

Епархия Чикагская и Средне-Американская
Русская Православная Церковь Заграницей



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Russian Orthodox Church Abroad

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November 20 / 7 (OS), 2020
The Holy 33 Martyrs of Melitene

*"Pray like a child, in simplicity of heart, concerning all your needs and sorrows,
and entrust yourself to God's will, for the Lord arranges our salvation." +St. Nikon of Optina*

Dear Past and Future Benefactors of the St. John Kochurov Society,

I warmly greet you with the recent feast of **our heavenly patron St. John Kochurov, an apostle to America and first priest-martyr of the Bolshevik Revolution**. St. John, dearly beloved by American and Russian Orthodox Christians alike, is a God-pleasing and sympathetic intercessor for us as we live amidst the climate of fear, danger, and uncertainty brought about by **COVID-19** and the **political and civil unrest in our American land**. His life was one of earthly trial and heavenly triumph: a holy **podvig** of **shepherding his family and parish, proclaiming the kingdom of God in the mission field, and prayerfully enduring the political division and violent civil unrest that resulted in his glorious crown of martyrdom**.

No matter the dire circumstances we may find ourselves in this year or in years to come, **we too are called by our Lord Jesus Christ to the same earthly podvig, to the same heavenly rest**. St. John's courageous example inspires firm hope in our hearts, teaching us to hold fast to the Lord as we cross the sea of life, and to take refuge in the harbor of His Holy Church. By his martyric life and death, **St. John bears eternal witness that every cross borne humbly for Christ's sake will be planted in the unfading garden of Paradise, where all the saints rejoice!** I fervently pray that the Lord may grant this everlasting joy to all of our Orthodox fathers and brethren who have perished in the pandemic, and to all of you!

In the coming year, we should anticipate greater needs in our diocese, and thus, a greater podvig. The **St. John Kochurov Society** exists so that we may better fulfill one aspect of our charitable duty toward each other, and **it is through your membership and patronage that the Society continues to provide critical financial support to our Diocesan Youth, Missions, and Monasteries in need**.

I entreat you from the depths of my heart to faithfully maintain your prayerful and financial support of our common and essential work! May God bless you in return for your charity!

Holy Father John Kochurov, pray to God for us!

With Gratitude for your Generosity and Love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

+ Archbishop Peter

Peter, Archbishop of Chicago & Mid-America

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Dear Friends of St. John Kochurov,

Once again, I give thanks to God and to all of you for *your support*. After a year of hardships for everyone, we look forward - with hope in the Lord and prayer to St. John Kochurov - to a new and God-blessed beginning.

Before I go any further, let me ask: ***Is your parish or priest in need?*** The St. John Kochurov Society stands ready to provide financial support to address critical needs that arise in our diocese.

Despite the recent crisis, I'm convinced that a year of **COVID-19 lockdowns and layoffs** will be followed by a year of **activity and labor**. Meeting the demands of our growing diocese will require your aid! **Will you help us make 2021 a year of renewed spiritual life in our diocese by your continued membership in the Society?**

Take a moment now to Join, Renew, or Donate today to continue your critical support!

With a donation of at least \$120.00 per year, either as a single gift or deducted automatically at \$10 per month, you will be included in our membership roll and will be asked to provide the names of loved ones to be commemorated at Divine Liturgies at the Diocesan Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral. **All donations are tax deductible.** (Write Sdn. Andrei Urtiew, Treasurer at urt88@yahoo.com to request a donation receipt.)

Follow this link to DONATE NOW (on mobile device or computer) via PayPal, Credit Card, or Debit Transaction: www.sjksdcma.org/donate

With love in the Lord,



Pr. David Companik, SJKS Executive Committee Chairman

P.S. To request assistance, contact me directly at 832-791-3344 | davidcompanik@gmail.com

P.P.S. Vladyka's letter was written in November. Please forgive my delay in sending it to you!

Society News

Over the past two years, the Society's executive committee concluded our work on producing and issuing certificates and awards to our 2nd Class (Silver) and 3rd Class (Bronze) Lifetime Members, whose exemplary and generous support has done much to lay the foundation of our charity fund. Please see their names in the enclosed "Lifetime Society Members" list and pray to God for them and for all our Members and Benefactors!

More importantly, your Christian charity allowed the Society to provide over \$10,000 in grants to the youth, mission parishes, and monasteries of our diocese...

In 2019:

- \$1,000 - One-time support for monthly expenses at Christ the Savior Mission Parish in Gibraltar, MI. Unexpected hardships put even their electricity service in jeopardy, but your financial support kept the parish open!***
- \$1,800 - Coverage of travel expenses for +Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen) and Fr. John Filipowicz, who visited Ss. Sergius and Herman of Valaam monastery and parish in Houghton, MI during the interim before Fr. Benjamin Naasko was ordained and assigned priest. Without your support, the faithful could not have had a priest for Holy Week and Pascha services!***
- \$5,000 - To lower the cost of the 2019 St. Herman Youth Conference, enabling more of our diocesan youth to attend. Your contributions continue to make a lasting difference in their lives. Through your prayers and financial support, may God grant that 2021 will see the resumption of our youth and choir conferences!***

In 2020:

- \$2,500 - One-time support for the cost of church property acquisition at Holy Transfiguration Mission Parish in Peoria, IL. Fr. Dn. Benjamin Bryant expressed his warmest thanks and shared, "With this grant, we can now afford to install new flooring in the building!"***