

St. Panteleimon Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

(Ortanne Laivino! Anwa ortanne Laivino!)

基復了 他實活

ῥῥῥῥῥῥ ῥῥῥῥῥῥ! ῥῥῥῥῥῥ ῥῥῥῥῥῥ!

(Jīdū fùhuó le! Tā quèshí fùhuó le!)

Quenya-a constructed language

Mandarin Chinese

Христос ылыж кыненын! Чынак ылыж кыненын!

Meadow Mari –a Uralic language

Krista uttitaha! Satvam
uttitaha!

Sanskrit

¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En
verdad ha resucitado!

Spanish

Cristo è risorto!
È veramente risorto!

Italian

Христос васкрсе!
Ваистину васкрсе!
(Khristos vaskrse!
Vaistinu vaskrse!)

Serbian

Asréracht Críst!
Asréracht Hé—som co
dearb!

Old Irish

Christus het
opgestaan! Hy het
waarlik opgestaan!

Afrikaans

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!
(Khristós anésti! Alithós anésti!)

Greek

הַמְּשִׁיחַ קָם! בְּאֵמֶת קָם!
(HaMashiach qam! Be'emet qam!)

Hebrew (modern)

Христось воскресе! Воистину воскресе!
(Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!)

Church Slavonic



Sunday, May 15, 2016

Gospel: St. Mark 15:43-16:8

Tone 2

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Ven. Pachomius the Great, Founder of Cœnobitic Monasticism / Myrrhbearing Women

May Bulletin Sponsor

Father Andrew in Memory of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas & his parents George & Dorothy

Liturgical & Events Schedule
TWO WEEK EDITION

Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!

Sunday, May 15

9:10 am: Paschal Matins followed by Divine Liturgy
Memorial Sunday / Church School / Social
5:00 pm: Annual Clergy Paschal Gathering @ Holy
Trinity Cathedral

Monday, May 16

3:00 pm: Priest Convocation in Burr Ridge
7:00 pm: Village of Summit Meeting

Tuesday, May 17

Priest Convocation continued

Wednesday, May 18

Priest Convocation concludes @ 1:00

Saturday, May 21

10:00am-3:00pm: Bridgeview / Justice Chamber of
Business & Craft Expo
3:00 pm: Great Vespers
4:00-8:00 pm: Greek Fundraiser Dinner

Sunday, May 22

9:10 am: Paschal Matins followed by D. L. / 40 Day Pa-
nachida / Social / c. School / Monthly Board
Meeting
5:00 pm: St Romanos Choir performs @ Serbian Cathed-
ral

Tuesday, May 24

10:00 am Clergy Assoc. Meeting
7:30 pm: Final Bible Study until September

Wednesday, May 25

7:00pm Martha & Mary Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 28

6:00 pm: Great Vespers

Sunday, May 29

9:10 pm: Paschal Matins followed by D.L. / Social
Noon: Blessing of Graves

BLESSING OF GRAVES

If you would like to have the grave of a family member blessed, please make arrangements with Fr. Andrew by Wednesday May 25.

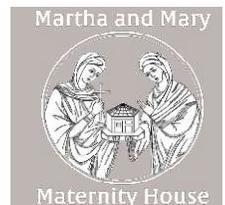


Newly Illumined! Dr Cindy Grabavoy & her daughter Cynthia Chrismated on Lazarus Saturday. Welcome to your new Spiritual Family! God grant you many years!

2016 - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MAY: Martha & Mary Maternity Home

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



Paschal Greetings

CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Metropolitan Tikhon offers prayers after fire at NYC's Serbian Cathedral

On Bright Monday, May 2, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, sent a letter to His Grace, Serbian Orthodox Bishop Mitrophan, offering prayers and concern in the wake of a four-alarm fire that engulfed [Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral](#) near West 25th Street and Broadway in New York City.



Manhattan's St. Sava Cathedral before tragic Pascha blaze.

According to media reports, the blaze started at 6:50 p.m. on Pascha—May 1. Heavy flames burst through the roof and shot out of the large rose window on the façade of the cathedral, which was designated as a New York City landmark in 1968. Originally known as Trinity Chapel, the Gothic Revival edifice was designed in 1850 by noted architect Richard M. Upjohn. The Serbian Orthodox Church purchased the church from the Episcopal Diocese of New York in 1943.

