

# CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

## Paschal Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5 RSV – Paschal Gospel Reading)*

**PASCHA 2003**

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

Dearly beloved,

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

I greet you with these glorious, life-filled words on this Day without night. The prologue of the Gospel of St. John, quoted above and read at the Paschal Liturgy, reminds us of the ultimate victory of this Day. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Word of God, expressed by the Father, and the Creator of all that exists, including each and every one of us.

He did not create a world destined to remain in the grip of sin and death. Those created in His image and likeness were not put on this earth condemned to never know life and light. The Lord Jesus Christ is life and He fills everything with Himself, and nothing can extinguish

that Life. Sin and death reigned for ages until His coming, but now are rendered powerless. We share in this victory on this day, and darkness has not and cannot overcome it.

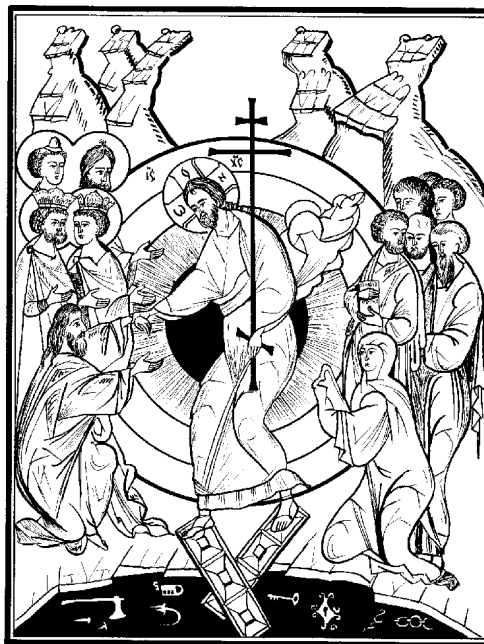
We live in times that may seem overly anxious and dark. Our nation and people face terrorism, wars and rumors of war, heightened security warnings, etc. It has always been thus – there has never been a time without human insecurity, worry, and doubt. But we are not limited or crippled by our human concerns, because the Savior of all became one of us and died for us. We live in the end times – the coming of Christ, His death and resurrection and the gift of the Church have inaugurated the Kingdom of Heaven. There is nothing to fear, and the victory is total.

Our celebration of, and participation in, the Resurrection of Christ is the guarantee that death has not won. The victory of Jesus Christ destroys death by death. The empty tomb is proof of the authority of the Lord over life and death. Those

who follow the risen Christ cannot be held captive by sin and death. Indeed, as the verses of Holy Saturday proclaim, “Today, hell cries out groaning....” Hell has been destroyed and all creation rejoices in the renewal that comes in the Resurrection of Christ.

Beloved brothers and sisters, may the Light of the Resurrection shine brightly in each of you, and every family and parish. The winter of sin and death has blossomed forth into the Spring of Light and Life.

**MESSAGE TO 2**



O.N.E. (ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND)

Diocese of New England, Orthodox Church in America  
Published monthly except for July-August

*His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, Administrator  
The Very Reverend John J. Dresko, Editor*

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**Editorial Office:** V. REV. JOHN DRESKO, Editor  
E-MAIL: [jdresko@cox.net](mailto:jdresko@cox.net)

FAX: (860) 620-0739  
US MAIL: 95 Butternut Lane, Southington, CT 06489

ONE Online: <http://members.aol.com/johnd3/ONE>

ONE STEWARDS: PO Box 2995, New Haven, CT 06515-2995

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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.

April 6, 2003

*Connecticut Deanery Vespers, 4:00 P.M.  
Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA*

April 10, 2003

*Connecticut Deanery Clergy Retreat, 5:00 P.M.  
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts/Dinner/Talk  
Archpriest Michael Koblosh, Speaker  
Christ the Savior Mission, Woodbury, CT*

April 13, 2003

*Holy Unction Service, 4:00 P.M.  
Three Saints Church, Ansonia, CT*

April 20, 2003

*PALM SUNDAY  
Bridegroom Matins, 4:00 P.M.  
Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT*

April 27, 2003

*THE HOLY PASCHA*

May 8, 2003

*Connecticut Deanery Meeting, 7:00 P.M.  
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT*

May 15, 2003

*FORCC Meeting, 7:00 P.M.  
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT*

May 21, 2003

*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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RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail donations and subscription requests to: V. Rev. John Dresko, 95 Butternut Lane, Southington, CT 06489.**

**MESSAGE FROM 1**

Let us all enter into this gift and so never again have to fear death.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

With love in Christ,

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

# Around the Parishes

## *Ansonia, Connecticut*

After a quiet (and very snowy) winter, our spring activities are coming together. We were overjoyed to host the choir from St. Tikhon's Seminary, who visited March 22-23. Also, in March, we welcomed a visit from His Grace, Bishop Nikon. In conjunction with the deanery Holy Unction service, we will be expecting a visit from Metropolitan Herman on April 12-13, culminating with the deanery service and meal following.

