



Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Saturday, 1 November 2025
Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas & Damian
№. 143

MEMO

To: Rectors, Priests-in-Charge & Parish Councils of the Diocese of the Midwest
From: Diocesan Chancery
Re: 2026 Cost-of-Living Adjustment

This communication announces to all of our diocesan clergy and parishes that the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for the Priests of the Diocese of the Midwest is set at **2.8% for the year 2026**. This should be reflected in all parish budgets for the calendar year. The 2.8% figure is taken from the annual COLA determination made by the Social Security Administration, and can be found on their website: <https://www.ssa.gov/cola>. Please note that this is to be paid on the total cash compensation of salary (if there is a parish rectory), or salary + housing (if the Priest receives a housing allowance).

The annual COLA was mandated for the parishes of the Diocese of the Midwest by the 47th Diocesan Assembly (October 2008) in Burr Ridge, Illinois, and reaffirmed in the Diocesan Clergy Compensation Policy adopted on 28 November 2017 and in effect since 1 January 2018. This binding policy may be reviewed online at the following address: <https://domoca.org/files/DOCUMENTS/clergy-compensation-policy.pdf>.

May Christ our God bless your faithful stewardship, and your care for “the presbyters who rule well,” who are indeed “worthy of their wage” (cf. 1 Tim. 5:17-18)!

Yours in Christ,

Priest Esteban Vázquez
Vice-Chancellor