

**REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN
2023 ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY
Saint Nicholas Cathedral
September 30, 2023**

PART ONE: LOG OF ACTIVITIES
October 2022-September 2023

The following is the first part of my report to the 2023 Archdiocesan Assembly to be held at Saint Nicholas Cathedral on September 30, 2023.

In an effort to be comprehensive, I am presenting this log of all my activities over the past year, that is, the time between last year's and this year's assembly. This log includes both my Archdiocesan activities and those activities related to my other responsibilities as Primate of the Orthodox Church in America.

I have verbally reported on most of these events at our two Archdiocesan Council meetings this year so I will not be report at the Assembly. I will, however, focus on some of the broad implications and themes

A. Archdiocesan Pastoral Visits. *This category contains a list of all the liturgical and pastoral visits that I made to the communities of the archdiocese of Washington. This list includes occasions when I simply attended but did not serve, occasions when I celebrated in the presbyteral manner, and occasions when I served in the hierarchical manner.*

1. 10.09: Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
2. 10.15: Vespers at Saint Mark in Bethesda
3. 10.16: Divine Liturgy at Saint Matthew in Columbia
4. 12.05: Vigil at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
5. 12.06: Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
6. 12.10: Vespers at Saint Mark in Bethesda
7. 12.11: Divine Liturgy at Saint Mark in Bethesda
8. 12.13: Divine Liturgy at All Saints of America in Alexandria (Saint Herman)
9. 12.18: Divine Liturgy at Saint Luke in McLean
10. 12.23: Royal Hours for Nativity at All Saints of America in Alexandria
11. 12.24: Vigil for Nativity at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
12. 12.25: Divine Liturgy for Nativity at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
13. 01.01: Divine Liturgy at Saint Matthew in Columbia
14. 01.07: Divine Liturgy at Saint Luke in McLean (Old Calendar Nativity)
15. 01.08: Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity in Ashburn
16. 01.20: Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral before March for Life
17. 01.22: Divine Liturgy and annual meeting at All Saints of America Mission in Alexandria
18. 02.01: Great Vespers for Meeting of the Lord at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
19. 02.02: Divine Liturgy for Meeting of the Lord at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
20. 02.05: Divine Liturgy at Saint Matthew in Columbia with ordination to the diaconate of Michael Day
21. 02.12: Divine Liturgy at Saint Catherine in Hagerstown for the 40th anniversary of ordination of Fr. Dennis Buck
22. 02.19: Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral

23. 03.04: Vespers at Christ the Savior in Berlin
24. 03.05: Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of Orthodoxy with blessing of new archway mosaics at Christ the Savior in Berlin
25. 03.12: Divine Liturgy at Saint John the Theologian Mission Station
26. 03.15: Liturgy of the presanctified gifts at All Saints of America in Alexandria
27. 03.19: Divine Liturgy at All Saints of America in Alexandria
28. 03.22: Liturgy of the presanctified gifts at Saint Luke in McLean
29. 03.26: Divine Liturgy at Saint Andrew in Baltimore
30. 04.10: Bridegroom Matins Saint Luke, McLean
31. 04.11: Bridegroom Matins Holy Archangels, Annapolis
32. 04.12: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, Saint Catherine, Hagerstown
33. 04.12: Holy Thursday Matins, Saint John Mission Station, Fairfax
34. 04.13: Vespereal Liturgy at Saint Matthew, Columbia
35. 04.13: 12 Passion Gospels at Saint Mark, Bethesda
36. 04.14: Royal Hours at All Saints, Alexandria
37. 04.14: Holy Friday Vespers at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
38. 04.14: Holy Saturday Matins at St. Nicholas Cathedral
39. 04.15: Holy Saturday Liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral
40. 04.15: Midnight Office at St. Nicholas Cathedral
41. 04.16: Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas Cathedral
42. 04.17: Bright Monday Liturgy at Holy Trinity, Ashburn
43. 04.19: Bright Wednesday Liturgy at St. Catherine, Hagerstown
44. 04.25: Divine Liturgy at Saint Mark in Hagerstown for the feast of the Apostle Mark and the opening of the Holy Synod
45. 05.07: Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
46. 05.14: Divine Liturgy at Saint John the Theologian Mission Station with awarding of the kamilavka to Fr. John Mikitish
47. 05.24: Great Vespers for Ascension at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
48. 05.25: Divine Liturgy for Ascension at Saint Luke in McLean
49. 06.03: Vigil for Pentecost at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
50. 06.04: Divine Liturgy with kneeling prayers at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
51. 07.01: Baptism of Alexander George Mikitish and Vespers at All Saints of America Mission in Alexandria
52. 07.02: Divine Liturgy at Saint John Mission Station in Fairfax
53. 07.09: Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity, Ashburn
54. 07.23: Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
55. 07.30: Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity in Ashburn
56. 08.18: Vigil at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
57. 08.19: Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
58. 08.26: Vespers at All Saint of America in Alexandria
59. 08.27: Divine Liturgy at All Saint of America in Alexandria with the elevation of the community to the status of full parish and the elevation of Fr. Alessandro Margheritino to Archpriest
60. 09.03: Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
61. 09.09: Divine Liturgy at Saint Andrew in Baltimore for the 50th anniversary of ordination of Archpriest Theodore Boback with the bestowal of the mitre
62. 09.10: Divine Liturgy at Saint Matthew in Columbia
63. 09.14: Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
64. 09.26: Divine Liturgy at Saint John the Theologian Mission Station for their patronal feast

