

# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

Albanian Archdiocese - OCA

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Rev. Nicholas Dellermann – Rector (860-861-7468)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

**1st Sunday after Pentecost**

**All Saints**

**Tone 1  
Troparion  
(Resurrection)**

*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  
mankind!”*

**Tone 8  
Troparion  
(All Saints of America)**

*As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation,  
the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all  
the saints who have shone in them.  
By their prayers keep the Church and our land in  
abiding peace  
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!*

**Tone 1  
Kontakion  
(Resurrection)**

*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!”*

**Tone 3  
Kontakion  
(All Saints of America)**

*The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs  
as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.  
By their prayers keep Thy Church, Thy habitation, in  
abiding peace  
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!*

**Prokeimenon**

**Tone 1 (Resurrection)**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (Ps. 32:22)  
V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

**Tone 7 (All Saints of America)**

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. (Ps. 115:6)

## ✠ The Epistle Reading ✠

### **Romans 2:10-16**

but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

### **Romanëve 2:10-16**

por lavdi e nder e paqe për cilindo që punon të mirën, Judeun më parë edhe pastaj Grekun. Sepse te Perëndia s'ka mbajtje ane. Sepse sa mëkatuan pa ligj, pa ligj edhe do të përfundojnë; edhe sa mëkatuan nën ligj, me ligj do të gjykohen, sepse nuk janë të drejtë përpara Perëndisë ata që dëgjojnë ligjin, po ata që zbatojnë ligjin do të drejtësohen. Sepse kur kombet që s'kanë ligj, prej natyre bëjnë punët e ligjit, këta, ndonëse s'kanë ligj, janë vetë ligj në veten e tyre, të cilët tregojnë punën e ligjit të shkruar në zemrat e tyre, sepse kanë ndërgjegjen e tyre duke dëshmuar bashkë me ta, edhe mendimet duke akuzuar ose edhe duke drejtësuar njëri-tjetrin, në atë ditë, kur do të gjykojë Perëndia të fshehtat e njerëzve, sipas ungjillit tim, me anë të Jisu Krishtit.

### **К Римлянам 2:10-16**

Напротив, слава и честь и мир всякому, делающему доброе, во-- первых, Иудею, [потом] и Еллину! Ибо нет лицепрятия у Бога. Те, которые, не [имея] закона, согрешили, вне закона и погибли; а те, которые под законом согрешили, по закону осудятся (потому что не слушатели закона праведны пред Богом, но исполнители закона оправданы будут, ибо когда язычники, не имеющие закона, по природе законное делают, то, не имея закона, они сами себе закон: они показывают, что дело закона у них написано в сердцах, о чем свидетельствует совесть их и мысли их, то обвиняющие, то оправдывающие одна другую) в день, когда, по благовествованию моему, Бог будет судить тайные [дела] человеков через Иисуса Христа.

### **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (Ps. 17:48)

V. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps. 17:51)

### **Tone 1**

V. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, O you righteous! (Ps. 31:11a)

***If from one burning lamp someone lights another, then another from that one, and so on in succession, he has light continuously. In the same way, through the Apostles ordaining their successors, and these successors ordaining others, and so on, the grace of the Holy Spirit is handed down through all generations and enlightens all who obey their shepherds and teachers.”***

## 🌀 The Gospel Reading 🌀

### **Matthew 4:18-23**

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

### **Mattheut 4:18-23**

Edhe tek ecte pranë detit të Galilesë, Jisui pa dy vëllezër, Simonin, që thirrej Pjetër, edhe Andrean, vëllanë e tij, duke hedhur rrjetën në det; sepse ishin peshkatarë. Edhe u thotë atyre: Ejani pas meje, edhe do t'ju bëj peshkatarë njerëzish. Edhe ata menjëherë lanë rrjetat, e shkuan pas tij. Edhe si shkoi më tej, pa dy vëllezër të tjerë, Jakovin, të birin e Zebedeut, edhe Joanin, të vëllain e tij, në lundër bashkë me Zebedeun, të atin e tyre, duke rregulluar rrjetat e tyre, edhe i thirri ata. Edhe ata përnjëherë lanë lundrën edhe të atin e tyre, edhe shkuan pas tij. Edhe Jisui vinte përçark gjithë Galilesë, duke mësuar nëpër sinagogat e tyre, edhe duke predikuar ungjillin e mbretërisë, edhe duke shëruar çdo sëmundje e çdo lëngatë në popull.

