North American in character and governance. We need to remember the legacy that was handed down to us and rediscover it as we move forward. We need to remember our forefathers in this land - the bishops, priests, monastics, and faithful - who brought Orthodoxy to North America. Let us also remember the sacrifices and efforts of those who built our churches, monasteries and seminaries so that future generations could preserve our Orthodox Christian traditions in this New World. Let us not forget the legacy left by inspired bishops and teachers who articulated a theological and pastoral vision of North American Orthodoxy.

Being a delegate to the All-American Council is an honor and responsibility. You have been chosen by your parish or institution to act on their behalf to nominate a new Metropolitan. We should all prepare ourselves through prayer, fasting and repentance and seek to do God’s Will.

### **3. Role of the All-American Council**

According to the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America, *"the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Church is the All-American Council"*. (Article III, Section 1) That Statute states that in addition to Bishops, all parishes are required to send assigned parish priests and an equal number of lay delegates to All-American Councils; it also includes a provision for limited representation from Church-related institutions. The purpose of the Council is to assemble and make present the conciliar authority of our local Orthodox Church, which is in communion with other local Churches worldwide.

This year's All-American Council is unique in that its exclusive purpose is to elect a new Metropolitan. The procedures that will be followed are outlined in Article IV, Section 4. A detailed outline of the procedures is contained in this handbook.

As preparation for the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council, participants and parishes are specifically asked to:

- ✓ Prepare through prayer for the All-American Council and ask for discernment, wisdom and guidance for all participants.
- ✓ Reflect on the needs of the Church at this present time and in the future to guide your vote.
- ✓ Discuss the needs of your parish, your diocese and the entire Church with your fellow parishioners to assist you in representing them at the Council.
- ✓ Read or reacquaint yourself with the history of the OCA at <http://oca.org/history-archives/orthodox-christians-na>, the lives of the saints of North America at <http://oca.org/FSnasaints.asp?SID=4>, and the lives of the former Metropolitans of the Orthodox Church in America at <http://oca.org/holy-synod/past-primates>.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the biographies of the members of the Holy Synod at <http://oca.org/holy-synod/bishops#diocesan-bishops>.
- ✓ Pray for and support God's work at the All-American Council together with your fellow parishioners and in your personal life.

We pray that the Grace of the Holy Spirit will descend on this Council and open our minds and hearts to doing the Will of God.

## **4. Features and Structures of the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council**

As previously stated, the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council will have as its sole purpose the election of a new Metropolitan. Therefore, reports and other activities normally associated with an All-American Council will not be presented. (The regular All-American Council now titled the 18<sup>th</sup> AAC will be held in 2014 as scheduled.) His Eminence Archbishop NATHANIEL, will give an introductory address and open the Council for the nomination and election. Following the election, the new Metropolitan will be installed and vested. A formal enthronement will be held at a later time.

Please note that by special arrangement Ancient Faith Radio will podcast the election session over the Internet so that more of the faithful of the Church may follow the Council. There will also be arrangements for a video podcast of the election session. The entire Council will also be video and audio taped.

## **5. Liturgical Services**

All services will be held at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Parma, OH. There will be a Great Vespers service on Monday, November 12 at 7:00 PM, the night before Council, for those who have already arrived in Parma. The Council will open with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Tuesday morning, November 13 at 8:00 AM.

Though all delegates will want to put the Council into perspective by attending the Divine Services, singers are encouraged to join or to sing along with the mixed choir and specific time will be set aside on Monday evening for confession.

Clergy who will be asked to serve are requested to bring gold vestments. Those clergy who desire to receive communion should bring with them a gold stole and cuffs. Deacons will wear their full set of gold vestments when either serving or receiving communion. Priests are asked to wear both a black cassock and a black riassa along with their pectoral cross for the session; while other ranks of clergy are asked to wear a black cassock and black riassa (if appropriate) or just a black cassock during the sessions. Lay people are asked to dress conservatively at all services and sessions as is appropriate for Church occasions.

The Council will open and close on Tuesday with a Molieben. (Please see the attached services.) Also, during the nomination and election process, different hymns will be sung. Delegates are encouraged to sing along.

## **6. Meals and Transportation**

A breakfast will be provided for all delegates and observers in the parish hall after the Divine Hierarchical Liturgy on Tuesday morning. Council registration will continue during breakfast. There will also be a plated sit-down dinner in the parish hall following the plenary session. All other meals can be purchased at the hotel or at other numerous local eateries.

A shuttle bus service will be provided by the Pre-Counciliar Commission to transport delegates and observers between the hotels and Holy Trinity Church. Delegates and observers pick-up and drop-off points are at the main hotel lobbies and the parish parking lot which will be posted with signage. The shuttle service will make multiple stops at the various hotels. Transportation will be available on Monday evening beginning at 5:00 PM and ending at 8:00 PM and from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM on Tuesday morning and again at 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM after the Council.

Since the church is only five miles from the hotels, there is plenty of parking at Holy Trinity Church and the adjoining neighborhood churches for those who choose to drive.

## **7. Hotel Information**

The Preconciliar Commission has reserved a number of hotel rooms in the Parma area for the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. All of the hotels are in the same general area in Independence, Ohio, five miles from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church located at 6822 Broadview Road, Parma, OH 44134. Special rates for the hotels are \$99 to \$109 a night plus tax. The rates will be available from the Sunday before the Council until the Wednesday after the Council. Please book your hotel room early as space is limited. **Use the code “Orthodox Church in America” to receive the special rate.** There will be overflow hotels provided if needed.

