

“We must readjust our allegiances...”

Nativity Fast Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:1-2, RSV)*

**NATIVITY FAST 2002**

**TO THE REVEREND CLERGY AND FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND**

Dearly beloved,

**F**orty days before the celebration of the coming in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Church calls us to an effort of prayer and fasting. In many ways, these days are the time for each of us to search out the answer to the same question asked by the Magi – “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?”

It is a most important question. In our contemporary society, many “kings” have established authority in our lives. We willingly become subjects to all of them – money, glory, power, possessions, any number of different passions. We are enslaved to them. Worst of all, we very often do not even realize or admit it. Isn’t the hustle and bustle and the focus on everything *but* Christ at this time of the year perfect proof?

But there is only one King that should have authority over us, body and soul. That is the One who was born of Virgin; the King who has come to establish the Kingdom of His Father for those who would accept it. We are given a taste of this Kingdom in the life of the Church. The only-begotten Son of God has condescended to become one of us, so that we can become one

with Him.

Our spiritual quest must begin with the question asked by the Magi because it is only in searching for and finding the one true God that we are released from the slavery in which we find ourselves. The Fast is the time when we struggle with our passions in order to readjust our allegiances. Our repentance, our self-denial, and our abstentions turn our minds and hearts from the false kings we follow and allow us to focus our attention on the one true King.

The Magi, however, searched for the “one born king of the Jews” with a purpose. They saw His star and came “to worship Him.” Our lenten effort must begin with the same purpose in mind. The forty holy days are the journey; the celebration of the Nativity is the destination. Our fasting, prayer, and repentance become truly meaningful and effective when we use them to build a hunger and thirst for the Lord. Our desire to worship Christ enables and strengthens our lenten effort.

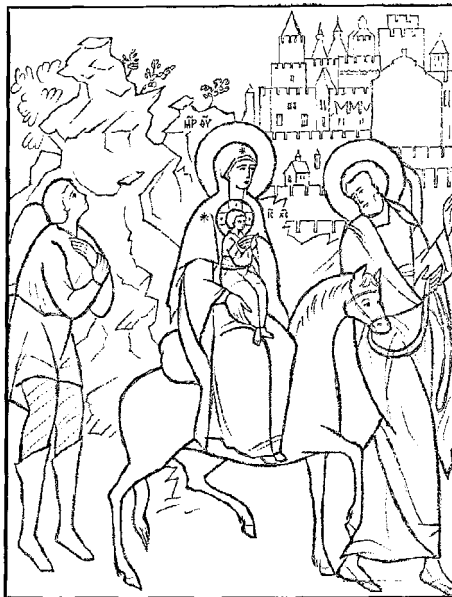
I invite you to join me, beloved brothers and sisters, in the journey. Let us use these holy days as the time to search for the one true King, and in

the fulness of the Feast, worship Him. As we enter the time of the Fast, I ask forgiveness of each and every one of you. May the Lord strengthen each of us in our efforts.

With love in Christ,



†**HERMAN**  
 Archbishop of Washington  
 Metropolitan of All America and Canada  
 Administrator of the Diocese of New England



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**ON THE DOCKET**

A listing of upcoming events in the Diocese.  
Please forward any dates you wish to be included to the Editor.

November 2-3, 2002

*Russian Tea Room and Bazaar*  
*All Saints Church, Hartford, CT*

November 8-9, 2002

*St. Nectarios Feastday Celebration*  
*Vespers & Dessert Buffet, 7:00 P.M.*  
*Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.*  
*Christ the Savior Church, Woodbury, CT*

November 9, 2002

*Harvest Bazaar, 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.*  
*Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT*

December 10, 2002

*Connecticut Deanery Meeting, 7:00 P.M.*  
*Nativity of the Theotokos Church, Waterbury, CT*

December 11, 2002

*Diocesan Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M.*  
*Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT*

**O.N.E. Press Fund**

YES, I enjoy the articles, correspondence and editorials of *O.N.E. (Orthodox New England)* and would like to contribute towards the expenses of publishing this periodical. Find enclosed my check made out to "Diocese of New England."

