

# O.N.E.

## ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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## *Two More Diocesan Parish Grants*

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

The Diocesan Grant Committee has announced the awarding of two more Parish Grants. Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Meriden, Conn., and Holy Ghost Orthodox Church in Bridgeport, Conn., are the latest recipients of grants from the Diocesan Parish Grant Program.

The Meriden parish will use the grant money to expand their outreach efforts in presenting a 10 week adult

education and outreach program, "The Way: A Foundation of Orthodox Christianity." This will be the third time that the Meriden parish has offered this program and the grant money will be used to expand the publicity to attract more non-Orthodox to the program. The previous programs sponsored by the parish have been successful

*Grants to 7*

**Right:** Members of Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport, distribute food to the homeless, an effort that is to be expanded in response to a Diocesan Grant.



## *Did you hear the challenge?*

Rev. Sergius Halvorsen

Did you hear the challenge? Jesus gives us a pretty tough challenge on the Sunday of All Saints. He says, "whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also

deny before My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33) This is a pretty serious challenge, and every time I hear it I feel a bit uncomfortable. The challenge makes me uncomfortable because when I think

*Challenge to 7*

## *His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon: Ten Years of Archpastoral Ministry*

His Eminence, Nikon, Archbishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese marked the tenth anniversary of his consecration as bishop on May 25. Archbishop Nikon was also recently elevated to that rank during the Holy Synod meeting on May 9.

His Eminence served as a parish priest from 1969 until his consecration as bishop on May 25, 2002, in conjunction with the annual pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, Penn.

In his priestly ministry, Archbishop Nikon (then Fr. Nicholas Liolin) served as rector of Saint Nicholas Church, Southbridge, Mass., and Saint Thomas Church, Farmington Hills, Mich. He also was active in regional outreach efforts, notably "The Voice of Orthodoxy" radio program established by the Russian Orthodox Laymen's League (ROLL) of New England.

After his beloved wife Sarah died on July 25, 2000, the Holy Synod elected him in 2002 to serve as Bishop of Baltimore and auxiliary to Metropolitan Theodosius. On Oct. 10, 2003, the Diocesan Assembly of the Albanian Archdiocese nominated him as ruling Bishop of Boston, and he was elected by the Holy Synod on Oct. 22, 2003.

Archbishop Nikon also served from that point on as administrator of the Diocese of New England until Dec. 17, 2005, when the Holy Synod elected him as ruling bishop of that diocese as well.

Currently, His Eminence is second in length of service on the Holy Synod, serves as the chairman of the Pension Board, and *locum tenens* of the Diocese of the South.

*His Eminence, our Archbishop Nikon will share some reflections on his ministry in the next issue of the ONE.*

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**Above: His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon** presides at Divine Liturgy.

**Below: Archbishop Nikon** prepares to give the final blessing at Vespers before the **Diocesan Council meeting on May 16**, shortly after his elevation.



## Two parishes welcome new pastors

Rev. Joshua Mosher

Two Connecticut parishes, Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport, and Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Waterbury, both recently rejoiced to welcome new pastors.

His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon assigned Father Steven Belonick to serve as rector of Holy Ghost in Bridgeport starting March 3. He later assigned Fr. Nicholas Hubbard to serve as rector of St. Mary's in Waterbury starting May 25.

Fr. Steven has considerable pastoral experience. To take up his new ministry at Holy Ghost, he departed St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, where he had served in numerous capacities between 2000 and 2012. Most recently, he was St. Vladimir's Campus Chaplain.

Previous to St. Vladimir's, he served for many years as rector of the Church of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Binghamton, N.Y.

Fr. Steven is also a graduate of St. Vladimir's, receiving his Master of Divinity degree in 1977.

Fr. Steven arrived in time to welcome the faithful of many churches of the Diocese and region for Lenten Vespers for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent.

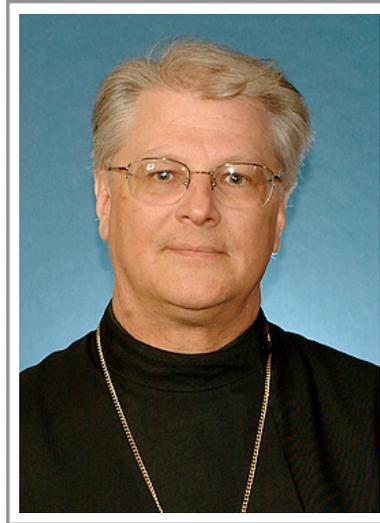
Fr. Nicholas also graduated from St. Vladimir's, in 2009, with a Master of Divinity degree. He completed

CPE (clinical pastoral education) residency at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven. After finishing the program, he married his wife Georgiana and moved to his home state of Minnesota.