The hotels for the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council are as follows:

- 1. Holiday Inn South Cleveland - Independence, OH (\$99 a night)**  
6001 Rockside Road  
Independence, OH 44131  
Phone: 216-524-8050 or 1-800-465-4329  
Website: <http://hiindependence.com/>
- 2. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cleveland - Independence, OH (\$109 a night)**  
6200 Quarry Lane  
Independence, OH 44131  
Phone: 216-447-1300  
Website: <http://doubletree3.hilton.com>



# **8. Procedures for the Election of a Metropolitan**

## **Introduction**

These guidelines have been compiled in preparation for the nomination and election of the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. The Holy Synod of Bishops has approved these guidelines in order to ensure the orderly nomination and election of the Metropolitan of All America and Canada at the 17th All-American Council that will be held in Parma, Ohio. This election will select the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America to succeed His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH, whose voluntary resignation, effective July 7, 2012, was accepted and announced to the Church by the Holy Synod. The following is a step by step description of the procedure defined in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America - Article IV, Sections 3 and 4.

## **Election of the Metropolitan of All America and Canada**

Whereas canonically and juridically His Beatitude Metropolitan JONAH has resigned and the vacancy of the office was officially declared by the Holy Synod (OCA Statute: Article IV, Section 3); and

Whereas the Holy Synod at its session on July 7, 2012 has already accepted such retirement and declared it to be effective on July 7, 2012; and

Whereas, following the resignation of His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH the Holy Synod has met and formally declared the office of Metropolitan of All America and Canada vacant, and has elected a *Locum Tenens* in the person of Archbishop NATHANIEL to preside at the election of the new Primate; and

Whereas, the Holy Synod has resolved that the election of the Metropolitan of All America and Canada will take place on November 13, 2012, during the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council; and

In addition, whereas this election is to take place at an extraordinary All-American Council, the Holy Synod of Bishops has resolved that the following procedure is to be observed:

### **I. Opening of the All-American Council**

1. On Tuesday, November 13, 2012, after the delegates for the All-American Council have assembled for the plenary session at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Parma, OH, following the opening Service of Prayer, His Eminence, Archbishop NATHANIEL, shall formally declare the 17th All-American Council in session.

2. Thereupon, the Council shall proceed with the customary business of organizing itself in compliance with Article III of the Statute. It shall hear and act upon the proposed agenda, the report of the Preconciliar Commission; elect the clergy and lay Vice-Chairpersons, the Council Secretariat, Tellers, and members of its other committees, and shall hear the report of the Credentials Committee.

3. The All-American Council will conduct the business of the agenda as accepted.

4. At the opening of the plenary session, the *Locum Tenens* shall announce the appointment, with the concurrence of the Holy Synod, of one of the Vice-Chairpersons to direct the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council in the procedure established for the nomination and the election of the new Metropolitan. For the record, the Secretary of the Holy Synod shall read the Holy Synod's decision accepting Metropolitan JONAH's resignation and the Holy Synod's resolution formally declaring the see of the Metropolitan vacant and electing a *Locum Tenens*. The *Locum Tenens* shall direct the Council to adopt as the next item on its agenda the election of the new Metropolitan. The Council shall immediately proceed with the election as prescribed in the OCA Statute - Article IV, Section 4.

## **II. Election Procedure**

1. The election shall begin with the Council singing the prayer, "The Grace of the Holy Spirit...".

2. The section of the OCA Statute defining the election procedure shall be read along with any additional guidelines from the Holy Synod. Questions from delegates regarding the voting procedure shall be answered.

3. Upon receiving the blessing of the *Locum Tenens*, the chairman of the session shall ask the chairman of the Credentials Committee to give a report on the number of delegates registered and present at this session. Based on the number of registered delegates (hierarchs, clergy and laity) in attendance at this session, the number of votes comprising the two-thirds majority required by the OCA Statute to nominate a candidate on the first vote (OCA Statute – Article IV, Section 4b) shall be established and posted. Before the balloting process begins, the doors of the Church shall be kept closed; no one will be allowed to leave or enter during the balloting process.

4. The chairman of the session shall ask all persons who are not accredited delegates but have been accredited as observers to the 17th All-American Council to remain in the specially designated area reserved for accredited observers. Only Council officials, accredited delegates, and accredited observers will be allowed to remain in the Church. All others will be asked to depart from the Church.

5. The Vice-Chairperson of the session shall then order the tellers elected at the plenary session to receive from the Secretary of the OCA and to distribute to all delegates (hierarchs, clergy and laity) of the Council, one per delegate, the ballots prepared and certified by the Secretary of the OCA.

6. "On the first vote, one single name may be written on each ballot." (OCA Statute – Article IV, Section 4b). Therefore, any ballot with more than one name or with anything else except the name of one candidate shall be considered invalid.

7. When voting, the delegates of the Council must remember that, in the words of OCA Statute – Article IV, Section 4:

"If not already a bishop, a candidate for the office of Metropolitan must fulfill the canonical, moral, and educational requirements stated in Article VI, Section 9:

- a. The candidate for the office of diocesan bishop must satisfy all the requirements of the Holy Canons pertaining to this highest of all ecclesiastical offices. In addition, it is preferable that he has completed a course of study in a Graduate School of Orthodox Theology and that he be conversant in the English language.
- b. If he is not already a bishop, he can be nominated only from among the monastic or celibate clergy or laymen;
- c. If at the moment of his nomination he is a layman or a celibate or widowed priest, he shall pronounce at least the first monastic vows (rasophoria) before his election and consecration as a bishop.

8. Upon completion of the vote, the tellers shall collect the ballots and place them in a box, which shall be sealed by the chairman of the session and handed over to the chairman of the tellers appointed to count the votes.

