

April Notes: ... on the 1st of the month, both **Matushka Maria** and **Mary Teter** celebrate their name day (St Mary of Egypt), AND we celebrate the **Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem** with the Divine Liturgy and a **palm procession** ... and after the meal Holy Week begins with **Bridegroom Matins** ... Thursday the 5th is also a big day: in addition to **Joshua Teter's** birthday we have **Vesperal Liturgy** at 7:00 AM and **Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels** at 6:00 PM ... the next day is Great & Holy Friday, with **Burial Vespers** at 4:00 PM and **Matins with Praises** at 6:30 PM ... on Saturday the 7th we will have **Vesperal Liturgy** at 10:00 AM, and **Midnight Office** at 11:30 PM, which goes straight into **Paschal procession, Matins & Divine Liturgy!** Later that Sunday at 2:00 PM we will have our annual **Agape Vespers & Potluck** ... then on the evening of Bright Monday, the 9th, at 6:00 PM we will have the **Vigil for our Patronal Feast followed by a festive meal** ... then the next morning the 10th there will be a 7:00 AM **Paschal Divine Liturgy** ... on Wednesday evening the 11th at 6:30 there will be a **Paschal Vespers** ... Saturday the 14th is **Kyra Harrison's** Birthday ... on Sunday the 15th after Liturgy we will bless the grave of our dear departed sister **Jacque Kemper**, followed by a **picnic in the cemetery** ... Sunday, April 22 is the name day of **Joanne Zhang** and **Jennifer Harrison** (the Myrrhbearing Women St Joanna and St Mary Cleopas), as well as **church school** ... Tuesday the 25th is **Mark Elkedwani's** name day (St Mark the Apostle) ... and on Saturday the 28th there will be **Great Vespers and Confession!**

Before the dawn, Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They heard the angelic voice: "Why do you seek among the dead as a man the One who is Everlasting Light? Behold the clothes in the grave! Go and proclaim to the world: The Lord is risen!" He has slain death, as He is the Son of God, saving the race of men.

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Deacon John Manutes, Attached

APRIL 2018

At the presentation of the episcopal staff to Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn by Tikhon, Bishop of the Aleutians and North America

The Most Reverend Bishop Raphael, beloved brother in Christ! I greet you upon this joyful and great event in your life. "Today everything is filled with light and joy here." The American Church rejoices for you, since with your tonsure as a hierarch the number of workers that are so longed for increase. Your relatives and your fellow countrymen, the Orthodox Syrians, rejoice, since today they receive what they may only have dreamed about. Your heart leaps up with joy as well, since today you are called to the highest service in the Church of God, the symbol of which is the hierarchical staff that you receive from my hand. But while rejoicing and thanking God, Who showed His favor to you in this manner, grasp with your mind and heart that although you are vested with high authority, yet its symbol that is given to you is simple and modest – a staff that reminds us of the staff of a shepherd.

Christ, the head of all pastors, told His disciples, "the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they who are great exercise dominion over them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister" (Matthew 20:25-28). Therefore spiritual authority represents service to others, those who are lower in status; and the "hierarchical service is not an irresponsible dominion, not a repressive autocracy, but fatherly care."

This fatherly care for people is most often presented in the Word of God with the image of a shepherd tending his flock, which is why the shepherd's staff is its symbol. Christ Himself calls Himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:12); and in the Old Testament the Lord Adonai says this: "As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day when there is thick darkness and cloud, among the sheep that are scattered, so will I seek out My sheep and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the nations, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them in a good pasture; their folds shall be there, and there they shall lie down and rest

in perfect prosperity, and in fat pasture. I will seek that which is lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and I will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick, and will guard the strong” (Ezekiel 34:12-14, 16).

