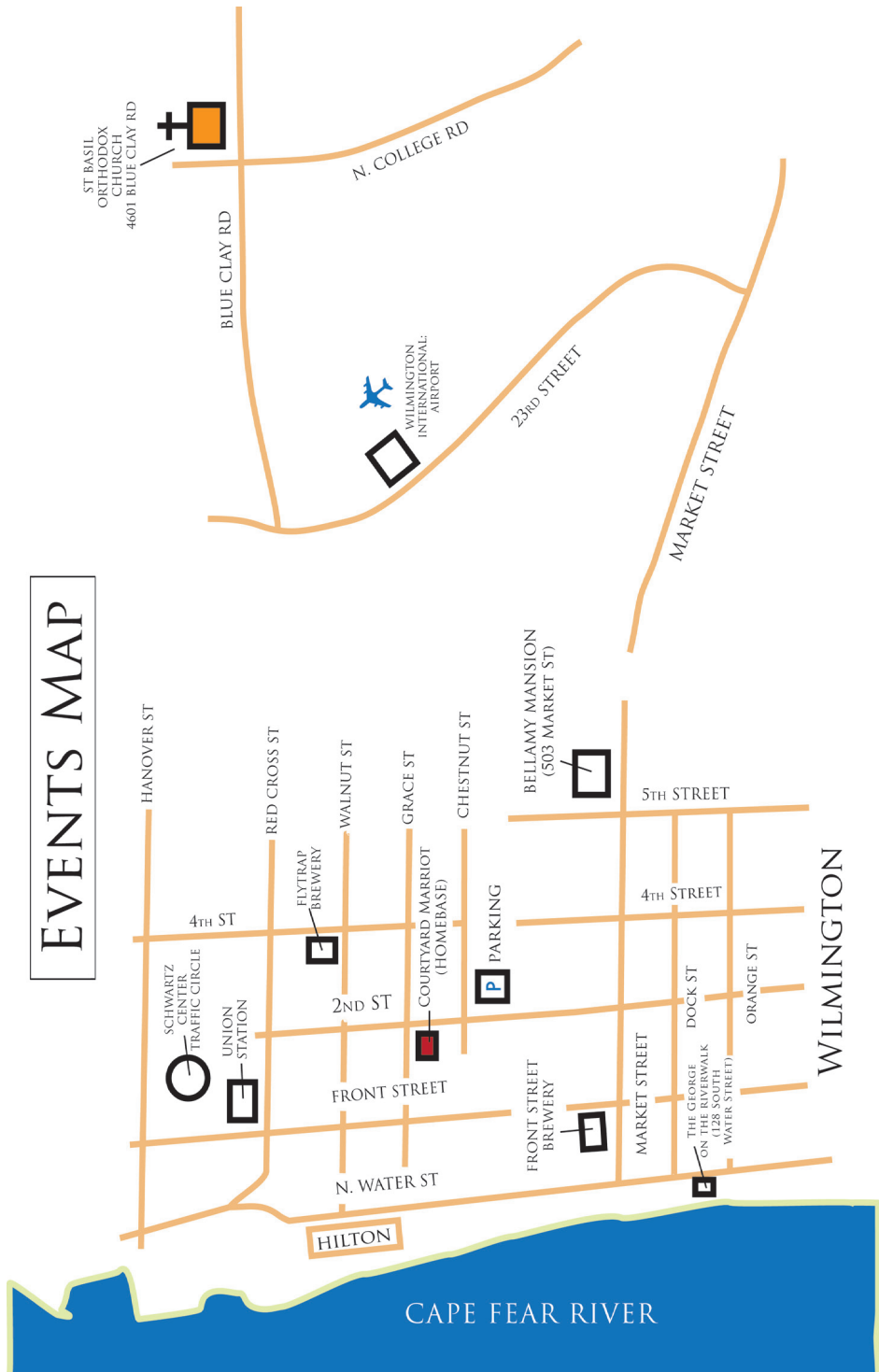




39TH DIOCESAN
ASSEMBLY
JULY 26-29, 2016
ST. BASIL MISSION WILMINGTON, NC



EVENTS MAP





Welcome to Wilmington, North Carolina!

Dear friends,

When our small mission community was asked to host the diocesan assembly in the summer of 2015, it didn't take long for a "yes" to follow. Our members know that our stability, progress and now facilities exist because the clergy and faithful of the diocese have offered so much to us. From the many traveling priests who offered divine services in our early days to mission planting grant funds from our diocese (and deanery), we have been blessed in so many ways by the coordinated efforts of so many. What's more, this was all offered to us in love and for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our new building project wouldn't have happened and we would indeed be a much smaller community without the support of bishops, priests and parishioners in other parts of the country.

