



**St. Nicholas  
Orthodox Church**

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Diocese of the West

Orthodox Church  
in America

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[www.stnicholasmarin.org](http://www.stnicholasmarin.org)

October 2

*The Inaugural*

**Church Musician Sunday**

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA has designated the Sunday following the commemoration of *St. Romanus the Melodist* to annually recognize the essential role of liturgical music in our worship and to honor the church musicians who serve in this sacred ministry.

November 4

**Square Dance**

6:30-10pm

*Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up.*

November 24

**Thanksgiving Day**

Akathist: *Glory to God for all Things*,  
Hike and Community Supper

Dec. 5 - 6

**St. Nicholas Day**

Our Patronal Feast  
*With a visit from "St. Nicholas"*  
Please mark your calendars now.

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

## October 2022

### CHURCH and STATE

*Some reflections by Vigen Guroian*

For Christians the meaning and value of a particular state or regime is relative to the Kingdom of God and not to one or another political theory or ideology. From this perspective our world is fallen and in need of redemption which is only found in Christ. Thus it comes as no surprise to the Church that every political system is eventually experienced as oppressive, unfree, and unjust to one degree or another and that the poor and powerless suffer the most. The political responsibility of the Church is to expose the *lie* of every political system and ideology that with it all things are right. It does not matter where the Church is situated or what the form of the political system is.

**The *lie* of every state that it is an end in itself needs to be exposed over and over and the *truth* that it can be of service to the Kingdom of God needs to be revealed repeatedly.**

Even within the local community, in the Eucharistic gathering, under the presidency of the bishop or his representatives, Christ is totally present; and those gathered have a taste of the unity of life and peace which nations promise but are unable to deliver. A people with just this knowledge and the conviction to give expression to it wherever they go, in word and deed, by loving acts and by entering into just relations with others, by timely rebuke of economic and political evils, and by pioneering new forms of human association and human service, may not always seem of much consequence from the world's point of view. This, however, should be no discouragement. For by being such a people, the Church "is a sign that God, not the nations," not politics, not economics, not science, not business or technology, "rules this world." By being such a presence in the world, the Church provides the vision and lived experience through which those within the Church, and even those outside it can discern a higher purpose in human history and the journey of the particular nation.

### THE GOAL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*The aim of all religious teaching in the Orthodox Church is to introduce the child (or the adult) into the Church, to integrate us into her life— the life of grace, communion with God, love, unity, and spiritual progress towards eternal salvation.*

- Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

### How is this life communicated to our children and our adults?

Students learn not only from sermons, lectures, liturgies, and other "official" programs. Our children, our catechumens and newcomers also observe how things in the parish are organized and operate. They watch how people behave, how money is raised and spent, how resources are used, how our priorities and interests are determined and expressed, and how people are treated. Their attitudes and actions are shaped by these observations and they will live with them for the rest of their lives.