

# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ORTHODOX CHURCH CONSTITUTION

## Preamble

We declare and affirm these principles in the light of the Holy Scripture, Holy Canons and Holy Tradition to govern the Parish in an orderly manner. These principles will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this Parish in its relation to other churches.

## Article I - Name

This Parish shall be known as Nativity of Our Lord Orthodox Church of Manassas, Inc. using facilities located at 8911 Weems Road, Manassas, Virginia.

## Article II - Purpose

Our purpose as a local Parish is as follows:

- (a) to preach the Good News of salvation that Christ is available to all, provide meaningful and spiritually rewarding worship experiences and a program of discipleship through education, witness and outreach, and make a difference by serving the needs of our members, regardless of age, gender, national origin or economical background;
- (b) to conduct and carry on divine services at the place of worship of the members of the Church, and elsewhere, and to collect and disburse any and all necessary funds for the maintenance of said Church and accomplishment of its purposes.

## Article III - Statement of Faith

Holy Scripture, the Holy Canons of the Orthodox Church and Holy Tradition serve as the basis of doctrine for this Parish as adopted by the Holy Orthodox Church.

## Article IV - Relationships

We are governed by the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Parish, the church, as He shall reveal His leadership to us through the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

## Article V - Covenant

We, the members of the Nativity of Our Lord Orthodox Church, Manassas, Virginia, having been led as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, enter into a covenant with each other, as one body in Christ. We, therefore, agree, by the help of the Holy Spirit and with the Bible, the inspired Word of God, the Holy Canons and Holy Tradition as our guide, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Parish; to promote spirituality; to

sustain its worship, discipline and doctrine; to observe the church ordinances of holy baptism and the Lord's Supper as authorized by the Holy Orthodox Church; to contribute cheerfully and regularly of God's tithes and our offerings to the support of the ministry of our church and to the spread of the Orthodoxy to all nations.

We agree to encourage personal and family devotions; to educate our children according to our faith; to seek the salvation of the unbeliever; to be just in our dealings, reliable in our responsibilities, and an example to those around us; and to work untiringly for the advancement of the kingdom of our Savior by witnessing in words and actions.

We agree to walk in Christian harmony and watchfulness, giving and receiving assistance with meekness and affection; to pray for one another; to help each other in sickness and sorrow; to be slow to get angry; to always be eager for reconciliation, seeking it without delay.

#### Article VI - Amendments

Changes in this constitution may be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided that copies of each amendment have been presented in writing at the previous regular business meeting, and that written copies have been made available in the church office to the church membership. Amendments shall be passed by fifty-one (51) percent vote of all members of the church present and voting.

#### *Article VII – Tenants*

We adhere to the tenants of the Holy Orthodox church which includes but is not limited to:

- ❖ We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ We believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, and that He is true God and man, He died on the cross for our sins, He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father. He is our High Priest and Advocate.
- ❖ We believe that the Virgin Mary is the mother of God, the Theotokos, and she constantly prays for us before her son and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- ❖ We believe that man was created in the image of God and was to be perpetually in communion with God.
- ❖ We believe that man through his own willfulness turned from God and fell into sin.
- ❖ We believe that sin is an illness and that the Holy Orthodox Church has the medicine to cure illness.
- ❖ We believe that the Holy Spirit guides the Church which is the Body of Christ and that Christ is the Head of the Church.
- ❖ We believe that we can be healed of our illness through the Holy Church and be restored to our rightful status with Christ through salvation.
- ❖ We believe that salvation is a free gift of God.
- ❖ We believe that redemption comes to us through Baptism, Chrismation and Repentance.
- ❖ We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in heaven and the separation from God of the unsaved.

- ❖ We believe that the Saints continually pray for us before God that He would have mercy on us and save us.
- ❖ We believe in the second glorious coming of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ We believe in the sanctity of life and that abortion is a total abomination.
- ❖ We believe that the sacrament of marriage is only between one man and one women.

## Article VIII - Adoption

Section 1 – This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when fifty one (51) percent of the voting members present and voting at the business meeting at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of same.

Section 2 – This constitution abolishes, supersedes, and takes the place of any constitution and amendments that preceded it.

Section 3 – A copy of this constitution shall at all times be kept by the Parish Administrator and another copy shall be kept in the Parish office. All amendments and revisions shall, after passage by the vote of the Parish, be prepared by the Board of Directors (BOD) and incorporated in the constitution and bylaws and made available to Parish members on request.

Responsibilities of all committees will be developed and voted on by the BOD. These duties will be formed into a booklet and made available to all church members.