

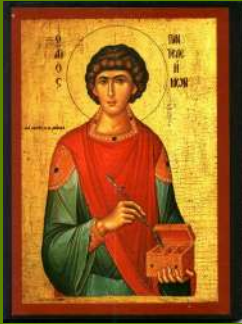
St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector V. Rev. Anthony Spengler, Attached

Protodeacon Robert Northrup Reader James Tilghman

Parish Council President: Nicholas Cavaligos



Sunday, March 20, 2016

Tone 1

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / Sunday of Orthodoxy

March Bulletin Sponsor

Mr. & Mrs. John Magerko in memory of their families

THE PRAYER OF ST EPHREM

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. (Prostration)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to thy servant. (Prostration)

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen. (Prostration)

O, God, cleanse me, a sinner. (12 times with deep bow then repeat above once)



Liturgical & Event Schedule

Sunday, March 20

9:10 am: Hours
9:30 am: D.L. / Mem. Sunday / Church School
Noon : Monthly Board Meeting
6:30 pm: Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers in Elmhurst

Monday, March 21

9:00 am- Clergy Retreat
7:00 pm- Village of Summit Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 22

9:00 am: Morning Prayers & Lenten Hours
7:15 pm: Panahida for Olga Wyatt

Wednesday, March 23

11:00 am: Funeral of Olga Wyatt @ Hitzeman Funeral Home in Brookfield

Thursday, March 24

9:00 am: Morning Prayers & Lenten Hours

Friday, March 25

7:00 pm: Vespers Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation

Saturday, March 26

6:00 pm: Great Vespers

Sunday, March 27

9:10 am: Hours
9:30 am: D. L. / 40 day Panahida / Church School / Social
6:00 pm: Deanery Mission Vespers @ Christ the Saviour in Chicago

TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY PAN ORTHODOX VESPERS Sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Greater Chicago

When: Sunday, March 20, 2016

Time: 6:30 PM

Where:

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
893 Church Road
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Homilist:

Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest Responses will be offered by the Pan Orthodox Choir of Greater Chicago, Gordana Trbuhovich, Director

40 Days Eternal Memory

March 27: Dana & Blake
April 10- Steve Platko / Archpriest James Bertolini
April 17: Mary Pradun & Olga Wyatt

2016 - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March: St Herman's Seminary



This collection will take place during the Litany before the *Our Father*. Or you can speak to Steve Grabavoy to contribute.

EXTRA LENTEN SERVICES

The morning services during the Great Fast will be from 1 hr to 1 hr and 15 min.

The evening services during the first week will be about 45 min.

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy is about 1 hr and 15 min. (NOTE: if you are planning to receive the Holy Eucharist, please fast from lunch on. Please do not eat or drink anything from 1:00 pm on.)

CONFESSIONS

Confession will be heard after Great Vespers every Saturday and on Sunday mornings between 9:00am and 9:25am.

Confession helps us prepare ourselves for our eternal salvation. We should be going more than once a year. At least 4 times during the four fasting periods.

Five bishops bless new ZOE House in Parma, OH

Five Orthodox hierarchs blessed ZOE for Life's new ZOE House at 5454 State Road, Parma, OH during its open house on Friday, March 4, 2016.

"It's an honor to have you here with us," Paula Kappos, president of ZOE for Life, told the hierarchs. "We are grateful for the blessings of the Lord to have brought us to this day."

Blessing the facility were His Eminence, Metropolitan Savas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh; His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate [OCA]; His Grace, Bishop Paul of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest [OCA]; His Grace, Bishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA; and His Grace, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA.

"The vocation of the woman has been there from beginning to bring forth and protect, and to love and to cherish," Metropolitan Savas said. "These women are fulfilling their vocation in a really powerful way," he said in reference to the leadership, staff and volunteers of ZOE for Life.

"We're grateful for their ministry, for the witness they provide, and hope that it provides an inspiration to women throughout the Country,"

Metropolitan Savas continued. "We all hate the evil of the termination of life in a woman. We can provide life, the option of life for those who are at the crossroads. We can be there for them when they have to make their difficult decisions and provide for them.... It's a ministry of love. That's what makes all the difference."



