

Join us for an evening with **Bishop Athanasius Schneider of Astana, Kazakhstan**

Author of "DOMINUS EST-It is the Lord!" and "CORPUS CHRISTI"

Holy Cross Church in Batavia Wednesday, February 21, 2018

"The first task of the parents is to transmit to their children the purity, the beauty, the integrity of the Catholic Faith... For that, the parents have to know very well our Catholic Faith and study very well the Catechism in order to be very firmly rooted, themselves, in the Catholic Faith...and then be able to transmit it to their children... Because the Catechism is unchangeable... It is the Voice of Christ and of The Church of all times. ...Therefore, this is today the main task for families: to establish [in their home] a culture of domestic churches..."

Bishop Athanasius Schneider

Anton Schneider was born on April 7, 1961, from ethnic German parents residing in the Soviet Union during communism.

His family had strong authentic faith and became closely involved with the underground church; his mother and aunt took great risks for their faith and on behalf of others in the community. There

were times when he was even obliged to attend "scientific atheism" classes, but all this shaped his vocation early on as he says: "I had the privilege to live in a time of persecution of the faith and of the Church, because such persecutions give you a foundation for all your life; it is a grace!"

The German Catholic community living in Russia kept alive their faith despite severe hardship and persecution, because "God uses these circumstances to purify and to strengthen our faith in Him... From my experience of the time of persecution, the vital importance is the family, the integrity of the family... Mother and father praying daily with their children". In 1973, shortly after making his first Holy Communion in secret, he emigrated with his family to West Germany.

In 1982, he joined the Canons Regular of the Holy Cross, and took the religious name of Athanasius. He was ordained a priest on March 25, 1990. On June 2, 2006, he was consecrated Bishop at the Altar of the Chair of Saint Peter in the Vatican. In 2011 he was transferred to the position of auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Astana in Kazakhstan.

Today, he is the General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of Kazakhstan and one of the strongest voices worldwide in defense of the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church.

"I am not worried about the future. The Church is Christ's Church and He is the real head of the Church...The soul of the Church is the Holy Spirit and He is powerful." Bishop Athanasius Schneider



5:30 PM — Rosary for the intention of the sanctity and preservation of the Family
6:00 PM — Celebration of the Holy Mass; Bishop Athanasius, celebrant
7:00 PM — Episcopal Address by His Excellency: The Family as the Original Place of the Beauty of the Catholic Faith
8:00 PM — Reception and fellowship in Donovan Hall

For more information or questions:

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