



## **ВОСТОЧНО-АМЕРИКАНСКАЯ ЕПАРХИЯ**

**Русская Православная Церковь Заграницей**

## **EASTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE**

**Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**

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№: **11.69.19**

October 24/November 6, 2019

*Our Lady "Joy of All Who Sorrow"*

### **NOTICE**

#### **Regarding the Suspension of Archpriest Alexander Belya and events in Saint John the Forerunner Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York**

It is our sorrowful duty to confirm to parishioners and friends of Saint John the Forerunner Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York, that the suspended Archpriest Alexander Belya, formerly rector of the parish, turning his back on his native and persecuted Ukrainian Orthodox Church, with whom the Russian Church Abroad is in full accord, has uncanonically departed from his ecclesiastical obedience and, in defiance of all Church order, illegitimately fled to the omophorion of a hierarch of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, with which we are not presently in communion. His decision thus to enter into personal schism from the bosom of the Church of his obedience represents a grievous violation of the vows of ordination and has necessarily resulted in his canonical suspension from all clerical and administrative duties, pending a full and final determination by the diocesan Spiritual Court. The Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia laments this sorrowful betrayal of his Church and of his flock by the suspended Archpriest Alexander, who has placed himself in collaboration with a diocese external to the Church Abroad, which has no canonical or legal authority whatsoever to legitimize this schismatic act.

Neither the suspended Archpriest Alexander, nor any clergyman who follows him into schism, has any canonical right to celebrate the Divine Liturgy or any other sacramental rites of the Church, and pious laity must be aware that following such individuals into schism or receiving sacraments from their hands is to place one's own soul in profound peril. We urge all parishioners formerly under the spiritual care of Fr. Alexander to turn to one of the nearby parishes of the Church Abroad for all spiritual, sacramental, and pastoral care during this difficult period. A list of these is attached.

We urge the faithful of Saint John the Forerunner Cathedral to remain steadfast in this time of trial, secure in the knowledge that our Diocese and our Church will not leave its God-preserved flock destitute or uncared-for in the face of this sorrow. We do not put our trust “in princes or in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation,” as the Psalmist says, but in God Who is undivided and always protects those who abhor schism and personal gain, remaining steadfast spiritual children of our beloved Church.

+ *Hilarion*

Metropolitan of Eastern America & New York  
*First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad*



**Brooklyn**

**Church of Our Lady “The Inexhaustible Chalice”**

3117 Coney Island Avenue · Brooklyn, NY 11235  
(347) 673-7442 · brightonhram@gmail.com · www.churchbrighton.com

**Church of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women**

2527 Cropsey Avenue · Brooklyn, NY 11214  
(347) 974 1133 · holymyrrhbearingwomen@gmail.com · www.holymyrrhbearingwomen.us

**New Martyrs & Confessors of Russia Church**

8645 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue · Brooklyn, NY 11214  
(718) 234-3448 · church18ave@gmail.com · www.brooklyn-church.org

**St. Joasaph of Belgorod Church**

2477 65<sup>th</sup> Street · Brooklyn, NY 11204  
(347) 755-2525 · frboris92@mail.ru · www.stjoasaphchurch.com

**Queens**

**Parish of the Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark**

154 Beach 84<sup>th</sup> Street · Rockaway Beach, NY 11693  
(718) 300 2622 · fr.michael.vladimirov@gmail.com · www.saintmarkschurch.org

**Holy Annunciation Church**

4267 147<sup>th</sup> Street · Flushing, NY 11355  
(646) 639-7912 · postmaster@annunciation-church-flushing.org  
www.annunciation-church-flushing.org

**Staten Island**

**Church of Our Lady “Unexpected Joy”**

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