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Anyone choosing to receive the publication in electronic form must have at least a current version of the Adobe Acrobat Reader™ software on their computer. The software reader is cross-platform; one can use a PC or Macintosh computer to receive and read *Orthodox New England*.

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# Around the Parishes

## Hartford, Connecticut

Special services marked September at All Saints Church, Hartford.

On the evening of September 11<sup>th</sup>, we gathered for a Panikhida for the victims of the terrorist attacks. Later in the month a special service was held at the end of Liturgy for the beginning of a new Church School year.

Our annual Scarborough Fair Tag sale was also special this month, raising funds and providing fellowship.

Michael and Mary Beth Stenko coordinated the event this year, with help from Olga Powlishen, Helen Uremko, David, Catherine and Nicholas Vargas; Dr. Chet, Kathleen, Nicholas, Danielle, and Michael Andrzejewski; Anastasia Church, Eugenia Hanczaruk, John and Joan Holobinko, Nicholas Medynski, Valerie Olesnovich, Susan Ranstead, Nino Shengelia and Paul Stenko.

An icon of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, painted by Russian iconographer Victor Kazanin, was blessed. The icon was donated by Helen Lichatz in memory of her husband, John Sr.; and son, Mark. Memory Eternal

## OUR DIOCESE

**PEOPLE  
PLACES  
EVENTS**

and Many Years!

Funerals were recently held for three long-time members of the parish: John Hasychak, Alexandra Sredzienski and Clifford Drumm. Memory Eternal!

– submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

## New Britain, Connecticut

In the afterglow of our Centennial Celebration (see page 4), we continued rocketing through a very busy schedule. Our parish representative to the Fellowship of Orthodox Churches of Connecticut (FORCC), Lydia Dorsey, attended the annual Scholarship Banquet on October 6<sup>th</sup> (details about the banquet are on page 6).

The following Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Protection of the Virgin Mary Sisterhood celebrated their 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary and their patronal feastday with a wonderful luncheon held at the Farmington Marriott. For most of the parish's history, the Sisterhood has remained a constant presence of care for the temple itself, providing vestments, liturgical appointments, etc. Many Years!

Then on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, our parish had the chance to share in two wonderful life events. Jonathan

Potvin, our newest and youngest parishioner, received the Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation. Many years to him, his family and his sponsors!

Also on that Sunday, we rejoiced with Amber Hromi and Jason Fiedler, who were united in Holy Matrimony in the afternoon. Amber is a life-long member of the parish and we wish her and her husband Jay a long and happy married life. Many Years!

## New Haven, Connecticut

On August 20<sup>th</sup> we welcomed another “wee one” to our parish family. Matthew André Mueller, newborn son of Lloyd and Daria Kirjanov Mueller made his debut. Best wishes to all.

At our September 1<sup>st</sup> coffee hour, we enjoyed viewing the All American Council video presentation on His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius. The tape is now in our parish library for those who would like to borrow and view at home.

A Molieben service for the entire church school, students, teachers and parents was held on September 8<sup>th</sup>, start of our new church school year.

Following Vespers on September 14<sup>th</sup>, a Molieben service was held for all the people who are in the teaching profession (college, public, private, Sunday School, tutors, teachers aides, etc.). We thank all of them for their dedication to the education of our youth. May God grant them many, many fruitful years!

September 20<sup>th</sup>, Elena Ames and her infant daughter Mary Larissa were churched.

Congratulations and best wishes offered to our treasurer, Joshua Mosher, on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, who was blessed to wear a cassock. Josh, while working and raising a family, is a student at St. Vladimir's Seminary in Crestwood, NY, and has petitioned for ordination to the Holy Diaconate.

September 23<sup>rd</sup> started our annual SVS lecture series. We would like to thank all those volunteers who help with these lectures: our guest speakers from St. Vladimir's Seminary, Father Michael Westerberg, Matushka Lydia Westerberg, the Orthodox Christian Library Outreach members and all our parishioners for coordinating these wonderful events.

