



Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

53rd Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest
Broadview Heights, OH
October 7, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The 53rd Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest will take place on Tuesday, October 6, 2014. It will be hosted by Archangel Michael Church in Broadview Heights in the Greater Cleveland area. Meetings and meals will be held in the Woodside Center, a beautiful, church-owned banquet facility. The address is 5025 East Mill Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio.

All the most up-to-date information and assembly materials may be found on the Diocesan Assembly webpage at <http://domoca.org/assembly.html>. This letter serves to round up all of the essential logistical information that delegates and observers will need. Welcome to Cleveland!

Registration

The composition of delegates from each parish is made up of the *assigned* priests and deacons, and an equal number of lay delegates. One lay delegate is allowed from each parish not having an assigned priest. Lay delegates are elected by a parish meeting or parish council (consult parish bylaws). Others may attend as observers. Further information may be found in *The Statute of the Orthodox Church in America*, Article 7, The Diocesan Assembly: <http://oca.org/statute/article-vii>.

The registration fee schedule for this year's assembly is as follows:

\$100.00 per delegate or observer
\$25.00 ground transportation (if flying)

Please return the Registration Form by Monday, September 22.

Hotels

Accommodations for the assembly have been procured at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Cleveland South, 5300 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio, at a rate of \$89.00. Reservations need to be booked by Monday, September 22. After this date there are no guarantees with regard to rooms and/or a discounted rate. Please make your reservations as soon as possible by calling (866) 282-4988, making sure to inform them that you are part of the Diocese of the Midwest group.

Most delegates will only need a room for Monday, October 6, but our block includes rooms for those who also need to stay on Sunday, October 5 or Tuesday, October 7.

Travel

If flying, please arrange to arrive at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) on the evening of Monday, October 6, and, if possible, schedule return flights for no earlier than 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7.

For those flying in, please take the hotel's shuttle from the airport to the hotel. The Assembly will arrange ground transportation between the hotel and Archangel Michael Church, for those paying the \$25 fee. Please check the box marked "I will be flying to the Assembly" on the Registration Form if you plan to take advantage of this. Schedules and further information will be available at Registration and/or the hotel lobby.

Materials

Minutes, reports, and forms pertaining to the Diocesan Assembly may be downloaded from the Diocesan Assembly webpage at <http://domoca.org/assembly.html>. In order to save costs and trees, printouts will *not* be passed out at the Assembly. All delegates are asked to review these materials online in advance, and print their own hard copies if necessary.

Schedule

The full Agenda may be downloaded from the Diocesan Assembly webpage. Here follows a quick overview. Please note that a full breakfast and a light lunch will be provided at the Assembly.

Monday, October 6

- 12:00 pm - Bishop's Council Lunch Meeting – Crowne Plaza
- 5:00 pm - Diocesan Council Dinner Meeting – Crowne Plaza
- 5:00 pm - Assembly Registration opens – Crowne Plaza
- 8:00 pm - Missions Meeting – Crowne Plaza
- 9:30 pm - Assembly Registration Closes – Crowne Plaza

Tuesday, October 7

- 6:15 am - Assembly Registration opens – Archangel Michael Church
- 7:00 am - Divine Liturgy & Special Assembly – Archangel Michael Church**
- 7:30 am - Assembly Registration closes – Archangel Michael Church
- 9:45 am - Breakfast – Woodside Center
- 11:15 am - Regular Assembly, Plenary Session I – Woodside Center**
- 1:30 pm - Lunch – Woodside Center
- 2:30 pm - Regular Assembly, Plenary Session II – Woodside Center**

Missions Meeting

All representatives from missions are requested to join the Missions Director, Archpriest Thomas Mueller, at a special Missions Meeting, to be held on Monday at 8:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza hotel. The volunteers at the Assembly Registration desk will direct you to the meeting room. More information about this meeting may be found in the Mission Director's Report, which may be downloaded from the Diocesan Assembly webpage.

Special Nominating Assembly

On Tuesday, we will begin with the Divine Liturgy, with His Grace, Bishop Alexander presiding. All are asked to sing congregationally under the direction of Mr. Philip Sokolov.

Clergy who will be asked to serve are requested to bring gold vestments. Priests who desire to receive communion should bring with them a gold stole and cuffs. Deacons who desire to receive communion may do so by vesting in gold orarion and cuffs. Priests are asked to wear both a black cassock and a black riassa along with their pectoral cross for the sessions; while other ranks of clergy are asked to wear a black cassock and black riassa (if appropriate) or just a black cassock during the sessions. Lay people are asked to dress conservatively at all services and sessions as is appropriate for Church occasions.

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy, a Special Nominating Assembly will be held. Much information on this procedure can be found on the Diocesan Assembly webpage, especially under the header, "Nomination of a Candidate for Bishop." Delegates are asked to review that information with care and thoroughness.

We pray that the Grace of the Holy Spirit will descend on this Assembly and open our minds and hearts to doing the Will of God.

Resolutions

To submit a resolution, follow the directions given on the Resolution Form, which may be downloaded from the Diocesan Assembly webpage.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to call Mary Jane Lucak at the Woodside Center at (440) 526-9696 or Philip Sokolov in the Chancery Office at (312) 202-0420 or by email at chancery@domoca.org.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. John Zdinak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Archpriest John Zdinak
Chancellor