Over 700 parishioners had celebrated Pascha earlier in the day and had enjoyed a luncheon, but the cathedral was empty when the fire started. The cathedral's caretaker attempted to rush inside when he noticed the fire, but was turned back by the flames, fire officials said. He suffered from minor smoke inhalation. Media reports indicate that five others, including four firefighters, had been injured, none seriously.

The cathedral's Rev. Djokan Majstorovic told The Associated Press that he felt like he was "in a nightmare" as he tried to get to the fire scene that was blocked off by firefighters.

"With great sadness we learned of the tragic fire at the historic and beloved Saint Sava's Cathedral in New York City," Metropolitan Tikhon wrote to Bishop Mitrophan. "Please accept my personal expression of sadness and grief over this tremendous loss to the Serbian Orthodox community and to all the Orthodox in New York City.

"In this time of tragedy, I open my arms to Your Grace and your community to offer whatever assistance we can provide," Metropolitan Tikhon continued. "With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, the Orthodox Church in America's Holy Protection Cathedral in New York City and its priest, Archimandrite Christopher Calin, are prepared to host your community and provide fully for a temporary home for Your Grace and the faithful of Saint Sava's.

"I pray that Your Grace and the community of Saint Sava's will find a measure of relief in our Lord's Pascha, and I pray that our Lord's Resurrection will give you the strength to lead your community through this difficult moment," Metropolitan Tikhon concluded.

HELLENIC FUNDRAISER DINNER

Please save the date of Saturday, May 21 to attend our next fundraiser. Due to the fact we just under took so a large renovation project we need to hold frequent events to help pay off our debts.

We are asking people to bring some deserts & raffle prizes that we can raffle off during the dinner. The deserts don't have to be Greek but they can be.

When: Saturday May 21

Vespers: 3:00pm

Dinner: 4-800 pm (Take out available)

Menu:

Souvlaki (Pork Shish Kabob) will be cooked on the grill / Greek Rice / Greek Salad / Bread / Desserts / Coffee, tea, soda / Alcoholic Beverages Available

Cost: \$15

If the children don't like Greek food their menu: Hotdog / Chips / Drink

Cost \$4

Come have some food, fun & Christian fellowship!

40 DAYS

May 22: Those who lost their lives in the Earthquakes of Ecuador & Japan, Pani Tamara, Mary, Lambrini, those who lost their lives in the flooding of TX.

Metropolitan Tikhon addresses NCCC annual gathering

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, addressed participants at the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA's annual Christian Unity Gathering here on May 4, 2016.

The theme of the gathering was "Fear Not: God's Love in an Anxious Age." Among the other participants were His Grace, Bishop Dimitrios of Mokissos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago; His Eminence, Metropolitan Mor Nicholovos of the Malankara Orthodox Church; His Eminence, and Archbishop Vicken Aykazian of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Also in attendance from the Orthodox Church in America were Archpriests Theodore Boback and Peter Baktis and Protodeacon Serge Kapral.

"Fear Not: God's Love in an Anxious Age" Opening Sermon by Metropolitan Tikhon National Council of Churches Third Annual Christian Unity Gathering Doubletree Hotel/Baltimore-Washington Airport May 4, 2016

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" [John 14:27].

I greet all of you, faithful representatives of the member communions of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, with these words of the Lord to His disciples before His Passion. I pray that all of us, who have come together for this 3rd Annual Christian Unity Gathering, will find comfort and courage in these words as we sail upon the stormy waters of this anxious age.

It was with great joy that I received the invitation from our General Secretary and President, Mr. Jim Winkler, to offer the opening sermon for this important event. It was also my pleasure to participate in the meeting of the Governing Board this afternoon and to hear first-hand of some of the accomplishments and challenges facing this organization. I am pleased to join His Grace, Bishop Demetrios, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and other representatives of Eastern and Oriental Orthodox member churches of the National Council of Churches who are here this week.