We send special thanks to Miheala Aslan for coordinating the hospitality table goodies and for all the attendees and parishioners who baked the goodies and make the sandwiches. May God grant all of you many years!

September 28<sup>th</sup>, we witnessed the baptism of Maria Larissa Ames, newborn daughter of Robert and Elena Ames. God's blessings and Many years to all.

– submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

# Centennial Celebration in New Britain

## Hundreds gather to mark 100 years

NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT – The culmination of over a year's preparation was realized on the weekend of September 28-29, 2002 as over two hundred people came together at Holy Trinity Church.

Their purpose? To celebrate the centennial of the parish's founding. In the summer of 1902, following two years of organizational meetings, a committee from New Britain led by John J. Hamilla, then 21 years old, was given a blessing by Bishop Tikhon (Bellavin), ruling bishop of the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska and North America (now St. Tikhon of Moscow), to begin building a church. A skeptical witness to the meeting, who voiced concern over such a small group of people building a church, was Fr. Alexander Hotovitzky (now St. Alexander of New York).

Archimandrite Raphael (Hawa-weeny, now St. Raphael) was sent to

represent the bishop at the blessing of the grounds and the laying of the cornerstone. Construction began immediately on the Beatty Street property (a building which still stands).

On new calendar Christmas Day, December 25, 1902, Bishop Tikhon arrived from New York to formally establish the parish (then named after Ss. Cyril and Methodius) and to consecrate the building. Fr. Ptolomey Timchenko was assigned as the first pastor.

The faithful of the parish worshipped in the first church building until 1913, when a larger church building was needed due to growth. The present church was constructed on Washington Street and the parish settled into their new building dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Bishop St.

Raphael came to New Britain to consecrate the new building. To this present day, the parish community feels a special bond under the heavenly protection of Ss. Tikhon, Raphael and Alexander.

From the founding of the parish to the present day, the parish has been blessed with dedicated pastors. The longest tenured pastor was Fr. Joseph Dankevich, who arrived in New Britain as pastor on December 14, 1921 and cared for the parish until his death on May 1, 1956. Other long serving pastors were Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, 1956-1964; Fr. Paul Lazor, 1966-1977; and Fr. Sergei Bouteneff, 1977-1989. The present pastor, Fr. John Dresko, was assigned to Holy Trinity Church on September 1, 1989.



*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, awards the Jeweled Cross to Fr. John Dresko during the Divine Liturgy. (Photo: Lydia Dorsey)*

The preparations for the big celebration began a long time ago. Many capital projects have been accomplished in the past few years. The church was repainted on the inside. Handicapped access was added to the church building in the form of a lift and building addition. At the same time, a new roof was put on the church and air conditioning added for both levels of the building. In the past year or so, landscaping changed the front look of the property. New carpeting was purchased. A sound system was installed just last month. Masonry was refinished and beautified.

Our stewardship has included outreach as part of our anniversary celebration. We have begun to add projects to the normal budget of the parish to care for others. We now budget regularly for Alaskan Clergy Support and Project Mexico. We give a percentage of our budget to the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards. The Christmas Stocking Project of the OCA is also a special project dear to the hearts of everyone in our parish. All projects have been embraced as part of our thanks to God for His great blessings on our parish and each of us as individuals.

## The Weekend

On Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, our wait and preparation ended. Great Vespers were



*Michael Wanik shows property improvements to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman. (Photo: Paul Salina)*

served by Fr. John Dresko and Archdeacon Vsevolod Borzakovsky, Archdeacon to the Primate. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, and His Grace, Bishop Nikon, were present as well as many of the dignitaries and guests expected for the celebration.

Following Vespers, guests and parish leaders enjoyed a wonderful dinner reception and fellowship at Fr. John and Elizabeth Dresko's house. Chef extraordinaire Paul Culton, parishioner and Diocesan Council member, prepared the dinner with the assistance of his wife, Janet, and George and Maureen Ludko. Everyone had a wonderful and relaxing time.