Hierarchs who participated in the blessing of ZOE House included [from left] Bishop Paul, Archbishop Nathaniel, Metropolitan Savas, Bishop Gregory and Bishop Daniel

Approximately 200 guests, including a number of other clergy, attended the open house. "We could not be more thrilled," Ms. Kappos told them. "We told [the hierarchs] our history, talked about our first chapter in Michigan, and of our hopes and dreams to create a ZOE Women's Center, where limited obstetrical ultrasounds, peer counseling and post abortion healing programs would be available at no cost to our clients. The start-up costs are estimated at \$250,000.00, but we are taking a leap of faith."

ZOE for Life is a non-profit Orthodox ministry that helps women during and after crisis pregnancies, offers pure living materials and retreats, and assists Orthodox couples seeking to expand their families through adoption. Headquartered in Cleveland Heights, OH, it performs its services at ZOE House. With approximately 3,000 square feet, the new facility provides room for meetings, classes, prayer circles and other healing ministries. It is on the bus line and close to the freeway, and occupies a single floor, making it more easily accessible to pregnant women and children.

ZOE for Life is endorsed by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA. For further information, visit www.zoeforlifeonline.org.



90th FOCA Convention to be held in Chicago July 22-25, 2016

The 90th Annual Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America [FOCA] will be held at Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel in suburban Rosemont July 22-25, 2016.



All Orthodox Christians — current and former FOCA members as well as those simply interested in meeting other Orthodox Christians — are invited to participate in the weekend of fellowship activities for all ages!

An official organization of the Orthodox Church in America whose mission is to proclaim, share and reveal the Orthodox Christian Faith through service, fellowship and example, the FOCA was established in 1927 as the “Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs.”

In addition to convention meetings, other events, including a golf outing, Trivia Night event, Chicago architectural boat cruise, and a Sunday Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed by a banquet and dance, are being planned. In addition, there will be a fun-filled program for youth, coordinated this year with the OCA Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries, the Diocese of the Midwest Diocese and the FOCA. Youth activities include a visit to Navy Pier, a service project and a visit to a water park!

The convention planning committee meets on the third Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church, Burr Ridge, IL. Those who would like to get involved or obtain more information about the events are asked to contact Dennis Garlick at 630-690-8018 or garlick61@gmail.com. For more information on the youth program, contact Jackie Justice at 630-669-7295 or jjustice002@comcast.net.

For ongoing convention updates visit

<http://www.OrthodoxFellowship.org/upcomingconvention.html>. Follow/Like @FellowshipOCA on Twitter and Facebook.

Bishop Paul presents \$31K check to OCMC to buy motorbikes for Kenyan clergy

At a pre-lenten Mission Team Chicago dinner at Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church here on Thursday, March 10, 2016, His Grace, Bishop Paul presented a check for \$31,128.50 to Priest Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center [OCMC], representing donations from parishes, families and individuals of the Diocese of the Midwest to purchase motorbikes for clergy ministering in Kenya.

The diocesan-wide drive, initiated in November 2015, aimed at raising \$10,000.00, which would provide sufficient funds to purchase ten motorbikes.

“In his remarks at last year’s OCMC dinner, the guest speaker, His Eminence, Archbishop Makarios of Kenya, mentioned that many of his priests must walk great distances to minister to their flocks — more than just a couple of blocks,” explained Bishop Paul as he related the initial idea for the drive. “When he mentioned how motorbikes would be invaluable to enhancing their ministries, a light went off, and I asked myself, ‘what can we as a diocese do to help the Kenyan clergy?’ I thought this was a worthy project that was well within our abilities as a diocese to address.”

Bishop Paul first shared his thoughts with Father Martin in the spring of 2015.

“Father Martin in turn spoke with Archbishop Makarios, who had researched the cost of motorbikes,” Bishop Paul continued. “Having mutually agreed to embark on the project, I spoke with OCMC’s Andrew Lekos and Alex Goodwin, OCMC’s Communications Director, who worked with our diocesan Communications Director, Father John Matusiak, to develop the fund drive particulars and promotional materials. We had agreed that the project would run the course of the Nativity Fast that began on November 15, 2015.”

The response was beyond Bishop Paul’s expectations. “Donations kept coming in, even after the projected close of the drive at the end of 2015, and by February 1, 2016, we were able to [report on our diocesan web site](#) that \$22,538.00 — 225% of our goal — had been contributed,” said Bishop Paul. “By the second week of March 2016, the total had reached an amazing 311% of the initial goal!”

Bishop Paul said that he cannot offer enough thanks to the diocese’s faithful for their heartfelt response to the drive.

“I am, in a sense, speechless by the response of our parishes and faithful,” said Bishop Paul, “and I wish to thank one and all, from the bottom of my heart, for their generous, responsible and selfless stewardship. As I concluded my remarks at Thursday’s dinner, I stated that the drive taught me that people are indeed generous and giving when they are offered a clear sense of what can be accomplished when we give of our treasures to others. I’ve always felt that people don’t give simply to maintain church properties or to pay utility bills, but that they freely give when invited to help the Church to realize its purpose and mission as the Body and Bride of Christ, the People of God. Again, heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the drive a success, beyond every expectation!”

Continued Page 7

Restoration of historic Kenai, AK church enters final phase

A meeting of the parish council of Holy Assumption Church here with His Grace, Bishop David of Anchorage and Alaska; Grant Crosby, Senior Historical Architect for the Anchorage Regional Office of the National Park Service; and Blake DiLullo, Missionary Contractor with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center was held recently to determine the best means of completing work on restoring the historic church's bell tower.



“Over the past few years, ROSSIA—‘Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska’—and the National Park Service have worked diligently to restore this historic landmark to its original appearance,” said Bishop David. “Various grants from several organizations—the largest being a Rasmuson Grant—have made much of the restoration possible.”

To date, the church has been rebuilt from the inside out with the replacement of old timbers, walls and roofing. In addition, the adjacent Saint Juvenaly Building has been added to house the church's mechanical and utility needs, a gift shop and handicapped accessible facilities.

“The refitting of the bell tower and the placement of the mist fire suppression system in the church will complete the restoration project,” Bishop David said. “Additional funds need to be raised, but thanks to the Kenai City Council, a matching grant has been established specifically for the fire suppression system, whereby the city will match donations up to \$20,000.00.

“I see in this matching grant a real opportunity and a blessing from God to be able to complete the Kenai church project,” he added. “It is like every person who gives us one dollar is actually giving us two dollars, and I hope that many people will find it in their hearts to help us complete this project.”

Thirty-three church buildings across Alaska are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since its establishment in 2002, ROSSIA's board has identified ten of these churches requiring urgent restoration, including Holy Assumption in Kenai. Since its establishment, ROSSIA has relied on numerous preservation-minded Native corporation leaders, Orthodox clergy, government officials, architects, and historians dedicated to the preservation of Alaska's Orthodox churches and iconography. See [related story](#).

Donations may be sent to ROSSIA, PO Box 212315, Anchorage, AK 99521-2315 or [may be made on-line](#).

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon on the Beginning of Great Lent 2016

“Come, O People, and today let us accept the grace of the Fast as a gift from God!”
—*Matins of the First Week of Great Lent*

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These three “pillars” of our spiritual lives are inseparable. They stand at the heart of everything we, as the People of God, attempt to accomplish for the sake of our all-merciful Savior in church, in our homes, and in our places of study and work. So central are these three ascetic practices that Christ challenges us, in the Sermon on the Mount, to approach them not as the Pharisees, who sought the praise of others, but in silence and humility and with vigilance.

