

O.N.E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Deacon John Zarras: Memory Eternal!



Right: Newly-departed Father **Deacon John Zarras**.

Above: Clergy and faithful surround **Dn. John, vested in red**, at his funeral on April 6.

Rev. Joshua Mosher

Deacon John Zarras, 72, of Sherman, Conn., fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, April 1, after a prolonged struggle with cancer. Funeral services were held April 5-6 at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Southbury, Conn., the parish he had served devotedly from before his ordination. He was buried at St. John Cemetery, Monroe, Conn.

Dn. John was born in Brooklyn on September 1, 1939, to the late Constantine and Mary Zarras. He studied engineering at Pratt Institute and New York University. He had a fruitful career in the air freight business, retiring as Vice

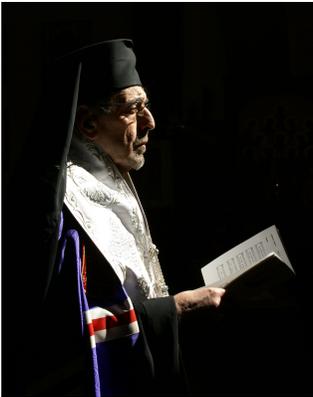


President of Emery Worldwide in November, 2000.

Dn. John served the Lord throughout his life, both locally and nationally. He labored faithfully in several parishes as a layman: Saint Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, Greenlawn, N.Y.; Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, Conn.; Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Indianapolis, Ind.; and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Dayton, Ohio. In 1997, he became a member of

Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, Conn., which he continued to serve after his ordination to the diaconate on February 2, 2003.

Deacon John *Zarras to 2*



Above: His Grace, Bishop Nikon, prays at the funeral of Dn. John Zarras.

Right: Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, friend and fellow minister at Christ the Savior, leads the faithful at Dn. John's burial at St. John Cemetery, Monroe.

Zarras from 2

received a Master of Divinity degree from Saint Vladimir's Seminary in 2006. He also served on the seminary's Board of Trustees. From 2006 until 2011, he was a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America. He took a leading role in the OCA's Reorganization Task Force after the administrative crises in the Chancery. He also energetically served the Diocese of New England in many capacities, and promoted the cause of Orthodox unity and common action through the Fellowship of Orthodox Churches of Connecticut.

Dn. John is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Evangeline, and their four children: Dean Zarras and his wife Kirstin Townsend of Pound Ridge, N.Y.; Theodore Zarras and his wife Stephanie of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Peter Zarras and his wife Emily of Morris Plains, N.J.; and Elizabeth MacNeil and her husband Justin of Needham, Mass. He also leaves 11 grandchildren: Alexia, Ben, and Tim Zarras; Anna and John Zarras; Nicholas, Michael, and Lauren Zarras; and Katherine, Christopher and Jake MacNeil. John was the well loved brother of Athanasia Arvans, Christine Draper and Andrew Zarras.

At the panikhida on April 5, His Grace, Bishop Nikon presided, with clergy from three dioceses surrounding his casket in the middle of the church. The faithful overflowed

Christ's the Savior's capacity that night, and even more arrived for the funeral the following morning.

At the conclusion of the panikhida, V. Rev. Dr. Paul Nadim Tarazi read an address to Dn. John, his personal friend. He called to mind Dn. John's love for Scripture, that he had told Fr. Tarazi recently that his favorite time of the day was when he brought to bed the Bible given by Dn. John's mother, to find in it that day's blessings. Fr. Tarazi said, "John, my brother, you lived the meaning of your



name: "the Lord is graceful." He concluded, "You shall be with me whenever I am granted to carry the Gospel book in services like a deacon."

At the funeral, on the last Friday of Great Lent, the eve of the Raising of Lazarus, His Grace, Bishop Nikon, about twenty priests and deacons and many scores of faithful joined Evangeline and her family. Fr. Theophan Whitfield, priest of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Salem, Mass., and godson of Dn. John and Evangeline Zarras, delivered a heartfelt homily, reflecting on Dn. John's zealous love of the Lord and the Church.