**S**unday morning, September 29<sup>th</sup>, dawned crystal clear and crisp. Along with the pastor, clergy greeting His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, and His Grace, Bishop Nikon were Protopresbyter Robert Kondratick, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America; Archpriest Michael Westerberg, Chancellor of the Diocese of New England; Archpriests Sergius Kuharsky, Paul Lazor and Sergei Bouteneff, former pastors of the parish; Archpriest John Shimchick and Priest Antony Gori, sons of the parish; and Archdeacon Vsevolod Borzakovsky. Subdeacon Jason Vansuch, Nicholas Dresko, David Delaney, Jeff Burrill, Matt Ferrandino, Dan McGuire and David Wanik also served at the altar.

The Divine Liturgy was magnificent. The parish choir, under the direction of Matushka Elizabeth Dresko, was glorious. During the "little entrance," the pastor, Fr. John Dresko, was brought before His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman. In recognition of many years of dedicated service to the parish and to the diocesan and central churches, the Holy Synod of Bishops blessed Fr.



*Group photo after liturgy (Photo: Martin Paluch)*

John to wear the Jeweled Cross. As he placed the cross over Father's neck, the clergy and faithful thundered "Axios!"

At the end of liturgy, His Beatitude called three parishioners forward to recognize them for dedicated service to Christ and the Church. George Matyczyk, his sister Sonia Matyczyk, and Rosemary Delaney were each awarded a gramota in honor of their work. Many Years!

His Beatitude also called the Parish Council President, Michael Wanik, forward. Michael accepted a gramota on behalf of the parish in remembrance of the centennial.

**A**fter feasting at the banquet table of the Lord, it was time to feast at the Grand Banquet. The Glass Room at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington was the site.

Parish Council President Michael Wanik began the program with a remembrance and toast to the parish.

Comments were offered by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman; His Grace, Bishop Nikon; Fr. Robert Kondratick, and Fr. Michael Westerberg.

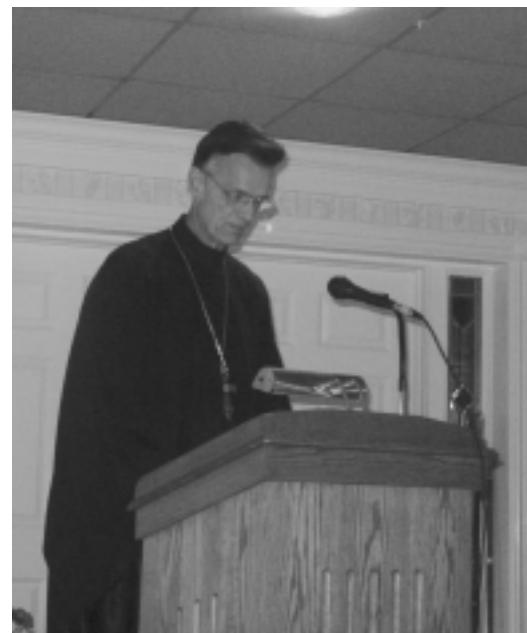
Before the dinner was served, the parish choir sang a concert of liturgical music, us-

ing a couple of pieces never before heard by our faithful. Matushka Elizabeth Dresko directed two pieces and Christopher Dresko and Jason Ferrandino, young parishioners and gifted musicians, each directed a selection.

Following dinner, Frs. Sergius Kuharsky, Sergei Bouteneff, John Shimchick and Antony Gori offered comments. The Dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary, John Erickson, a one-time parishioner, also offered remembrances.

The main address was given by Fr. Paul Lazor, Dean of Students and Professor of Liturgical Theology at St. Vladimir's Seminary, former pastor of Holy Trinity. His address stressed the piety of the faithful and how it has sustained the community for one hundred years.

Fr. John Dresko gave closing comments remembering the words of Solomon at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem: "Hear the prayer which we pray before You, Lord: may Your eyes be open night and day toward this holy house."



*Fr. Paul Lazor gave the Main Address at the Banquet. (Photo: Paul Salina)*

## FORCC Benefit Dinner held

The ninth annual FORCC benefit dinner, catered by Smolen's in Bridgeport, was held on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Bridgeport, CT. Several hundred people attended this wonderful event, to help support FORCC and its great works.



*Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky (OCA) delivers the keynote address.*

The Fellowship of Orthodox Churches of Connecticut was founded in 1993 to manifest unity through worship, educational programs, philanthropic activities and fellowship with our Orthodox brethren in Connecticut.

Father Steven Voytovich, pastor of St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Church in Clinton, led the attendees in the singing of the opening and closing prayers, including our National Anthem.

Chamber dinner music provided by the Spectrum String Quartet. These young high school students perform with the Norwalk Youth Symphony. Our thanks go to these very talented students.

A commemorative plaque was presented to William Balamaci, chairman, for his dedication and service to the Fellowship of Orthodox Churches of Connecticut (FORCC).

Guest speaker was the Very Reverend Leonid Kishkovsky, Ecumenical Officer of the Orthodox Church in America and editor of its' monthly publication, *The Orthodox Church*. Father Leonid is currently the Rector of Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff, New York.

He serves as a member of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America (SCOBA) Study and Planning Commission; Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC); moderator of Action by Churches Together (ACT); World Council of Churches Executive and Central Committee; National Council of Churches Executive Board and General Assembly; Moderator of US Conference of Religion and Peace; Trustee of Appeal Conscience Foundation. He also served as the first Orthodox President of the National Council of the Churches of



*Lydia Dorsey (New Britain) and members of the UConn OCF enjoy the meal.*

Christ in the USA (1989-1990) and as a member of the State Department's Committee On Religious Freedom Abroad.

Father Leonid gave a very inspiring talk on the unity of the Orthodox Churches and the community of love, faith and prayer. Father Leonid congratulated FORCC for their dedicated efforts for the unity of Orthodox churches in the area. FORCC should be the model for other dioceses to follow in their efforts for a united Orthodox Faith.

Father Leonid presented the 2002 FORCC \$500 Scholarships and an Orthodox Study Bible to: Nicholas E. Bonatsakis, a member of St. George Cathedral, Hartford, attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Computer Science); Michael Caetano, a member of Three Saints Church, Ansonia, attending Quinnipac University (Mathematics Secondary Education), upon completion, he plans to enter seminary; Katerina Recachinas, mem-

### FORCC TO 8



*A display of parish feastday icons was set up at the banquet.*

# Though The Lord Himself Slay Me

by Fr. Stephen Siniari

*(Reprinted with permission from the Summer 2002 issue of Jacob's Well, Diocese of NY-NJ, OCA.)*

I work with uncertainty everyday at the shelter, kids and staff. "I don't know where I'll be staying tonight; and what do you care; you put me out?" "Her behavior left no choice. I hate this work. I don't want to do it anymore." Okay. It is what it is.

She sliced him with a razor-knife; you stepped in, now his blood's all over you. Don't go near your wife or kids 'til the test results come back. Two weeks. Yes, you'll have to tell your wife. You just have to live with it 'til we know. I have no visible cuts or open wounds. But what if? Then what? I don't know.

I live with uncertainty myself, all the time. At the parish I tell my Confessor. "All this prayer... Is it a sin to think, does it do any good?" Who would I fool if I lied?

There are days when I *am* uncertainty. I embody it, when I think about it: My body is like a time bomb, what's it doing in there, three score years and ten? I have a fluctuating faith. One day I want to serve Him, the next day I want to run. I blow with the wind, fashion, education, politics, pleasure, society, science...

For twelve years I've worn a clergy collar in the trenches. No, it isn't a cassock, that would be awkward crawling through the abandoned buildings and on the avenue, but it offered some little iconographic hope: Even here, He calls his servants, out of the depths I cry and He remembers my name, He sends someone, even here... But now the purveyors snicker in the coffee shop, "Hide the little boys." So I leave it in the car. Well, the work of the Gospel is more than a shirt, isn't it?