In His Sermon on the Mount, Christ makes it clear that prayer, fasting and almsgiving are not “optional.” He did not say, “if you fast” or “if you give alms.” Rather, He said “when you fast... when you give alms.” He *assumes* that those who desire to follow Him will do these things, not by “choice,” but by conviction—and as a means of personal conversion. How often have we been remiss, failing in our daily lives to pray, fast or give to those in genuine need, seeking to excuse ourselves due to a lack of time or resources? And how often have we forgotten that prayer, fasting and almsgiving are not limited to penitential seasons, such as that which we are about to begin, but are central in our lives and witness every day, 365 days of the year?

During Great Lent, we are called to “come to our senses,” even as the prodigal son recognized the error of his ways and sought his father's forgiveness. We are challenged to flee from the pride of the pharisee and embrace the publican's tears. We are urged to make an essential change in the quality and pace of our otherwise hectic lives while turning our attention to those matters that are “needful” in working out our salvation. And, as we are afforded yet one more opportunity to return to our heavenly Father and seek His unconditional love, mercy and forgiveness, “repositioning” Him at the very center of our lives, second to none. Enrolling as we are in the “School of Repentance,” we pray, fast and give alms as a means of grasping anew the need to prepare for the great and glorious Pascha which, in turn, offers us a foretaste of the Kingdom yet to be fully revealed, but already fully present in our midst in the life of the Body and Bride of Christ, the Church.

May our Lenten efforts not be seen as a burden—our Lord takes on our burdens and lightens our yokes—but as an opportunity to “come to *our* senses” by imitating the One Who Himself prayed, **Con't Page 7**

Prayer List : UPDATED 2-28-16

Prizsts: Anthony Spenglar, John Kuchta, James Gleason (*Fr.'s spiritual father*), ***Ted Bobosh**, ***Moses Berry**,***John Magramm**, John Duranko, Lev Holowoty, ***Anastassy Fehr**, ***Leonid Kishkovsky**,* **Fr. Daniel Rental**, ***Fr. Stephen Hrycyniak**

Matushka: ***Carol Janacek**, Pani Patricia Duranko,

Parishionzrs: Karen Muzyka, Ronald Stachowiak, Rebecca Eggers, Jason Kirnbauer, Sonja Harris, Mark Hruban

Parishionzr's Friends / Family: Donna Parhas (*Nick's Cousin*), Ron (*Mark's Friend*), Mary Ann Magerko, John Magerko, Stephen Holly & Walter Litzie (*Fr.'s cousin*), George Cavaligos (*Nick's brother*), Christos Parhas (*Nick's cousin*), Constantine Cavaligos (*Nick's dad*), John Hartel (*Joann's Step-dad*), Sandra (*Karen's sister*), Erika Northrup, Danielle Krush, Mark Svava, Mary Northrup, Sandra Leonchik, Dianne Northrup, Raymond Northrup, Joey Krush, Carol Bregin (*Friend of Lynn*), Ann Lazo (*Friend of Lynn*), George Lazo (*Friend of Lynn*), Bruce (*Fr. Kurt's brother*), Christine & her unborn baby, Chrissy Maron, Daniel Tiani (*friend of Beccy Eggers*), Vivian (*friend of Beccy Eggers*), Julianna (*Hruban Family*), John (Spengler family), Robert (Spengler family), Aubrey, James, June & James (*Hruban Friend*), Jacob (*Spengler Family*), Emilian (*Spengler Family*), Joyce (*Spengler Friend*), William & Dana Nosek (*Fr. Kurts family*), Mark, Eve (*Mat. Robert's Family*), Tommy.

Other Requests: Lucille (*Duke*), Dianne (*Bill Rudolph*), Elizabeth Lilos, Jemsey Pradun, Mae Joanna Bass, Hermenegil (*Neighbor*), Lidiya (*Neighbor*), Cathleen Rebollar, Patricia Schuster,***John Sedor**, * **Daria Petrykowski**, Emily & Scott preparing for Marriage, *Cynthia Koranda

Military: Amber, Caleb, Nicholas, David, Timothy, Robert, Kristen, Matthew, Brian, Daniel, Joseph, Joseph (*Fr.'s cousin*)

Captivz: Metropolitan Paul (*Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo*), Archbishop John (*Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo*)

For the UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria / Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world / Those held captive throughout the world.