B. Archdiocesan Events. *This category records all those events to which the entire diocese was invited to participate. Although this year's list includes primarily liturgical events, it is intended to also include social events.*

1. 09.24: 2022 Archdiocesan Assembly (via zoom)
2. 12.27: Vespers and Christmas concert at Saint Luke in McLean
3. 01.21: Divine Liturgy and luncheon at Saint Nicholas Cathedral for the 10th anniversary of my enthronement
4. 04.22: Archdiocesan Bright Saturday Matins and Liturgy at St Matthew in Columbia
5. 06.28: Archdiocesan Vigil for Saints Peter and Paul
6. 07.08: Archdiocesan Vocations Training at Saint Mark's in Bethesda
7. 07.15: Divine Liturgy at Saint Mark in Bethesda on the occasion of my 57th birthday with bestowal of the clergy award of palitza to Archpriest Valery Shemchuk
8. 07.15: Luncheon with archdiocesan clergy wives
9. 09.13: Archdiocesan Vigil for the Exaltation of the Cross at Saint Nicholas Cathedral
10. 09.30: 2023 Archdiocesan Assembly with Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral

C. Archdiocesan Administration. *This list is not exhaustive but notes some of the more important administrative meetings, many of which are held on a regular basis. This list does not include occasions when I discuss administrative or pastoral matters with the clergy or faithful on the telephone or via electronic mail.*

1. Weekly meetings with chancellor
 - i. October 7, 12, 21, 26
 - ii. November 2
 - iii. December 7, 12
 - iv. January 12, 18, 25
 - v. February 6, 16, 22
 - vi. March 8, 15, 22, 29
 - vii. April 20
 - viii. May 3, 24, 31
 - ix. June 7, 28
 - x. July 5, 12, 21
 - xi. August 2, 18, 30
 - xii. September 13, 20, 27
2. 11.03: Special Archdiocesan Assembly meeting
3. 11.03: Meeting with potential candidate for ordination
4. 12.20: Meeting with Archdiocesan clergyman
5. 12.22: Meeting with Finance Committee
6. 01.24: Meeting with potential candidate for ordination
7. 02.18: Meeting of the Archdiocesan Council
8. 02.06: Meeting of the Council of Saint Nicholas Cathedral
9. 02.06: Meeting of Vocation Board to interview Diaconal Vocations Program candidate
10. 02.19: Annual meeting of Saint Nicholas Cathedral
11. 02.21: Meeting with Archdiocesan clergyman
12. 03.04: Meeting with widowed matushka
13. 03.09: Meeting with council of Saint Nicholas Cathedral
14. 03.21: Dinner meeting with archdiocesan clergyman and spouse

15. 06.06: Meeting with potential candidate for ordination
16. 08.19: Meeting of the Archdiocesan Council
17. 09.18: Meeting with Mission Board chairs
18. 09.19: Meeting with chair of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB)
19. 08.25: Meeting of the full committee of the DDB

D. Primatial Travel. *The following are the major events that I participated in as the primate of the Orthodox Church in America. They include visits to gatherings of entire dioceses and visits to individual parishes for significant events.*

1. 10.1-2: Enthronement of Archbishop Daniel of Chicago and the Midwest
2. 10.22-23: 100th anniversary of Saints Peter and Paul in Bayonne, New Jersey
3. 11.04-05: 100th anniversary of Archangel Michael Church, Broadview Heights, Ohio
4. 11.13: Synodal Divine Liturgy in honor of the 10th anniversary of my primatial enthronement at Saint Tikhon's Monastery
5. 01.14-16: Primatial visit to the Diocese of Mexico
6. 02.07-09: Diocese of the South Pastoral Conference in Lexington, Kentucky
7. 02.-10-11: Funeral services for Archpriest Daniel Rentel in Columbus, Ohio
8. 06.10-11: Vespers and Divine Liturgy at Saint Basil the Great in Wilmington, North Carolina
9. 07.19-21: Archdiocese of Canada Assembly in Montreal, Quebec, Canada
10. 08.05-06: Vigil and Divine Liturgy for the 55th anniversary of the monastery of the Holy Transfiguration in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania
11. 08.07-14: Saint Herman Pilgrimage in Anchorage, Kodiak, and Spruce Island, Alaska
12. 09.23-24: Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the 50th anniversary of Saint Herman of Alaska Church in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

