

ST BASIL THE GREAT ORTHODOX CHURCH

205 Highland Avenue
Des Peres, MO 63122

A parish of the
Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

CLERGY

Archpriest Sergii Alekseev, Parish Rector
Protopriest Radomir Chkautovich
Priest Thomas Nichols
Deacon Ephraim Galloway



FATHER MARTIN REPOSES

St. Basil's founder, Father Martin Swanson, fell asleep in the Lord early in the morning on Sept. 20th. The Funeral for a Departed Priest was served on Saturday, Sept. 24th and was attended by countless current and former parishioners, visiting clergy, and our ruling hierarch, Archbishop Peter. Panihidas (Orthodox memorial services) have been served and will continue to be served for Fr. Martin most importantly on the 40th day after his repose (Oct. 29th). During his address to the parish, Archbishop Peter urged all to continue to pray for Fr. Martin as he undergoes his personal judgment during these first 40 days of repose.

The parish has received many condolences and prayers during these moments and one that perhaps summarizes the life and service of the newly-reposed Fr. Martin best are those of the new First Hierarch of ROCOR, Metropolitan Nicholas, included on the next page.



OCTOBER 2022

Schedule of Services

- **16th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross
 - Sat., Oct. 1 Vigil 5 P.M.
 - Sun., Oct. 2 Divine Liturgy 10 A.M.
- **Venerable Sergius of Radonezh**
 - Sat., Oct. 8 Moleben 9:00 A.M.
- **17th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Apostle John the Theologian
 - Sat., Oct. 8 Vigil 5:00 P.M.
 - Sun., Oct. 9 Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.
- **Protection of the Mother of God**
 - Thur., Oct. 13 Vigil 6:00 P.M.
 - Fri., Oct. 14 Divine Liturgy 8:00 A.M.
- **18th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite
 - Sat., Oct. 15 Vigil 5:00 P.M.
 - Sun., Oct. 16 Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.
- **Apostle Thomas**
 - Tue., Oct. 18 Vigil 6:00 P.M.
 - Wed., Oct. 19 Divine Liturgy 8:00 A.M.
- **19th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council
 - Synaxis of the Elders of Optina
 - Sat., Oct. 22 Vigil 5:00 P.M.
 - Sun., Oct. 23 Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.
- **St Demetrius Memorial Saturday**
 - 40th Day of Archpriest Martin's Repose
 - Sat., Oct. 29 Panihida 9:00 A.M.
- **20th Sunday after Pentecost**
 - Sat., Oct. 29 Vigil 5:00 A.M.
 - Sun., Oct. 30 Divine Liturgy 10:00 A.M.
- **Righteous John of Kronstadt**
 - Mon., Oct. 31 Vigil 6:00 P.M.
 - Tue., Nov. 1 Divine Liturgy 8:00 A.M.



Архієрейскій Синодъ Русской Православной Церкви Заграницей
Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

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September 7/20, 2022
*Forefeast of the Nativity of
the Most Holy Theotokos*

**To Archpriest Sergii Alekseev, Rector
Matushka Katherine Swanson
& the Parishioners of St. Basil the Great Church
in St. Louis, Missouri**

Dear in the Lord Fr. Sergii,
Beloved Brothers and Sisters!

Please accept my sincerest condolences to you, to Matushka Katherine and their children, and to the entire parish community of St. Basil the Great Church on the repose of your founder, Fr. Martin Swanson.

With abounding love for our Lord Jesus Christ and hope in His enduring aid, Fr. Martin founded St. Basil the Great parish in 1985. From humble beginnings in a garage, he oversaw the mission's growth until a beautiful new parish church was completed. This work accomplished, Fr. Martin was able to retire with a wonderful legacy. Indeed, those who build God's churches are commemorated at every Divine Liturgy.

Not limiting himself to this work alone, Fr. Martin also founded the diocesan pastoral school 15 years ago, which now boasts over 100 students, preparing them for a life of ministry in Christ's Church. May these future clergy and choir members always remember the example of this good pastor in this own service.

In this time of mourning, please know that the clergy of the Mid-American Diocese and the entire Russian Church Abroad are with you in their prayers. We pray that Christ our God grant rest in the mansions of the righteous to His servant, "where there is neither pain, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life ever-lasting."

May the Lord grant Archpriest Martin memory eternal!

With love in Christ,

Metropolitan of Eastern America & New York
First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

Funeral For the Departed Archpriest, Fr. Martin



FOCUS ON FOCUS

On Sunday Sept. 11 the St. Nevsky Brotherhood served the FOCUS Sunday dinner, feeding 60 people with 100 meals and distributing \$1,389.35 of goods from the food pantry and clothing center. This was not one of our scheduled Sunday suppers, so FOCUS was very appreciative that the Brotherhood stepped in to help them out.

In addition to the Sept. 11th meal, our parish supplied many boxes of cereal, oatmeal, shelf-stable milk, and some miscellaneous canned goods for the September pantry



collection. Again, thank you for your faithfulness. FOCUS has been incredibly grateful for the immense support that our parish has shown the ministry. Please see the note of thanks that was written by one of our guests at FOCUS that is posted on the hall announcement board.

We are currently committed to serving the FOCUS Sunday dinner again on the following two Sundays from roughly 3:45 to 6:00 P.M. – October 9 and December 11.

For the month of October, we have been asked to supply peanut butter, jelly, and boxes of saltine crackers for the FOCUS pantry. Fr. Sergii will send out an email to the parish with detailed instructions for these items, and a flier will be posted in the hall with tear-away tabs for reminders. Please donate these goods in the large plastic container in our parish coat closet before October 23.