Additions or removals from the list? Please notify Fr. Andrew. (***Bishop Request**) **Nzw:** Cynthia Koranda

Taking Lent seriously by Fr. Stephen Kostoff

*The gateway to divine repentance has been opened. Let us enter eagerly, purified in our bodies and observing abstinence from food and passions, as obedient servants of Christ, Who has called the world into the heavenly Kingdom. Let us offer to the King of all a tenth part of the whole year, that we may look with love upon His Resurrection. —
Sessional Hymn, Matins of Cheesefare Week*

Great Lent is the “School of Repentance.” It is roughly equivalent to an “annual tithe” in which we offer ourselves back to God so as to be received with love, as was the prodigal son. As such, Great Lent is a gift from God, guiding us toward a way of life we may be reluctant to assume on our own, suffering as we often are from spiritual apathy or a simple lack of focus. Great Lent is also goal-oriented, for it leads us on a spiritual pilgrimage of preparation toward the “night brighter than the day” of Pascha and the Risen Lord. Great Lent is “sacred” and “soul-profitting.” It is a key component in the Orthodox Way of living out the Christian life to which we have been committed in holy Baptism.

During Great Lent we will recover the essential practices of

prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These practices are the tools that can assist us in returning and remaining close to God. Liturgical services unique to Great Lent immerse us in a way of communal prayer that is solemn and penitent, but which also lighten and unburden the soul through the mercy and grace of God so abundantly poured out upon us through these inspired services. You leave the church tired in body perhaps, but brighter inside – in the mind and heart. Great Lent invites us to see our neighbors as children of God and of equal value in the eyes of God, and thus deserving of our attention, patience and care. Charity can be distributed through material means or through an encouraging and warmly-spoken word. Great Lent liberates us from the excessive appetites of our bodies through the discipline of fasting. Our diet essentially becomes “vegan” as we seek to be less weighed down by a body overly satiated with food and drink. This is healthy for both soul and body. The human person does not live by bread alone as the Lord taught us, as He Himself fasted in the desert for forty days. We also fast from entertainment, bad habits, obsessions, useless distractions, vulgar language and the like. We try to simplify life and redeem our new-found time through more focused and virtue-creating tasks. If approached seriously, **Con't Page 9**

M A R C H

HAPPY BIRTHDAY		NAMES DAY
James Ho: Child 9- Tanya Wolfe 23- Valerie Boswell 27- Ronald Svara 30- Steve Grabavoy	2- Arlene Tilghman 8- Jason Kirnbauer 23- Steve Nemic 28- John Sutko	1- The Rt. Rev. David, Bishop of Sitka & Alaska 9- Valerie Boswell 17- Alexis Northrup 17- The Most Rev. Alejo, Archbishop of Mexico City & Mexico 23- The Most Rev. Nikon, ArchBishop of Boston & New England & the Albanian Archdiocese

If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

In blessed repose: M A R C H

13- Metropolitan Nicholas (11) 19- George Michals (09) 22- "Mike" Dushan Daniel Bellich (88) 29- Ronald E. Anderson (01) 1942: Vasilij Makovskiy Matrey Kuchek Julia Simrak	1943: Adam Korenchuk Vasilij Brayko Anna Homko Theodore Yarmotzek Philip Gritzuk (Rizdy)	Timothy Starko Justin Tsygugh Paul Makovetsky Boris Golubovich
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Remember those who have gone before us in prayer. If there is a name missing from the above list, please speak to Fr. Andrew to have them added.

Bulletin Sponsor: Would you be interested in being a bulletin sponsor in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one or friend? Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Services for that month. Donation: \$40 for the month.

Memorial Candle(s): *(Give names to Fr. Andrew)*

Option 1: The Tray of Candles under the Cross is now the area of remembrance for the deceased. If you would like the tray of candles placed in memory of a deceased loved one, the suggested donation is \$30. The Sponsors will be remembered during the Divine Services for that Sunday.

