

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
Website: <https://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, August 14, 2022 | 9th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Forefeast of the Dormition

Prophet Micah (8th c. B.C.)

Hieromartyr Marcellus, Bishop of Apamea (ca. 389)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com

Deacon – Michael McCartney Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich Reader – Mark Klus
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

- Today: After Liturgy, Father Mark (if his health/strength is up to it) will give a short synopsis (10 to 15 minutes) of the events & topics discussed at the 20th All-American Council which was held between July 18 to July 22 in Baltimore, MD.
- Monday: Divine Liturgy at **9:00AM** for the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos!
[Parish Feast Day!] [\[Please bring flowers \(herbal plants\) to be blessed\]](#)
- Tuesday: August 16 – Image of Christ Not-Made-by-Hands
- Saturday: August 20 – Great Vespers – **CANCELLED!!!**
- Sunday: August 21 – Afterfeast of the Dormition
A Readers Service will be held at **9:00am**
NO Divine Liturgy – Father Mark will be away on vacation
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to thee!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Forefeast of the Dormition)

Dance with joy, O peoples! / Clap your hands with gladness! / Gather today with fervor and jubilation; / sing with exultation! / The Mother of God is about to rise in glory, / ascending from earth to heaven. // We ceaselessly praise her in song as truly Theotokos.

Kontakion (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, / and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Kontakion (Tone 4 – Forefeast of the Dormition)

Today the universe dances with joy at thy glorious memorial, / and cries out to thee, O Mother of God: / “Rejoice, O Virgin, pride of Christians!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 8)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 8)

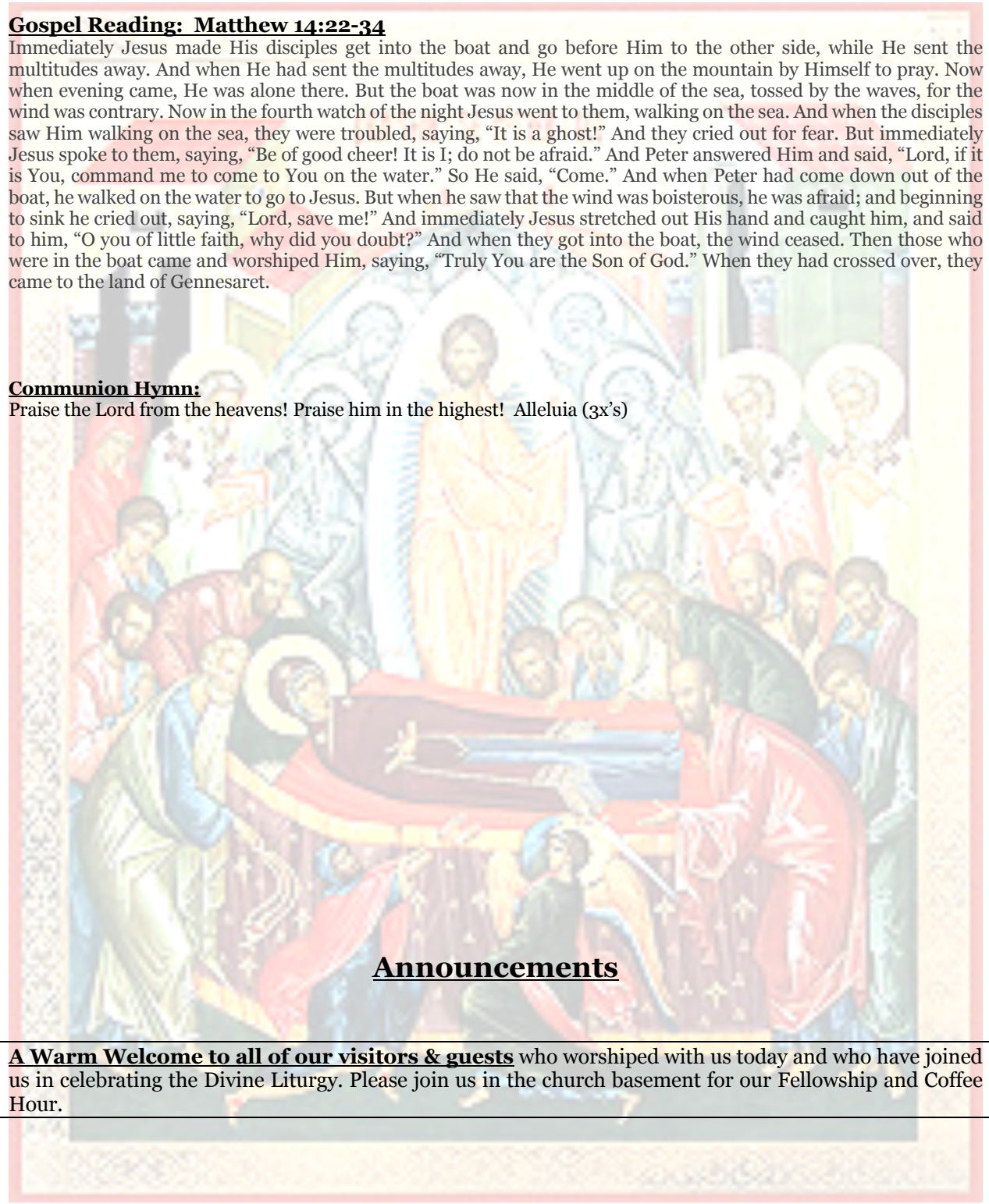
- v. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Alleluia (3x's)
- v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-34