E. Orthodox Church in America Chancery. *This category refers to the various administrative meetings that I preside at or hold in my capacity as the primate of the Orthodox Church in America and that are coordinated through the chancery office. These include meeting of the Holy Synod, the Metropolitan Council, and various church-wide boards and committees.*

1. 10.06: Meeting with Fr. Martin Ritsi and Fr. Christopher Rowe from OCMC
2. 10.19-20: Autumn meeting of the Metropolitan Council
3. 10:26: Meeting of the Board of Theological Education
4. 12.19: Property Committee meeting
5. 11.9-12: Autumn meeting of the Holy Synod
6. 12.15: Meeting of the Thriving in Ministry Board
7. 01.24: Meeting with chair of the Office of Pastoral Life
8. 01.24: Meeting of the Office of Pastoral Life
9. 02.03: Special meeting of the Metropolitan Council
10. 03.09: Meeting with potential clergy candidate for reception
11. 03.14: Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
12. 03.16: Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
13. 04.03: Meeting of the Board of Theological Education
14. 04.25-27: Spring meeting of the Holy Synod
15. 05.09: Ss. Cosmas and Damian Board meeting
16. 07.06: Property Committee meeting
17. 08.16: Property Committee meeting

18. 08.22: Meeting with Ken Liu, Executive Director of Orthodox Youth and Young Adults Ministry for the Assembly of Bishops
19. 09.06: Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
20. 09.15-16: Episcopal ordination of Bishop Nikodhim of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese in Boston, Massachusetts.
21. 09.18-21: Interviews of candidates for General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America
22. Daily meetings with officers and staff of the Orthodox Church in America

F. Stavropegial. *As the Metropolitan, I have oversight of the stavropegial institutions, including the monasteries (Saint Tikhon's Monastery, Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, and the New Skete Monasteries), the seminaries (Saint Tikhon's Seminary and Saint Vladimir's Seminary), and the military and institutional chaplains. Also included in this category is Saint Catherine's Representation Church in Moscow and the various clergy who serve directly under my omophorion but are located in other places (such as OCMC missionaries).*

1. Ordination interviews
 - i. 12.08: 3rd year seminarian from the Diocese of the South (STS)
 - ii. 12.08: 3rd year seminarian from the Diocese of the South (STS)
 - iii. 12.09: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of the Eastern Pennsylvania (SVS)
 - iv. 12.09: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of the Midwest (SVS)
 - v. 12.12: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of New York and New Jersey (STS)
 - vi. 12.12: 3rd year seminarian from the Diocese of the Midwest (STS)
 - vii. 12.19: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of the Midwest (STS)
 - viii. 01.12: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of the Eastern Pennsylvania (STS)
 - ix. 01.27: 2nd year seminarian from the military chaplaincy (STS)
 - x. 03.24: Stavropegial faculty member (SVS)
 - xi. 03.29: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of the West (STS)
 - xii. 05.11: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of New York and New Jersey (STS)
 - xiii. 05.23: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of the West (STS)
 - xiv. 05.23: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of the Midwest (SVS)
 - xv. 07.13: 2nd year seminarian from the Diocese of the Midwest (STS)
2. 09.27 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Saint Vladimir Seminary (SVS)
3. 10.25: Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of SVS
4. 01.24 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of SVS
5. 02.02: Meeting with Executive Chair of the Board of Trustees of SVS
6. 02.10: Full Board Meeting at Saint Vladimir's Seminary
7. 02.26-03.03: First Week of Great Lent at St. Tikhon's Monastery
8. 03.07: Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of SVS
9. 03.20: Meeting with seminary leadership of SVS
10. 03.24: Presanctified Liturgy at Three Hierarchs Chapel and Vigil for Annunciation
11. 03.24: Meetings with individual members of SVS administration
12. 03.25: Divine Liturgy for Annunciation at SVS with tonsuring to reader
13. 03.29: Meeting with Dean of STS
14. 03.31: Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Saint Tikhon's Seminary