Option 2: One of the small Tray's under the Theotokos in the back of the Church. Donation \$25

Option 3: If this tray is full, one or more candles may be gotten at the candle desk & be placed in the sand box.

Candles for the Health of a Loved One *(Speak to Fr. Andrew to make arrangements)*

Option 1: One of The small tray's of 40 candles in front of the icon of woman saints in the back of the Church - donation \$25.

Option 2: The altar candles in the Sanctuary & Eternal Light candle - donation \$20.

Option 3: If Candles are filled more candles may be gotten at the candle desk & placed in the sand box.

Monthly Panachida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Panachida. If you would like your loved one(s) to be remembered, please give a list of names to Fr. Andrew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month. If there is a remembrance (newly departed or 40th day remembrance) of your family or friends we will remember them on the closest Sunday otherwise they will be remembered on the third Sunday. If it is an remembrance not related to our parish family we will just sing Memory Eternal on the 40 Day remembrance.

Hospitalization/Shut-ins: If anyone goes into hospital, or is a shut-in, please let Fr. Andrew know as soon as possible so he can attend to them and their family members.

Celebration? Achievement?: Your spiritual family would like to share in your achievement, celebration, and accomplishment. Send in a picture or email to Fr. Andrew, by Wednesday @ 5:00 pm so he can place it in the bulletin!

Kenya Con't

Also present at the dinner was Archpriest Dr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor/CEO of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY, who delivered the keynote address evangelism as a fundamental pillar of the Orthodox Christian faith. Adding that there are endless opportunities to share our faith, Father Chad observed that there is much we can learn from those to give of their time and talent to evangelize abroad — as well as those who are evangelized. “We stand to learn much from others,” he said, “as it is not just a matter of us teaching them.”

Metro. Tikhon Address Con't

fasted and gave alms—or rather, gave His very life—for us. Certainly, we cannot do less during the impending season of “bright sadness” as we embrace “the Light never overcome by darkness” Who leads us “from death to life, from earth to heaven.” May all that we do and experience during this most holy time of preparation serve to glorify Him, that through us “God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ” [1 Peter 4:11].

Humbly asking your forgiveness and assuring you of my prayers for the Lenten journey, I remain

With love in Christ,
+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

St. Vladimir's Seminary announces Master of Divinity Equivalency Program

[Saint Vladimir's Seminary](#) announces its new Master of Divinity Equivalency Program designed to help Master of Arts graduates earn the necessary 72 graduate credits for an M. Div. degree equivalency in order to be eligible for admission to the Doctor of Ministry program.

The program—designed to be completed in three years—covers broad-based work in theology, biblical studies, and the arts ministry, including the supervised practice of ministry. Coursework will be completed through hybrid courses combining on-line learning and on-site intensives. Students will have both the flexibility and guidance to meet their learning needs and accommodate their ministry situation, while remaining focused on the goal of admission to the D. Min. Program.

“This is a program specifically designed for pastors and professionals in ministry who want to do advanced graduate study, but cannot commit to a full-time residency at our campus,” said Priest Dr. J. Sergius Halvorsen, Director of

the D. Min. and M. Div. Equivalency Programs at Saint Vladimir's.

“Similar to our D. Min. program, all of the courses in the M. Div. Equivalency Program are designed as hybrid courses,” Father Sergius explained. “Students are able to fulfill the majority of the program requirements at home. But, with each course, they also have the experience of learning together on our campus for a week-long intensive, where they are able to deepen the friendships that have developed while learning together on-line.”

Individuals interested in discussing the M. Div. Equivalency Program are invited to contact Father Sergius Halvorsen at 914-961-8313, extension 367, or shalvorsen@svots.edu. [Detailed information](#), including application forms and instructions, is available on the seminary web site.

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Making the Most of our Lenten Journey

Over the centuries, many people have been blessed by God to know the time of their departure from this world. Most of us will likely not be told. But what if we knew that this Great Lent would be our very last one? Would we make any changes to our Lenten life?

