

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, January 28, 2024 | 34th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

Venerable Ephraim the Syrian (373-379)

Venerable Theodosius, Abbot, of Tot'ma (Vologdá – 1568)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952
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Deacon – Michael McCartney

Choir Director – Nina Patterson

Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich

Reader – Mark Klus

Reader – David Pellack

Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

- Today: January 28 – Installation of 2024 Parish Council
- Today: January 28 – Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday: January 30 – Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs. No Services!
- Friday: February 2 – Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM** for The Feast of The Meeting of the Lord into the Temple
- Saturday: February 3 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: February 4 – Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Readers Service

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion (Tone 4 – New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, / praising her new martyrs and confessors; / hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, / venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. / Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, / they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. // By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Kontakion (Tone 1)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Kontakion (Tone 3 - New Martyrs of Russia)

Today the new martyrs of Rus’ stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, / and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: / “Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, / and power, and strength be to our God // unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

Prokeimenon (Tone 1)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

Another Prokeimenon (Tone 7 – New Martyrs of Russia)

God is our refuge and strength, / our help in afflictions that severely befall us.

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:4-11

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

- v. God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and he delivered them out of all their troubles. Alleluia (3x's) [TONE 7]

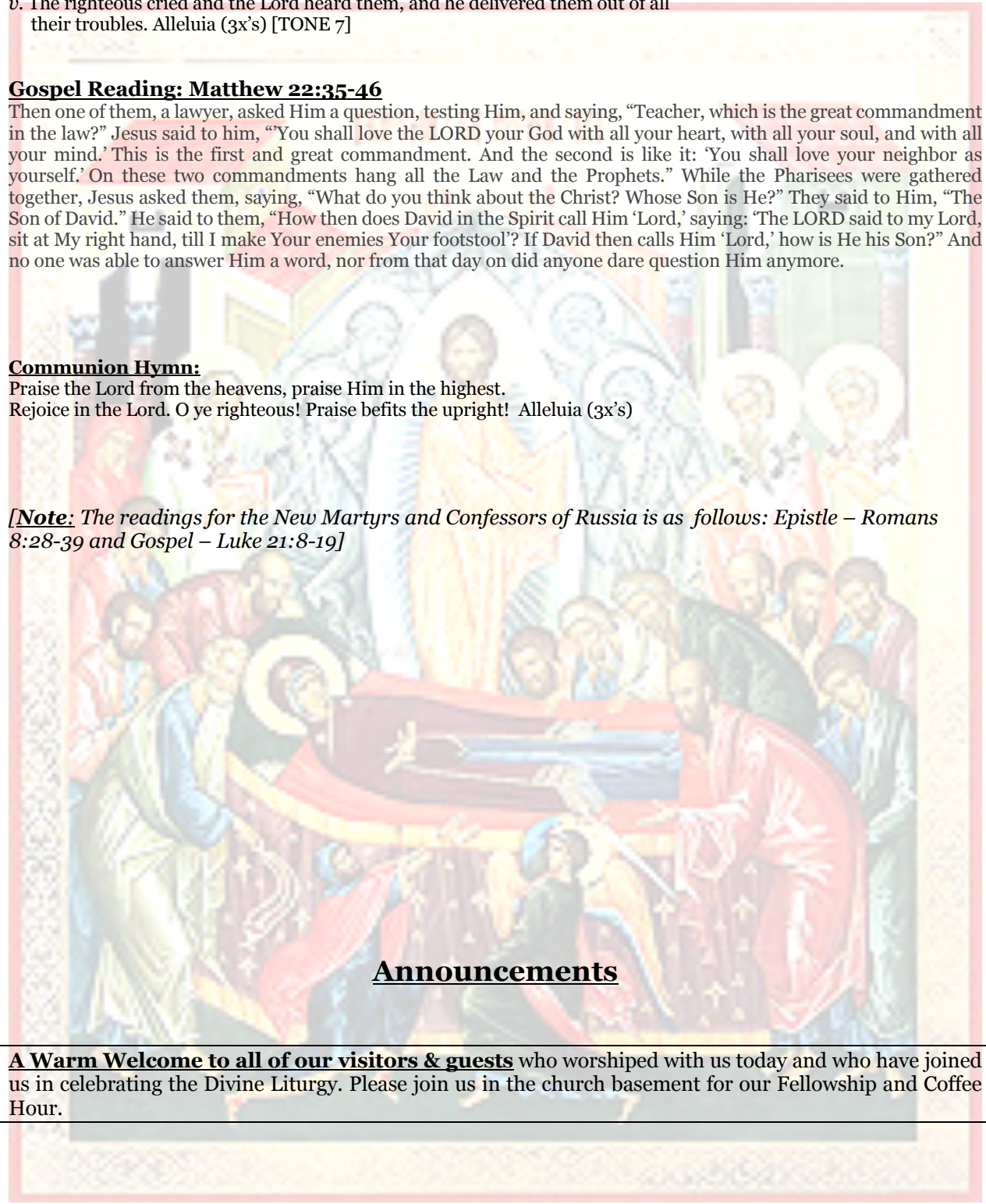
Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:35-46

