



The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

Dear Rev. Fathers, Diocesan Council Members, and Department Chairs,

The 59th Diocesan Assembly will be held on Thursday and Friday, **January 26 and 27, 2022 at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, in Bethlehem, PA.** All our active clergy, delegates and department chairs are required to attend this Assembly. Registration will begin on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. followed by the formal opening of the Assembly at 4:00 pm, dinner at 5:00 pm and Great Vespers will be at 6:00 pm. The agenda is attached and will also be posted on our website (www.doepa.org).

All those attending may make their reservations at **SureStay PLUS Hotel, by Best Western Lehigh Valley** located at 300 Gateway Dr. Bethlehem, PA 18017. Their phone number is (610) 866-5800. **They are holding a block of rooms in the name of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church at \$89.99.00 plus tax, and reservations must be made by January 6th to get that rate.** You can also use this link to book it online stnicholasoca.org/assemblyhotel be sure to mention you are part of the group for St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church when booking your room. We cannot guarantee the room rates after that date.

Please complete the attached Document of Certification for your Lay Delegate for the 59th Diocesan Assembly and submit it to the Diocesan Office as soon as possible, but no later than December 20, 2022. Assembly observers are welcome to attend with the blessing of the parish priest. The Document of Certification for Observers should also be completed, signed and returned to the Diocesan Chancery no later than December 20, 2022.

We ask that the Deans, Treasurer, Auditors, Metropolitan Council Representatives, Diocesan Council Secretary, Liturgical Life Committee, Missions, Office of Young Adult Activities, and the Communications Department prepare their reports and forward them to the Diocesan Chancery electronically (diocesoeopa@gmail.com) no later than December 15, 2022 for posting on the Diocesan Website.

Please remember that in order to participate in the Assembly meetings parishes must be current with their monthly diocesan support.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters. I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, May you enjoy a Joyous Nativity and a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!

Yours unworthy father in Christ,

+Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

cc: V. Rev. Martin Browne, Chancellor

Enclosures: Proposed Agenda
Document of Certification for Lay Delegate
Document of Certification for Observers