9. The tellers shall then proceed to a specially prepared place where the counting of ballots shall occur. They shall not leave the counting place, nor shall anyone who is not a teller be at the counting place, until the tabulation is completed and the results are transcribed on a report signed by all tellers. If a candidate has received a number of votes equal to or greater than two-thirds of the total number of votes, this shall also be registered on the report presented by the tellers. No teller shall give any information about the results of the voting until the chairman of tellers is ordered to present the official report to the Council.

10. During the counting and tabulation of ballots, the Council shall sing appropriate hymns from a booklet prepared for the occasion.

11. Immediately after the tabulation is completed and the report is signed, the chairman of tellers shall place the ballots in the box, seal it, and deliver it to the Secretary of the OCA after presenting his report to the Council. The box shall be in the custody of the Secretary of the OCA until the election is completed, at which time the Secretary of the OCA in the presence of the members of the Secretariat shall destroy the ballots.

12. Upon being officially informed by the chairman of tellers that the tabulation has been completed, the Vice-Chairperson of the session shall proceed to the podium and present

his report to the Council. This report shall contain the names of the candidates with the number of votes received by each of them, presented in order of pluralities, greater to lesser.

13. If the report has clearly established that a candidate has received the two-thirds or more of the votes required by the Statute, the Vice-Chairperson of the session shall make the following declaration:

*This All-American Council, acting in full compliance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, prayerfully submits the name of (name and title) to the Holy Synod for approval, canonical election, and appointment of him whom God has chosen to be the Metropolitan of All America and Canada.*

14. Immediately after this declaration, the members of the Holy Synod, with the *Locum Tenens* acting as Chairman, proceed into the sanctuary where they elect the Metropolitan by secret ballot, the votes being counted by the Chairman. Although all hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America proceed into the sanctuary, only diocesan bishops are voting members of the Holy Synod (OCA Statute – Article II, Section 2). Therefore, auxiliary and retired hierarchs do not participate in the vote by the Holy Synod to elect the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. If the single nominee submitted for canonical election to the Holy Synod, based on a two-thirds majority of the first vote of the Council, is a voting member of the Holy Synod, he shall not participate in the election by the Holy Synod.

15. If the nominee who has received two-thirds majority or greater is not elected by the Holy Synod, the Holy Synod shall formally state the reasons that motivated the rejection (OCA Statute – Article IV, Section 4b).

16. If no nominee has received the required two-thirds of the ballots of the first vote by the Council, the Vice-Chairperson of the session shall make the following declaration:

*Since no candidate has received the number of ballots required for nomination to the Office of Metropolitan of All America and Canada, this All-American Council, in compliance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, shall proceed with the second vote.*

17. If there is a second vote, the results of the first vote have no effect on the procedure of the second vote.

18. The procedure of the second vote shall be the same as described in numbers 4 through 12 with the following difference:

"Two names shall be written on each ballot; the tellers shall not count any ballot on which fewer or more than two names are written." (OCA Statute – Article IV, Section 4b).

19. After the results of the second vote have been officially announced and the report of the tellers has been accepted, the Chairman of the session shall make the following declaration:

*This All-American Council, acting in full compliance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, prayerfully submits the names of (name and title) and (name and title) to the Holy Synod for approval, canonical election, and appointment of him whom God has chosen to be the Metropolitan of All America and Canada.*

20. Immediately after this declaration and while the Council sings "O Heavenly King..." and "The Grace of the Holy Spirit has assembled us today..." and other appropriate prayers, the members of the Holy Synod, with the *Locum Tenens*, proceed into the sanctuary where they elect the Metropolitan by secret ballot, the votes being counted by the *Locum Tenens*. Although all hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America proceed into the sanctuary, only diocesan bishops are voting members of the Holy Synod (OCA Statute – Article II, Section 2). Therefore, auxiliary and retired hierarchs do not participate in the vote by the Holy Synod to elect the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. If one or both of the nominees submitted for canonical election to the Holy Synod, based on the results of the second vote of the Council, are voting members of the Holy Synod, they shall not participate in the election by the Holy Synod.

21. The name of the newly elected Metropolitan is then written into a specially prepared Act to which all members of the Holy Synod affix their signatures and which is sealed with the Seal of the Church.

22. Upon the signing of the Act of Election, the *Locum Tenens* (or another hierarch designated by the Holy Synod) opens the Royal Doors and, with all participants of the All-American Council standing, he reads the Act:

*In the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in essence and undivided. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to this Sacred Council of the Holy Orthodox Church in America to elect, on this 13th day of November, two thousand and twelve, to the office of the Metropolitan of All America and Canada (name and title). Axios!*

23. To this announcement, the Council shall respond by singing three times: "Axios," and if the newly-elect is a bishop: "Ton despotin kai archiereia imon..."

**Note: If the Metropolitan-elect is not a bishop, the procedure comes to an end at this point. All necessary steps are then taken by the Holy Synod to consecrate him to the episcopacy and to enthrone him as Metropolitan.**

24. If the Metropolitan-elect is already a bishop, he stands in the sanctuary while all the other hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America, vested in their mantiyas, stand on the

solia. The senior hierarch, vested in his mantiya and omophorion, shall stand in front of the Royal Doors and conduct the following service:

**Archdeacon:** Bless, Most Blessed Master.

**Senior Hierarch:** Glory to the Holy Consubstantial...

**Council:** Amen. O Heavenly King...

**Archdeacon:** - In peace let us pray to the Lord

- For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord

-For the peace of the whole world and the welfare of the holy churches of God...