NEW FIRST HIERARCH ELECTED

On Tuesday, Sept. 13th, the election of His Grace Nicholas, Bishop of Manhattan, as the new First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia by its Council of Bishops took place.

In accordance with the Act of Canonical Communion, signed on May 17, 2007, the Council has sent the Act of

Election, drafted by the vote-counting committee, to His Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow & All Russia, with a request to bless the electee to assume the duties of the First Hierarch entrusted to him by his brother-archpastors, and for confirmation of the election by the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church.

This decision of the Council of Bishops of the Russian Church Abroad to elect His Grace Nicholas, Bishop of Manhattan, as its First Hierarch, Metropolitan of Eastern America & New York, was confirmed by the Patriarch of Moscow.

The rite of enthronement of His Eminence Nicholas, Metropolitan of Eastern America & New York, took place on Sunday, Sept. 18th at the Synodal Cathedral in New York. Details of the enthronement service are as follows:

At the end of the vigil service, the newly elected Primate emerged through the Royal Doors in a black klobuk and common bishop's mantle and faced the congregation. Two senior hierarchs presented a white klobuk and blue mantle, which the newly elected First Hierarch put on, aided by subdeacons.



At this moment, the senior-most hierarch announced "Axios" ("he is worthy") which was repeated first by the bishops then by the choir.

After this, the Primate blessed the clergy and congregants. Before this, the blue mantle and white klobuk were blessed with holy water by the senior-most hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad during the reading of the First Hour.

At the Divine Liturgy, after the reading of the entrance prayers and the customary vesting of the two senior hierarchs, the new Metropolitan was escorted to the vesting area, when "Axios" was repeated by the

hierarchs and clergy, then by the choir. Divine Liturgy commenced in the customary manner.

After the service, a moleben was performed along with the entrusting of the archpastoral staff to the new Primate, which was blessed on the crypt of the Holy Hierarch Tikhon, Patriarch and Confessor of All Russia.

PARISH PICNIC

St. Basil's will have its annual parish picnic after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Oct. 16th. Everyone is invited to join and encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share.



Archpriest Martin Swanson, are familiar with the book *The Orthodox Church* by Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware). The book saw its first printing in 1963, when its author

METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS REPOSES IN THE LORD

Many of us, especially those who were brought into the Orthodox Church by our former rector and newly reposed

was yet a layman Timothy Ware. As a young man, the future metropolitan was drawn to the Russian Church Abroad, attending the Divine Services in ROCOR parish churches in England, having a ROCOR priest as his spiritual father and staying in ROCOR monasteries in North America for long periods of time. And yet, it was the Greek Archdiocese in Great Britain where he was ordained and which he served till his death.

Metropolitan Kallistos passed away on August 24,

2022, being 87 years old.

Below is an excerpt from his 2013 interview with Deacon Andrei Psarev, where Metropolitan Kallistos speaks about his unchanging attitude to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, his "first love".

"What I have always admired in the Russian Church Abroad is its faithfulness to the liturgical and ascetic spiritual traditions of Russian Orthodoxy in particular and Orthodoxy in general. I was always impressed by their faithful performance of the church services and their re-printing of the liturgical books, at a time when they were very difficult to obtain. I helped priests of the Moscow Patriarchate, who were afraid to write directly to Jordanville, to take church books back into Russia. I asked one priest if he would have any trouble with the customs, taking books which included prayers for those suffering under atheist oppression, but he said no, as the Soviet customs officials could

not read Slavonic.

I also admired the faithful presentation of liturgical piety at a time when other Orthodox, like the Greeks in America, were making changes in the services. I had not visited Russia at that time though of course there too the services were properly performed.

The Church Abroad also upheld the spirituality, for example, of the tradition of the *Philokalia*, Saints Theophan the Recluse and Ignaty (Brianchaninov).

Now there is a restoration of communion between the Church Abroad and the Moscow Patriarchate. I am very pleased about this and also that the Russian Church Abroad retains its own identity: they have continued to be faithful to their liturgical and ascetic traditions to an extent which is not found in the same way among other Orthodox. This emphasis is very much needed today".



Proposed Church Hall Rendering

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The annual parish meeting took place after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Sept. 25th. These meetings allow the parish council to present the parish's activities and events for the past year, as well as address any future plans that the parish needs to focus on in the coming years. Members of the parish council presented financial, building, Sisterhood and Brotherhood reports. The parish council unveiled proposed building renderings for the new parish hall construction.

Although the larger building effort has not started, the parish council has been discussing plans with building architects as a start to the larger building plan. Floor plans are still being developed, but the parish was able to see a mock up of the new building which is estimated at cost around 1.5 to 2 million dollars. The parish also addresses any changes that need to be made for the parish council at these meetings and this year, Joseph Steineger was elected as a new member of the parish council.

These annual meetings are not exhaustive, and it is no easy task to present every function occurring at St. Basil's. However, each meeting is a great opportunity for the parish to become aware of its activities and learn how much effort goes into maintaining a healthy community and temple for the glory of God.

Parish Prayer List

Archpriest Martin Swanson — Repose
Katherine Swanson
Archimandrite Seraphim — Health
Jackie (Xenia) Peck — Health



Add to your prayer list

Photini Mills — Health
Tatiana Zyryanova — Health
Gloria Pappas — Health
Julianna Campbell — Health

Keep our parishioners, and those who ask us to pray for them, in your prayers this month. Contact Fr. Sergii to have yourself or your loved ones added to the parish prayer list. Let one of the Fathers know if you, a member of your family, or a friend is ill or hospitalized so that appropriate prayers and visits can be arranged. Please note: Hospitals do not notify clergy of patients, even if you list yourself as a parish member.