Fr. Nicholas was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on April 30, 2011, during the consecration of His Grace, Bishop Matthias to the Holy Episcopate. The following week, on the feast of St. Alexis Toth, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral in Minneapolis.

May God bless the efforts of these two pastors in our Diocese, and may the Lord further bless the churches they now serve.

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**Right: Fr. Steven Belonick**, new pastor of Holy Ghost, Bridgeport.  
**Below: New pastor of St. Mary's, Waterbury, Fr. Nicholas Hubbard** at his ordination, with his wife **Georgiana**.





## Three Saints Church, Ansonia

Barbara Ann Dixon

In addition to our regular monthly food collection, the senior group, during the month of April, collected additional food and monetary donations to help our neighbors in need. The Spooner House, a local shelter for the homeless, will be applying for the Alan Shaw Feinstein Million Dollar giveaway. All non-perishable foods and monetary donations collected will be credited to the Spooner House so they may apply for this matching grant program.

Nina Kosowsky chaired a Honey Baked Ham fundraiser. Representatives from the Honey Baked Ham Store in Milford sold gift certificates from their store, which were used to purchase hams, turkeys, side dishes, desserts and more. Three Saints received a percentage of each sale for a total of \$700.

With joyous hearts, our parishioners witnessed the baptism of Olga Mitchell on Saturday, March 24, and welcomed her as

our newest member. May God grant her many years!

Our first movie night was held on Tuesday, March 27 in the auditorium. An exceptional movie, *The Island*, was featured. It

was in Russian with English subtitles. We discussed its themes regarding forgiveness and redemption. Refreshments were served.

On Sunday, April 1, we hosted the Holy Unction Service sponsored by the Connecticut Deanery and were privileged to have the Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God of the Sign at both the Divine

Liturgy and at the Unction Service.

Many Orthodox Clergy and faithful from near and afar attended this beautiful and moving service. Three Saints has hosted the Connecticut Deanery's Holy Unction Service for the past 30 years on the fifth Sunday of Lent (St. Mary of Egypt Sunday). His Eminence, our Archbishop Nikon presided. The service included readings from the Epistles and Gospels.

At the conclusion of the service, the faithful were anointed with the Holy Unction. Choir members from Orthodox churches around the state sang *Ansonia* to 10



**Above Left and Right:** Three Saints Church hosted the **wonder-working Kursk-root Icon of the Theotokos** for the Holy Unction Service during Great Lent.

Photos: Nancy Dudchik

**Below Left: Fr. John Kreta** prays one of the seven prayers over the Holy Unction.

**Below Right: His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon** anoints the clergy at the conclusion of the Unction Service.

Photos: Richard Kendall



## *Allison Denisky honored at All Saints Church, Hartford, Conn.*

**Right:** Fr. William and Monica Kapral, secretary of the All Saints Sisterhood, make presentations to **Allison Denisky**, who graduated from Rocky Hill High School and will attend Northeastern University. She is the daughter of Thomas and Gail Denisky.

*Photo: Cathy Vargas*



### ONE Stewards Summer Appeal

The 2012 ONE Stewards donations as of mid-June have totaled \$16,000. Our Diocesan Budget is \$20,000 for ONE Stewards donations that support our diocesan Youth, our diocesan Seminarians, our diocesan Missions, and our diocesan Charity donations.

The annual Diocesan Youth Rally is scheduled again for August. ONE Stewards donations provide a major portion of the rally costs. Show your support by "Giving Above and Beyond" with a 2012 summer donation to ONE Stewards.

A ONE Stewards envelope is included in this issue of the ONE Newsletter. Let's all join Archbishop Nikon who donates to ONE Stewards on a monthly basis in supporting ONE Stewards and help us reach and exceed our \$20,000 goal again this year.

Send donations to:

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

## St. Alexis Church, Clinton, Conn.

Vinny Melesko

A pysanky workshop was held at St. Alexis Orthodox Church in Clinton, Conn., on Saturday April 7, from 1:00–4:00 PM.