- For our newly elected Metropolitan, His Beatitude (name)...

- That our God who loves mankind will grant him to exercise his holy office without stain or blame, let us pray to the Lord

- That He will deliver us from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord

- Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace

**Council:** Lord, have mercy. (after each petition)

**Archdeacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves, and each other and all our life, unto Christ our God.

**Council:** To Thee, O Lord.

**Senior Hierarch:** For unto Thee are due...

**Council:** Amen

**Archdeacon:** God is the Lord... (tone 8 with verses)

**Council:** God is the Lord... (four times in response to verses)

The troparion of Pentecost

Glory...Now and Ever...

The troparion to All Saints of North America

**Archdeacon:** Again and again, on bended knees let us pray to the Lord.

**Council:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

**Senior Hierarch:** O Lord our God Who hast chosen Thy servant Metropolitan (name) to be the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, make him to be an imitator of Thee, the true Shepherd, Who didst lay down Thy life for Thy sheep; to be a leader of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a reprover of the unwise, a teacher of the young, a lamp to the world. That, having perfected the Church entrusted to him, he may stand unashamed before Thy throne, and receive the great reward which Thou hast prepared for those who have contended valiantly for the preaching of Thy Gospel. For Thine it is to show mercy, and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Council:** Amen.

**Archdeacon:** Have mercy upon us... (litany)

**Council:** Lord, have mercy. (three times in response to each petition)

**Senior Hierarch:** Hear us, O God...

**Council:** Amen

*Then the two hierarchs next in seniority shall enter the sanctuary and lead the Metropolitan-elect through the Royal Doors to the cathedra in the center of the Chapel.*

*Then the two hierarchs next in seniority shall present the second panagia, saying: **Axios!***

**Council:** Axios! (three times)

*Then the two hierarchs next by seniority shall vest the Metropolitan in the blue mantiya, saying: **Axios!***

**Council:** Axios! (three times)

*Then the two hierarchs next in seniority shall present the white klobuk, saying: **Axios!***

**Council:** Axios! (three times)

*The Senior Hierarch shall present the staff, saying: **Axios!** (and may address brief remarks to the new Metropolitan)*

**Council:** Axios! (three times)

**Archdeacon:** Wisdom!

**Senior Hierarch:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

**Council:** More honorable than the cherubim...

**Senior Hierarch:** Glory to Thee...

**Council:** Glory...now and ever... Lord have mercy (3)... Most Blessed Master, bless.

**Senior Hierarch:** [dismissal]

**Council:** Amen. Eis polla eti despota.

**Archdeacon:** Diptychs of all Primates (*except the newly-elected OCA Primate*)

**Council:** repeats each petition of the diptychs

**Archdeacon:** To the Most Blessed (name), Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, Many years!

**Council:** To the Most Blessed (name), Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, Many years!

25. Following the conclusion of the service, the newly elected Metropolitan may deliver brief remarks. All hierarchs, in turn, then approach him to offer congratulations, followed by all delegates and participants of the 17th All American Council.

26. The 17th All-American Council reconvenes in a closing session immediately following the investiture.

27. The Enthronement of the new Metropolitan of All America and Canada will take place at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC, on a date to be announced.



# **9. Instructions for Delegates and Observers**

Every parish and institution of the Orthodox Church in America is to be represented at the All-American Council. Even though there was an All-American Council last year, it is required that new elections for delegate representation be held in each parish. Each parish is allowed by the Statute of the OCA to send its rector and a lay delegate to the Council. Assigned associate priests and a corresponding number of laypersons are also permitted to attend as delegates. Church institutions and monasteries are represented as well. Attached clergy or deacons cannot be considered as clergy delegates. Deacons can be designated by your parish to be lay delegates; otherwise, they, together with attached and retired priests, can attend as observers. If there is a question on the status of a clergyman, please speak to your diocesan bishop for clarification. All delegates and observers are expected to register for the Council by completing and submitting the official registration forms to the OCA Chancery and, in the case of retired clergy and observers only, include a \$50.00 registration fee with their form. These forms will then be reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate bishop for approval. Any problems with registrations should be addressed as soon as possible. According to the Statute, each parish and institution sending delegates must be current on their assessments in order to have voting privileges. Again, any questions on assessments should be addressed on the diocesan level as soon as possible. All registration forms can be found on the OCA website. Delegates and observers are responsible for their own hotel and travel arrangements unless otherwise indicated. There are special rates available from the hotels that will extend for two days prior to and two days after the Council. Delegates must personally handle any special requirements or needs including extended stay time.

Upon arrival at the Council, delegates and observers will need to register for the Council at the registration stations located in the hallway of Holy Trinity Church between the church and the hall. Registration will begin on Monday evening, November 12 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Registration will continue on Tuesday morning at 7:00 AM and close before the plenary session begins. Afterwards, council registration will be moved to the secretarial room in the church hall.

Registration stations will be set up alphabetically according to last names. Upon registration, you will be given a badge with a color coded entrance ticket for the plenary session. These tickets must be presented to the Credentials Committee representatives before the session proper seating and tabulation of the number of clergy and lay delegates and of observers present. (There will be special passes issued for guests, VIPs or special observers, who will not have voting privileges.). These representatives will be stationed at the entrance doors to the Church and only those who present a session ticket will be permitted entrance. Clergy delegates, lay delegates and observers will enter through doors designated by signage.

Any special requests or needs can be addressed at the secretariat room during the Council. Minutes of the plenary session will be approved by the bishops as soon as possible and distributed online on the OCA website. Each delegate is expected to come to the session in a timely manner prior to the session's start and to dress appropriately.