So, the question "Will you host the next assembly?" was answered, without hesitation (but perhaps with a little trepidation), "In gratitude for all that we have been given, most certainly!"

We welcome you to our home, and we offer you all the southern hospitality that we can muster (and then some!). Please accept the program that is offered this week, with all of the special touches that our members have labored to bring to fruition, as a sincere and heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you. It is indeed an honor to have you as our guests!

With love,
In Christ,

Father Peter Robichau
Chair - 2016 Assembly Committee

Your Eminence, Archbishop Nikon, Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Diocese of the South,

Welcome!

It is with joy that I welcome you to this 39th annual diocesan assembly here in Wilmington, NC. It is also an honor for me to greet you for the first time as your diocesan bishop.

When Archbishop Dmitri, of blessed memory, established the “Southern Missionary Project” over forty years ago, he had in mind the founding of a truly missionary diocese in the south. This missionary diocese, established in 1978, is now one of the largest and most vibrant geographic dioceses in our Orthodox Church in America, and it is upon this foundation that we base our present work.

The current cultural landscape is quite different from what it was in 1978 when the clergy and faithful of the OCA’s newest diocese gathered in Miami for its first assembly. While early efforts were focused on communicating the fullness of the faith to a generally protestant Christian culture, we now find ourselves offering Christ’s gospel to a world that views our beliefs as outdated and our traditions as quaint. Yet, the mission is the same – to offer Christ to the world for its life and salvation. (John 6:51)

It is with this in mind that we focus our attention on the theme of our conference, “Mission Possible.” Our job might be different, and perhaps more difficult, but as our Lord reminds us, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

Let us use this opportunity to embark upon this second phase, as it were, with a renewed vigor and commitment to our common goal. I wish you all blessings in the work that lies ahead this week, and in the fellowship and communion that is so vital to our continued renewal as brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am yours,
In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alexander".

+Alexander

Bishop of Dallas and the South



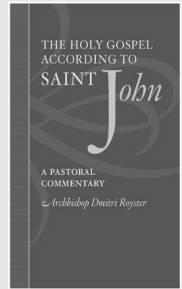
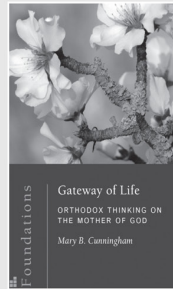
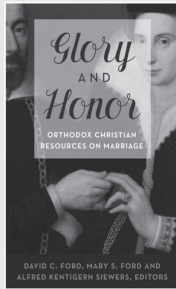
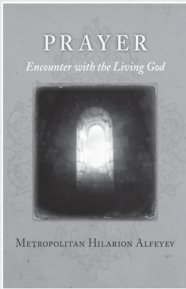
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Meet the author at the Assembly!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR WEEK

EMERGENCIES

If you have an urgent matter that needs attention (non-medical), please call 910-795-3140 or 910-805-0981. If you have a medical emergency, please call 911 directly.

VENUES

Please use the events map in this program, along with the schedule to find your way around during the week. Everything (well, almost everything) is located in our very walkable downtown.

WEDNESDAY LOGISTICS

The Divine Liturgy starts at 9:00 AM at St. Basil Orthodox Church, which is a 15-minute drive from downtown Wilmington. If you drove (or rented a car), and have extra seats open, please be sure to swing by the Marriott before heading to services, and pick up any riders that might not have rented a car for the week. **For your GPS:** 4601 Blue Clay Rd. Castle Hayne, NC.

YOUTH CONFERENCE

Parents are responsible for assuring that children are dropped off and picked up at the beginning and end of events at locations dictated by the schedule included in this program. Please be considerate of the youth volunteers, and be on time. The first “drop-off” point is at the “Homebase” youth room at the Marriott at 6:00 PM on Tuesday evening. See the youth schedule in this program for further information.

CHILDCARE

There will be childcare from 6:00-9:00 pm for children ages 1-6 at the TUESDAY and THURSDAY evening events for \$5 per child per hour, or a maximum of \$30 per family per night. Please see the conference website for a list of additional drop-in childcare options for other times during the week.

TRANSPORTATION

If you find yourself in need of a ride, and didn't coordinate one in advance, then download the Uber app and Uber away. If you are a new Uber user, input the code z5nkn for a \$10.00 ride credit.

INTERNET AT THE CONFERENCE FACILITY

You may connect your phones and laptops to the web using the WIFI Hotspot, “SURF CFCC GUEST” throughout the week.