### **От Матфея 4:18-23**

Проходя же близ моря Галилейского, Он увидел двух братьев: Симона, называемого Петром, и Андрея, брата его, закидывающих сети в море, ибо они были рыболовы, и говорит им: идите за Мною, и Я сделаю вас ловцами человеков. И они тотчас, оставив сети, последовали за Ним. Оттуда, идя далее, увидел Он других двух братьев, Иакова Зеведеева и Иоанна, брата его, в лодке с Зеведеем, отцом их, починивающих сети свои, и призвал их. И они тотчас, оставив лодку и отца своего, последовали за Ним. И ходил Иисус по всей Галилее, уча в синагогах их и проповедуя Евангелие Царствия, и исцеляя всякую болезнь и всякую немощь в людях.

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



PRAYERS	Birthdays, Names-days, & Anniversaries	SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK
<i>For Those Who Have Fallen Asleep</i>		<b>Church Lectionary</b>
<p>Newly Departed Sue, Newly Departed child Luke,</p> <p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the departed]</i></p> <p>Again we pray for those who have lost their lives because of the war in Ukraine: that the Lord our God may look upon them with mercy, and give them rest where there is neither sickness, or sorrow, but life everlasting.</p>	<p>June 11 – June 17 Allan Heller (B) Tatiana Kuznetsava (B) Marena Rubis (B) Kyprian Dellermann (B)</p> <p><b><u>Seven-Day Vigil Candles</u></b></p>	<p><u>Today</u> Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Matthew 4:25-5:12 Romans 2:10-16 Matthew 4:18-23</p>
<i>For Those Who Are Sick And Home-bound</i>		
<p>Virginia, Denise, Olvian, Marie, James, Alexandra, Andrew, Christina, Louise, Porter, Alvin, Tracy, Kathy, Andrew, Maria, Helen, John, Tom, Nina, Sophia, Jim, Spresha, Kristin, Niko, Spiro, Angjeliki, Melod, Olgay, Ruth, Fr. Jerry, Naomi, Terry, Naomi, Annette, Tatiana, Aleena, Lester Jr., Natalia, Otari, Lasha</p>	<p>Seven-Day Vigil Candles are used for the Eternal Light that hangs above the Royal Doors and are often placed in front of the icons of Christ or the Birth-giver of God. If you would like to donate a Seven-Day Vigil Candle, Please include the name or names of those for whom the candle is donated, and we will place them in this section for special prayers.</p>	<p><u>Monday</u> Jude 1-10 John 14:21-24 Romans 7:1-13 Matthew 9:36-10:8</p>
<i>Prayers In General</i>		
<p>The community of Ss. Peter &amp; Paul Miami, Fr. Dennis and his family, Fr. Ioan, Christian, Michael, Erica, Kaida, DuDash family, Michael, Robert, Ally, Steve, Jake and Amanda and their children, Katherine, Ron, Anthony, Volodymyr, Nick, Sophia, Michael, Rafael, Bob, Barbara, Ansley and the child to be born of her, Sandra, Enoch, John, Victoria, Melenie, Grace, Michael, Barbara, Giorgi, Molly, Jim, Chloe,</p>		<p><u>Tuesday</u> Romans 7:14-8:2 Matthew 10:9-15</p>
<p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the living]</i></p> <p>Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, for those who are suffering, wounded, grieving, or displaced because of the war in Ukraine.</p>		<p><u>Wednesday</u> Romans 8:2-13 Matthew 10:16-22</p>
<p><i>[Petitions at Augmented Litany]</i></p> <p>Again we pray for a cessation of the hostilities against Ukraine, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish there, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.</p>		<p><u>Thursday</u> Romans 8:22-27 Matthew 10:23-31</p>
<p>We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, Who in Your mercy and providential care, has called forth Archimandrite NIKODHIM to become a shepherd of wisdom and strength for our Albanian Archdiocese. We ask that You Bless Father NIKODHIM as he readies himself to become our future archpastor so he may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• care for our spiritual well-being,</li> <li>• unite us in a zealous confession of our holy faith,</li> <li>• commit us in loving service to one another in bright witness to the glory of Your holy Name.</li> </ul> <p>Hear us and have mercy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COFFEE HOUR</b></p> <p><b>June</b> 18 – David Lane 25 – Hot Dog Sunday</p> <p><b>July</b> 02 – Patronal Feast! 09 16 23 30</p> <p>Coffee Hour is a wonderful chance for us to get together to break bread and spend time with each other, to celebrate those whom we have held memorials for, and to come together as the family of God outside of worship. To sign up, to host a coffee hour, contact Fr. Nicholas or Donna Bacon.</p>	<p><u>Friday</u> Romans 9:6-19 Matthew 10:32-36, 11:1</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> Romans 13:11-14:4 Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80 Romans 3:28-4:3 Matthew 7:24-8:4</p> <p><b><u>Reading the Bible in a Year</u></b></p> <p>June 18: Song 5-8 June 19: Isaiah 1-4 June 20: Isaiah 5-8 June 21: Isaiah 9-12 June 22: Isaiah 13-16 June 23: Isaiah 17-20 June 24: Isaiah 21-14</p>