Here is the example for you to imitate as well, beloved brother, and even more so, since much of what has been said above is applicable to your flock also. Your own Syrians, driven by need, have arrived here from a faraway native land to seek happiness. But how many “cloudy and dark days” do they have to see here as well! Like sheep without a shepherd, they are scattered over the face of this land. Simple-hearted, trusting like children, they have often become prey of the “beasts of the land” (Ezekiel 34:28); and they did not have someone who “seeks and brings back” until your very arrival here. From now on, better times are coming for them also: scattered among different places, they gather into parishes, churches are built for them, and pastors are found that tend to them in “good pasture.” And now, for the further success of this pastoral effort, you are vested with the hierarchical power as well.

Beloved brother! A pastor tends to his sheep with a staff in his hands; with it he leads them to the pasture; with the help of it he seeks the lost sheep and rescues the stolen one. As a good shepherd, accept this staff of kindness as well (Zechariah 11:7), and with it tend to the flock entrusted to you in the pasture of Christ.

~ at St. Nicholas Syrian Orthodox Cathedral, New York (Feb. 29, 1904)

from St Tikhon of Moscow: **Instructions & Teachings** – available in our bookstore!

Charity of the Month

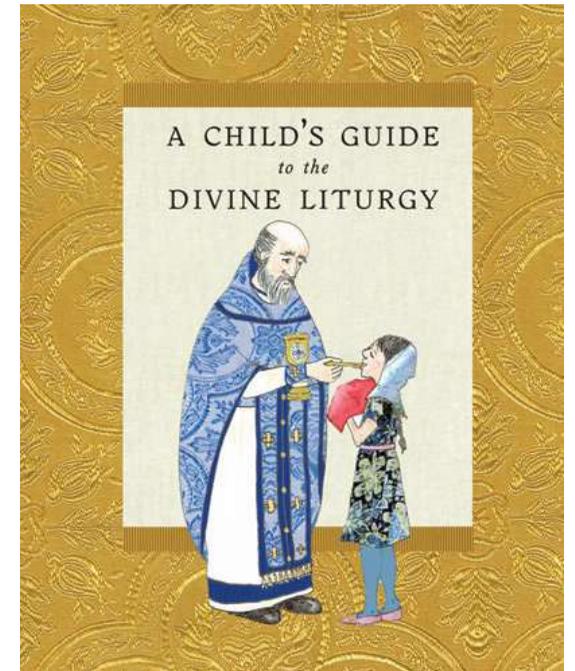
In an effort to assist delegates from the Dioceses of Alaska and Mexico participate in the 19th All-American Council in July, a special appeal has been announced by the Preconciliar Commission to help defray travel and associated expenses. “The unusually high costs associated with travel from Alaska and Mexico, combined with local financial realities, prohibits most clergy and lay delegates from those dioceses from attending the AAC,” said Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary. “For example, the cost of a sending a delegate from Alaska can run as high as \$2,000.00 for travel alone. Travel costs for those attending from Mexico are equally high. “As in the past, the Preconciliar Commission is asking for parishes, organizations and individuals to donate toward offsetting travel expenses,” Father Eric explained. “It is hoped to fund 12 delegates from Alaska—four clergy, four laypersons and four youth—and three clergy and three lay delegates from Mexico.”

New in the Bookstore – Only \$20

A wonderful new tool for Orthodox children! *A Child’s Guide to the Divine Liturgy* is designed as an aid to help children negotiate their way through the Divine Liturgy and learn more about the Church and our faith. Small and easy to hold, with engaging illustrations, the guide is divided into six color-coded sections:

- Preparing for the Divine Liturgy
- The Divine Liturgy
- Salt and Light
- The Twelve Feasts
- Words to Know
- Glossary

This guide is written to appeal to children ages two to ten. The young child will learn basic vocabulary and come to recognize the various milestones in the Divine Liturgy. For the older child, the guide includes several longer psalms, quotes, and prayers; the 12 feast icons and kontakia; plus an extensive glossary filled with terms and vocabulary often heard throughout the liturgical year.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

(unaudited)

	Feb. Actual	Feb. Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	6,980.16	4,545.00	12,138.43	8,790.00
Total Expense	5,405.89	5,768.35	9,965.75	9,735.06
Cash Flow	1,574.27	(1,223.35)	2,172.68	(945.06)
Building Fund (Net of Rent Reserves)			19,797.51	