

ENCYCLICAL

▷ from page 1

Saint Basil Academy. Led by our National Ladies Philoptochos Society and local chapters, it is our annual tradition on this day and during the month of January to offer prayers and support for this ministry. Each and every day of the year, the benefactors, directors, and staff of Saint Basil's are serving the needs of children and youth who need love, guidance, and the healing power of faith. This vital ministry has been supported for over sixty years by the Ladies Philoptochos Society through the annual cutting of the Vasilopeta, and I ask that you give generously and offer your prayers for St. Basil Academy.

In the cutting and sharing of the Vasilopeta at the inception of this New Year, may we also offer our prayers and support for His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and wish him many more years of faithful and dedicated service to Christ and His Church. And may the blessings of our Lord be upon each of you and your families for peace, health, and opportunities to share His love and the power of faith throughout the year.

With paternal love in Christ,

Archbishop Demetrios

✙ DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America



GOA-Dimitrios Panagos photo

Epiphany Service

Archbishop Demetrios officiates at the Jan. 6 Epiphany Service at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs, Fla., with the participation of Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, Fr. Sampson Kasapakis, proistamenos; other area clergy and Archdeacon Panteleimon and Deacon Eleftherios. Following the service, clergy and hundreds of parishioners proceeded to nearby Spring Bayou for the traditional Blessing of the Waters and Cross Diving event. (Full Epiphany coverage page 23).

Roman Catholic, Orthodox Christians Affirm Sanctity of Life

WASHINGTON—Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians joined in prayer and public gathering on the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion, to express their long-standing belief that all life is sacred.

An official delegation of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States participated in choir in the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Roman Catholic Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 21.

The following day, Jan. 22, Catholic and Orthodox bishops jointly offered prayer to begin the March for Life at noon on the National Mall.

As he reflected upon the importance of this year's sanctity of life events, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York and chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), said: "While we lament the tragedy of abortion in our land, our Lord continues to show us how good can come from evil. Our collaborative and prayerful efforts with our Orthodox brothers and sisters have certainly been a sign of hope in our combined efforts to build a culture of life."

Highlighting the importance of prayer when addressing the issue of abortion, Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, chairman

of the Committee for Church and Society of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops in the U.S., stressed the need to "pray not only for those who are currently considering an abortion, but also those who have already undergone the procedure and may despair of God's love and mercy."

The following statement was signed prior to the event by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the USCCB; Archbishop Demetrios, chairman of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops; Cardinal Dolan; and Metropolitan Savas.

Seeking Life, Mercy, and Healing – A Common Statement by Orthodox and Catholic Bishops on the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

"On January 22, Catholic and Orthodox Christians will once again stand in solidarity on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. As our communities firmly believe in the sanctity of life, the faithful – along with many people of other traditions and goodwill – lament the legal circumstances that facilitate abortion and the cultural phenomena that present abortion as the only choice for expectant mothers experiencing difficult conditions.

"We recognize that the choice to abort an unborn child ultimately reflects the broken condition of humanity.

"We remind the world of our common teaching that life begins at the earliest moments of conception and that life, at all stages of its development, is sacred. We denounce the termination of a life as a response to unwanted pregnancies or as a method of overcoming social and economic challenges. We embrace the mothers and the couples who, in spite of difficulties, choose to bring their pregnancy to term. At the same time, however, we invite those who may have undergone or facilitated an abortion to turn to Christ with contrite hearts, seeking to overcome their grief through His forgiveness, mercy and healing."

Archbishop Demetrios of America
Chairman, Assembly of Canonical Orthodox
Bishops of the USA

Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh
Chairman, Committee for Church & Society
Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops
of the USA

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz
Archbishop of Louisville
President, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

CLERGY UPDATE

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Whittaker, James – Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, at St. Sophia Church, New London, Conn. 11/29/15

Constas, Maximos – Archbishop Demetrios, St. Nicholas, Flushing, N.Y. 12/06/15
Callas, William – Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Holy Trinity Church, San Francisco 12/27/15

Delaveris, Nikolas – Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, St. Sophia Cathedral, Washington 01/10/16

Ordinations to the Priesthood

Dn. Maximos Constas – Archbishop Demetrios of America, Holy Trinity Cathedral, New York 12/20/15

Assignments

V. Rev. Fr. George Nikas – Chancellor, Metropolis of New Jersey 01/15/16

Assignments

Fr. Michael Ellis – Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Mansfield, Ohio 12/01/15
Fr. James S. Katinas – St. Demetrios Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 12/15/15
Fr. Gregory Trakas – Assumption Church, Manchester, NH 12/15/15
Fr. George Kouzelis – St. Demetrios Church, Upper Darby, Pa. 01/15/16

Offikia

Fr. Athanasios Haros – Office of Protos-priester, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta 11/25/15

Fr. Chrysostom Panos – Office of Archimandrite, bestowed by Archbishop Demetrios 11/30/15

Fr. George Zugravu – Office of Ekonomos, bestowed by Archbishop Demetrios 12/13/15

Fr. Maximos Constas – Office of Archimandrite, bestowed by Archbishop Demetrios 12/24/15

Receptions

Fr. Michael Ellis – Dec. 1, 2015 (from the American Carpatho – Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA)

V. Rev. Fr. Christodoulos Papadeas – Dec. 1, 2015 (from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of New Zealand)

Fr. Sasa Turkic – Dec. 23, 2015 (from the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia)

Returned to the status of layman

Constantine Mersinas – defrocked for violation of the Archdiocese Sexual Misconduct Policy 07/15/14

Orthodox Observer 2016 Deadline Schedule

Note: The following is the tentative deadline schedule for submitting articles and photos to the Orthodox Observer for consideration in 2016. In rare instances, it may be necessary to change a deadline. If that occurs, the new date will appear in red letters.

Month	Deadline	Highlights
Feb. – March	Friday, Feb. 12	pre-Lenten issue
April	Friday, March 11	Lenten issue
May	Friday, April 8	Pascha issue
June	Friday, May 20	pre-Clergy-Laity Congress
July – Aug.	Friday, June 24	Clergy-Laity Congress
September	Friday, Aug. 26	New Ecclesiastical Year
October	Friday, Sept. 30	Archdiocesan Council, Archons
November	Friday, Oct 28	Thanksgiving
December	Friday, Nov. 28	Christmas issue