## A Jew Inwardly

June 12, 2023 · Fr. Barnabas Powell



“That’s the real McCoy!” I know, some of you younger readers will stare at the screen and say “What?” But believe it or not, that is a famous American idiom that has an interesting origin. In fact, there are several stories about how the phrase “The Real McCoy” came about. The top two origin stories are both interesting. The first story refers to an American inventor named Elijah McCoy. In 1872, Elijah invented all kinds of gadgets that were really helpful and worked great. Other companies tried copying his designs but they never worked as well as Elijah’s inventions. So, folks started asking if this or that

gadget was “the real McCoy. A competing story comes from the time of Prohibition in the US. A famous rum runner in Florida named Bill McCoy was the first to sock a ship with booze from the Caribbean and sail it to three miles off the coast of New York. Bill never watered down his very popular product and folks started insisting that the booze they were buying was the “real McCoy.”

Regardless of how it started, this insistence on authenticity is nothing new. If you stop to think about it, this desire for “the real thing” drives a lot of our choices and judgments.

Isn’t it amazing how quickly we declare something “authentic” when it agrees with our preconceived notions? Convenient, don’t you think? One of my favorites is when someone claims to be a Christian simply on the basis of their loosely held thoughts or the “happy accident” of their birth. To be sure, it is a great joy and priceless advantage to get a spiritual head start in the Christian Way, but is it really authentic to claim to be something that doesn’t affect your life in any meaningful way? Do you just get to name yourself something even if all the evidence points to a different reality?

Look at our lesson today in Romans 2:28-29; 3:1-18. Here’s the main portion of the reading, but please read it all:

BRETHREN, he is not a real Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical. He is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart, spiritual and not literal. His praise is not from men but from God. Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews are entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every man be false, as it is written, “That thou mayest be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged.” But if our wickedness serves to show the justice of God, what shall we say? That God is unjust to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my falsehood God’s truthfulness abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come? – as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just. What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all; for we have already charged that all men, both Jews and Greeks, are under the power of sin, as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;  
no one understands, no one seeks for God.

Saint Paul here dives headlong into the real power of the Christian message for his day, and ours as well.

First, he starts by insisting that being a Jew isn't so much a racial reality as a spiritual reality that shows up in our actions. By insisting that Faith be more than mere race, St. Paul forever removes the notion that God is more interested in a "pureblood" than a conversion of the heart. Imagine that: Faith-based on a true, and noble practice, and not merely reduced to habit or "birthright." To actually practice the Faith is to BE the Faith.

As the great theologian, Forrest Gump declared "Stupid is as stupid does!"

But then he quickly adds wisdom so as not to reduce the value of this wonderful blessing of heritage and lineage. The great value in this long heritage of Faith is precisely the opportunity to actually practice the Faith that is the central treasure of your heritage! In fact, it is those who devalue their faith heritage by reducing it to some mere "cultural" expression or accidental habit that are really debasing the Faith. Just look at every generation that falls for this delusion of "accidental" piety; their track record of passing on a robust and purposeful faith to the next generation is abysmal! It never works.

