

## **Orthodox Christians to participate in January 27 DC March for Life**

### **WASHINGTON, DC –**

January 22, 2017 marks the 44th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States. Orthodox Christians from across the country will be among those gathering in the US Capitol on Friday, January 27 to participate in the annual March for Life, which is being held one week later than usual this year due to the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon will join other Orthodox hierarchs, seminarians, and clergy and faithful in the March, which will conclude with the celebration of Memorial Prayers for the victims of abortion near the US Capitol.

The theme of this year's March is "The Power of One."

The March will begin at noon on the grounds of the Washington Monument. Orthodox Christian participants are asked to gather at the "Orthodox Christians for Life" banner, which will be prominently displayed to the right of the stage near Constitution Avenue, between 15th and 17th Streets North West. Metropolitan Tikhon and other hierarchs will be present on the podium for the opening prayers and presentations that precede the March.

Metropolitan Tikhon also will offer the benediction at the annual Rose Banquet on the evening of the March. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/annual-dc-march-for-life-to-be-held-friday-january-27>

## **19th AAC Local Committee begins work**

**ST. LOUIS, MO –** Members of the Local Committee tasked with assisting in the planning of the 19th All-American Council [AAC] of the Orthodox Church in America held its first organizational meeting December 14-15, 2016.

The 19th AAC is slated to be convened at the historic Saint Louis Union Station Hotel, Saint Louis, MO July 23-27, 2018.

Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary and Council Supervisor, and Deacon Peter Ilchuk, Council Manager, met with Archpriest Timothy Sawchak, Dean of the Kansas City Deanery and Local Council Clergy Chair; Robert Butchko, Local Council Lay Chair, and Kansas City Deanery faithful who had expressed an interest in assisting with planning efforts. Expectations and duties of the Local Committee, which compliments the work of the Pre-conciliar Commission, were reviewed in detail.



**Metropolitan Tikhon with Archbishops Benjamin and Michael at 2015 March for Life**



**Fr. Eric Tosi meets with volunteers.**

## **Metropolitan Tikhon laments bombing of Cairo's Coptic church**

**SYOSSET, NY –** In a letter addressed to His Holiness, Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of All Africa of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria, dated Thursday, December 15, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon expressed "the deep sorrow and shared grief of the Bishops, the clergy, the monastics and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America" in response to the deadly December 11 bomb blast at a Coptic church adjacent to Cairo's Coptic Cathedral of Saint Mark.

At least two dozen persons – mostly women and children – were killed in the blast. At least 50 others known to have been injured.

"Christ is in our midst! It is with sorrow and yet with hope that I extend to Your Holiness the traditional words of greeting in which Christians express their faith in the risen and ascended Lord, Who nevertheless remains among us, even in our darkest moments," Metropolitan Tikhon wrote. "The world has once more witnessed such a dark moment in the brutal and senseless murder of the faithful of Saint Peter's Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo this week. These cruel and inhuman acts, which have been perpetrated by militant extremists upon the Coptic Orthodox Church, are an affront against all of humanity."

Expressing concern for "the families and friends of those whose lives were brutally cut down in this most recent attack," Metropolitan Tikhon noted that

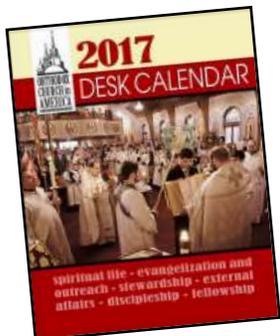
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**A blessed  
new year!**

**Continued on the reverse...**

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Featured in this year’s calendar are brief reflections by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, in addition to ample space for daily notations and memos and a directory of OCA ministries, boards, commissions, diocesan chanceries, and seminaries. Key liturgical commemorations and significant dates are noted, as are the dates of Pascha through the year 2020. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/2017-oca-desk-calendar-now-available>

**Archives Advisory Committee meets**

**SYOSSET, NY** – The Orthodox Church in America’s Archives Advisory Committee held its third meeting November 29-30, 2016.

According to Archivist Alexis Liberovsky, the primary focus of the meeting was to discuss the recently completed professional assessment of environmental conditions in the Archives and to define priorities for much-needed upgrades. He stressed that the Archives cannot be adequately preserved in the Chancery basement in the long term. Options regarding the eventual relocation of the Archives to a proper facility to ensure long-term preservation also were considered.



A number of other matters related to processing and digitizing holdings, potential grants and related matters also were discussed.

Chairing the meeting was His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, who stressed the importance of preserving the Church’s historical legacy not only through the OCA Archives, but also through the archival collections of dioceses, parishes, monasteries and institutions. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/archives-advisory-committee-concludes-third-meeting>

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**Metropolitan Tikhon laments Cairo bombing**

“this sorrow and grief is felt in the hearts of all Christians, and indeed, should resonate with all who would consider themselves human beings.... Our prayer is that all dwellers on earth would indeed receive the life-giving Word and become reason-endowed creatures who stand fast in their faith in God and refrain from acts against reason and against their fellow human beings. May we enter a new time of tolerance and religious peace in Egypt and in the entire region of the Middle East through Christ, Who has mercy on us and on His whole world.”

In related news, Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor, represented Metropolitan Tikhon at a prayer service at Archangel Michael and Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church, Staten Island, NY, on Thursday evening, December 15, during which those who lost their lives in the bombing were remembered. During the service, Father John read from Metropolitan Tikhon’s letter to Pope Tawadros. ■ **FULL STORY:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-tikhon-addresses-recent-bombing-of-cairo-coptic-church>

A monthly digest highlighting news and features from the web site of the Orthodox Church in America – <http://oca.org> – published with the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

Parishes are kindly asked to duplicate and distribute *OCAreview*, especially to those without internet access.

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Fr. John Matusiak, Editor • [info@oca.org](mailto:info@oca.org)

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**AAC Local Committee meets**

“The goal was to organize the chairpersons and volunteers, thereby initiating the work of the Council,” Father Eric said. “There are over a dozen committees, including local transportation, the AAC dinner, and delegate registration. In general, upwards of 100 volunteers will be needed.”

Faithful living in the Saint Louis area who wish to volunteer may do so by contacting Father Timothy at [tsawchak33@gmail.com](mailto:tsawchak33@gmail.com) or Mr. Butchko at [bbutchko@gmail.com](mailto:bbutchko@gmail.com).

In related news, the Preconciliar Commission’s initial meeting was held at the OCA Chancery during the second week of December 2016.

Additional information on the AAC theme and the soon-to-be-launched AAC web site will be posted on the OCA web site as it becomes available.

■ **FULL STORIES:** <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/19th-aac-local-committee-holds-organizational-meeting> and <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/preconciliar-commission-holds-first-organizational-meeting>

**In Memoriam**

- **Matushka Dorothy Logore Tsonis**, a long-time Sitka, AK resident and widow of the late Priest Anastassy Tsonis, fell asleep in the Lord in Seattle, WA on December 21, 2016. ■ <https://oca.org/in-memoriam/matushka-dorothy-tsonis>