



Diocese of Chicago & Mid-America
Russian Orthodox Church Abroad

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November 13 / October 31 (OS), 2022

New Hieromartyr Archpriest John Kochurov of Chicago and St. Petersburg (1917)

Dear Past and Future Benefactors of the St. John Kochurov Society,

I warmly greet you with the feast of **our heavenly patron St. John Kochurov**, who served as a missionary to America and became the first priest-martyr of the Bolshevik revolution. As one who proved his boundless love for the Church by his martyric death in the service of her children, St. John provides powerful aid to all who call upon his name and strive to imitate his life. May we have his holy prayers!

As voiced by our clergy and lay delegates in the resolution of the recent Diocesan Assembly, we all give thanks to God that **our Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America is growing rapidly and remains a vibrant community of faithful, Christ-loving souls**. Our diocese stands as **a lighthouse of salvation** in the midst of a storm-tossed world, and many souls are entering her harbor. In the past four years alone, I have

- blessed an increase in funding for our **youth programs**, which serve a growing number of children;
- directed the founding of **eight new mission parishes**;
- overseen the activities of our **four monastic institutions** in the diocese; and
- ordained **nineteen new priests** and **eight new deacons** to serve the faithful.

I have often said that **the health of a diocese can be measured by the number and vitality of its monasteries**; thus, I especially desire to see our monastic communities grow. To this measure can be added: **the effectual support of our faithful youth community, the establishment of stable mission parishes, and the care we provide to our clergy in need**. All of these initiatives must have our heartfelt support so that we can all work out our salvation together in Christ's Holy Church, and call our neighbors to the same blessed path!

I thank God that since its inception in 2009, the **St. John Kochurov Society** has brought together a family of diocesan stewards who have **collectively given over \$100,000** in support of our **Youth, Missions Parishes, Monasteries, and Clergy**. **This charitable aid must continue and increase to meet the needs of today.**

It has come to my attention that the St. John Kochurov Society fund is nearly depleted, while urgent needs in the diocese only increase! Therefore, I have instructed the Society's leaders to **raise \$20,000 by year's end**, commencing this God-pleasing effort **today** on the feast of our Holy Father John Kochurov.

I entreat you from the depths of my heart to give generously to this worthy cause.

With Gratitude for your Generosity and Love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Peter, Archbishop of Chicago & Mid-America

Dear Friends of St. John Kochurov,

Once again, I give thanks to God and to all of you for ***your support***.

What does “your support” look like in the life of our diocese? Let me give you some recent examples:

- You can see it in action every time our beloved youth attend the annual St. Herman's Conference, enjoying an unforgettable time of wholesome fellowship, learning, worship, and fun because ***your donations made the cost affordable for them!***
- You can see it in the smiling faces of ORPR Campers who attended summer camp on a scholarship funded by ***your contributions***.
- You can see it in the new temple constructed by Ss. Joachim and Anna parish in Texas, who met with unexpected hurdles in the final stages of construction and ***turned to the Society for help!***
- You can see it on pilgrimage at Ss. Sergius & Herman of Valaam Monastery in Michigan, where ***Society grants have funded repair and restoration projects to keep the monastery open!***
- You can see it in the vibrant life of St. Benedict parish in Oklahoma, where Deacon Aaron and his family attend services in ***the car you helped them buy*** when financial difficulties and car troubles had left them without transportation.

I can only echo Vladyka Peter's words when I say that, after all the worthy causes your donations have funded in the past 13 years, our Society funds are nearly depleted, and we cannot meet the needs of our diocese in 2023 and beyond unless we raise \$20,000 by January 1st.

Take a moment now to Join, Renew, or Donate today to continue your critical support!

Follow this link to **DONATE NOW** (on mobile device or computer) via PayPal, Credit Card, or Debit Transaction: www.SJKSDCMA.org/donate

OR

Scan this QR Code with your phone or tablet to GIVE IMMEDIATELY:



With love in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pr. David Companik".

Pr. David Companik, SJKS Executive Committee Chairman

P.S. To request assistance, contact me directly at 832-791-3344 | davidcompanik@gmail.com

Society News

- **At the recent Diocesan Assembly, we added three new committee members: Vladimir Edelman, Alexander Liepman, and James Powell.** Sdn. Andrei Urtiew continues in his role as treasurer. All are contributing their time, talents, and love for God, to build a better Society!
- **Take a look at our re-designed website – www.SJKSDCMA.org – where you can easily**
 - **track the progress of our \$20,000 fundraising effort,**
 - **donate toward the latest urgent needs in the diocese,**
 - **join or renew as a member of the Society,**
 - **find information on donating via ACH/Direct Deposit Debit or Check/Money Order,**
 - **view the list of St. John Kochurov Medal Recipients and the Member Roll, and**
 - **submit the names of loved ones for commemoration at the Diocesan Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral.**