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest.
Rejoice in the Lord. O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)

[Note: The readings for the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia is as follows: Epistle – Romans 8:28-39 and Gospel – Luke 21:8-19]



Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Announcements

2024 House Blessing

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Saturday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

2024 Parish Officers

Parish Spiritual Leader: Father Mark Kozak
Parish President: Matthew Andrews (2024-2025) [3rd consecutive term on council]
Parish Vice President: Brett McKenna (2023-2024) [2nd consecutive term on council]
Parish Secretary: Natalie Patterson (2024-2025) [3rd consecutive term on council]
Parish Treasurer: Kenneth Kavalkovich (2023-2024) [3rd consecutive term on council]
Parish Trustee (Even Year): Tanya Krawchuk (2024-2025) [2nd consecutive term council]
Parish Trustee (Odd Year): Reader Mark Klus (2023-2024)
Parish Immediate Past President: Peter Parsells

Cards for Our Troops! Save your UNUSED Christmas Cards!

UPDATE: Please save your *UNUSED* Christmas cards from this past year. Matushka Janine is collecting Christmas cards to send to the troops for this upcoming year. Please consider donating your *UNUSED* cards you purchased this year. Please see Matushka Janine as to where to drop off your Christmas cards at a designated area in the church basement, or whether she will collect them directly. As always, thank you for your generosity!

2024 Saint Tikhon's Church Calendars are now available

The parish received its order of 2024 Saint Tikhon's Calendars. We have begun distributing the calendars to the parishioners. If you're in church, please ensure your household gets its calendar. Thank You!

40 Days for Life Spring Vigil – February 14 to March 24

The campaign is a peaceful vigil. They are not a political organization or a protest group. They stand and pray as a peaceful physical presence and witness for the lives of the unborn, who cannot speak for themselves. Please visit their website: <https://www.40daysforlife.com> for a campaign location near your area.

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Anne Killoran, Family and Parishioners offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Dorothy McDermott offered by Dan Herbert
Patricia D'Amico offered by Dan Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 1/21/24

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Please remember in your prayers:

Emily Gerasimoff; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Justine McCann and her unborn child; Sheba Patton;
Peter Witiak; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Announcements (cont.)

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

*******Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon*******

In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. By the action taken at the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, the parish body approved that the special collection for the first three Sundays of the month be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (now known as the Row House Fund).

The fourth Sunday (and fifth, when it occurs) the special collection will be earmarked towards Charity.

This new collection schedule began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.
Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (January)

