

Feast Day of the Parish of Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

On Bright Tuesday of Renewal Week, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photiki and Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, travelled to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, for the Feast Day of one of the parishes of the American Exarchate of our Synod in that city, which parish is dedicated to the newly revealed Saints Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene. His Grace and Father Akakios were joined by the Reverend Father Demetrios Sarlakes, who services both the Toronto parish and the Ascension of the Lord Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Father's young son, Nikos. The five-hour Feast Day service was celebrated with solemnity—see a collage of scenes from the Feast below





and on the following page—and was followed by a meal prepared by the parish sisterhood. His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, delivered a sermon in which he addressed our moderate resistance to ecumenism, the calendar reform that it ushered into the Orthodox Church, and our responsibility, as sober Orthodox, to make our movement ultimately one unity within Holy Tradition.

Annunciation at the New Exarchate Parish of the Holy Archangel Michael in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

On the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, which fell this year on Bright Wednesday, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, Archimandrite, Akakios, and Father Demetrios Sarlakes concelebrated with Father Andreya Dimitrijević, pastor of the Holy Archangel Michael Church in Toronto, which recently entered our jurisdiction from the Serbian Orthodox Patriarchate, despite facing—as did our parish in Oxnard, CA—a private suit filed against it for this action. Father Andreya, though 78 years of age, actively serves the parish, which has built a beautiful Church and parish hall. The community's opposition to the Serbian Patriarchate's

increased ecumenical activities and its desire to undertake a position of resistance with moderation and according to canonical order, led to its petition to join our Holy Synod in Resistance. (*See, below, the parish Church. The capacious parish hall to the right of the Church is not shown. Following, see various scenes from the Divine Liturgy and the reception and Agape Meal during the Bishop's visit.*)

During his visit, His Grace met with the parish board of the Church. He reported having had fruitful discussions from which he emerged with an enthusiastic endorsement of the parish's outlook and confession. He and Father Akakios, as well as Father Demetrios and Mr. Themistocles Papadopoulos, the president of our Greek parish in Toronto, were profoundly impressed by the hospitality and warm welcome that they were afforded by the president of the parish board, Mr. Milan Malobabić, and the faithful. A beautiful lunch, prepared by the parish sisterhood, was served in the spacious parish hall.



At left, some of the faithful in the parish hall for the Agape Meal following the Divine Liturgy.



At left, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios in the parish hall. To his left, Archimandrite Akakios, Father Demetrios, and the parish Pastor, Father Andrey.

