

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

November 28, 2018

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Christ is in our midst!

A couple of items for your attention in this already busy time. The diocese is sponsoring a **workshop on parish and clergy financial issues**, especially as the latter relate to the former. It is a vitally important topic for all of us and one that deserves attention, yet usually gets lost in the midst of other concerns. Having said that, I recognize that this is short notice and that the timing could be better. However, please note the following, it is our desire to offer this before the end of the year and scheduling issues precluded other dates. **So it is scheduled for Saturday, December 15th from 9am to 1pm at St. Nicholas in Bethlehem.** They are having their Christmas Food sale that day but are willing to host us, and my own parish has its food sale that day too, so I will divide my time between both places that day. It is especially important that we get our lay leadership to attend to understand these issues as they have financial and legal implications for the parish as well as the priest.

**Our presenter is Matushka Mary Buletza Breton**, the Treasurer of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, who offered a very informative overview of these issues at the All American Council. She is a Certified Public Accountant with extensive experience in these areas professionally and as the wife and daughter of priests. She will be available after the program to answer any specific questions you may have until 3pm. Thank you in advance for your understanding and please make every effort to attend.

You will shortly receive the documentation related to our **upcoming Diocesan Assembly in January**. **Please notice the deadlines for submission of registration**, and note also the fact that you have to register for the hotel room. The information is contained in the announcement. As it was last year, **hotel reservations are made by you directly with the hotel and the special rate is guaranteed only until January 1st**. Those who have the responsibility to write reports have already received information on the deadline for submission, which is December 15th. Please comply with this deadline. It is our first year without Mat. Sandy, so out of courtesy to Mat. Ashley I ask your cooperation in making the task for her less daunting than it need be.

With sincere gratitude for your labors, patience and cooperation,

Yours in Christ,

V. Reverend Raymond M. Browne  
Chancellor