Zarras to 5

Two Diocesan parish grants awarded—more available

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

At the 2011 Diocesan Assembly, a "Parish Grant Initiative" was approved. Parishes in the New England Diocese can apply for financial grants to support outreach and charity programs in their communities. The diocese has budgeted up to \$10,000 in grant monies to help support parishes in these efforts.

At the February Diocesan Council Meeting, the Grant Committee announced the awarding of the first two Parish Grants. Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Willimantic, Conn., and Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Southbury, Conn., are the first recipients of grants from this diocesan program.

The Willimantic parish will use the grant money to support their parish's hosting of an area fundraising activity called the "Walk for Warmth" in November. This effort is in conjunc-

tion with the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM) in which Holy Trinity has been active for more than 5 years. Hosting this event will have 200-250 people from Windham County in their church on that day, many who have never been in an Orthodox church. The grant money will be used to help with expenses involving food and printing. Fr. Marc Vranes intends to have handouts for the visitors about Orthodoxy and in particular, about Holy Trinity Church.

The Southbury parish will receive grant money to support and expand the Connecticut Bible Lecture Series (CBLS) which has been an ongoing project of the parish since 2004. Twice each year Fr. Paul Tarazi, a professor at St. Vladimir's Seminary, presents a day long course on one book of the Bible. Fr. Paul's presentations are recorded for use on his radio program and website to extend the outreach.

Attendees include many from area Orthodox churches (OCA, Greek, and Antiochian) and approximately half the participants are non-Orthodox (Lutherans, Evangelical Christians, and Roman Catholic). The grant money will be used to help with the costs for Fr. Paul, advertising, and refreshments.

Check the Diocesan website at www.dneoca.org for the grant guidelines and an application. Applications will be reviewed as received.

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Below: The clergy of the Connecticut Deanery gathered for a retreat before Lent at Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, Conn. Fr. Harry Pappas, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology at St. Vladimir's Seminary, was the retreat leader.



Youth Rally 2012: August 13-18

Rev. John Hopko

The Diocese of New England's 2012 Youth Rally is set for August 13-18. All diocesan youth who have completed fifth grade and have not yet celebrated their 18th birthday are eligible to attend. Adults are also welcome to serve as volunteer staff.

As in recent years, Youth Rally will be held at the Campgrounds of the Greek Orthodox St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center, Contoocook, N.H.

For further information and to request registration materials, please contact Fr. John Hopko, Youth Rally

Director, by phone (860-582-3631) or email (saintcyril@snet.net).

The deadline for youth registration is July 13, 2012. Adult volunteers should contact Fr. John right away. Adult staff members will need to be active Orthodox Christians, at least 18 years old, who have the blessing of their parish priest (the priest who regularly hears their confession) to participate, and who have been approved by the Youth Rally Director on behalf of the Diocese of New England.

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Giving Above and Beyond

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

The 2011 ONE Stewards donations exceeded the budget goal of \$20,000 for the first time in many years. This was primarily due to the generosity of our Diocesan Bishop Nikon who made a significant personal donation to kick-off the 2011 appeal. In addition the "Bishop's Circle" donors (\$500 or more) helped in putting us over the top.

The annual Diocesan Youth Rally is scheduled again for August and ONE Stewards donations provide a major portion of the rally costs which total over \$20,000.

Show your support of our diocesan Youth, our diocesan Seminarians, our diocesan Missions, and our diocesan Charity donations by "Giving Above and Beyond" with a 2012 donation to ONE Stewards.

You should have received your ONE Stewards appeal envelope in March. Let's all join Bishop Nikon in supporting ONE Stewards.

Send donations to:

**ONE Stewards
PO Box 1182
Torrington, CT 06790**

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Holy Unction Service, Ansonia, CT



Right: On Sunday, April 1, the Connecticut Deanery held its **annual Holy Unction service** at Three Saints Church, Ansonia. The wonderworking **Kursk Root Icon of the Theotokos of the Sign** was also present for veneration by the faithful. His Grace, Bishop Nikon presided, with clergy participants from the deanery and other local Orthodox churches.



