

**From the Chancellor of the Diocese --
ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THE 2020 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY:
2020 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD BY ONLINE VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Very Reverend, Reverend and Dear Fathers;
Delegates to the 2020 Diocesan Assembly;
Parish Council Members and Faithful Parishioners of our Diocesan Family:

Christ is in our midst!

The Diocesan Council, at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, with His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL presiding, received reports and entertained discussion regarding the logistical requirements for accommodating the delegates to the 2020 Diocesan Assembly in compliance with state and local regulations. Reports were also heard regarding the possibility of reduction to the maximum number of people that can be accommodated for the 2020 Diocesan Assembly.

Given the fluidity of the situation, and out of concern for the delegates and the Diocese, the unanimous decision was taken by the Diocesan Council to hold the 2020 Diocesan Assembly via video conference, instead of in person at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in South River, New Jersey, as was previously planned. This decision by the Diocesan Council was blessed and approved by Archbishop Michael.

The date and time of the Diocesan Assembly remains Thursday, November 5, at 11:00 AM. Technical management of the Diocesan Assembly video conference will be overseen by Archpriest David Garretson.

This decision was taken with the understanding that the Diocesan Council is charged with the arrangements for the Diocesan Assembly (*By-Laws of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey*, Article IV, Section 6.n.). Since the actual date and time remain the same as previously announced, the Council decided that there is no contradiction with the required announcement of "ninety days" in advance (Article III, Section 1). This decision was also confirmed by Archbishop Michael (Article I, Paragraph 4; and Article II, Section 1).

Further, the General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America (in keeping with laws for not-for-profit corporations) has issued a document approving the convening of Diocesan Assemblies by electronic means, this year. Considering these facts, the Diocesan Council and the Archbishop have determined that convening the Diocesan Assembly by videoconference, this year, is the wisest way forward.

The Assembly assessment of \$75.00 per parish will not be charged for the 2020 Diocesan Assembly.

Additional information, including the instructions for accessing the video conference for the 2020 Diocesan Assembly, will be sent to the parishes at a time nearer to November 5.

His Eminence expresses his gratitude to the clergy and lay delegates, and to all the clergy and faithful of the Diocese, for their understanding in the matter of this decision.

With love in Christ,
Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar
Chancellor of the Diocese