Our gathering for Christian unity indeed comes at a time when anxiety and fear overshadow the entire world. This fear and anxiety are multiplied when we, as Christians in the United States, are seen to be ever more divided. The historians among us may be able to point to bitter divisions in the

past, but I can't think of a time when fundamental differences over our understanding of Christian doctrine, scripture and behavior have been so widespread. The founders of the ecumenical movement could not have imagined that we would have such divisions not only between us, but within our churches as well. So one has to ask, is our gathering for Christian unity a vain and hopeless exercise in misplaced optimism? Are we just whistling past the graveyard of Christian unity?

We have cause to be anxious and all of this is reflected in the theme of our gathering: "Fear Not: God's Love in an Anxious Age."

You may know that Orthodox Christians have just celebrated Easter this past Sunday, so the words of our Holy Week and Paschal services are still very much echoing in our hearts and our liturgical experience of the great cataclysm of the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord continues to shake our being as we ponder the reality of Christ's overcoming of death by His own voluntary death.

In fact, so central is this reality to our lives as Christians that this present week is known as Bright Week and is taken as one single day of Paschal celebration. How else would it be possible to process the spiritual, emotional and psychological ups and downs in our own hearts as we follow Christ through His ascents and descents? As Saint Paul reminds us: "Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.' (In saying, 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He Who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things" [Ephesians 4:7-10].

We have experienced the joy and exhilaration of the resurrection, but also the fear of the disciples who forsook Him and fled, who denied Him and even betrayed Him. We have experienced the wonder and the fear of the women who came early to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with spices, and when the angel announced to them the glad tidings of the resurrection, "went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid" [Mark 16:5-8].

So even at the resurrection there was fear. In the understanding of the Orthodox Church, the passions (such as gluttony, lust, anger and pride) arise in the hearts of human beings when natural virtuous dispositions are perverted into ones that go against nature. Each of the passions is overcome by an opposing virtue, although the difference lies more in the disposition of one's heart. **Con't Page 7**

Prayer List

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**, ***Daniel Rental**, ***Stephen Hrycyniak**, **Gregory Dye**, Archimandrite Vladimir

Matushka: ***Carol Janacek**, ***Christina Kolenda**, **Snezana Ruzie**, Pani Patricia Duranko,

Parishionzrs: Karen Muzyka, Ronald Stachowiak, Rebecca Eggers, Jason Kirnbauer, Sonja Harris, Pauline, Marilyn

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, 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 new born Patrick, Chrissy Marron, Daniel Tiani (*friend of Becky Eggers*), Vivian (*friend of Becky Eggers*), Julianna (*Hruban Family*), John (Spengler family), Robert (Spengler family), 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, Jimmy.

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, Brandon & Chrissy preparing for marriage, ***Cynthia Koranda**, Adrianna & her unborn baby

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

Captivzrs: 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**)

Archbishop Demetrios guest of Metropolitan Tikhon at Chancery

For the first time since His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon was elected Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese visited the Chancery in Syosset, NY on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. The Archbishop had previously visited the Chancery in 1999 and 2002.

The day began as Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed Archbishop Demetrios and his entourage, which included His Grace, Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, Chancellor of the Greek Archdiocese; Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonides, Director of the Archdiocese's Office of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; and the Reverend Deacon Eleftherios Constantine, in Saint Sergius of Radonezh Chapel. After venerating the altar and the relics enshrined therein, Archbishop Demetrios met the OCA's Officers—Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor; Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary; and Melanie Ringa, Treasurer—and Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs. "God grant you many years" was sung in Archbishop Demetrios' honor to mark his recent elevation to the dignity of "Geron," or Elder Hierarch, of the Ecumenical Throne.

During lunch, the discussion centered around current and future relations and dialogue between the Orthodox Church in America and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese; the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA; the place of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey; and the Great and Holy Council, slated to convene in June 2016 in Crete. The hope was expressed to resume in some form the formal dialogue that had taken place between the OCA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate from 1986 through



M A Y

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ANNIVERSARY

1-Quinn Marron	4- Mark Hruban
4- Kyle Grabavoy	12- Protodeacon Robert
17- Nikolas Kirnbauer	17- Jeffrey Northrup
18- Helen Hruban	27- Mary-Ann Magerko
29- Jacob Walker	