## **10. Delegate Participation**

In order to have delegates seated at the Council, parishes must have remitted all financial obligations to The Orthodox Church in America, and have had filed the necessary registration forms with the Preconciliar Commission. In addition, when you arrive at the Council, you must register to verify that your credentials are in order and then you will receive a name tag (to be worn throughout the council), and a session ticket.

## **11. After the Council**

As a delegate to the All-American Council, you represent your parish as an integral part of the entire body of The Orthodox Church in America reflecting your parish's life and witness, its stewardship of resources and vision for the future. Conversely, you represent the Orthodox Church in America to your parish as well. Your dual role is extremely important since most of your fellow parishioners will never have the opportunity to witness and participate in a Council at work.

Please, arrange to set aside some time with fellow parishioners to discuss the important decision you were a part of in nominating the next Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. Help your parishioners understand the implications of the Council's conciliar decisions regarding their own spiritual life and ministry, and for the parish community's life and witness. Bring home the message that the Diocese and the entire Church understands and appreciate the hardships and rewards of parish life and continue to strive to realistically support the witness and mission of the local parish.

Not only do you have the responsibility to share what you have seen and heard and done at the Council, but given that you have been honored by your parish as its leader or by being appointed or selected to participate in the nomination and election of a new Metropolitan you are, in effect, a spokesperson for the Orthodox Church in America to your parish. Whether or not you had personally voted for the nominated candidate, once the Metropolitan is elected by the Holy Synod, the final "Axios" - the final affirmation by the Church - represents the "mind of the Church" regarding this matter and we should believe and support that God is giving us what we need at this time in our Church's history.

## **12. Questions and Concerns**

Any questions or concerns about the Council can be brought to the attention of the Holy Synod of Bishops, Central Church Administration, Metropolitan Council, the Preconciliar Commission or the Local Committee.



**17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council**  
**November 13, 2012**  
**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**  
**Parma, Ohio**

## PROJECTED AGENDA

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (PRE-COUNCIL)

| Time              | Event                             | Location    |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| All Day           | Arrival of Council Team           |             |
| 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Meet with Preconciliar Commission | Holiday Inn |

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (PRE-COUNCIL)

| Time              | Event                        | Location                           |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM | Church and Hall Set-Up       | Holy Trinity Church                |
| 1:00 PM           | Meeting with Local Committee | Holy Trinity Hall                  |
| 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Transportation               | Hotel Lobby and Church Parking Lot |
| 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Council Registration         | Holy Trinity Hallway               |
| 7:00 PM           | Great Vespers                | Holy Trinity Church                |
| 9:00 PM           | Holy Synod                   | Holy Trinity Conference Room       |

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 (COUNCIL)

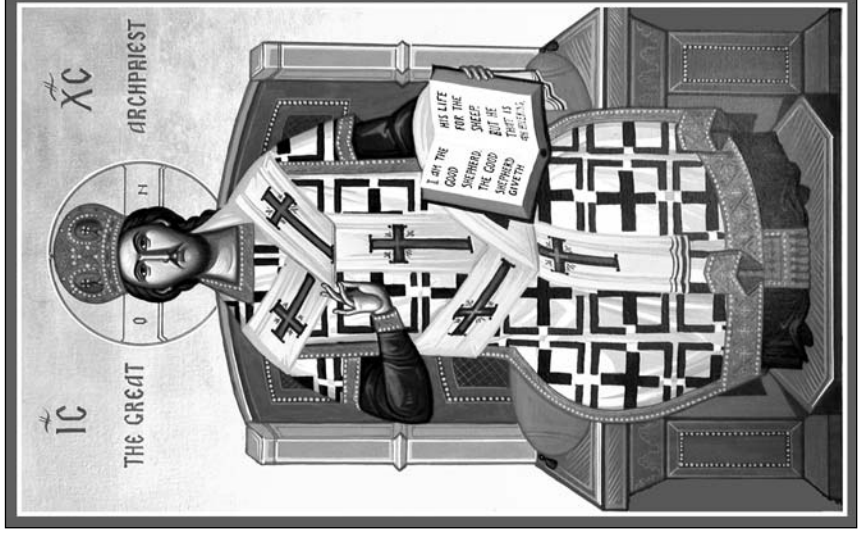
| Time                | Event  | Location/Responsibility            |
|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM   | Transportation                                 | Hotel Lobby and Church Parking Lot |
| 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM   | Secretarial Room Open                          | Holy Trinity Office                |
| 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM  | Council Registration Open                      | Holy Trinity Hallway               |
| 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM  | Hierarchical Liturgy                           | Holy Trinity Church                |
| 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Breakfast                                      | Holy Trinity Hall                  |
| <b>11:00 AM</b>     | <b>Plenary Session</b>                         | <b>Holy Trinity Church</b>         |
|                     | <i>Opening Molieben</i>                        | <i>Archbishop Nathaniel</i>        |
|                     | <i>Call to Order</i>                           | <i>Archbishop Nathaniel</i>        |
|                     | <i>Welcome/Organization</i>                    | <i>Fr. Eric G. Tosi</i>            |
|                     | <i>Address of Locum Tenens</i>                 | <i>Archbishop Nathaniel</i>        |
|                     | <i>Declaration of Vacancy</i>                  | <i>Archbishop Nathaniel</i>        |
|                     | <i>Appointment of Vice-Chairs for Election</i> | <i>Archbishop Nathaniel</i>        |