15. 05.18-19: Full Board Meeting at Saint Vladimir's Seminary
16. 05.20: Divine Liturgy at Three Hierarchs Chapel and commencement exercises for Saint Vladimir Seminary
17. 05.26: Meeting of the full Board of Trustees of Saint Tikhon's Seminary
18. 05.26: Divine Liturgy at Saint Tikhon's Monastery with commencement exercises for Saint Tikhon's Seminary with ordination to the diaconate of Damian Kulp
19. 05.27: Divine Liturgy at Saint Tikhon's Monastery with ordination to the diaconate of Benjamin Garcia
20. 05.28: Divine Liturgy at Saint Tikhon's Monastery with ordination to the diaconate of Seraphim Roberston.
21. 06.08: Lunch meeting with Fr Chad Hatfield (SVS)
22. 07.30-31: Funeral services for Matushka Delores Donlick
23. 08.04: Full Board Meeting at Saint Vladimir's Seminary
24. 08.28: Meeting with Executive Chair of SVS Board of Trustees
25. 08.31: Address to seminarians at Saint Tikhon's Seminary with blessing of cassocks and annual alumni picnic
26. 09.01: Divine Liturgy at Saint Tikhon's Monastery and STS Alumni meeting
27. 09.07-08: Vigil and Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos at Saint Vladimir Seminary
28. 09.12: Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of SVS

G. Diocese of New England locum tenency. *For the past four years, I have served as locum tenens for the diocese of New England. This is intended to be a temporary position until a new bishop is provided for the diocese. It is anticipated that this will take place in the coming months.*

1. 10.27-29: New England Diocesan Assembly in Springfield, Vermont
2. 10:30: Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts with ordination to the priesthood of Fr. Justin Griffing
3. 12.14: Meeting of the New England Diocesan Council
4. 12.19: Meeting with potential deacon for transfer into the diocese
5. 12.20: Meeting with potential candidate for ordination
6. 02.21: Meeting with Chancellor
7. 02.22: Meeting of New England Diocesan Council
8. 03.09: Meeting with ordination candidate
9. 03.10: Meeting with ordination candidate
10. 04.01: Divine Liturgy at Ss. Peter and Paul in Springfield, Massachusetts with Ordination of Zachary Wasuta to the priesthood
11. 04.01: Vespers at All Saints in Hartford, Connecticut
12. 04.02: Divine Liturgy at Saint Alexis in Clinton, Connecticut
13. 04.02: Connecticut Deanery Unction Service at Three Saints in Ansonia
14. 04.07: Lazarus Saturday Matins at Holy Annunciation in Maynard, Massachusetts
15. 04.08: Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas in Salem with reception of catechumens
16. 04.08: Vigil at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Boston
17. 04.09: Divine Liturgy at Holy Dormition in Cumberland, Rhode Island with bestowal of miter on Archpriest Vasily Lickwar
18. 05.06: Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost in Bridgeport with ordination of Mark Roosien to the priesthood
19. 05.10: Meeting with the Chancellor
20. 05.17: Meeting of the New England Diocesan Council
21. 08.22: Meeting with ordination candidate

- 22. 08.29: Meeting of the New England Diocesan Council
- 23. 09.13: Meeting with the Chancellor

H. External Affairs. *According to the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the Metropolitan has care for both the internal life of the Church and her external relations with other churches. The following is a list of my activities in the area of external relations, that is interactions with other Orthodox Churches both locally and globally, as well as various ecumenical activities.*

- 1. 09.27: Luncheon with His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, Catholicos of the Malankara Orthodox Church
- 2. 12.16: Meeting with Alex Azar, former Secretary of Health and Human Services
- 3. 01.04-06: Funeral services of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in Rome, Italy
- 4. 01.19: Vigil for Life at Immaculate Conception RC Basilica
- 5. 01.20: March for Life in Washington, DC
- 6. 01.28-31: Assembly of Bishops meeting in Los Angeles, California
- 7. 02.03: Meeting with heads of jurisdictions of the Assembly of Bishops
- 8. 02.06: Phone call with Archbishop Anastasios of Albania
- 9. 04.20: Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States
- 10. 05.13: Enthronement of Metropolitan Saba of the Antiochian Archdiocese
- 11. 05.17: Meeting with Protodeacon Sergei Kapral (Orthodox Peace Fellowship and Orthodox Fellowship of the Transfiguration)
- 12. 05.22: Meeting with Deacon Marek Simon (Orthodox Campus Fellowship)
- 13. 05.28: Concelebration with Metropolitan Nicholas of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia at Saint Tikhon's Monastery
- 14. 07.06: Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States
- 15. 08.01: Meeting with representatives of the Clapham Group

I. Personal time. *In an effort to emphasize the importance of clergy health, as well as the health of our faithful, I include here a list of some of my activities related to my physical health which also have an impact on my mental and spiritual health.*

- 1. 11.16-12.2: Winter vacation in the French Alps
- 2. 06.11-25: Summer vacation in the French Alps
- 3. Hiking 3-4 miles in the morning (4 days/week)
- 4. Weekly check-in with nutritionist