



NEWS AGENCY

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REVIEW



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‘Holy icons are the full profession of true faith in the Church,’ Patriarch Daniel says on Sunday of Orthodoxy



On the first Sunday of Great Lent, also called the Sunday of Orthodoxy, Patriarch Daniel pointed to the importance of holy icons in the Orthodox Church. They are not ‘a mere adornment in the church, but rather the full profession of the true faith in the Church: witness through words and witness through sight, because in the New Testament our Saviour Jesus Christ Himself is called the Word of God and the Image of the invisible God.’

Church painting confirms the words in the Holy Scripture so that through faith we not only hear about God, but also mystically observe His presence among us. That is why holy icons confirm the Saviour’s truth and promise before He ascended to heaven: I will be with you always, even until the end of the world,’ the Patriarch of Romania explained Feb 25. [Full story ►](#)

“The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the Sunday of the joy of genuine faith, of the holiness and provision of glory, the light of eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven”.

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Ecumenical Patriarch to attend consecration of Romania’s National Cathedral



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will attend the consecration of the Romanian Orthodox Church’s National Cathedral in Bucharest, His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania announced at a meeting of the National Church Council at the patriarchal residence on Tuesday, Feb 13. Patriarch Bartholomew was invited personally by Patriarch Daniel during the Holy and Great Council that took place on the island of Crete in the summer of 2016, and later via an official letter. [►](#)

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Romania's National Cathedral enters final stage of construction as its consecration is scheduled for November

The consecration ceremony of the century-long desired Romanian People's Salvation Cathedral is scheduled for the end of November to mark the 100th anniversary of Romania's 1918 Great Union. We have looked into the next stages of construction that must be completed until the new Patriarchal Cathedral in Bucharest will be consecrated.

'At present the works are at a very advanced stage of construction with the resistance structure of the Cathedral's main body being 90% completed,' engineer Vasile Cracaoanu reported.

The patriarchal adviser at the Romanian Patriarchate's Department of Church Monuments and Buildings said that the concrete frame structure of the main Dome also known as Christ the Pantocrator or the Ruler of the Universe will reach its 106 m height at the end of July 2018.

Speaking about the Dome's roof, building engineer Vasile Cracaoanu noted that the works at the metallic structure will be completed by September 2018, while the copper roof will be completed by November 2018.



The Cathedral's windows will be placed in several stages. In the first phase scheduled for July, windows will be placed up to 45 m. A second stage of window placement is foreseen in October 2018.

The six bells of the National Cathedral will be installed in August and will be fully functional until October. The crosses will be placed on the Cathedral's domes by the end of October, when the bronze doors will be installed at the main entrances. Full ►



Saint Matrona of Moscow added to the calendar of the Romanian Orthodox Church

The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church held this year's first working session Thursday, February 15, at the Synodal Hall of the Patriarchal Residence, under the chairmanship of His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel. The Holy Synod approved the inclusion of Saint Matrona of Moscow into the calendar of the Romanian Orthodox Church beginning with 2019, being commemorated on May 2.

The Holy Synod also included into the calendar of the Romanian Orthodox Church the Feast of the Syriac Icon of the Mother of God from Ghighiu Monastery to be commemorated on the Feast of the Life-giving Spring, beginning with 2019. Full ►

'The Romanian Orthodox Church is the greatest philanthropist in terms of its contribution to social work' - Patriarch Daniel during NCA meeting

In 2017, the Romanian Orthodox Church invested approximately 24 million Euros in charity work. 'Currently the Romanian Orthodox Church is the greatest philanthropist in terms of its contribution to social work,' said Wednesday Patriarch Daniel during the meeting of the National Church Assembly (NCA) stressing that this means 'sacrifice, effort, and caring for the people.'

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel thanked those who 'have contributed to the rich activities carried out during the 2017 solemn and commemorative year.'

The National Church Assembly is the central deliberative body of the Romanian Orthodox Church for administrative, social, cultural, economic and patrimonial issues. The NCA is comprised of the members of the Holy Synod and three representatives (one cleric and two laypersons) of each diocese. The meeting was preceded by a Te Deum service officiated by His Grace Damaschin of Dorna, Assistant Bishop to the Archdiocese of Suceava and Radauti, at the Patriarchal Cathedral. ►

Holy Synod elects two bishops for Romanian Diaspora



During its February 15 meeting, the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church elected assistant bishops for two Romanian Dioceses in the Diaspora:

The V. Rev. Archimandrite Atanasie Rusnac was elected assistant bishop to the Romanian Orthodox diocese of Italy. He will bear the title of His Grace Bishop Atanasie of Bogdania.

