

The Western Rite Vicariate

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop
The Right Reverend Bishop JOHN, Auxiliary Bishop
V. Rev. John W. Fenton, Assistant to the Vicar General
WRVicarGeneral@gmail.com



February 11, 2025

Re: Western Rite Vicariate financial report

Sayedna SABA,

In 2024, the Western Rite Vicariate:

- Held in-person meetings with His Eminence in July, and with Bishop JOHN in July and August. Extensive minutes were taken and presented to His Eminence.
- Continued regular bi-monthly Zoom meetings with Bishop JOHN. Extensive minutes were taken and presented to His Eminence.
- Held the biennial Western Rite Conference with Bishop JOHN at St Paul Orthodox Church in Katy, Texas (near Houston). Extensive minutes of the meetings with laity and clergy were taken and presented to His Eminence.
- Established “committees” on Fasting, and commissioned essays on the Orthodox doctrine of merits and the Sacred Heart.
- Produced the annual Ordo [WR Liturgical Guide].
- Continued work on the Missal [WR Liturgikon], a work that is laborious yet nearing completion.
- Supported with liturgical materials the 100 Oblates of the Archdiocese Western Rite monastery (at no expense to the archdiocese).
- Offered classes to 3 M.Div. students, and 16 MTS/Certificate students at the Antiochian House of Studies. These classes were taught by V Rev John W Fenton, V Rev Nicholas Alford, V Rev Patrick O’Grady, Dr Carole “Monica” Burnett, and Jacob Lash.
- Maintained support, led by two music directors, for Western Rite choirs and musicians.
- Hosted visits of Bishop JOHN to several Western Rite parishes.
- Featured Western Rite authors in the Word magazine, and photos on Instagram.

In 2025, the Western Rite Vicariate will:

- Hold the regular meeting of the WRV at the Archdiocese Convention.
- Complete work on the Missal [WR Liturgikon]
- Complete the supplement to the Vicariate Breviary
- Continue work of a Vicariate Ritual (for sacraments and blessings)
- Continue producing the Ordo, offering AHOS classes, supporting music in the parishes, and supporting the monastery Oblates
- Continue regular meetings via Zoom of the clergy with Bishop JOHN

In 2025, the Western Rite Vicariate hopes to continue:

- Working with the Department of Missions & Evangelism for receiving inquiries and developing new parishes.
- Regular visits from His Grace Bishop JOHN
- Regular quarterly visits to St Nicholas in Spokane by Fr John Fenton until a resident priest is assigned.
- Leaning on the expertise and wisdom of V Rev Edward Hughes, special assistant to the Western Rite
- Travel to parishes for “supervisory” or pastoral visits by Fr Hughes or Fr Fenton, with the blessing of His Eminence or Bishop JOHN

The key challenges facing our Vicariate are:

- Explosive growth in most parishes, which requires either expanded buildings, new Western Rite missions, or both.

In five years, by God’s grace and the support of the Archdiocese, the Vicariate sees itself:

- Having a deacon in every parish.
- Growing the size of every parish so that more than half can be assigned a full-time priest.
- Growing intentionally (i.e., not by assimilation) the number of Western Rite parishes from the current 21 to 30.
- With an auxiliary Bishop assigned exclusively to the Vicariate.

As a final note, the Vicariate budget is \$16,000 per year, of which most is designated for publications (e.g., the Ordo and Missal), and convention expenses for Bishop JOHN and others.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. John W. Fenton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. John Fenton
Assistant to Bishop John