No, the key to avoiding the poverty of a Faith in name only is a brutal honesty of two essential insights: First, there is great value in the heritage of Faith through the centuries, and we display how we truly value this gift by actually practicing the Faith, not merely enshrining a museum to the Faith. And Two, realizing this treasure was meant to heal the common spiritual illness of all of us, no matter when or where we were born. Because all of us suffer from the same spiritual illness. And it is in seeing this universal remedy in the Faith that actually overcomes the first temptation to reduce the Faith to habit AND insists we truly love our neighbors who have not had the privilege we have in having this heritage of faith.

St. Peter the Athonite is a classic example of this living the treasure of the Faith. He was born to noble parents in Constantinople with all the advantages of being born in the capital of the Empire and the city filled with churches. He entered the Roman Army and was sent to fight against the invading tribes of Arab background who were regularly attacking the Christian Empire in attempts to spread the new religion of Islam. St. Peter was captured and sent to a prison in Syria where he struggled against attempts to convert him. He was miraculously freed from prison and escaped to Rome where he became a monk, eventually settling on the Holy Mount Athos where he lived in a cave as a solitary monk. It is said he suffered many temptations from the evil one but, with the help of the Theotokos, he struggled well and eventually died in peace.

Today, are you a true "believer?" Are you "the real thing?" If you answer "no" then you are honest enough to be a true believer! And it all hinges on your willingness to be Orthodox on Purpose!

### **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

**Having received the noetic and heavenly light in your heart, O Peter, you were seen to be a most radiant vessel of the pure Trinity, and you received the grace to work miracles, and you cry: Alleluia.**

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faithencouraged/2023/06/a-jew-inwardly/>

***Are you fasting? Show me your fast with your works. Which works? If you see someone who is poor, show him mercy. If you see an enemy, reconcile with him. If you see a friend who is becoming successful, do not be jealous of him!***

## June/July Events

### June

18 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
21 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets  
25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Education Sunday  
28 – 6:30pm Vespertal Liturgy  
*Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul*

### July

02 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
*Patronal Feast Celebration*  
05 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets  
07 – 6:00pm Fun Night  
09 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
12 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets  
16 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

#### Can't join us in person?

We stream our services on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sspeterpaulorthodoxchurch01810>



### Spiritual Pain Control or Spiritual Healing?

Since the Church is a hospital for the soul wherein we come for healing, it is important that we take full advantage of all the resources the Church offers us for such healing. Frequent confession, where we bare our sins before God with the priest as the witness is an important beginning to the healing process. Receiving the Holy Mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood on a regular basis gives us the grace needed for the healing of the soul, freeing it from the bondage that comes from the sin that has weighted us down.

Keeping to a regular Prayer Rule, given to us by our priest, confessor, or spiritual father or mother, also contributes to the healing process. Reading spiritually uplifting books, as well as the lives of the saints, also greatly contributes to the transformation that can be ours if we take our faith seriously. As well, the fasting rules of the Church are designed to help us become whole, furthering the healing process that began when we first made a commitment to living a life in Christ.

If we fail to follow these time tested spiritual practices that are meant to bring about healing of body and soul, we will not find the healing that is available to us. Instead, we will find ourselves treating the Church as though she were simply a hospice, where we get a quick fix for the pain and sin that keeps us from becoming whole, and find ourselves with short term results that only mask the sin and sickness that rule our lives.

It is up to us to decide if we will allow the Church to be a hospital that brings about the cure, or simply use the Church as a hospice that only masks the pain and sin. The choice is ours.

Love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

<https://abbottryphon.com/hospice-or-hospital-4/>

### Those Winter Sundays

Robert Hayden, 1913 - 1980

*Sundays too my father got up early  
and put his clothes on in the blueblack  
cold,  
then with cracked hands that ached  
from labor in the weekday weather made  
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked  
him.*

*I'd wake and hear the cold splintering,  
breaking.  
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,  
and slowly I would rise and dress,  
fearing the chronic angers of that house,*

*Speaking indifferently to him,  
who had driven out the cold  
and polished my good shoes as well.  
What did I know, what did I know  
of love's austere and lonely offices?*



It is a special thing to be a father.

***Happy Father's Day, to all  
fathers and godfathers.***

# Synaxis of the Saints of North America

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, Saint Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were Saint Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and Saint Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive Saint Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Saints John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.