Our Sunday School children have received wooden crosses to wear during Great Lent, and upon culmination of Great Lent, will receive a package of seeds which they can plant in remembrance of a deceased loved one. This truly symbolizes the events of death and rebirth with Christ.

In addition to all of our visitations, we have a busy schedule planned for the upcoming summer months that we are all working very hard on. We will keep everyone updated.

– submitted by Julie Craft

## OUR DIOCESE

**PEOPLE  
PLACES  
EVENTS**

## *Hartford, Connecticut*

All Saints Church will hold its annual Egg-stravaganza 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. April 12. Pysanky Classes, a feature of the event, will be from 10 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and 1-3:30 P.M. Cost for the class is \$20. The Bookstore will be offering an array of "egg items," along with religious items, cards, etc. Lenten food will be available. For registration call Cathy Vargas at 860-721-0280.

Elected at its annual meeting and installed by Fr. William with the confirmation and blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, were officers of the Church Council: John Holobinko, president; Dr. Chet Andrzejewski, first vice president; Christopher Evans, second vice president; Susan Ranstead, recording secretary; Catherine Vargas, financial secretary; and Mark Ranstead, treasurer. Trustees are Thomas Denisky, Olga Mucha, Joan Holobinko, Anita Karsky, Michael Stenko and Mark Sidorick. Auditors are George Babey and George Pawlush. Many Years!

The parish at its annual meeting also voted to proceed with the erection of a ramp to provide handicapped access to the Church, and construction of a handicapped bathroom on the main floor.

Altar Sisterhood officers installed are: Olga Powlisen,

president; Olga Mucha, vice president; Linda Kolios, recording secretary; and Lynn Gudelski, treasurer. Many Years.!

Alexandra, infant daughter of Catalin and Alice Butunoi, was baptized and chrismated. Many Years!

Funeral services were held for Nicholas Koladis, who chaired the Building Committee for the current church edifice, and Olga Martocchio. Memory Eternal!

– submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

## *Clinton, Connecticut*

After a long absence in reporting news of our mission, we have many highlights to share with our friends in the diocese. Our parish again manned the gyro sandwich booth at St. Vladimir's Seminary Education Day. Participants enjoyed good food, fellowship, and stewardship.

Our annual parish meeting in November was highlighted by Council of Stewards President Raymond Boyd's facilitating a discussion on our parish's foundation, framework, vision, and purpose. These discussions have led to a greater appreciation for this year's goals, and an understanding of the concerns and expectations of our parishioners.

Our annual craft fair featuring handmade items and food was a success. June Bronen and her "crew" accomplished their objectives of gaining visibility for us in our Clinton community and generating some funds to use in our outreach efforts.

We were honored to have His Grace, Bishop Nikon visit us in December. Bishop Nikon blessed altar server, Andrew Boyd, to be a sub-deacon on this occasion. Our community hosted a luncheon for His Grace following Divine Liturgy where parishioners were able to talk with His Grace informally.

In gratitude of their donation of stock to our beautification fund, the parish presented an icon of St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre to Nona Belomyzy and Zenaida Sotnick following a Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Following the Feast of Epiphany, members of our mission again processed from the church to the town beach of Clinton to bless the waters of Long Island Sound. As usual, the weather cooperated by being one of the coldest days of the month. Fortunately, we were able to warm ourselves with a potluck dinner at the home of Ed and Susan Hayes.

The highlight of January was a surprise 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Father Steven. Being surrounded by friends and family certainly eased his pain of turning forty.

