

# HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Parish Newsletter

R E S T O N

New Parish Center: 20937 Ashburn Rd., #110, Ashburn, VA October 2022

### OCTOBER—DAY 11 HOURS, NIGHT 13

- 22 Sat 6:00 p.m. Vespers  
 23 Sun<sup>19•II•Lk5</sup> 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Busenberg**  
 29 Sat 6:00 p.m. Vespers  
 30 Sun<sup>20•III•Lk6</sup> 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Bobrovsky**

### NOVEMBER—DAY 10 HOURS, NIGHT 14

- 5 Sat *No Vespers—Daylight Saving Time ends*  
 6 Sun<sup>21•IV•Lk7</sup> 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Ellmore**  
 12 Sat 5:00 p.m. Vespers  
 13 Sun<sup>22•V•Lk8</sup> 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy—**Coffee Hour: Hawkins**

### The Church Year Unfolding before Us...

The Feast of the Lord's Nativity (December 25) falls on a Sunday this year. We can mark the feast with Vespers with the Divine Liturgy on Saturday evening (the 24th, and as we have been doing these many years), or with the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning (the 25th). Theophany (January 6) falls on a Friday, which we will move to the following Sunday.

The Great Forty Days begin Monday, February 27, the Great and Holy Pasch April 14, 15 and 16 (with the Pasch of the Law beginning on the evening of April 5); the Western Pasch will be the week before. Ascension Thursday will be May 25, Pentecost, our parish feast, falling on June 4.

### Can an unprovoked invasion be a just war? The Orthodox East falls silent.

In 1095, Pope Urban II told a large gathering of knights in Southern France that it was their responsibility to avenge the Islamic conquest of the Holy Land (he did not mention that the conquest had occurred nearly 500 years earlier). Urban's sermon led to the First Crusade, and it forever changed the dynamics between Western Europe, Eastern Christianity, and the Islamic world.

From a Christian theological perspective, Urban introduced an entirely novel—some might say heretical—way of thinking about the relationship between Christian piety and violence. Near the end of his sermon, Urban declared, "Set out on this journey and you will obtain the remission of your sins and be sure of the incorruptible glory of the kingdom of heaven."

For nearly a millennium, Orthodox Christians have condemned Urban's perversion of Christian teaching, just as they have condemned the historical events that flowed from it (especially the Fourth Crusade, which

### **SanktHubertus XXVII—is on the horizon!**

Maria Hawkins is reminding 20 diner-donors that her *SanktHubertus* Roast Venison Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 5. (There will be no Vespers that evening.)

destroyed Christian Byzantium). Given this backdrop, Patriarch Kirill's most-recent effort to curry relevance in Putin's Russia is nothing short of remarkable: **Kirill declared in a recent sermon that Russian soldiers who die in Ukraine will have their sins forgiven.**

The only difference between Kirill's declaration and Urban's is that Kirill is directing Russian soldiers to make war against fellow Orthodox Christians. It is a sad irony that Kirill believes Ukrainian Christians belong to his own super-jurisdiction.

To be sure, Kirill's capitulation of his pastoral responsibilities has been on full display since the beginning of the war. So, we might see this as nothing more than a final embarrassing step into a pro-Putin abyss.

But it is not Kirill's deranged understanding of the process of salvation that I find so alarming as the fact that the leaders of the Orthodox Christian world have largely failed to respond.

When, we might ask, will the autocephalous leaders of the Orthodox Christian world collectively declare Kirill's full-throated endorsement of the invasion of Ukraine to be beyond the pale? Apart from the ever-steadfast Ecumenical Patriarch, the brave bishops of Ukraine, and a few others, the response has been insufficient.

What more would Kirill have to say or do for the Church of Serbia or the Church of Antioch to rebuke him? Given their silence to date, is there anything that he could do that would lead them to publicly criticize him?



Here in the United States, what are the chances that the Assembly of Bishops might collectively say enough is enough and issue a condemnation of Kirill's statements? What are the chances that the Board of St. Vladimir's Seminary might publicly abandon their plan to create an endowed chair in Kirill's honor?

To be sure, Putin is not the first politician to attempt to manipulate the church to his own ends. Byzantine history is filled with similar episodes. In the middle of the tenth century, the emperor Nikephoros II Phokas asked the Patriarch of Constantinople to declare martyrdom for all Byzantine soldiers who died fighting Muslims. Patriarch Polyeuktos and his synod refused to do so because, they said, it would break nearly six hundred years of canonical tradition (stretching back to St. Basil the Great) that treated killing in war as a spiritually damaging event, requiring repentance. "How can we declare as martyrs," the synod asked, "those whom St. Basil claims to have blood on their hands?"

It is clear that Kirill does not have the fortitude of Patriarch Polyeuktos. The real question is whether the bishops of the Orthodox Christian world will have the courage of that tenth-century synod and repudiate Kirill's Crusade.

George Demacopoulos is the Fr. John Meyendorff and Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies and Co-Director of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University.

*Public Orthodoxy* seeks to promote conversation by providing a forum for diverse perspectives on contemporary issues related to Orthodox Christianity. The positions expressed in this essay are solely the author's and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors or the Orthodox Christian Studies Center.



loudoun hunger relief

## Thanksgiving **or** Baking Bag Drive

Register your bags at [loudounhunger.org](http://loudounhunger.org)

### Pack a reusable bag with:

- your favorite cookie recipe
- all mix/ingredients needed

Nothing perishable, please!

- Put a \$10 - \$15 Grocery Store Gift Card in a separate envelope, NOT in the bag.

**Can't make a bag? Give a family dinner by donating \$25.**

**Donate to help at [loudounhunger.org/donate-now](http://loudounhunger.org/donate-now)**



### Pack a reusable bag with:

- Stuffing Mix
  - 4 Cans of Vegetables
  - Boxed Potatoes
  - Gravy (no glass please)
  - Cornbread or Biscuit Mix
  - Cranberry Sauce
  - Dessert Mix/Ingredients
- Nothing perishable, please!

- Put a \$20 - \$25 Grocery Store Gift Card in a separate envelope, NOT in the bag.

### Deliver your Bag

**By November 11, 2022:**

Loudoun Hunger Relief  
750 Miller Drive Ste A-1  
Leesburg, VA 20175  
Mon.-Fri. 9am-3pm  
Sat. 9am-12pm

703-777-5911  
[loudounhunger.org](http://loudounhunger.org)





# UKRAINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**Hope and Help in Time of Tremendous Need**


With strong partner relations and long experience across Eastern Europe, IOCC is now addressing immediate and long-term needs in and around Ukraine. Work is ongoing in Poland and Romania to assist refugees and those serving them. Programs are reaching people in need inside Ukraine with food, hygiene supplies, and other basics.

**30<sup>th</sup>**  
YEAR OF SERVICE | 1992-2022

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