Zarras from 2

V. Rev. John Jillions, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, gave thanks on behalf His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, and the entire OCA for “the service Dn. John gave to the institutional church” in a time of need. Dn. John loved the institution of the OCA because he believed in Christ’s incarnation: Christ’s Body is incarnated in its institutions. Dn. John

served the Church, Fr. Jillions said, even when others “were tempted to give in to despair and cynicism. Instead, he was full of joy, hope, and practical understanding.”

Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, before the Last Kiss, told those assembled that Dn. John’s last words were “Christos anesti!” So, with His Grace, Bishop Nikon’s blessing, he invited the faithful to sing hymns of Pascha at the conclusion of the funeral, at the door-

All Saints Church, Hartford, Conn.

V. Rev. William DuBovik

The faithful of All Saints came together to participate in the joyful worship of the Great Feast of Pascha as well as related activities.

During Great Lent, our older Church School students presented a benefit supper following a Pre-sanctified Liturgy with proceeds going to a local charity. They also assembled gift boxes for troops in Afghanistan, in a collection coordinated by Susan Ranstead. Earlier, they presented a St. Nicholas/Nativity program.

The parish continues to assist a variety of charities, with weekly food drives sponsored by our Altar Sisterhood, and special collections.

We have begun to make plans for our 100th year in 2014. A Revitalization Committee will examine parish life and growth, using materials from the Diocese of the Midwest.

As part of our outreach efforts, we now can be found on Facebook at All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford, CT; and continue our website at www.allsainthartford.org.

A copper beech tree has been planted on the rectory grounds in memory of Aleksandra Nazaruk. The tree was donated by Anita Karsky and her family. Special thanks to Phyllis Sturtevant and Dr. Richard Simon for shepherding this project. We also blessed a beautiful brass processional Cross that was also donated in mem-

ory of Aleksandra by family and friends. Memory Eternal! Many Years!

We joyfully welcomed Fr. Deacon George Aburdeineh from SS. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in Potomac, Md., who has served with us on a few occasions.

We congratulate John Medynski, a long-time altar server, who recently completed a Paramedic Training Program at Capital Community College and now is state certified.

Congratulations to Natasha Vargas, daughter of David and Cathy Vargas, who finished in the top 10% of women and 20% overall in the Disney Half Marathon, recently in Florida.

Also, congratulations to Phyllis Sturtevant on being named to the Pastoral Advisory Committee at UConn Health Center.

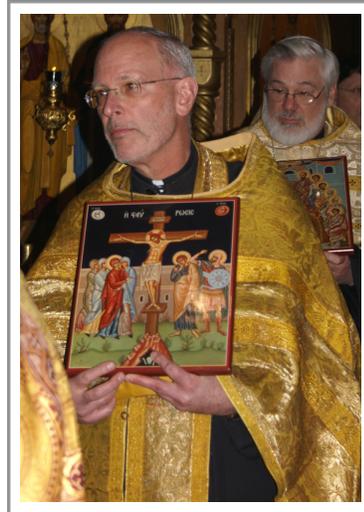
We bid an earthly goodbye to two long-time members of our parish, Stephen Powlishen, Edward Liptak and Eleanor Sheldrick.

All worshipped regularly with us until illnesses, and will be missed. Stephen's voice was heard for years at all of our funerals as he read and sang at them over the years.

We also said a goodbye to Allan Coombs, husband of our Marsha Coombs. While not a member, Allan was a friend of the parish and often worshipped with us and attended and helped at many of our events.

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Right: Fathers Marc Vranes and David Koles joined other local clergy in the procession of the icons in a celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy at the Church of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin, Waterbury, Conn.



Right and below: The youth of Christ the Savior organized a **24-hour hunger strike** learn and pray for the needs of their brothers and sisters in Turkana.



Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, Conn.