|                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
|                   | <i>Review of the Statute on Election</i>            | <i>Lay Vice Chairperson</i>              |
|                   | <i>Report of the Credentials Committee</i>          | <i>Credentials Committee Chairperson</i> |
|                   | <i>1<sup>st</sup> Nomination Ballot</i>             | <i>Teller Committee</i>                  |
|                   | <i>Report - Results of 1<sup>st</sup> Ballot</i>    | <i>Clergy Vice Chairperson</i>           |
|                   | <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Nomination Ballot (if needed)</i> | <i>Teller Committee</i>                  |
|                   | <i>Report - Results of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot</i>    | <i>Clergy Vice Chairperson</i>           |
|                   | <i>Election by the Holy Synod</i>                   | <i>Holy Synod</i>                        |
|                   | <i>Declaration of the New Metropolitan</i>          | <i>Holy Synod</i>                        |
|                   | <i>Vesting of the New Metropolitan</i>              | <i>Holy Synod</i>                        |
|                   | <i>Remarks by New Metropolitan</i>                  | <i>Metropolitan</i>                      |
|                   | <i>Housekeeping</i>                                 | <i>Fr. Eric G. Tosi</i>                  |
|                   | <i>Closing Molioben</i>                             | <i>Metropolitan</i>                      |
|                   | <i>Greetings and Blessing</i>                       | <i>Metropolitan</i>                      |
| 5:00 PM           | Dinner  | Holy Trinity Hall                        |
| 5:00PM – 8:00 PM  | Transportation to Hotels                            |  |
| 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Breakdown of Church and Hall                        |  |
|                   |   |  |

# Service of Prayer at the Opening of a Sacred Council

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# Service of Prayer at the Closing of a Sacred Council



# A Service of Prayer at the Opening of a Sacred Council

**Deacon:** Bless, Most Blessed Master.

**Hierarch:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:**

Tone 6

A - men. O Heav - en - ly King, the Comforter the Spi - rit

Common Chant  
arr. from Lvov-Bakhtmetev

of Truth, who art everywhere and fill - est all things;

Treasury of bless - ings and Gi - ver of Life:

Come and a - bide in us, and cleanse us from every

im - pur - i - ty, and save our souls, O Good - One!

## GREAT LITANY

- Deacon:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** For our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, for the Holy Synod of Bishops, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy, and people, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** For seasonable weather, for the abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** For travelers by land, by sea, and by air, for the sick and the suffering, for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.

- Deacon:** That He will hear the voice of petition of the members of this Sacred Council and fulfill all of our good desires and intentions, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** That He will send down the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding upon the members of this Sacred Council, opening our minds and lips and enlightening our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** That He will grant them the Wisdom which stands by His Throne, making it abide in our hearts and teaching us what is for the good of His Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** That we may wisely remain constant in the Orthodox Faith and in all good works, a joy and comfort to all people and a strengthening of the Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** That He will look down with His merciful eye on His Church and upon this Sacred Council, bestowing the grace of wisdom upon its endeavors in the successful building up of the life of the Church of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- People:** Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon:** For the members of this Sacred Council gathered from throughout this continent, awaiting the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and needful of God's help and protection, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That He will instill in the members of this Sacred Council oneness of mind, harmony of spirit, good intentions and wise action for the benefit of His Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**People:** To Thee, O Lord.

**Hierarch:** For to Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

## GOD IS THE LORD

**Deacon:** In the 8th Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself unto us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good: for His mercy endures forever.

**People:**

Tone 8

Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

Obikhod  
N. Bakimtev

God is the Lord and has re - vealed Him - self to us.

Bles - sed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

**Deacon:** All nations surrounded me; in the Name of the Lord I withstood them!

**People:** Repeats “God is the Lord.”

**Deacon:** I shall not die, but shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord!

**People:** Repeats “God is the Lord.”

**Deacon:** The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord’s doing; and it is marvelous in our eyes!

**People:** Repeats “God is the Lord.” then sings the troparions.



# TROPARIONS

**Tone 8**

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Obikhod  
N. Bakimtev

Bles - sed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast

re - vealed the fish - er - men as most wise by send - ing

down up - on them the Ho - ly Spir - it; through them

Thou didst draw the world in - to Thy net, O

Low - er of man - glo - ry to Thee.

# Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Tone 4**

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Alaskan Melody

O blessed Father Herman of A - las - - ka,

North Star of Christ's ho - ly Church; the light of

your holy life and great deeds guides those

who follow the Orth - o - dox way. Together we lift

high the Ho - ly Cross you planted firmly

in A - mer - i - ca. Let all behold and glo - ri - fy  
 Je - sus Christ singing His Holy Re - sur - rec - - - tion.

**Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

**Tone 6**  
 Soprano Alto Obikhod N. Bakhtmetev  
 Steadfast protectress of Christ - - - ians, con - stant  
 advocate before the Cre - a - - tor: do not despise  
 the cry of us sin - - - ners, but in your

goodness come speedily to help us who call on  
 you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and  
 to intercede for us, O The - o - - to - kos,  
 for you always protect those who ho - nor you.

**PROKEMEON / EPISTLE / GOSPEL**

- Deacon:** Let us attend!
- Hierarch:** Peace be unto all.
- Reader:** And to your spirit.
- Deacon:** Wisdom!
- Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: Let the radiance of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands!