There were 20 members that attended the workshop in celebration of Lazarus Saturday, including children and adults.

They learned about the history of this type of egg decoration and were taught the traditional wax resist method using beeswax and permanent dyes.

Ukrainians have been making pysanky for over a thousand years. Pysanky comes from the word “pysaty” which means “to write” and each egg, once decorated, tells a story. The Ukrainians of the Carpathian Mountain region believed that the fate

of the world depends upon the making of pysanky—as long as the custom of decorating eggs continues, the world will exist.

The workshop was taught by Stasia Penkoff Lidbeck, a member of St. Alexis, who has decorated pysanky eggs since she was a child. She taught this art to her three daughters and it has become a family tradition to set up a pysanky work table at home and

make them together throughout the Lenten season.

It was a special day, filled with fun, learning and fellowship. Everyone was able to produce at least one beautiful and unique pysanky work of art. St. Alexis Church hopes to continue this tradition by holding a pysanky workshop each year.

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**Above:** Local pysanky egg maven **Stasia Penkoff Lidbeck** conducts a workshop on the egg-dying technique.

**Below:** Examples of **pysanky eggs** from the workshop.



## Grants from I

and Fr. Joshua Mosher expects this offering of the program to be more ambitious and fruitful, with potential benefits to other parishes' outreach efforts.

The Bridgeport parish will receive grant money to support and expand their efforts in helping the homeless in Bridgeport, which the parish currently does on a monthly basis.

Fr. Steven Belonick hopes to attract more of the parish faithful to support this program and to try and coordinate efforts with other parishes and agencies in the area. We hope that the diocesan grant money will enable the Bridgeport parish to continue and expand their efforts in spreading Christ's love in caring for the needy.

**ONE** †

## Challenge from I

about "confessing Jesus before others" I think about televangelists, and street preachers and door-to-door missionaries who hand out little pamphlets. To be honest, I haven't done any of these things, and even the thought of them makes me feel a bit uneasy.

Now, I did not grow up in the Church, and for a good amount of my young adult life, I rejected Christianity. I was not an atheist. I believed that there was a god, but I didn't want anything to do with Christianity, because the Christianity that I had seen made no sense to me. It was this kind of "hard sell," "in your face" kind of religion, where people would tell me that I needed to make such and such confession, and burn my rock and roll records, and then I'd be saved. And if I didn't do all of those things, I'd be headed to hell.

This was not a very encouraging or inspiring message (plus I really liked rock and roll). Whenever people got in my face, or put me on the spot about my religious convictions or beliefs, I didn't want to hear more, I didn't want to have a conversation, I

wanted to run—I wanted to run far, far away! I did not respond well to "hard sell" "in your face" religion, because not only did it seem totally superficial, but it also made me feel very uneasy. This is why I get a little nervous when I hear Jesus say, "whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven."

But sometimes I wonder if it is just a lack of courage. Perhaps I just lack the courage to go out and "confess Jesus before men." Because there have definitely been moments in my life when I lacked courage.

Once when I was in elementary school, I learned that our high school was doing a musical that had a great role for a young boy. I knew the show, and I thought I would go audition for the part. Now, we had a really small school, so the elementary, junior high, and high school were right next to one another. So, when it came time for the auditions, I got a note from my teacher and just walked down to the high school band-room.

I got into that room, and it was filled with all of these teenagers. (You, know, when you are nine or ten, high-schoolers seem like these mythical

beings, “superheroes,” who still sort of looked and acted like kids, but they were big and strong like adults, and they did “amazing things” like drive cars.) And all of these high-schoolers were laughing, and warming up, and practicing for the auditions, and when I first got there, my courage was at about 80%. You, know, about a B- on the courage scale. Then, the auditions started.

One by one, the kids would go up to the front of the room, the accompanist would start to play the piano, and the high-schoolers would sing. Some of them sang duets, others did solos, but they were all really into it. They were amazing. The piano played, the high-schoolers sang, but my courage began to fade. I thought to myself that there is simply no way that I could get up there and sing like those kids.

There was no way that I had that much courage. By about the third or fourth audition, my courage gave way completely.

So, right after one particularly rousing audition, when everyone was clapping and cheering, I made a run for it. I got up, quickly walked out of the band-room, and ran back to my classroom because I just didn't have the courage to stand up in front of all those high-schoolers and do that audition.