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)



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

Ukrainian Orphanage Project

The parish will be collecting monetary donations until Sunday, September 4th as our Giving Project for a Ukrainian Orphanage. This project is in connection with Matushka Maggie Zlatkowski at Saint Stephens Cathedral. For any donations, please make the checks out to Assumption of the Holy Virgin and put the Ukrainian Orphanage Project in the subject line. Please hand all checks to Matushka Janine so she can keep track of the accounting. On September 4th, our parish will write a check for all donations received to Saint Stephens Cathedral, and their Ukrainian Orphanage Project. The funds will be handed directly to the orphanage. Please note at this time, an orphanage cannot be selected in advance because of the war. Whatever orphanage is still standing by the grace of God, will be selected to receive the funds. Please continue to pray for all in the Ukraine, especially the innocent children who are caught up in the war. Thank you!

On another note, but the same topic, earlier this year, the Orthodox Church in America partnered with the Eleos agency of the Polish Orthodox Church. The combined fundraising efforts of the OCA now totals to date just under \$810,000. His Beatitude Sawa, Metropolitan of Warsaw and All Poland of the Polish Orthodox Church is grateful and appreciative of all the prayers, support and donations received by the OCA to assist in their support of Ukrainian Refugees entering their country.

Furthermore, the Romanian Episcopate of the Orthodox Church in America has announced a further donation for Ukrainian refugees totaling \$70,000. The collection was taken after His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel and the Romanian Episcopate of the OCA received word that the North West Provinces in Romania were in need of financial aid to care for the refugees which have crossed its border in the wake of the conflict in Ukraine. The number of refugees in Romania is approaching one million displaced persons. The \$70,000 was sent directly to His Holiness Patriarch Daniel and the Romanian Orthodox Church to assist with the crisis particularly in the affected North West Provinces.

Vigil Cross Votive Candles: There is availability for the vigil cross votive candles to be lit for services on Sundays and Feast Days. Please see Simon Herbert for details of cross sizes and schedule cross lightings!

AMAZON SMILE!

When ordering online on Amazon.com, please make sure to click on Amazon Smile and select our church - Assumption of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church - to have a small percentage of your purchases (0.5%) to be contributed to our church. For more information on the Amazon purchase process, please speak with any member of the parish council. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Jason LeRoy on his birthday offered by Nina Patterson
Peggy and Ken Walker offered by David Pellack
Levi, Ana, Colin, Alex, Selena, Patricia, Catherine, Barbara, Ronald, Steven, Edith, Veronica, Emily, Anna,
Edward, Dorothy Anne, William, Joseph, Kenneth, Susan, John, Christina, Matthew, Gabriel offered by
M/M Ken Kavalkovich

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Michael and Anna Pellack offered by David Pellack
Albert Kavalkovich offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 8/7/22

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Please remember in your prayers:

Elton Andrews; Ronald Kavalkovich; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Dr. Gale Rutan;
Joseph Rabik; Peter Witiak; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of August 7)

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$0 from the Candy Sale

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – Ms. Julia Forte

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 (July/August)

Week of Sun Jul 31 to Sat Aug 6

July Month (Unaudited)

Attendance:	16	32 (average)
	<i>Readers Service Held</i>	
Funds In:	\$ 1,560.42	\$12,305.70
Funds Out:	\$ 3,305.28	\$11,059.76
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 1,744.86)	\$ 1,245.94

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

- 1st Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
4th Sunday of each month – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
5th Sunday of each quarter – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	Today (Aug 14)	Next Week (Aug 21)
3 rd Hour:	Simon Herbert	Michael Wanenchak
6 th Hour:	John Spack	Michael Spack
Epistle:	Simon Herbert	Michael Wanenchak

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.