Sarah Cole

“Alleluia! We are Christ's Ambassadors!” The voices of eleven teens, along with Father Vladimir, “Mama Phoebe,” “Mama Sarah,” “Mama Kari” and “Papa Keith” rang out in English and then Swahili. The song, repeated so often during the

time we joined together, filled our hearts with joy and encouragement as we searched for water, cornmeal, wheat, and firewood, as well as scraps with which to make a soccer ball. For 24 hours in December our youth staged a hunger strike, raising \$1200



Right: Sarah Byrne gave a presentation on end-of-life issues to women of Christ the Savior.

and awareness of the Turkana children of Kenya, with whom we are so connected through past and upcoming OCMC missionary trips of Fr. Vladimir and Matushka Suzanne Aleandro.

Over the course of the 24 hours, the youth participated in the Vespers and Liturgy services; held a midnight candlelight service to remember those children who die from hunger-related causes each day; baked proshpora for our Communion and made memorial wheat. They also prayed together at a hard-earned bonfire and engaged in discussion about our place in the world as living icons. The participants held a blessing of water, while engaging in activities that emphasized the value of clean water to many children.

The youth came away from the experience with a new appreciation for the many blessings we have in our lives each and every day and a greater awareness of the struggles and joys of children around the world, especially the special children of St. John's school in the Turkana.

[In a letter to local parishes, M. Suzanne Aleandro announced that she and Fr. Vladimir are planning to return to the Turkana people with another OCMC Mission Team, July 17-31, 2012. They will help build a new temple for St. John's Church in Loupwala, Kenya.]

On Jan. 14, the parish women held a retreat hosting Sarah Byrne of Massachusetts discussing the end of life. Sarah shared stories of compassion and healing learned through her experiences with Hospice and her hospital chaplaincy. The response to Sarah's



retreat was overwhelmingly positive and helped those attending to address these issues prayerfully from an Orthodox Christian perspective.

With great joy and anticipation, we welcomed three new catechumens to our parish: Anthony and Renata Sica and Alek Budd. We also bid farewell to our beloved Neil and Ellen Lantani as they moved to Colorado on April 3. We wish them the very best. Their prayerful and faithful presence will be greatly missed.

Every Sunday morning since September, Deacon Seraphim Joa, a retired Navy seaman, and his wife Julie has arrived from St. Vladimir's Seminary at 8:10 AM as part of his "Field Experience." On Lazarus Saturday he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood and on Palm Sunday celebrated his first Liturgy with us. AXIOS!

The Connecticut Bible Lecture Series continues at Christ the Savior, the Bible study with Fr. Paul Tarazi in spring and fall for the past eight years. This year, Fr. Paul taught on Saturday April 28, on the Gospel of St. Luke.

We have just been notified that our application for a Diocesan Grant to help sponsor CBLS has been accepted and approved. We are very grateful and invite all to come and learn.

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St. Nicholas Church, Salem, Mass.

Rev. Theophan Whitfield

In Church School our children prepared in special ways for Great Lent. We held a candle making session on February 19, so that our icon corners were ready for the Fast. The children melted down leftover beeswax from used candles, and then poured new beeswax votives. These candles were blessed in time for distribution at Forgiveness Vespers. The

candle making activity also included lessons about the importance of candles and icons in our prayer life — and about the wonderful qualities of natural beeswax!

For more pictures, visit our website:

orthodoxsalem.wordpress.com

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Below: Children of St. Nicholas, Salem, make beeswax candles.



Three Saints Church, Ansonia

Barbara Ann Dixon

We celebrated our Patronal Feast Day — Three Hierarchs — on Monday, Jan. 30. Father Patrick Burns celebrated the Liturgy with fellow priests Vladimir Aleandro, David Koles, Dennis Rhodes, Nicholas Timpko and Vladimir Horoszczak. Susan Lukianov made the Kolivo that was blessed and served to the parishioners at the end of liturgy. Following the Liturgy, we were treated to a delicious breakfast prepared by Matushka Cindy Voytovich.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Chancellor of St. Vladimir's Seminary, presided at the Baptismal Liturgy of Dorothy Emilia Burns, infant daughter of Father Patrick and Matushka Mara. Following the service, the parish rectory was blessed and everyone returned to the auditorium to celebrate Dorothy's baptism with a luncheon sponsored by Father Patrick and Matushka Mara Burns and godparents Father Steven and Matushka Cindy Voytovich.

