

Holy Synod on the Sanctity of Life

The Orthodox Church in America, being, with all Orthodox Churches in the world, the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church of Christ, acting upon her mandate to teach God's truth to all people, solemnly affirms that every human person is made in God's image and likeness for everlasting life in God's coming kingdom.

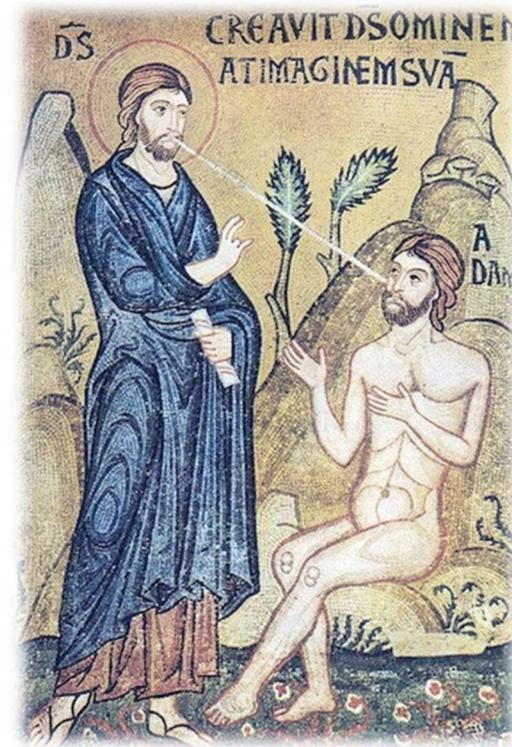
As the crown of God's good creation, redeemed by Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, all men, women and children—young and old, sick and healthy, rich and poor, powerful and weak, educated and uneducated, born and unborn—are eternally precious in God's sight.

All human beings will be raised from the dead on the last day. Those who seek the truth, do good and follow God's law written on their hearts and fully revealed to the world in Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Word, will inherit everlasting life. Those who persist in their evil ways, following their own will, will be forever lost...

Human beings are to be reminded by every means that they are not isolated individuals but are members one of another who will give account to God and to their fellow creatures for their every thought, word and deed; and that their eternal destiny depends on what they have done with their lives on earth.

~Encyclical of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, July 1992.

“Let us Attend!”



“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

A PARISH BULLETIN OF
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH
Olyphant, Pennsylvania
16 January 2022 – 30th Sunday After Pentecost
Sanctity of Life Sunday

Bulletin, Sunday, 16 January 2022

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5.

Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy and All-glorious Apostle Peter. Bl. Maxim of Tot'ma, Fool-for-Christ (Vologdá—1650). Martyred brothers Speusippus, Eleusippus, Meleusippus, and those with them, in Gaul (161-180). Martyr Danax the Reader, in Macedonia (2nd c.). St. Honoratus, Archbishop of Arles and founder of the Abbey of Lérins (429). Hieromartyr Damascene the New (Mt. Athos—1771).

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish's wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA's daily reading page <https://www.oca.org/readings>.

Schedule of Services:

Sunday, 23 January 2022: 31st Sunday After Pentecost – Divine Liturgy, 9:30AM. Followed by Coffee Hour Agape.

Announcements ~We warmly welcome to back to All Saints Fr. Michael Evans, and we and thank Father for serving this morning. God grant you many blessed years.

~ A warm welcome as well to all visitors. Please join us for coffee hour Agape fellowship downstairs following the Liturgy.

~ Holy Water blessed on the Great Feast of Theophany is still available at the back of the Church. Over the next two weeks please bring a vessel for Holy Water to keep in your home. St. Luke the Surgeon, a saint of the 20th Century, who was not only a bishop but a physician during the Soviet era told his flock: “Drink Holy Water, the more often, the better. It is the best and most effective medicine. I'm not saying this as a priest, I'm saying it as a doctor, from my medical experience”.

~ Father Nicholas Solak will be blessing homes. To have your home blessed either sign-up on the sheet at the candle desk, or set up a time with Father Nicholas (570.350.1482).

~ Today has been designated as Sanctity of Life Sunday by His Beatitude. Metropolitan Tikhon. Please read the words of His Beatitude inserted into today's bulletin. As Orthodox Christians, we hold that all human life is sacred from the moment a child is conceived through the moment a soul departs from this life to be with the Lord. We affirm that each and every human person is created by God in His image and after His likeness, and is due all human dignity through that Divine gift. We offer are prayers today that the leaders of nations acknowledge this foundational principle, and be moved in their hearts to protect all human life, especially the lives of the unborn in the womb.

~ The Annual March for Life will take place this Friday, 21 January 2022 on the Mall in Washington, D.C.. This annual event attended annually by tens of thousands is the longest standing protest for human rights in our nation's history. Our prayers for the cause of recognizing the unalienable rights of all human persons, especially the most vulnerable among us.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” ~Jeremiah 1:5

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Dear Beloved Children in the Lord,

As we witness our society becoming increasingly polarized and divided, we approach the anniversary of one of the most bitter of these divisions: the legalization of abortion in the United States of America. We grieve on this anniversary for the many lives cut short, the emotional and psychological devastation done to so many women, the numerous wounded families, and the persistent hostility embittering our society.

The Orthodox Church continues to hold fast to its ancient belief that all human life, from conception in the womb to our very last moment, is sacred to God. For the Holy Scripture tells us that “God did not make death, and He does not delight in the death of the living. For He created all things that they might exist” (Wis 1:13-14). So we say, humbly but firmly, that the willful destruction of a person in the womb is an evil act and a rejection of a gift of God.

For Orthodox Christians, the darkness of abortion transcends the political. It extends even beyond morality and ethics. It cuts to the heart of our faith in the Resurrection. On that bright morning of Great and Holy Pascha, Christ forever destroyed death, the last enemy of mankind (cf. 1 Cor 15:26). The empty tomb ennobles humanity and transforms us into a people forever dedicated to life, utterly opposed to death in all its forms. All people, even those still unborn, are created for eternity with God, and it is our unshakable conviction in the Risen Christ which makes the thought of the termination of a child unimaginable.

We also know that the unequivocal message of the New Testament is that followers of Christ are to “love one another” with the same self-sacrifice with which Christ loved us (cf. Jn 13:34). I encourage all Orthodox Christians to show that Christ-like, self-sacrificial love in the face of this darkness. I ask that we assist mothers in every way possible to relieve them of the temptation to abortion. Likewise, support the fathers as they step up to embrace their new and blessed family responsibility.

As we “speak the truth in love” (Eph 4:15) we must not condemn others but leave judgment to the Lord. Our call is a call to repentance, beginning with ourselves, so that we might restore the likeness of God and become bright

mirrors reflecting the light of Christ to a wounded, confused, and anxious people. Let the only thing that our society sees in us be overflowing love, piety, and forgiveness to all. We remember with gratitude that the Lord always gives us, personally and as a nation, a path out of our sin through repentance—even sin as devastating and horrific as abortion. Let our parishes and communities become beacons of that divine love and forgiveness, where all human life is valued as deeply as Christ values it, as we forever speak with a Paschal voice: “Christ is risen and life reigns.”

May the Holy Spirit, whom we confess in the Creed as “the Lord, the Giver of life,” ever inspire us with love, humility, and conviction as we speak to this issue.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada