

***"Slava Isysy Xristy! -  
Welcome..."***

from "Old Country" roots we are rightly the  
**ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA**  
*...and Dependencies*  
~ **"ORTHODOX" in Faith and "CATHOLIC" in  
Communion ~**

**Let us earnestly ask for the world's prayers at this time  
for our brothers  
and sisters in the Ukrainian & Russian Homelands to  
maintain the True Faith...and for our brothers and  
sisters in the United States...for a spirit of peace & calm!  
~ MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US ~**

***"New Glorified Saint from the United States  
Saint Thomas Eleftherion Pray for Us!"***



**Orthodoxy was the first Christian Faith to arrive in the Americas nearly 1,000 years ago! The Vikings in Newfoundland came with Missionaries from the "Old World" years before the Great Schism between East & West - when the Church was still One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic..."Orthodox" in Faith and "Catholic" in Communion." This fact contradicts the often held belief that Roman Catholicism was the first to arrive when Christopher Columbus landed in the West Indies.**

**However one may look at it, the fact remains that the first Christians in North America came from Scandinavia at a time when Scandinavian Christians were an integral part of Orthodox Christendom. It is up to us to take up the mission begun in this land by Lief Ericsson and his Orthodox descendants!**

**Diverse spiritual heritages were planted throughout North and South America with a team of Russian Missionaries arriving on Kodiak Island. Father Herman of Alaska became America's first Glorified Orthodox Saint while St. Innocent was consecrated as first Orthodox Bishop for the New World. The Orthodox Faith was further planted throughout North America by missionary efforts of St. Tikhon (Bellavin), who later became the Patriarch of Russia; He called for the establishment of an "American Orthodox Church." Great cities from New York to Chicago, Toronto to San Francisco were blessed by holy Bishops such as St. Raphael (Hawaweeny) and St. John (Maximovitch); everywhere, Communities abounded, rich in Faith and ethnic traditions, by Greeks, Lebanese, Ukrainians, Serbians, Macedonians, Albanians, Romanians, Russians and many more.**

**In the mid 1920's, at the request of Ukrainian Bishop Palladios (Rudenko), seminarists were summoned to New York to serve the Faithful, among them was the energetic, Peter Andreas Zhurawetzky, ordained to the Priesthood by Greek Archbishop Athenagoras (Spyrou), who later became the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. Accompanying Father Peter were his classmates Andrei (Kuschak), Bohdan (Shpylka) and Mstyslav (Skrypnyk), who later became the Patriarch of Kyiv in the Ukraine.**

**Through the brotherly efforts of Archbishop Peter (Zhurawetzky), with that of Bishops Christopher (Contogee) & Arsenios (Saltos) for Alexandria, Theophanios (Noli) for Albania, Joachim (Souris) & Konstantin (Jaroshevich) for Greece, and Nicholas**

**(Kedroffsky) & Joseph (Klymowycz) for Russia... the foundation of a unified organization to serve the Americas began to flourish.**

**By 1951, as reported in The New York Times, the Hierarchs met, and, although wanting to establish an American Patriarchate, their efforts eventually evolved into what the Russian Patriarch St. Tikhon (Bellavin) had envisioned decades earlier while serving as a bishop in America...the Orthodox Church of America.**

**Many theologians and church historians today would describe the church of the early Christians not as a single, unified structure, but as a communion or family of local churches...having their own local customs and distinctive ways of worshiping. They did not insist on uniformity, but at the same time they were insistent and united in their sacramental life--above all in Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.**

**Though scattered throughout the world, they regarded themselves as making up the same, ONE, BODY OF CHRIST, which they demonstrated whenever they received Holy Communion in the Holy Eucharist. They were also united in the same Apostolic Faith & valid Apostolic Succession, which meant that they claimed to hold the same True Faith that was preached by the Apostles, the men whom Jesus Christ had appointed to be witnesses to His saving work.**

**With the establishment of the SEC, Standing Episcopal Conference of Orthodox Bishops in 1951, we are an integral part of that same Body, comprising many different ethnic cultures and traditions, but sharing a common Faith, a common way of life, and, to a high degree, a common history that distinguishes us from other Christians.**

**By 2019, the Orthodox Church of America now reaches, with its Dependencies, throughout all the world, with Provinces in Africa, Australasia, Europe and in America...all "holding fast" to the same Apostolic Doctrine and Faith of the Early Undivided Church of the Seven Ecumenical Councils...being "Orthodox: in Faith and "Catholic" in Communion...witnessing Jesus Christ into all the world.**



Апостольская Православная Церковь

# APOSTOLIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

**The Orthodox Church of America is a missionary arm of the Apostolic Orthodox Church of Russia and APC Holy Synod in North America, an independent self-governing association of bishops, clergy and laity, having preserved intact the grace of valid Apostolic Succession and based their existence on the canonical foundation of the Local Council of the Russian Orthodox Church Regulations 1917- 1918 Decree of His Holiness Patriarch St. Tikhon of November 7/20, 1920, as well as the ancient (doimperskoy) tradition of church government based on the principle of autocephaly (self governance) of each bishop.**

**To further the rich Rus-Ukrainian heritage of the OCA-UAOC, the Standing Episcopal Conference of Orthodox Bishops is blessed to be under the Canonical Protection of His Beatitude +Vitaly (Kuzhevator), who is Metropolitan of Moscow, Archbishop of All-Russia and Primate of the APC Holy Synod, Apostolic Orthodox Church.**