Week of Sun Jan 14 to Sat Jan 20

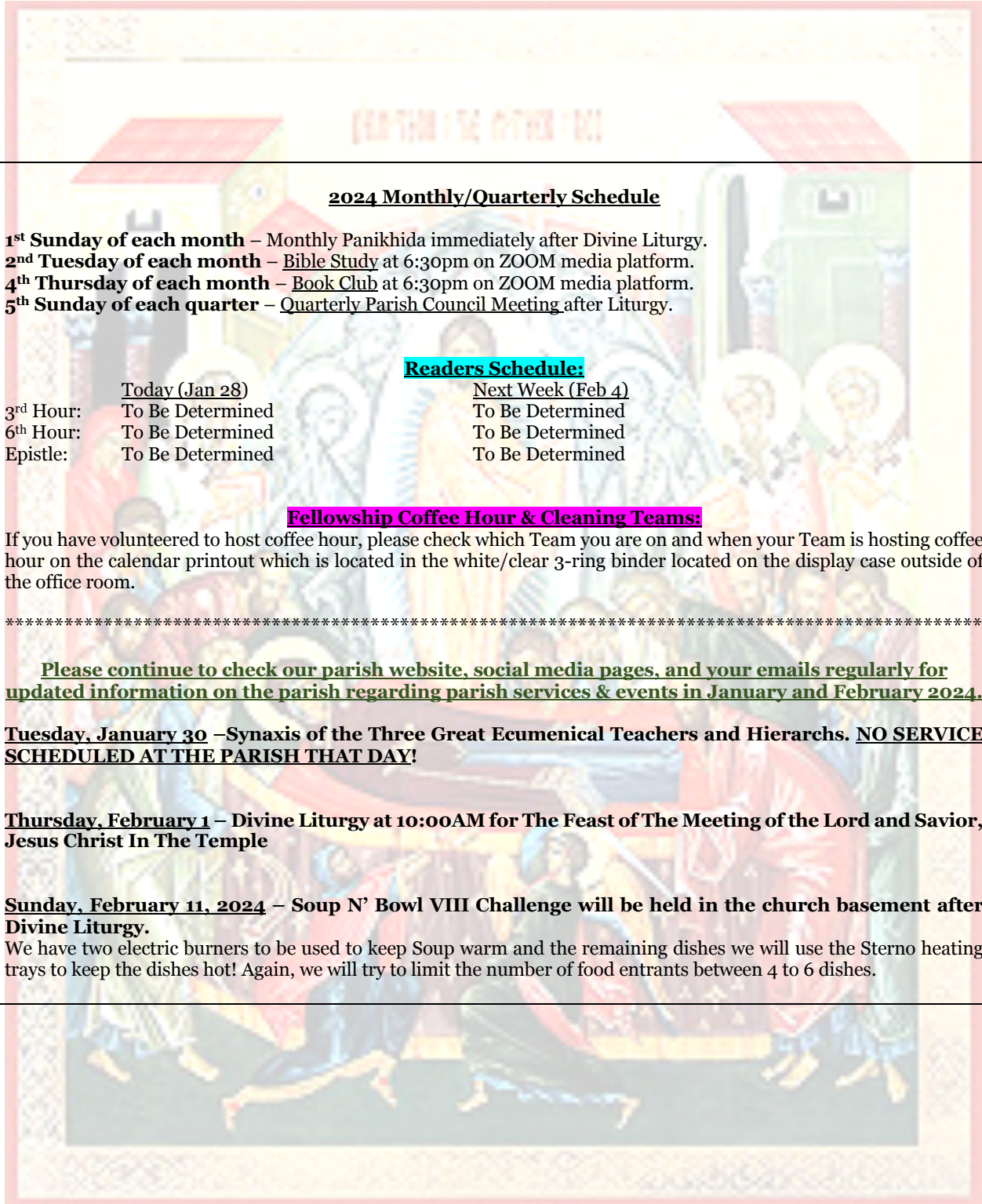
January Month to Date

Attendance:	34	32 (average)
	<i>For 2023 - the average attendance was 36.39</i>	
Funds In:	\$ 3,785.33	\$ 7,274.33
Funds Out:	\$ 3,826.08	\$12,303.05
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 40.75)	(\$ 5,028.72)

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events



2024 Monthly/Quarterly Schedule

- 1st Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2nd Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 4th Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Jan 28)</u>	<u>Next Week (Feb 4)</u>
3 rd Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
6 th Hour:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
Epistle:	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in January and February 2024.

Tuesday, January 30 – Synaxis of the Three Great Ecumenical Teachers and Hierarchs. **NO SERVICE SCHEDULED AT THE PARISH THAT DAY!**

Thursday, February 1 – Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM for The Feast of The Meeting of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ In The Temple

Sunday, February 11, 2024 – Soup N’ Bowl VIII Challenge will be held in the church basement after Divine Liturgy.

We have two electric burners to be used to keep Soup warm and the remaining dishes we will use the Sterno heating trays to keep the dishes hot! Again, we will try to limit the number of food entrants between 4 to 6 dishes.



New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia **[January 28th]**

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

[Please Note: Beginning with this month’s bulletins, we will be providing the *Lives of the Saints* for those who are not well known, not mention often, and who’s historical information can be presented onto this page without leaving out important life events or continuing on another page or in an upcoming bulletin. Thank you for your understanding regarding this matter.]