NAMES DAY

5-13- Arlene Tilghman

5-1-04: Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco & the West
 5-2-05: Fr. Andrew's Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood
 5-5-12: The Right Rev. Alexander of Dallas & the South
 5-6-67: Retired Metropolitan Theodosius
 5-8-10: Archbishop Michael Of New York & New Jersey
 5-24-99: Gary & Chrissy Marron
 5-25-02: Archbishop Nikon of Boston & New England
 5-28-05: Archbishop Alejo of Mexico
 5-30-87: The Rt Rev. Tikhon retired Bishop of the West

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 Y

1-Sven Thure Nylen (02)
 11- Infant Nathaniel Grabavoy (01)
 12- Helen Nausieda (14)
 13- Anna Nylen (07)
 16- Mary Pehas (97)
 22- Frank Kutchik Sr (86)
 29- Infant George Grabavoy (02)

1946:	1947
Ivan Kochik	Eva Yushchuk
Anthony Silas (Smith)	Theodore Merkuier
Leonty Genamok	Nikolai Kozliak
Michael Androvsky	Elena Churma

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.

Mark 15:43-16:8 (Gospel)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of

Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you. So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Acts 6:1-7 (Epistle)

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Tikhon's address Continued

So it is with fear. There is a fear that leads one closer to Christ and a fear that separates us from Him and from one another. Saint John of the Ladder writes: "He who has become the servant of the Lord will fear His Master alone, but he who does not yet fear Him is often afraid of his own shadow" [John Climacus, *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, Step XXI.11].

The task of the Church, and our task as Christians, is to make manifest the will of God and to solve our problems, to address the fear that hovers over us, with the life of Christ that is within us. In another context, but one that is timely for us, a contemporary monk of Mount Athos offers these words about the challenges of our times: "The Church is the God-man Himself. This is the fact that keep us alive. So the question is not how to provide solutions to our problems [‘as the world gives’]; it is a matter of letting it become apparent how our problems are solved by the Lord Who lives in us. When that happens, then peace and calm reign among all" [Archimandrite Vasileios, *Apropos of the Great Council of the Orthodox Church*, Alexander Press, 2016, page 2].

And here Saint Paul's words come to mind, which we read on Great and Holy Friday: "I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" [1 Corinthians 2:2].

Paul's single-minded focus on Christ crucified might be what we all need to recover to answer the question about God's love in an anxious age. Can we take the focus off ourselves? Can we turn away from the myriad of concerns that might draw our attention and decide, like Paul, to know nothing else? If we focus on Christ and Him crucified, I believe we will also be drawn together as Christians in a deep spiritual unity that defies our differences. The early Christians used the image of the spokes of wheel: the more we draw near to the center, the closer we draw at the same time to the other spokes [Dorotheos of Gaza, *Discourses*, 6]. The Cross of Christ is our center and each of us is the spokes.

Some live the cross every day, as they have their own sufferings that make it easy to look to Christ and His Cross. They see in the crucified Savior a God Who is not at a distance, a God Who knows anxiety and affliction from within. A God Who went into the Garden of Gethsemane wanting the cup of suffering to be taken away. A God Whose sweat was like great drops of blood falling to the ground. A God Who wanted his friends to stay with Him and comfort Him, and was disappointed when they could not. Suffering people who look at the Cross understand what it means to have a crucified Savior.

But then there's the other side. The late Father Thomas Hopko, who was no stranger to the National Council of Churches and the ecumenical movement, often used to quote H. Richard Niebuhr on the comfortable ethos of American Christianity which we all share: "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross" [H. Richard Niebuhr, *The Kingdom of God in America*, New York: Harper and Row, 1937, page 193].

To both the afflicted and the comfortable we point to Christ and His Cross. More than anything, we as Christians from various churches need to see ourselves, and be seen by others as "People of the Cross." We may not be called to suffer as the Coptic Christians who were beheaded last year by ISIS, or by suffering Christians throughout the Middle East. But like them we need to be seen as "People of the Cross," by both our friends and our enemies. Who are the Christians? "People of the Cross."

The Cross is God's answer to fear and anxiety. The Cross of the crucified God transforms defeat into victory. This is what has united Christians from the beginning as they faced misunderstanding, opposition and suffering. The early Christians saw Christ and the Cross everywhere, especially in the pages of the Old Testament. For example, one of the most frequently cited Old Testament stories was the story in Daniel of the three holy youths in Babylon. This was also one of the earliest depictions in Christian art, in the catacombs of Rome.