Three Saints vacation school reunion took place on Saturday, February 11. It was an afternoon of good food, fun, fellowship and planning for the 2nd summer vacation school to be held at Three Saints Park. All participants ended the session by attending Great Vespers at 4:00 pm.



Top: Godparents Fr. Steven and M. Cindy Voytovich and parents Fr. Patrick and M. Mara Burns surround the newly-baptized **Dorothy Burns.**

Middle: Fr. Patrick hosts deanery clergy after the Liturgy for the patronal feast of Three Saints.

Bottom: Ansonia Parishioners assemble breakfast after Liturgy for **"Starbuck's Sunday."**

Photo: Jennie Chaplick

On Sunday, Feb. 12, following Divine Liturgy, Lew Nescott treated the parishioners with a special fellowship hour called the "Starbuck's Sunday," with a delicious menu.

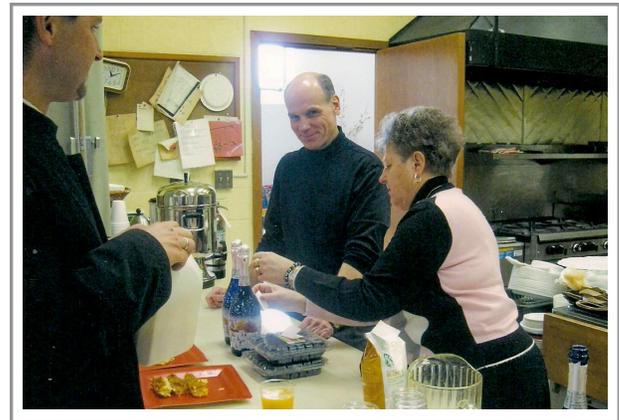


On Sunday, February 26 we entered into Great Lent attending the Forgiveness Vespers, asking each other for mutual forgiveness as we embarked on our journey to the joy of Christ's Resurrection.

Delores Carangelo and her many helpers coordinated the celebratory Cheesefare (Mazlanitza) Luncheon, a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and the last of the dairy products during Lent.

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On Thursday, February 16, Father Patrick went behind bars for the 2012 Ansonia/Derby Lock-up event to help raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Parishioners donated \$2,200.00 to help raise bail to get Father Patrick out of jail. Thanks to all who participated in making this a successful event for Father Patrick and the community.



2012

Vacation Church School at Three Saints:

The Beatitudes

July 9–July 13 2012

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday

9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Friday

Located at Three Saints Park

112 Miller Road

Bethany, CT 06524

Each Day we will:

Pray, Learn, Sing, Work, Play and Have fun together!!!

Fee: \$35 per child* Ages 5 and up

*Those who cannot afford this fee or are unable to supply lunches are urged to contact Fr. Patrick to discuss other options – **NO ONE will be turned away for financial reasons**

Daily Topics:

- ❖ Monday, July 9^T: *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
- ❖ Tuesday, July 10: *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
- ❖ Wednesday, July 11: *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.*
- ❖ Thursday, July 12: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.*
- ❖ Friday, July 13TH: *Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Living the Beatitudes every day (Family night)

(Family night will include Vespers sung by children, cookout and awarding of certificates of completion. Families are strongly encouraged to attend)

More Information:

Mary Pagliaro (203)513-2049 or mpagliaro@sheltonpublicschools.org

Fr. Patrick Burns (203) 734-3988 or pnevmaticmotives@gmail.com

(In case of emergency, contact Mary Pagliaro on her cell at (203) 231-5348)

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Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| June 15 | Deadline for next issue of the ONE |
| July 9-13 | Vacation Church School at Three Saints Park, Bethany, Conn. |
| July 13 | Deadline to register for Youth Rally |
| August 13-18 | Youth Rally 2012 |
| October 7 | Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut Benefit Dinner, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, Conn. Guest Speaker: Jennifer Nahas, Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. |