Now courage has always been essential in the Christian life. After Pentecost, the Church celebrates all Saints: all of the holy men and women who have been faithful to God, who

have taken up the Cross and followed Jesus Christ. When we remember All Saints we remember all of the saints who are formally remembered in the Liturgy, and we also remember all of those holy people who are known only to God. Whether the saints are ancestors, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors or ascetics, they all have courage.

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**The courage of the Christian faith, the courage of Christ, is the courage to love.**

**You could be the most bold, daring and dynamic person in the world, but without the Love of Christ, what does it matter?**

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But the kind of courage that we see in the saints, the kind of courage we see in the heroes of the Christian faith, is a special kind of courage. Because the Christian life is not an audition, it is not a job interview, or a public speaking engagement. The kind of courage that allows you to do these things is important—it is a gift from God, that can be used for great good. But it is not the fundamental courage of the saints.

The courage of the Christian faith, the courage of Christ, is the courage to love. This is where “hard sell” religion is so empty. You could be the most bold, daring and dynamic person in the world, but without the Love of Christ, what does it matter? St. Paul says it best:

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith so that remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I have, and if I am burned alive, but have not love, I gain nothing” (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

The courage of Christ is the courage of love.

So how does one get this courage?

Consider the disciples. When Jesus was betrayed and arrested, and killed on the Cross, they were confused and afraid. They didn't understand how Jesus could have died, and even when the women disciples brought the first reports about His resurrection to the frightened men, there were serious doubts. Remember the apostle Thomas and his famous doubt? Even after the disciples encountered the Risen Lord face to face, even after they placed their fingers in the marks of the spear, and the nails, there was still something lacking. As we all know, and as we all celebrated on the great feast of Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit down upon the disciples, and it filled them with the absolute, and unshakable conviction of the love of Jesus Christ. Receiving the Holy Spirit, the apostles experienced God's perfect love in a way that changed their lives forever.

The apostles were filled with a love for all of mankind, and a desire to share the love of God, and the teaching of Jesus Christ with everyone. This is why they went out and preached the gospel in every language. It was not a political rally, or an intellectual argument, it was an expression of God's love, a passionate desire to share that love with everyone who has ears to hear. The same Holy Spirit that filled the apostles on the day of Pentecost has filled all the saints through the ages.

When Jesus says that we are to confess him before all people, he means that we are to share his love with all people. And to love another person, to truly love another person with the love of God, requires great courage. Because the love of God has no strings attached. Think of Christ, he came into the world, he taught, he worked miracles, he ministered to the most marginalized and despised people in his culture, and he never asked for anything in return. He simply invited

people into the loving Kingdom of His Father. Even when he was rejected, even when he was betrayed, even when his own people put him to death, he continued to love.

Think of it: you have been sentenced to a horrible death, and in the midst of your sufferings you respond to your murderers with love. This is the power of God, this is the

majesty of God, this is the courage of Christ.

And this is exactly what we see in the lives of all the saints, this remarkable, miraculous ability to love, to respond to all manner of sin and darkness with love and mercy. Don't believe anyone who might say that the love of God is some sort of wishy-washy, mamby-pamby, feel-good drivel. The love of God is stronger than the strongest steel. The love of God has transformed empires, the love of God has stopped armies, and the love of God warmed the hearts of executioners and persecutors. Again, St. Paul, the most famous of reformed persecutors says it best:

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**Don't believe anyone who might say that the love of God is some sort of wishy-washy, mamby-pamby, feel-good drivel. The love of God is stronger than steel.**

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“Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.... as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away... but love never ends” (1 Cor. 13:4-10).

To love with the love of God, this is what it means to confess Jesus Christ before men and women. This is the vocation of all the saints, and this is our vocation today.

As a young adult, I attended my first Divine Liturgy, and I was blown away. Yes, the service was remarkable, but what really struck me was the love. Gathered together with those people in that parish, I experienced a powerful sense of God’s love, like I had never experienced before.

Even as a person with serious reservations about Christianity, I knew at that moment that God had brought me to the place that I needed to be. For there among those people I found the love that I had been so desperately seeking; among those people I found Jesus Christ.

This is our vocation today, to embrace Christ, follow His commandments, and love one another, so that anyone that God brings into our parishes on a Sunday morning can say, “The love of God is real!”