The three youths refused to give in to the king's idolatry and were thrown into a burning fire. And suddenly the astonished King Nebuchadnezzar saw them walking in the midst of the fire accompanied by a fourth person, walking with them in the midst of the flames. And said the king, "...they are not hurt, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods" [Daniel 3:25]. It took very little imagination for the early Christians to recognize the fourth man as the eternal Word of God, the crucified and risen Jesus Christ.

As we sing in the Orthodox Church on Holy Thursday: "The blessed youths in Babylon braved dangers for their fathers' laws. They ignored the ignorant command of the king. United by a fire which did not consume them, they sang a hymn worthy of the Almighty: Praise the Lord, all works of the Lord! Exalt Him throughout all ages!"

"United by a fire which did not consume them." This harkens back to the unconsumed burning bush that Moses encountered. And it looks forward to the Cross that equally unites the disciples of Christ as they—we—face threats and anxiety in every age down to the present.

To the afflicted we say: embrace Christ and His Cross and you will find a God Who accompanies you. **Con't page 8**

Tikhon's Address Continued

To the comfortable we say: embrace Christ and His Cross and your life will be shaken and overturned.

And to both we say: embrace Christ and His Cross and you will discover the transforming, death-defying love of God that cannot be taken away.

When Christ said "Fear not," He was usually speaking to His disciples and apostles, but that means that He was speaking to the leaders, and future leaders, of the Church. So it is important for us, as leaders within our communions, to foster in our own personal lives, this certainty and this hope of the resurrection, so that we might direct our fear in the right direction, and help our flocks and communities to do the same.

There are those who would say that all religion is based on fear, but we would say, along with Saint Maximos the Confessor, that the "fear of God is the result of faith in God." When we have faith in God, we fear to offend Him, so we then work to overcome the passions of our heart which separate us from Him. This in turn leads us to bear afflictions patiently, which brings hope. "Hope in God separates us from every worldly attachment and when the intellect is detached in this way, it will acquire love for God" [Saint Maximos the Confessor, *First Century on Love*, 2 and 3].

As a final reflection, I would ask us to hear again the verse with which I began but within the broader context of our Lord's prayer in the Gospel of John, words which He uttered as a prelude to His oft-quoted verses about unity: "These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go hence" [John 14.25-31].

With these words, the Lord made His way to the Cross, in which He endured the actions of those whose hearts had been overgrown with fear, hatred and anxiety. But through that ordeal, He Himself came, and brought us with Him, to the light of the resurrection.

Let me conclude with verses that the Orthodox sing throughout the Paschal season: "This is the day of resurrection. Let us be illumined by the feast. Let us embrace each other. Let us call 'Brothers' even those that hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection, and so let us cry: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life" [Paschal Matins Verses].

Archbishop Irénée on the Ft. McMurray wildfires

OTTAWA, ON, CANADA [OCA]

As wildfires continue to spread across North Alberta, His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée of Ottawa and the Orthodox Church in America's Archdiocese of Canada called upon the faithful to pray and reach out to those affected by the unprecedented tragedy.

By the second week of May, wildfires had already forced the evacuation of 90,000 residents of Fort McMurray, AB and several neighboring communities. It is estimated that at least ten percent of the city's structures, including residences, had been destroyed.

"The Archdiocese of Canada of the Orthodox Church in America offers its sincere regrets to all those who have lost their homes, their livelihood and their businesses because of the devastation caused by the forest fires raging in Northern Alberta," Archbishop Irénée wrote in a message dated Monday, May 9, 2016. "We care about all those who have been evacuated. We ask that, from this Sunday until the end of the disaster, special prayers for rain be added to the litanies offered in our churches. All are encouraged to make donations to the Red Cross to help those who lack the basic necessities.

"From all corners, our entire Canadian society has responded positively to the call, and so we also ask our parishes and our clergy to do their utmost to take part in efforts to help in particular the people of Northern Alberta and the surrounding areas," Archbishop Irénée concluded.

A [similar message](#) was issued by His Eminence, Metropolitan Yuriy and the Episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.