**Reader:** Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations!

**People:** Repeats the Prokeimenon

**Reader:** Let the radiance of the Lord our God be upon us

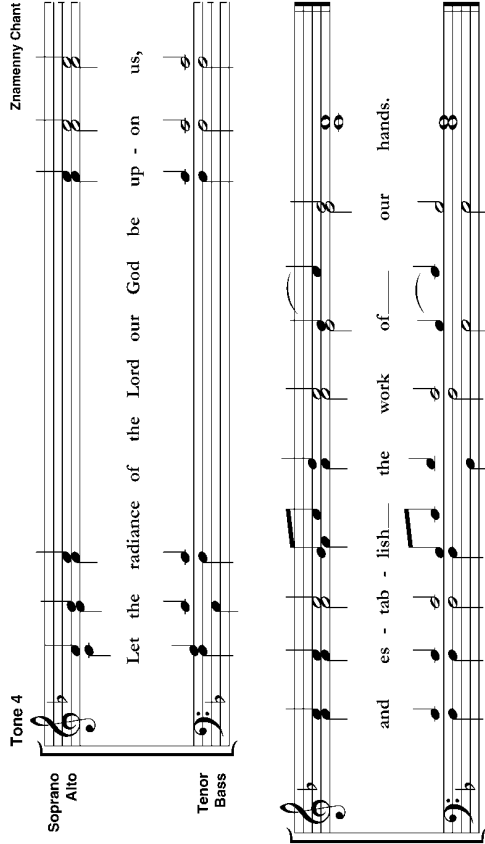
**People:** Finishes the Prokeimenon

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.

**Deacon:** Let us Attend!

Tone 4 Znamenny Chant



Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Let the radiance of the Lord our God be up - on us,

and es - tab - lish the work of our hands.

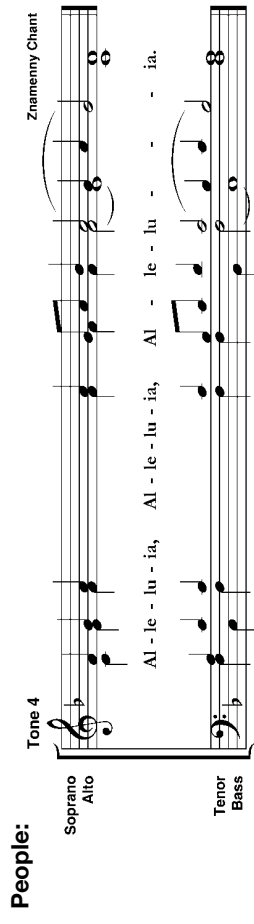
**Reader:** Brethren, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power in us who believe, according to the working of His great might which He accomplished in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and

made Him sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come; and He has put all things under His feet and has made Him the head over all things for the Church, which is His Body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all.

**Hierarch:** Peace be unto you, reader.

**Reader:** And to your spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Tone 4 Znamenny Chant



Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

**Hierarch:** Peace be unto all!

**People:** And to your spirit.

**Hierarch:** The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John the Theologian.

**People:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Hierarch:** At that time Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said: "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth having accomplished the work which Thou

## LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATIONS

gavest Me to do; and now, Father glorify Thou Me in Thine own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy name, which Thou hast given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth. As Thou didst send Me into the world so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth. I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me. The glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one.'

**People:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for His Beatitude, Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, for the Holy Synod of Bishops, for priests, deacons, monastics; and for all our brethren in Christ.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Deacon:** Again we pray for the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Deacon:** Again we pray to the Lord our God, that He will look with mercy upon the members of this Sacred Council, and will send down into our hearts, our minds, and our lips the spirit of wisdom, of understanding, of godliness and of His fear; enlightening our minds with the light of His gracious understanding, that we may be adorned with all good works for the glory of His most holy name; for the benefit of His Holy Church; let us say: O Lord, hearken and mercifully have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Hierarch:** Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off upon the sea; and show mercy, show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners, and be merciful unto us. For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

**Deacon:** Again and again, falling down on our knees before our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Hierarch:** O God, our God! Thou hast adorned us with Thine image and given us a free will. When Thou didst enter into the Temple in the middle of the feast, O most compassionate Master, Thou didst teach the people who were amazed at Thy doctrine, for David says: Come to me, children, and I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Thou didst also teach wisdom to Solomon. Look down even now, O Maker and Creator, upon the members of this Sacred Council, and grant them wisdom and understanding that they may learn Thy holy will; warm their hearts in love for Thee and for their neighbors; guide them on the way of truth and righteousness, keeping their hearts from all evil; unite them in one mind and in one heart, and let mutual brotherly love abide in their midst; bless them for the doing of good and useful things. We pray Thee, O most merciful Lord our God, the God of every compassion and consolation: Do not turn away Thy face from them, nor deny them their longing, for they have set their hope on Thee. Grant them peace and serenity, a unity of spirit, concord and fruitful action, and all those things needful for their temporal and eternal life. Thou knowest our needs, and dost grant and fulfill our requests even before we make them.

For Thou art the God powerful in mercy and gracious in strength, and to Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Hierarch:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

**People:** More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos we magnify You!

**Hierarch:** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our sure hope, glory to Thee!

**People:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Most Blessed Master, Bless!

**Hierarch:** May He Who sent the most Holy Spirit from heaven upon His holy disciples and apostles, in the form of fiery tongues, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy glorious, and all-laudable apostles; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loveth mankind.

**People:** Amen. Eis polla eti Despota!

# A Service of Prayer at the Closing of a Sacred Council

**Deacon:** Bless, Most Blessed Master.

**Hierarch:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto  
ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**People:**

Tone 6

Common Chant  
arr. from Lvov-Bakhmetev

O Heav - en - ly King, the Comforter the Spi - rit

of Truth, who art everywhere and fill - est all things;

Treasury of bless - ings and Gi - ver of Life:

Come and a - bide in us, and cleanse us from every

im - pur - i - ty, and save our souls, O Good - One!

