

ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

We greet you with the joy of Christ as we prepare to celebrate His Nativity! Since our last newsletter, the monastic brotherhood has had a very full Summer and Fall. Our primary work is to pray corporately and privately for the Church and for our entire world. Please visit our website, sttikhonsmonastery.org, to tell us how we can help and pray for you in your time of need.



Over the summer, we completed a major project on the monastery church exterior. All the brickwork was given a fresh, uniform white-wash, the cupolas and entrance arch were painted a rich brown with gold highlights, and the church's front entrance received a newly-restored set of carved mahogany doors. We are grateful to God for all those who "love the beauty of His house" and have therefore lent their support to this work!

During the Dormition Fast, our abbot, Archimandrite Sergius, visited the Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Essex, England. God willing, Archimandrite Zecharias will once again be visiting us here at St. Tikhon's either after Pascha or next Fall—stay tuned! He and

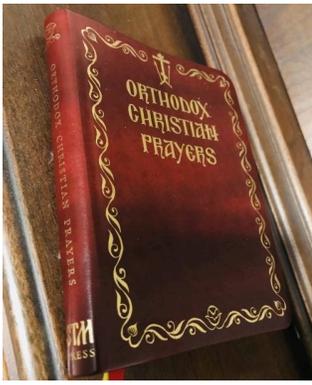
Abbot Peter and the entire monastic community in Essex have been close friends of our brotherhood for many years now, and this relationship continues to bear fruit and bring us great joy.



We have also been developing a new relationship with our brother monks at Holy Cross Monastery in Wayne, West Virginia. Last Fall, three of our monks visited the community there, and this Fall, three of the Holy Cross monks came here. Our time together was full of grace and good fellowship. The Wayne County monks of both Pennsylvania and West Virginia look forward to our continued monastic fellowship!

In October, the monastery's St. Tikhon Choir performed director Benedict Sheehan's new *Divine Liturgy* during Sunday Liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, D.C., with His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presiding. The piece was performed in concert twice that same weekend in both Washington and New York City. It was, by God's grace, a tremendous success and a beautiful offering, and a studio recording of the *Liturgy* will be released in March 2020. Contact the bookstore for more information.





And speaking of new releases, the monastery press recently published a revised and greatly expanded edition of *Orthodox Christian Prayers*. Several of our monks contributed to this beautiful and rich collection of prayers, hymns, and art. The first printing sold out in under two weeks, but the second printing is on its way and should be available within a few weeks.

Fr. Sergius and other clergy have accompanied the wonderworking icon of St. Anna on many recent parish visits, offering prayer services and spiritual talks across North America: the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Toronto, Ontario; several parishes near Seattle, Washington; as well as Detroit, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Rhode Island; New Jersey; and central and western Pennsylvania.

In October, the monastery hosted a seminar for bellringers conducted by Constantine Stade of New Creation Bellringing. In 2014, Constantine spearheaded the revival of bellringing at St. Tikhon's, and he will continue to help and guide us as we establish bellringing as an integral part of our vision for beauty in all the liturgical arts.



At its most recent meeting, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America elected our own Archimandrite Alexis (Trader) to the holy episcopacy as the Bishop of Bethesda and Auxiliary to Metropolitan Tikhon. Fr. Alexis will continue to reside at St. Tikhon's Monastery while assisting His Beatitude in his oversight of stavropegial institutions. We congratulate Bishop-elect Alexis and ask the Lord to protect and bless him for many years. Axios!

Fr. Alexis returned to St. Tikhon's earlier this year, but since 2017 four novices have joined us as well, and several other men are currently discerning a call to the monastic path. The Holy Spirit is speaking to the hearts of many—but at this point we're out of room! Every cell in the monastic living quarters is occupied, and we must begin a waiting list for prospective candidates. In order for us to continue the mission entrusted to us by our founder, St. Tikhon of Moscow, a new house is urgently needed. The plans are ready, but we lack the \$475,000 necessary for the construction. We are looking to the Lord who has always supported us so bountifully, in large part through the generosity of faithful Christians such as yourselves. If you would like to help, please send a donation marked "New House" in the memo line. May the Lord richly reward your kindness!



We are so grateful for all your prayers and for all your support, shown through so many kind greetings, cards, and visits! We are truly humbled to know of your love. May the Lord bless you all during the Fast and the approaching Feasts, and be assured of our continued love and prayers.

With much love in Christ,
The St. Tikhon's Monastery Brotherhood