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 homophorion 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 18th Avenue · Brooklyn, NY 11214
(718) 234-3448 · church18ave@gmail.com · www.brooklyn-church.org

St. Joasaph of Belgorod Church
2477 65th Street · Brooklyn, NY 11204
(347) 755-2525 · frboris92@mail.ru · www.stjoasaphchurch.com

Queens

Parish of the Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark
154 Beach 84th Street · Rockaway Beach, NY 11693
(718) 300 2622 · fr.michael.vladimirov@gmail.com · www.saintmarkschurch.org

Holy Annunciation Church
4267 147th 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”
585 Lincoln Avenue · Staten Island, NY 10306
(347) 863-6845 · p.zgoba@gmail.com