**Reader:**

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!  
(3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, cleanse us from  
our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, visit  
and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy  
Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-  
en. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our tres-  
passes, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Hierarch:**

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory: of  
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and  
ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:**

Amen.

## GOD IS THE LORD

**Deacon:** In the 4th Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself  
unto us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!  
O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good: for His mercy  
endures forever.

**People:**

Tone 4

Soprano Alto

Obikhod  
N. Bakhtemiev

God is the Lord and has re vealed Him-self to us.

Tenor Bass

God is the Lord and has re vealed Him-self to us.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the Soprano and Alto parts of the hymn. It is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The Soprano part is on a treble clef staff, and the Alto part is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "God is the Lord and has re vealed Him-self to us." The notation includes a key signature change to one flat and a common time signature.

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the Tenor and Bass parts of the hymn. It is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The Tenor part is on a treble clef staff, and the Bass part is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord." The notation includes a key signature change to one flat and a common time signature.

**Deacon:** All nations surrounded me; in the Name of the Lord I with-  
stood them!

**People:** Repeats “God is the Lord.”

**Deacon:** I shall not die, but shall live, and recount the deeds of the  
Lord!

**People:** Repeats “God is the Lord.”

**Deacon:** The stone which the builders rejected has become the head  
of the corner. This is the Lord’s doing; and it is marvelous  
in our eyes!

**People:** Repeats “God is the Lord.” then sings the troparions.

# TROPARIONS

Tone 4

Obikhod  
N. Bakhmev

Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

We Thine unworthy ser - vants, O Lord, grateful for

the blessings Thou hast giv - en to us, always praise, bless,

and thankfully glorify Thy loving - kind - ness, crying to Thee with

love and humble sub - mis - sive-ness: O Savior and Benefactor, glo - ry to Thee.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

Tone 3

Obikhod  
N. Bakhmev

Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

Freely Thou dost grant us rich bless - ings, O Mas - ter,

though we are unprofitable ser - vants, in all

our needs we run to Thee; Thou dost shower us with

man - y gifts! Now we thank Thee with all our heart.



We glorify Thee, our Creator and De - fend - er!

We cry to Thee from the depths of our soul:

Glory to Thee, O God, most boun - - - ti - full!

**Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

Tone 3

Obikhod  
N. Bakhtmetev

O Mother of God help of Christ - ians, you have favored

us with your pro - tec - tion! We your ser - vants

grate - ful - ly cry out to you: Hail, Most Pure Virgin

The - o - to - kos! By your prayers deliver us from

every ca - la - mi - ty, for you are a speedy

help - er in times of trou - ble.

## LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATIONS

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Deacon:** Furthermore we pray for His Beatitude Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, for the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, for priests, deacons, and for all our brethren in Christ.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Deacon:** We Thine unprofitable servants, give thanks to Thee with fear and trembling, O Lord, our Savior and Master, for Thou hast poured Thy blessings upon us abundantly. We fall down in worship before Thy loving mercy and praise Thee as our God, fervently crying to Thee: Deliver Thy servants from all calamities, and in Thy mercy, grant all our requests which are unto salvation, we beg Thee, O Lord: hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Deacon:** Thou hast mercifully listened to the prayers of Thy servants, O Lord; Thou hast shown us Thy tender compassion and love for man. Do not forsake us in the days to come, but fulfill all the good desires of Thy faithful people. Reveal Thy rich mercy to us, disregard our sins, and attain glory for Thy name, we beg Thee, O Lord: hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Deacon:** May our thanksgiving be as sweet-smelling incense before Thy majesty, most merciful Master. In Thy love for mankind, always send down Thy rich blessings upon Thy servants. Deliver us from the assaults of our visible and invisible enemies; preserve Thy Holy Church; and grant all Thy people health, virtue, and length of days, we beg Thee,

most bountiful King; incline Thine ear to our prayer, and speedily show mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Deacon:** O Lord, who didst accompany Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus, and didst make them to return to Jerusalem with their hearts burning with the joy of Thy Resurrection; send Thy grace and divine blessing to accompany Thy servants, all the participants in this All-American Council, as we return to our homes and guide us in every good work, to the glory of Thy Holy Name. Preserve us in health and bring us safely to our destinations, we beg Thee, our merciful protector, hear us and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Hierarch:** Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off upon the sea; and show mercy, show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners, and be merciful unto us.

For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Hierarch:** O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, the God of all mercies and bounties, Whose mercy cannot be measured, and Whose love for man is an unfathomable deep; with fear and trembling, we fall down in adoration before Thy majesty, unprofitable servants that we are. We humbly thank Thee for the blessings Thou hast given Thy servants who have participated in this All-American Council. We glorify Thee, we praise Thee, we sing to Thee, our Lord and Master and

Defender; we fall down before Thee and beg Thy boundless mercy. As Thou hast graciously received Thy servants' prayers and granted them, so also deliver Thy Church and preserve us from every hostile assault. Grant us peace and tranquility, that Thy faithful people may grow in virtue and love for Thee, and may partake of Thy benefits, and so we will always offer thanksgiving to Thee, together with Thine Unoriginate Father, and Thy Most Holy, and Good and Life-Giving Spirit, God glorified in Three Persons, and will joyfully sing to Thee: Glory to Thee, O God our Savior, unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Hierarch:** Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

**People:** More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement who gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos we magnify You!

**Hierarch:** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our sure hope, glory to Thee!

**People:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)  
Most Blessed Master, Bless!

**Hierarch:** Gives the dismissal of the day.

**People:** Amen. Eis polla eti Despota!

**“Many Years” is intoned by the deacon and sung by the people.**



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