Our church school students have also had a busy few months. The children helped at the Clinton Soup Kitchen, collected items for Ss. Cosmos and Damian home, and presented program for the Feast of the Entrance of the

## TODAY'S CHURCH

# Ecology, Stewardship and Salvation

by Protodeacon Basil Andruchow

**M**an as a Curse or Blessing, Metropolitan Nicholas' article reprinted in the February issue of *ONE*, clearly raises the awareness of our responsibilities with regard to maintaining a watchful eye on and the caretaking of the environment in which we live. This paradigm, while seemingly so contemporary, is really very old and is central to the Orthodox Church's understanding of salvation through our Lord, Jesus Christ. How is this so?

Principally, one of the basic premises of salvation in Orthodox theology is that through Christ's sacrifice we have now been given the way in which and through which we can have a personal relationship with the living God. This relationship is predicated on our acknowledgment that everyone and everything are God's creations.

Further, as creatures of God, we have been given the responsibility of stewards. Our stewardship not only applies to the "things/people" around us but also and most particularly, to our very selves. We are expected by God to be stewards of the temple (our body) and soul, which He has given to us as a great gift. Consequently, we are expected to develop and nurture those behaviors and activities that will bring us closer to Him, that is, to nurture that relationship with and through Jesus Christ, our God and Savior.

If we choose to live by these beliefs/paradigms, then much, if not all, will flow from these beliefs and corresponding practices. As Orthodox Christian stewards we will:

**B**e regular communicants of the Holy Things and practice and participate in the Sacrament of Penance.

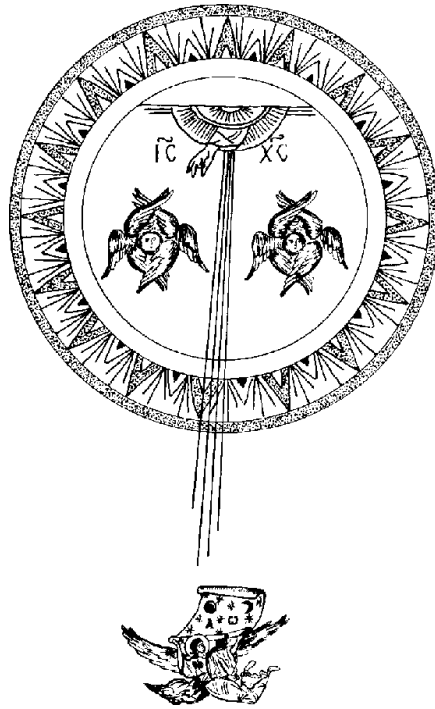
- Live in a manner that is conducive to a healthy lifestyle of eating, drinking and exercise to maintain a

healthy body/temple of God.

- Try to prevent and correct the misuse and devastation of the land and environment, particularly in our local area.

- Offer our time, talent and monetary support to the parish we choose to call our own.

- Defend the Sanctity of Life,



e.g., oppose abortion, and the killing of embryos for stem cell research, among many similar examples.

**A**ll of this flows from our being Orthodox Christians and from the fact that this makes us stewards of the Faith. Remember that we do "good works" because we are Orthodox stewards – we are not Orthodox stewards because we do "good works." It's a classical case of remembering how to hitch up the horse and the cart to help us on this journey of developing and nurturing a relationship with our living God. Yet, we are imperfect beings and fre-

quently stumble when we attempt to live by our Orthodox Christian paradigms. How can we be helped on this journey?

If we can positively say that we need and want help, then this is the perfect time of year for us Orthodox Christians – the period of Great Lent. It is during this period that the Church calls upon us to reflect and meditate on our lives, our habits and our behaviors through the Sacrament of Penance. This is done with God's help and the guidance of our parish pastor.

**T**his will require that we take a fearless inventory of our physical, mental and spiritual health. We are called upon to identify those practices that have brought and are bringing us closer to God and to further nurture and develop these practices. We are called upon to identify those practices that are taking us further away from God and then eliminate them from our lives. In this manner, we have come to learn that each Lenten period is a new and additional opportunity to get closer to God.

Will we continue to stumble? Of course we will! However, we will also have learned to pick ourselves up and still move closer to God.

*(Protodeacon Basil Andruchow serves at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Boston, Massachusetts.)*

### PUBLICATION DEADLINES

June Issue  
May 1<sup>st</sup>

Summer Issue  
June 1<sup>st</sup>

# FORCC Notes



**CHRIST IS RISEN!**  
 WE GREET YOU WITH THE  
 JOY OF THE RESURRECTION.  
 APRIL 27, 2003  
 THE FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHURCHES  
 OF CONNECTICUT (FORCC)  
 WWW.FORCC.ORG

Scholarship applications are now available for students of member parishes of the Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut. Two \$1,000.00 scholarships (one each for a boy and a girl) and four \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded. at our annual banquet in October.