The V. Rev. Archimandrite Teofil Roman was elected by the Holy Synod as assistant bishop to the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Spain and Portugal. He will bear the title of His Grace Bishop Teofil of Iberia. ►

Ecumenical Patriarchate celebrates **1175th** Sunday of Orthodoxy



His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Sunday presided over the Divine Liturgy celebrated at the St George Patriarchal Cathedral at the Phanar in Constantinople, the city where Orthodox hierarchs gathered in a Holy Synod and restored holy icons for the use in services and private devotional life of Christians after a century-long ecclesiastical differences. Bishop Adrian of Alikarnassos referred to the Sunday of Orthodoxy that has been celebrated for 1175 years marking the restoration of the veneration of holy icons in the Orthodox Church.

'The honourable veneration of holy icons and their central place in the Orthodox Church are not a simple tradition of the Christian East and a dimension of the lay devoutness that lacks theological essence. They belong to the core of Orthodox faith and identity,' the Bishop of Alikarnassos stressed on February 25. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, His Holiness led the faithful in the traditional procession with holy icons.



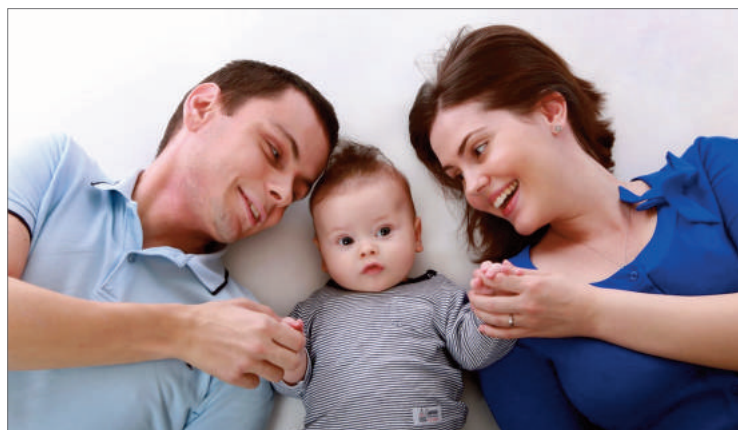
The Orthodox Youth event of the year: International Meeting for 'Unity. Faith. Nation' at Sibiu

'Unity. Faith. Nation' is the motto under which 2,500 young people from Romania and abroad will meet in Sibiu during the fifth edition of the International Meeting of Orthodox Youth (ITO) on 6-9 September 2018. The ITO 2018 event was launched officially at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Sibiu, on the International Day of Orthodox Youth, February 2, 2018.



His Eminence Metropolitan Laurentiu of Transylvania urged the young people of the Archdiocese to sign up for volunteer work to organise the International Meeting that will take place this autumn. 'We are happy and ready to experience this communion with our young people, who are the future of our Church and nation,' His Eminence said. Transylvania's Metropolitan Laurentiu noted that the Orthodox youth event of the year will also mark the 1918 Union centenary and the solemn year of the unity of nation and of faith. ▶

A letter from the Bishops of the Orthodox Church in Germany to young people concerning love, sexuality and marriage



As bishops of your Church in Germany we wish to speak about some topical issues in this letter which is written specifically for you. The world is moving ever closer together. And the burning issues of our time come increasingly to the fore. They are of profound concern to human existence – your existence: God places the present and the future in your hands.

1. We live in a country in which the individual has the opportunity to develop in freedom and dignity. In the course of human history that was not always the case. In many countries of the earth it is still not the case today. The fact that we live in Germany, where peace, freedom, democracy and human rights are taken for granted, can be considered as God's blessing.

Against the background of religious extremism, which in many places is threatening to intensify, we are called as Christians to do all in our power to defend those values. They are in accord with the concept of man which is expressed in Holy Scripture and in the Tradition of our Church: that man was made in the image of God (Gen 1:27). In the ability of human beings to decide for themselves, we see one of the characteristics of this divine image. Full text ▶