ATTENDANCE AT ALL EVENTS DURING THE WEEK

All non-catered events are open to everyone – in fact, we encourage those who might have no official role to attend as many events as possible during the week. Please keep a close eye on the schedule and make the most of the week – attend when you are able, and rest when you need to. Our goal is to assure that you have a great week, and that will look different for everyone.

If you are here on a parish registration, are registered as a delegate or observer or

have purchased individual tickets to the Tuesday or Thursday evening events, you are covered, and can attend whatever you wish!

FOOD TRUCK RODEO

We have some very special samplings of Wilmington cuisine coming to us in the form of a Food Truck Rodeo on Thursday (with the celebrity chef and owner of Catch Restaurant making a showing with “Catch the Food Truck”) – this will be held in the traffic circle at Cape Fear Community College starting at noon, and you can grab your food (you’ll need to buy your own lunch in this case) and consume it in the event hall while listening to an engaging, moderated panel discussion on monasticism.

EXHIBITOR / VENDOR HALL

Vendors and Exhibitors will be setup throughout the conference space on Wednesday and Thursday. There are liturgical items, gifts and books for sale in addition to several ministries and not-for-profit organizations. Please make every effort to patronize the vendors and learn about the ministries before and after each event in that takes place during the assembly.

SVS ALUMNI DINNER

Wednesday evening – 5:30pm at Fly Trap Brewery.

CLERGY WIVES LUNCHEON

The Thursday luncheon with the bishop for clergy wives is being held at The George on the Riverwalk, about a ten-minute walk from the hotel. There is paid parking for those who wish to drive, and those who need a ride may gather at the Marriott 10 minutes prior to the luncheon.

SOCIAL MEDIA (LIKE, FOLLOW AND CONTRIBUTE!)

Hashtags: #dosconferences #missionpossible

Facebook: facebook.com/dosconferences | @dosconferences

Twitter: @dosconferences

PROFESSIONAL VIDEOS FOR YOUR WEBSITE

Orthodox 360 has joined us this week to offer an amazing opportunity - professional green screen videos that you can post to your parish site. This is something that must be done “in person,” so take advantage of the opportunity. They have a dedicated studio at the Marriott all week. Find them on the second floor of the Marriott next to the pool (just follow the signs). Reserve your space now, online at:

<http://orthodox360.com/dos-booking/>

PHOTOS: Help us capture great moments!

Post those great moments you capture on “film” to our Facebook page, tweet them by mentioning @dosconferences or email your best shots (not all of them, just the best ones!) to the email addresses below, and we’ll post them for you.

- dosocapics@gmail.com (general conference photos)
- dosocayouth@gmail.com (youth event photos)

ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Monday, July 25, 2016

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm DOS COUNCIL MEETING AND DINNER @ THE BEAM ROOM Front Street Brewery

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

6:30 am - 7:15 am MORNING 3 MILE DOWNTOWN RUN (MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY) Courtyard Marriott

9:00 am - 2:00 pm DOS COUNCIL MEETING II AND LUNCH @ THE BEAM ROOM Front Street Brewery

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION Courtyard Marriott

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm MALE CHORALE CHOIR PRACTICE #1 Courtyard Marriott

6:00 pm - 11:00 pm BBQ & BLUEGRASS AT THE BELLAMY The Bellamy Mansion

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm YOUTH CONFERENCE KICKOFF Drop-off at "Homebase" youth room at the Marriott (Parents must pick their children up at 9:00pm).

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

8:00 am - 9:00 am MALE CHORALE CHOIR PRACTICE #2, St. Basil Orthodox Church

9:00 am - 12:00 pm HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY St. Basil Orthodox Church 4601 Blue Clay Rd.

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm FESTIVE BRUNCH St. Basil Orthodox Church

1:45 pm YOUTH PROGRAM BEGINS Homebase (Marriott)

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm PLENARY SESSION I (Bishop's Address) Union Station

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm AKATHIST HYMN TO ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA Union Station

5:15 pm - 7:30 pm DINNER – ON YOUR OWN

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm SVS ALUMNI DINNER FlyTrap Brewery
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm KEYNOTE: SISTER DR. VASSA LARIN Union Station