Our vocation to confess Christ begins in our celebration of the Holy Mysteries, and compels us out into the world, filled with the Holy Spirit.

Filled with the courage of Christ, the courage to love, we confess Christ

by bringing the love of God to the people in our lives.

When our spouses, or children, or parents, annoy us or bother us, we confess Christ with patience. When our classmates, or co-workers, or students let us down, we confess Christ with kindness. When the people around us give us no reason to love them, we confess Christ with love.

When someone wrongs us, when someone betrays us, when someone hurts us deeply, and when we have the chance to really put them down and put them in their place—we respond with mercy and the love of Christ.

Then maybe, just maybe, someone will ask us, “Why did you do that? You had every right to cut that guy down. Why did you treat him so well?”

Then we will be blessed to say, “I am a Christian.”

**ONE +**

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## Ansonia from 4

the responses under the direction of Archpriest Steven Voytovich.

Following the service, everyone was invited to the auditorium to partake of a Lenten Buffet that was coordinated by Nina Kosowsky and her many helpers.

Father Patrick officiated as we celebrated the uniting of Peter Bunosso and Laura Lee Soncarato in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage on May 12. Congratulations, best wishes, and may God bless you with many years.

A very successful Plant sale, chaired by Mary Jiminez and Deborah Egan was held before and after liturgy on Sunday May 13 and May 20. They had all sizes, shapes and varieties of flowers, herbs and vegetable plants. Thank you ladies.

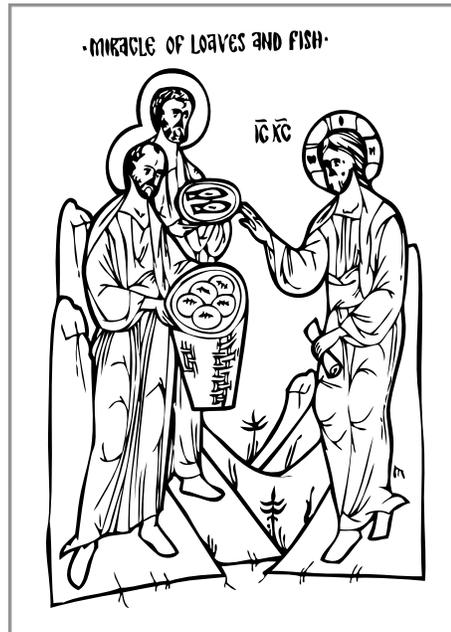
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# Because you give

V. Rev. William DuBovik

- When a loved one is sick, and there is a priest to pray for them; it is because you give.
- When someone dies, and you can join in the prayers of a funeral; it is because you give.
- When we can confess our sins, and can receive the Eucharist; it is because you give.
- When someone is in need, and the Church can respond; it is because you give.
- When you are sick and can receive unction and prayers; it is because you give.
- When someone has a problem and can talk with a priest; it is because you give.
- When someone is called to the seminary and it is there to attend; it is because you give.
- When we have a Bishop who can visit us and shepherd his flock; it is because you give.
- When two persons decide to join in matrimony and can come to Church for their wedding; it is because you give.
- When the Church can speak out on issues of the day; it is because you give.
- When life seems in turmoil and you can find peace and joy in worship; it is because you give.
- When you can gather with friends at a Church dinner or other social event; it is because you give.
- When a baby is born, and can receive Baptism and Chrismation; it is because you give.
- When a problem occurs in a parish and we can call the Bishop, chancellor or dean; it is because you give.
- When you can remember at a service a loved one who is gone; it is because you give.
- When you can celebrate Pascha and Christmas, as Holy days of Christ; it is because you give.
- When you can be part of Orthodoxy throughout the world; it is because you give.
- When we can entrust our children to Church School lessons; it is because you give.
- When the Church is just always there; it is because you give.
- Because you give, so much can happen in and through the Church, which Christ gives us—so that we can give.



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## Upcoming Events

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| <b>July 31</b>      | Deadline for next issue of the ONE   |
| <b>July 9-13</b>    | Vacation Church School at Three Saints Park, Bethany, Conn.  |
| <b>July 13</b>      | Deadline to register for Youth Rally   |
| <b>August 13-18</b> | Youth Rally 2012   |
| <b>October 7</b>    | 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. |