What's certain in this life any way? The wits of the world answer, taxes and death. Oh yeah, and suffering, say the boys

who sip coffee and sell candles during Liturgy. Great. Big deal. Thought that up on your own, boys? You put your red eggs in the basket of this world and they get broken. Who doesn't know that? Think like that and what's the point of living, temporary pleasure? Go be a pirate. Small consolation if you ask me. You sell out easy. An antidote, you ain't got.

What I'm talking about is that thing you had as a kid, that invincible, eternal thing. The part that sometimes still inexplicably hopes it's going to see the good days again. The part of the child that refuses to go to bed, hates the dark, wants the light left on. The part in you the darkness keeps trying to extinguish. What about that? Let me ask you a question, which part you dancing with, the darkness or the light?

Perhaps we who bear the Name of Christ have an offering in that regard. And I think we do. But how do we give a gift and not get in the way? How do we offer a gift people may have been robbed of the capacity to receive?

Perhaps we prepare a garden for the brokenhearted, a small world in from the storm. Refuse the cultural lie that makes trivial those who bear the gift of being human. Offer a liturgical interval where portals to a peaceable kingdom may be illumined. Confess, beggar to beggar, we too, have been beguiled by the malice of the snake. You can listen another's soul into existence. Hesychia, the Fathers say. Try it. Live loving wisdom that tempers trust with discernment. Weed doubt. Plant faith. Anoint the desecration in the Name of Jesus Christ. Wordless icons speak.

Say with your lips to the uncertainty in your heart the words of Blessed Job: Though the Lord Himself slay me, yet will I trust Him. Spit in the devil's face. Pray and move your feet for another 'til your heart forgets uncertainty and believes. Embrace the sacramental mystery. Be embraced in the Antidote, say heal my soul. Grow in your calling,

take one step, be Comforted, He'll meet you, Taste & See.

## On Self-Examination

But let us examine ourselves and test whether we are truly Christians. According to the apostolic injunction, Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith (2 Cor 13:5), for without faith it is not possible to be a Christian. We show the outward signs of Christianity, as we said above, but do we have true Christianity within us? For everything outward is nothing without the inward, and outward signs apart from very truth are a lie and hypocrisy.

We pride ourselves in our faith, but do we do works in conformity with this faith? As the Apostle says to all, Show me thy faith without thy works (James 2:18). We are called Christians after Christ, but do we crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts as befits Christians that believe in Christ crucified? As the Apostle says, They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts (Galatians 5:24).

And do we feel within us the anointing of gladness of the oil of the Spirit? We believe in the Gospel, but do we live worthily of the Gospel? We confess and call upon the true God, but do we please Him with the faith and the clean conscience that He demands of us? We hear the holy word of God, but do we heed it and correct ourselves according to its rule? We partake of the holy and life-creating Mysteries of the Body and Blood of Christ, but are we renewed by Holy Communion and do we progress in the new, spiritual man?

— St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

## PUBLICATION DEADLINES

January Issue  
December 1<sup>st</sup>

February Issue  
January 1<sup>st</sup>

# BLESSED ARE WE



## THANKSGIVING LUNCHLESS LUNCH

As you give thanks this holiday season, make place for a hungry child or a needy family by participating in the IOCC "Lunchless Lunch" program. Your generous gift will assist by providing children with training that will help them escape from lives of poverty, by giving refugee families the tools with which they can begin to rebuild their homes and by supporting agricultural programs that will help nourish whole communities.

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INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

### FORCC FROM 6

ber of Holy Trinity Greek Church, Bridgeport, attending Georgetown University (Biology); and Angela Reichelt, member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, attending the University of Connecticut (Psychology).

One hundred dollar scholarships were awarded to Renna Antoniou, member of St. George Cathedral, Hartford; Juliana Dresko, member of Holy Trinity Church, New Britain; Meredith Hendren, member of St. John The Baptist Church in Bridgeport; Danielle Masek, member of St. George's Albanian Church in Trumbull; Natasha Vargas, member of All Saints Church in Hartford; and Athanasios Sarazemis, member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport

Congratulations and best wishes to all our scholarship winners. May God Grant You Many, Many Years!

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon



Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky awards the scholarships at the banquet.

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