Thursday July 28, 2016

6:30 am - 7:15 am MORNING 3 MILE DOWNTOWN RUN (MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY) Courtyard Marriott
7:00 am - 8:30 am BREAKFAST (ON YOUR OWN)
8:30 am - 9:30 am DAILY MATINS Union Station
9:15 am YOUTH PROGRAM Drop-off at "Homebase" youth room at the Marriott (pick up at 9:00 pm)
10:00 am - 12:00 pm PLENARY SESSION II Union Station
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm LUNCH (FOOD TRUCK RODEO)
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm MONASTICISM IN THE MODERN AGE (Roundtable) Union Station (a moderated talk with Fr. Gerasim, Sister Vassa and Fr Gabriel)
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm CLERGY WIVES LUNCH WITH BISHOP The George on the Riverwalk (128 South Water Street)
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm PLENARY SESSION III Union Station Conference Center
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm BREAK Courtyard Marriott
5:00 pm - 5:45 pm DAILY VESPERS Union Station
5:45 pm - 6:30 pm COCKTAILS ON THE VERANDA Union Station
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm DINNER AND FINAL TALK BY SR. VASSA Union Station
9:30 – 11:15 THEOLOGY AFTER HOURS (Roundtable on Theology in the Modern World, with Fr. Chad Hatfield, Fr. Stephen Freeman and Bishop Alexander, moderated by Fr John Parker) Front Street Brewery, Beam Room

Friday, July 29, 2016

6:30 am - 7:15 am MORNING 3 MILE DOWNTOWN RUN (MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY) Courtyard Marriott
8:00 am - 10:30 am BREAKFAST WITH CLERGY AND BISHOP Courtyard Marriott (Large Conference Room - First Floor)
10:30 am - 10:30 am ASSEMBLY CONCLUSION

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YOUTH CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

6:00 PM

Parents drop off their kids at "Homebase" youth room at the Marriott

9:00PM

Parents pick up their kids at "Homebase" youth room at the Marriott

WEDNESDAY

1:45 PM

Parents drop off their kids at at "Homebase" youth room at the Marriott

3:30 PM

Transition to the beach!

9:00 PM

Parents pick up their kids at at "Homebase" youth room at the Marriott

THURSDAY

9:15 AM

Parents drop off their kids at at "Homebase" youth room at the Marriott

9:30 AM

TEENS Youth Equipped to Serve Experience starts

9:30 AM

KIDS service day starts

7:30 PM

Both groups re-group and prep for presentation (Youth Room)

9:00 PM

Parents pick up their kids from Union Station Banquet Hall



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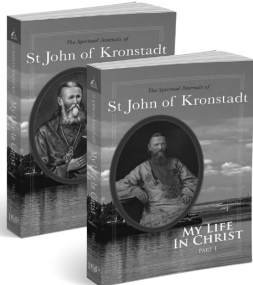
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FOREIGN MISSION SPOTLIGHT

THE RITSI FAMILY: SERVING IN ALBANIA

Dn. Stephanos Ritsi, son of Father Martin & Presvytera Renee, grew up in the mission fields of Kenya and Albania for ten years. Returning to the United States, the Ritsi family moved to Saint Augustine, Florida. In 2006, Dn. Stephanos went on a Short Term Missions team to Kenya. On this trip he realized that he was called to become a long term missionary. He recently graduated from Holy Cross School of Theology with a Masters of Divinity and a certificate from the Boston Theological Institute in Missions and Ecumenism.



Dkn. Alexandria Ritsi, daughter of Louis and Valerie Polychronopoulos, grew up in a south suburb of Chicago and attended Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills. Growing up, Dkn. Alexandria knew she wanted to serve the Church and be a teacher. She attended Hellenic College and while a student there, realized her vocation in becoming a missionary.

Dn. Stephanos and Dkn. Alexandria met at Holy Cross/Hellenic College in 2008, and later married in Saint Augustine, Florida in 2010.

Dn. Stephanos & Dkn. Alexandria arrived in Albania as long term missionaries in April of 2013. Since arriving, the couple have been learning about the Albanian culture and have been studying the Albanian language. On January 22, 2014 Stephanos was ordained to the Diaconate by His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios.

Dn. Stephanos serves as a Deacon at the Resurrection of Christ Cathedral in Tirana. He also works in the Archdiocesan Young Adult Office as well as teaches at the Resurrection of Christ Seminary. Dkn. Alexandria works at the Protagonist School teaching English, helps with young adult events and is one of the Church photographers. In April of 2015, they welcomed their first son, Moses Anastas. The Ritsi Family look forward to many years serving in Albania.



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The Ritsi family, missionaries to Albania, are the focus of our missions spotlight this week. Please take a moment to support them financially by making a donation this week in the exhibitor hall.

Find them on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RitsiMissionaries/>

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2016 DOS ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANTS!



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