

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

## Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania

VOLUME I, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 25, 2011

### *From the Bishop's Desk...*

Christ is in our midst!

As we make our way into the new civil year, I am pleased to announce the launching of a new *Monthly Bulletin* for the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. This publication is intended to be a supplement both to our diocesan magazine, *Alive in Christ*, and our website, [www.doepa.org](http://www.doepa.org).

The purpose of the monthly bulletin is to offer a forum for directives from the Bishop, administrative communications from the Chancellor and notification of upcoming events. It is another tool to facilitate communication within our diocese. Each month, copies will be forwarded electronically to every parish priest for distribution or inclusion in the parish bulletin.

#### PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Our last Diocesan Assembly passed a resolution calling all of our parishes to comply with a list of administrative requirements for the diocese and for the OCA. I would like to emphasize the importance of all of the items on that list (please see your parish priest or diocesan council representative for more details).

While I will take the situation of each parish into consideration, I am instituting

a policy that any parish that is not compliant in these administrative requirements will not receive my confirmation for its parish council elections.

#### GREAT LENT

The Lenten Schedule will be published shortly. The Office of the Triumph of Orthodoxy will be celebrated in several locations throughout the diocese. I myself will celebrate at St Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia.

#### PASTORAL VISITATIONS

I would ask the rectors and parish councils to consider times, both inside and outside of Great Lent, when I can visit your parish. This need not be an official visit on a Sunday, but could include weekday services and other events, such as lectures and such.

#### SUMMER CAMP

In conjunction with St Tikhon's Seminary, plans are now underway for this year's Summer Camp at St Tikhon's Seminary on July 3-9, 2011. The camp will continue to be operated as a joint venture between the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and St Tikhon's Theological Seminary. Recently, Tatiana Bohush, Kimberly Metz and Nicholas Macura have been appointed as co-directors of the Summer Camp. More information can be found on

our diocesan website or on the new Summer Camp website:  
[www.sttikhonscamp.org](http://www.sttikhonscamp.org)

## Office of the Chancellor

### GUIDELINES FOR ORDINATION

His Grace, Bishop TIKHON, is working on a final draft of procedures for individuals who may have a calling to the priesthood, the diaconate or any of the minor orders (reader, subdeacon, choir director) in the Church. These guidelines will be sent to each parish shortly. His Grace reminds all candidates for Seminary of the following basic requirements:

- The OCA Holy Synod of Bishops has mandated that applicants for Seminary and Diaconal Formation Programs must be Orthodox for a minimum of three (3) years.
- In addition, applicants from this diocese must be parishioners in good standing for at least one (1) years in a parish of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania.

His Grace will also provide specific requirements that will need to be fulfilled under the guidance of the parish rector before a blessing to attend Seminary is given or before he will give a blessing for a tonsuring or ordination.

### LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

His Grace reminds all the clergy that the litany of the catechumens is not to be omitted during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

## Upcoming Events

**February 2:** Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. One of the twelve great feasts of the liturgical year.

**February 4-6:** Teen retreat at Dalton Retreat Center, Clarks Summit, PA.

**February 10:** Diocesan Council Meeting. Please contact your deanery clergy or lay representatives if you have any concerns that you feel need to be addressed to the Diocesan Council. The list of members is available on our diocesan website.

**February 19:** 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwinter Festival. Ethnic Food and Craft Festival at Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**February 20:** Folk Festival featuring the Duquesne University Tamburitians. Hazleton Area High School (1601 W 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Hazleton, PA). For information call 1-877-822-5452 or email at [themidwinterfair@aol.com](mailto:themidwinterfair@aol.com)

**February 21-24:** Holy Synod Retreat to be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**March 6:** Forgiveness Sunday and the beginning of Great Lent.

**May 7:** Divine Liturgy for the feast of St Alexis of Wilkes-Barre at Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre.

**June 18:** 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations for St John the Baptist Church in Edwardsville