



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Parish Newsletter

RESTON

August 2014

AUGUST—DAY 13 HOURS, NIGHT 11

- 3 Sun^{8•VII•Mt8} 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Smith**
- 6 Wed ↑ *Transfiguration of the Lord* — *Bless fruit*
- 10 Sun^{9•VIII•Mt9} 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Wayland**
- 15 Fri ↓ *Dormition of the Theotokos* — *Bless flowers*
- 17 Sun^{10•I•Mt10} 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Williams**
- 24 Sun^{11•II•Mt11} 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Belinsky**
- 31 Sun^{12•III•Mt12} 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Busenberg**

SEPTEMBER—DAY 12 HOURS, NIGHT 12

- 7 Sun^{13•IV•Mt13} 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Doyle**
- 13 Sat ANNIVERSARY [1678TH] OF THE DEDICATION [*Ta Enkaínia*, IN 336 A.D.] OF THE ANÁSTASIS or Church of the Resurrection of the Lord, erected in Jerusalem by Constantine the Great on the site of Golgotha.
Kondakion of the Anniversary: You have made this temple a resplendent heaven, and its light bathes all who enter it. As we stand within its walls, we pray to you: Make it stand forever, O Lord.
- 14 Sun^{14•V•Mt14} **UNIVERSAL ELEVATION OF THE HOLY AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS**
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy — **Coffee Hour: Ellmore**

The pious pilgrim and Latin nun Egeria, writing in her diary ca. 415 A.D., remembers standing within the walls of the Anastasis:

"All the torches and candles are lighted, and this makes a tremendous light."



Sts. Constantine and Helen, Osios Lukas, Phokis, Greece

Regarding the Peace-loving Moslems, we have to point out that The Assyrian International News Agency recently reported that, since taking over Mosul on June 10, ISIS has destroyed, occupied, converted to mosques, converted to ISIS headquarters or shuttered all 45 Christian institutions in Mosul—Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and the one Presbyterian church. Here is a hierarchical voice from Down Under.

The Horrific Genocide of Christians in the Middle East

The following is a statement from His Grace Bishop Suriel of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Diocese Of Melbourne and Affiliated Regions.

The world watches in silence as the last Christians are expelled from Mosul, Iraq in one of the most merciless and barbaric acts of genocide we have seen in the 21st Century.

Mosul, the cradle of Christianity in

The OCA Statute on the Parish

The parish is a local community of the Church having at its head a duly appointed priest and consisting of Orthodox Christians who

- (1) live in accordance with the teachings of the Orthodox Church,
- (2) comply with the discipline and rules of the Church, and
- (3) regularly support their parish.

Being subordinate to the Diocesan Authority, it is a component part of the Diocese.

Iraq since the first centuries, is now purged of its entire Christian population. The ruthless and purposeful savagery of the attacks by the fundamentalist Muslim terrorist organization The Islamic State (IS) formerly known as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), is truly inconceivable. Yet, most world leaders remain silent in the face of the murder of innocent children and horrific beheadings of civilians. We question why the media has not highlighted the unprecedented systematic eradication of the city's entire Christian population. We also question why the Australian government have yet to comment and condemn this gross deprivation of human rights.

There is only silence.

Silence, that sends a resounding message of indifference to the murders of innocent lives at the hands of extremist Muslim groups. Silence, which attributes lesser value to the lives of Christians in the Middle East. Silence, that surrenders to the power of radicalism and the inhumane brutality of groups such as IS.

In an age where world leaders are gifted with more power and global influence than ever before, I ask why the blaring silence and apathy? The Christian Copts are being forcefully driven out of Egypt and countless churches have been destroyed. Yet there is barely any international support and protection. Our peaceful protests and appeals to the government for action have fallen on deaf ears, time

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and time again. We are witnessing a heinous cleansing of the entire Christian population in the Middle East by an expanding extremist Muslim terrorist group. Are we going to sit back and watch the disaster unfold, and in so doing, contribute to the crimes against humanity? The world's silence is fuelling these extremist terrorist groups.

In Australia, we are sheltered from the inconceivable cruelty that our brothers and sisters in the Middle East are experiencing. We live in comfort and have no impediments to our human rights. However, we will not be safe from the indiscriminate and unstoppable destruction of IS and its ancillary extremist Muslim terrorist groups for long. If, as a nation, we do not take a strong stance against these crimes against humanity, it is only a matter of time before such fundamentalism infects the entire world.

Only yesterday, it was revealed that two Australians had reportedly joined IS terrorists fighting in Syria and Iraq and are wanted for alleged terrorist activities. They proudly posted photos of themselves holding up the severed heads of fighters. Is our apathy to terrorism creating a safe haven for the breeding of Islamic fundamentalists on our shores? We call upon the Australian government to take a strong stance against these disturbing developments.

Orphans from Syria come to Russia for holidays at the invitation of St. Andrew the First-Called Foundation

At the invitation of St. Andrew the First-Called Foundation and the Center of National Glory, orphaned children from war-stricken Syria have come to Russia for holidays. About a hundred pupils, accompanied by their teachers, from the Orthodox orphanages at the monasteries of the Orthodox Church of Antioch, located in Saidnaya, Maaloula, Damascus, and the Valley of Christians, and from boarding schools for children of deceased servicemen, will spend two weeks in a children's health camp in the Moscow Region.

With the blessing of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East, Archimandrite Yusef Yacoub, rector of the Church of the Holy Mother of God in Latakia, accompanies the children.

According to the chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Andrew the First-Called Foundation, Mr. Vladimir Yakunin, the Foundation and the Centre of National Glory are experienced in organizing summer holidays for children from trouble spots: ten years ago, 540 Serbian children from Kosovo and Metohija came to Russia for vacation. Mr. Yakunin expressed his hope that the Syrian children would remember their trip to Russia, come to love the country and would be able to forget, during their holidays, about the terrible things they had had to suffer—one of the girls who came to Moscow had lost her father only a month ago.

The initiative of St. Andrew the First-Called Foundation to bring the Syrian children to Russia for holidays was discussed with the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, in January 2014, when a Russian parliamentary delegation, led by Mr. Sergei Gavrilov, visited Damascus. The delegation was accompanied by Hegumen Arseniy (Sokolov), representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia to the Patriarch of Great Antioch, who took an active part in the organization of the Syrian children's trip to Russia.

The Syrian children will spend their holidays in the Moscow Region from July 28th till August the 11th. They will also see the Moscow sights and churches. His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia is expected to meet with the Syrian children and bless them.

On the Home Front

Marsha Morrow reports: Progress!! The County has approved the building plans. The next step is for Zoning to bless it, and that is where the application is now. [Let's pray] that the zoning step goes as fast and painlessly as this one has.