NOTE: The following Sundays during the summer are coffee hour bye-weeks where there is no team scheduled. There will be coffee available, just no food or meal:

Sunday, September 5 (Labor Day Weekend)

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 August 2022.

Today – Father Mark (if his health/strength is up to it) will give a short synopsis (10 to 15 minutes) of the events and topics discussed at the 20th All-American Council which was held between July 18 to July 22 in Baltimore, MD.

Tomorrow - Divine Liturgy at 9:00AM for the Dormition of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos (the Name's Day of the Parish)

The Blessing of Flowers (and herbal plants) will occur after Divine Liturgy.

Monday, August 29 – Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM for the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist.

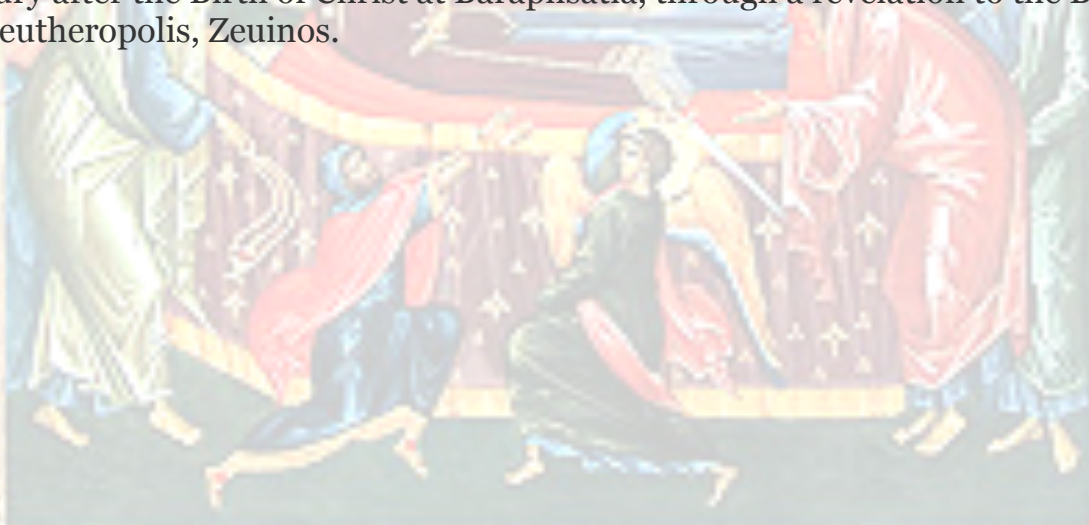


The Prophet Micah [August 14th]

The Prophet Micah, the sixth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, was descended from the Tribe of Judah and was a native of the city of Moresheth, to the south of Jerusalem. His prophetic service began around the year 778 before Christ and continued for almost 50 years under the kings of Judah: Jotham, Ahaz, and Righteous Hezekiah (721-691 B.C., August 28).

He was a contemporary of the Prophet Isaiah. His denunciations and predictions were in regard to the separate kingdoms of Judah and Israel. He foresaw the misfortunes threatening the kingdom of Israel before its destruction, and the sufferings of Judah during the incursions under the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib.

To him belongs a prophecy about the birth of the Savior of the world: “And thou, Bethlehem, house of Ephratha, art too few in number to be reckoned with the thousands of Judah; yet out of thee shall come forth to Me, one who is to be a ruler in Israel, and His goings forth were from the beginning, even from eternity” (Mic. 5: 2). From the words of the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 26: 18-19), the Jews evidently were afraid to kill the Prophet Micah. His relics were discovered in the fourth century after the Birth of Christ at Baraphsatia, through a revelation to the Bishop of Eleutheropolis, Zeuinos.