As Orthodox, we should always try to keep a three-fold practice during Great Lent. We should increase our prayer life; we should be more disciplined in our fasting; and we should increase our almsgiving. Certainly we pray you will be granted many, many years of service to our Lord! But it does provide some food for thought to think about “what if?”. If we knew this was to be our last Great Lent, what would we do differently? We pray that you will be more fruitful than ever in all three of these areas!

As you consider your own almsgiving this Lenten season, please include OCPM in your offerings. Matthew 25:36 demands that we “visit Jesus in prison”. While you may not be able to personally visit a person in prison, you can still heed the Lord's command by supporting OCPM's outreach. With your support, we are visiting men and women in prison every day—sending icons, prayer books, Orthodox Study Bibles, catechism courses, study books and personal letters. Your gift will also help provide training for clergy and lay people to correspond with and/or visit these precious souls. When you have provided for the least of these my brethren you have touched the very heart of “visiting Jesus” in prison.

May our Lord richly bless you this Great Lent as you seek to bless those in need. Many thanks for your support of this ministry of the Orthodox Church.

With love in Christ, Fr. Stephen

**THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF
CHICAGO ANNUAL FAMILY SYNAXIS
LENTEN RETREAT**

WHEN: Saturday April 2, 2016 from 8:30-5:00pm

WHERE:

St Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, 12307 S Ridgeland Ave., Palos Heights, IL; www.saint-spyridon.org
Workshops: By Dr Peli Galiti

He is the Program Manager of the International Forgiveness Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Born in Greece, Dr Galiti has post-graduate degrees in both school counselling and educational psychology, and has done research in the area of family therapy. A mother of four; she loves to draw from wisdom of the beloved modern saint Porphyrios.

Workshop 1: Raising a Christian family in a rapidly changing world

Workshop 2: The healing power of forgiveness

A retreat for the whole family! Two workshops, discussions, breakfast, lunch and worship. Classes, activities, and child-care included for children of all ages.

Register @ www.gocfamilysynaxis.org or call 708-250-0034
\$75 per Family by March 23 / \$100 per family after March 23

**LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR: SPEAKING TO
OTHERS ABOUT ORTHODOXY**

Do you meet people you think might be interested in Orthodoxy but are unsure of what to say or how you would respond to their questions or comments.

Fr. Dustin Lyon, an Orthodox convert, will give you some easy, informal ways to start the conversation and discuss your faith.

Fr. Dustin Lyon is the Presiding priest at St Elias Orthodox Church in Dubuque, IA. He converted from the Methodist faith during Great Lent 2005 and was ordained a priest in October 2011

Saturday, March 26: 10:00-11:00am

St Basil Greek Orthodox Church, 733 S Ashland Ave, Chicago

Please RSVP to the Church at 312-243-3738

Free Admission. Plenty of parking in back of the church and across the street in the Union Health Services parking lot.

**THE 2016 HOLY APOSTLES CELEBRATION
OF BOOKS**

Guest Speakers:

3/27: Dr Lewis Patsavos

“The Holy Canons: Punitive- Judgmental- or Compassionate and Liberating **Perceived Impressions of the Holy Canons**”

6:30 pm: Vespers / 8:00 pm Presentation

3/29: Dr. Lewis Patsavos

“The Holy Canons: Punitive- Judgmental- or Compassionate and Liberating **Spiritual & Pastoral Dimensions of the Holy Canons**”

6:30 pm: Compline / 8:00 pm Presentation

3/31: Rev. Dr. George Dokos

Concerning Frequent Communion

6:30 pm: Compline / 8:00 pm Presentation

Book Store Hours (Daily Monday-Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm)

Thousands of Orthodox books will be on display for all to browse and purchase for their library. The Celebration of Books is sponsored by the Metropolis of Chicago Religious Education Department.

Dr Lewis J Patsavos is Professor of Canon Law, Emeritus and Former Director of Field Education at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA where he taught the discipline of Canon Law for forty years.

The Rev Dr George Dokos received his doctorate in theology from the the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. He has published several works of St Nikodemos the Hagiorite and currently serves the parish of St Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, MN.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
2501 S Wolf Rd, Westchester, IL 60154
708-562-2744