**The Apostolic Orthodox Church grew from a true "Revival of Russian Orthodoxy" which began organizing in 1992 to unite people who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ - The Savior of the world. And, to be free from the influence of the secular state, free from any and all government control or manipulation, free from hypocrisy and free from simony (buying) ecclesiastical positions!**

**The APC Holy Synod professes the Apostolic and Nicene Creed, and Orthodox Faith, based on Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition (the teaching of the Apostles, the Holy**

**Fathers, the Holy Seven Ecumenical Councils and Local Councils). We profess Seven Sacraments (Holy Mysteries), we do not recognize obligatory or forced celibacy of the clergy, we commune the laity under both forms and allow the practice of the traditional Western Liturgy (Mass); we are not in communion with Rome and do not recognize the dogma of infallibility ex cathedra...but believe what existed before the separation of the Eastern and Western Churches.**

**We try to follow the path that we have received from Our Blessed Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ: the way that elected His closest Disciples - the Twelve Apostles. His life and that of the Apostles left us an example to be followed by every Christian to spread the Gospel "...into all the world." (St. Mark 16:15)**

**The One True Church, the Orthodox Church, is "Apostolic" because all she has: Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and her life of grace - all this, she received from Christ through the Apostles. Our Church encourages its members to continue to live as Christ lived with the Apostles, in humility, simplicity, holiness, joyful, confident and with the unconditional love of God for all His people.**

**The Deposit of Faith, the Faith of the Apostles, the Apostolic Doctrines held by the Apostolic Orthodox Church, were not invented by people, but literally heard from the lips of the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, and preached by them, due to the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost.**

**We cherish the Orthodox Faith and the tenets of the first Seven Ecumenical Councils, but allow changes to the Holy Canons and ritual diversity, if it is for the best preaching of the Gospel and, ultimately, for the salvation of souls.**

**Recognizing both the Western and Eastern Christian heritage, the richness of theological thought and liturgical traditions, we are ready to work together and to pray with other Christian churches, to welcome and build up the Body of Christ!**

**True unity of the Church cannot be found in organizational structures, but in the spirit of brotherly love and unity in authentic Faith and the Sacraments.**



**The Apostolic Orthodox Church is built on Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and the Holy Canons of the Universal Church and interpreted for the pastoral needs of today. In the event of a conflict between the Holy Canons and the Word of God and between any Sacred Traditions and the Proclamation of the Gospel in terms of modernity, the Apostolic Orthodox Church considers it absolutely necessary and permissible to change the Holy Canons and develop a tradition strictly liable to the spirit and letter of Divine Revelation.**

**Bishops, priests and laity of the Apostolic Orthodox Church, in observance of Our Lord's words, saying, "Who wants to be great among you, shall be servant of all" (St. Matthew 20:26) consider it necessary to build a Christian life with respect for the needs of Orthodox believers and all Christians and to safeguard the bishop and priest, in their obligation, to preserve and teach the truths of the authentic and genuine Orthodox Faith; with prayer and with viable, organized congregations, unconditional love for all, showing mercy and service to others.**

**Both the Apostles and the very words of Sacred Scripture confirm, that, "no doubt there will be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval" (1 Corinthians 11:19); therefore, the APC Holy Synod - Apostolic Orthodox Church of Russia permits and encourages diversity of liturgical structure and principles of community life ...while maintaining unity and a spirit of brotherly love...calling for the spread of ecumenical communion among all brothers & sisters with Faith in Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

# God Bless America, God Bless our Freedom of Religion!

God Bless our Presidents who have worked with the Orthodox for decades.  
God Bless all who are affiliated with us in our witness to Jesus Christ



President Harry S. Truman and Ecumenical Patriarch +ATHENAGORAS, 1948



President Donald J. Trump supports the APC Holy Synod and our Blessed Jurisdiction, 2018



From President Truman who flew Archbishop Athenagoras on "Air Force One" to Istanbul for his 1948 Enthronement as the Ecumenical Patriarch to President Trump who defends all our God Given Rights!

We Pray that Almighty God Will Bless our new President Joseph R. Biden And Continue to Bless President Trump, God Bless the United States of America!



The Orthodox Church of America is a Faith Based  
Certifying Organization  
for the President's Volunteer Service Award



~ Official Notice ~



**MEMBERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA, STANDING EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF ORTHODOX BISHOPS AND OUR BLESSED JURISDICTION ~ THE APOSTOLIC ORTHODOX CHURCH OF RUSSIA ~ SHALL NOT BE INVOLVED IN OCCULTISM, ESOTERICISM, GNOSTICISM, WICCA, KABBALAH, SYMBOLOGY, DIVINATION, REIKI, SCIENTOLOGY, YOGA, NUMEROLOGY, TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION, THEOSOPHY, CLAIRVOYANCE, ASTROLOGY, FREEMASONRY, SEANCES OR ANY CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY.**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Members of the Orthodox Church of America, Standing Episcopal Conference of Orthodox Bishops, and our Blessed Jurisdiction - the Apostolic Orthodox Church of Russia - Shall not be involved in Occultism, Esotericism, Gnosticism, Wicca, Kabbalah, Symbolology, Divination, Reiki, Scientology, Yoga, Numerology, Transcendental Meditation, Theosophy, Clairvoyance, Astrology, Freemasonry, Seances or any Clandestine Activity.