20th All-American Council
Fourth Plenary Session
Thursday, July 21, 2022 – Baltimore, MD

Statement on same-sex relationships and sexual identity

There was a resolution proposed to affirm the Church's stance on issues of same-sex relationships and sexual identity. This matter, however, falls outside the competence of the All-American Council, since, in the words of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, "All matters involving doctrine, canonical order, morals, and liturgical practice" are within the competence and jurisdiction of the Holy Synod. Nonetheless, meeting under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, the Holy Synod has issued the following statement:

The Orthodox Church teaches that the union between a man and a woman in marriage reflects the union between Christ and His Church (Eph. 5). As such, marriage is by this reflection monogamous and heterosexual. Within this marriage, sexual relations between a husband and wife are an expression of their love that has been blessed by God. Such is God's plan for male and female, created in his image and likeness, from the beginning, and such remains his plan for all time. Any other form of sexual expression is by its nature disordered; and cannot be blessed by the Church in any way, whether directly or indirectly.

That said, the Holy Synod of Bishops expresses its pastoral concern and paternal love for all who desire to come to Christ and who struggle with their passions, temptations, and besetting sins, whatever those might be. The Church is a hospital for the sick; Our Lord has come as a physician to heal those who are ailing. Imitating our Savior, who stretched his arms wide on the Cross, we welcome with open arms all who desire the life of repentance in Christ.

Over the course of recent years, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America have made numerous pronouncements affirming the Orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality. Metropolitan Tikhon, at the 18th All-American Council in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 20, 2015, in his opening address, stated that:

“... the Orthodox Church must continue to proclaim what she has always taught: that marriage is the union between one man and one woman and the Orthodox Church in America can in no way deviate from this teaching...”

Among the Holy Synod’s affirmations of the same teaching are the “Synodal Affirmations on Marriage, Family, Sexuality, and the Sanctity of Life,” from the 10th All-American Council, Miami, Florida, taking place from July 26-31, 1992; the “Synodal Reaffirmation of the SCOBA statement titled ‘On the Moral Crisis in our Nation,’ issued May 17, 2004; and the synodal “Statement concerning the June 26 US Supreme Court decision,” issued June 28, 2015.

Therefore, in accord with the timeless plan of God our Creator, the unchanging teaching of Christ the Savior announced through his holy apostles and their successors, and the consistent witness of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, the Holy Synod affirms what the Scriptures clearly and plainly proclaim and the holy fathers unerringly confess, namely: that God made human beings in two sexes, male and female, in his own image, and that chaste and pure sexual relationships are reserved to one man and one woman in the bond of marriage.

As such, we affirm that sexual relationships are blessed only within the context of a marriage between one man and one woman. Motivated by love and out of sincere care for souls, we call those who suffer from the passion of same-sex attraction to a life of steadfast chastity and repentance, the same life of chastity and repentance to which all mankind is called in Christ.

We call upon all clergy, theologians, teachers, and lay persons within the Orthodox Church in America never to contradict these teachings by preaching or teaching against the Church’s clear moral position; by publishing books, magazines, and articles which do the same; or producing or publishing similar content online. We reject any attempt to create a theological framework which would normalize same-sex erotic relationships or distort humanity’s God-given sexual identity. The holy apostle Paul writes that such teachings will “increase to more ungodliness,” and that such a “message will spread like gangrene” (2 Tim 2:16-17), misleading the faithful and inquirers seeking the truth.

Any clergy, theologian, teacher, or lay person who contravenes our directive thus undermines the authority of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America by disregarding the Holy Synod’s consistent and unwavering teaching on these matters. We call on any such persons to cease their disruptive activities, which threaten the peace and tranquility of the Orthodox Church in America, cause scandal and uncertainty, and tempt those who struggle against their disordered passions to stumble. Consequently, those who teach these errors become participants in the sin of those whom they have tempted or whom they have failed to correct, and thus should seek remission of this sin in the mystery of holy confession. Those who refuse correction open themselves to ecclesiastical discipline.

Thus, we, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, conclude by once again affirming that all clergy, theologians, teachers, and lay persons of the Orthodox Church in America should teach nothing other than the fullness of the Orthodox faith, which is the fullness of the saving truth.

We remind our faithful and clergy that every person of goodwill is welcome to visit our parishes. However, reception into the Church, and continued communion in Christ at the sacred Chalice, is reserved for those who strive to live a life of repentance and humility in light of these God-given truths, conforming themselves to the commandments of God as the only path of salvation in Christ. All of us are sinners, but it is for precisely this reason that Our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to “Repent and believe in the Gospel, for the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mk. 1:15).