Applications should be completed and forwarded to: EVA VANIoTIS, 4100 Park Ave., #12, Bridgeport, CT 06604, by June 1, 2003.

Matushka Lydia Westerberg has obtained billboard space for the FORCC sponsored Paschal greeting. Three of the fifteen billboards have been donated. This year FORCC has been able to provide fifteen locations for the billboards. Look at the list and find the one in your area. They are beautiful and will go up in mid April.

Ansonia: Clifton Avenue across from St. Peter and Paul Uniate church

Bridgeport area: Summit Street & U.S. 1; US 1 & California Street; US 1 and Palisade Avenue;

Danbury: Federal Road and

White Street

Hartford: 384 Homestead Avenue w/o Kent ; New Park Avenue s/o Kane St.

Milford: Post Road 500' n/o Erna St E/S

New Britain: Allen Street 300' e/o Stanley St.

New Haven: Whalley Ave. 400' S/O Anthony Street; Water Street

Norwich: at the intersection of RT 12 and Blissville Rd

Groton: at the intersection of RT 1 and High Rock Road

Waterbury: Bank St. 100' s/o W. Liberty

West Haven: Orange Avenue NEC Admiral St.

A non-Orthodox donor thought our billboards were so beautiful that he donated two of them (Norwich and the one across from the Mohegan Sun Casino).

VIACOM, who rents us the billboard space, has donated the billboard in front of their New Haven office.

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

# SVS Retreat

On Saturday, April 12, 2003, the seminary's annual Lenten Retreat will be held. Fr Thomas Hopko, Dean Emeritus of St Vladimir's Seminary, will be teaching on *Mary's Song: A Meditation on the Magnificat*. The evangelical hymn of Christ's Mother Mary, the Holy Theotokos, is regularly sung at Matins in the Orthodox Church. The schedule for the 2003 Lenten Retreat is as follows:

- 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy
- 10:30 A.M. Brunch and Registration
- 11:30 A.M. First Presentation
- 12:30 P.M. Sixth Hour, followed by snack
- 1:30 P.M. Second Presentation
- 3:00 P.M. Closing Prayer

The St Vladimir's Seminary Press bookstore will be open at specific times throughout the day. Retreat participants are also welcome to attend Vigil at 6:30 P.M. Since classes are in session and the seminary's refectory facilities are limited, SVS will be unable to provide dinner for retreat participants.

The 2003 Lenten Retreat is free and open to the public, though registration is required. There will be an opportunity for a free-will offering. Please register by March 28, by telephone at 914-961-8313 ext. 342, or e-mail: events@svots.edu. Please include the following information:

- 2003 Lenten Retreat
- Name and address
- Daytime and evening phone number
- Parish name & location

## Keep Watch

Keep watch over your city,  
*(your mind)*  
 Lest the enemy invade it.

Keep watch over your house,  
*(your heart)*  
 Lest the enemy enter it.

Keep watch over your treasure,  
*(your soul)*  
 Lest the enemy steal it.

Keep watch over your well,  
*(your knowledge)*  
 Lest the enemy poison it.

Keep watch over your garden,  
*(words of God)*  
 Lest the enemy dig it up.

Keep watch over your tree,  
*(your faith)*  
 Lest the enemy cut it down.

Keep watch over your door,  
*(Christ)*

Lest the enemy carry it away.

Keep watch over your path,  
*(your path to God)*  
 Lest the enemy block your way.

Keep watch over yourself,  
 Lest you fall asleep.

Keep watch,  
 Until the Master returns.

*Julianna Kreta (age 13)*  
 March 6, 2003

# Parish Profile Survey

## Background

During the month of June 2002 a survey of parish practices was undertaken by the Preconciliar Project Team. The survey was open to parish priests in all OCA parishes.

The goals of the survey were:

1. To provide All-American Council delegates with a more comprehensive understanding of their own parish – so they could think in broader terms during the Council – allowing themselves to consider the needs and challenges of the entire Church.
2. To provide parish leaders with an ability to contrast their parish practices with those of other similar parishes as a foundation for understanding where a particular parish might have an opportunity to improve.
3. To provide an opportunity to understand the OCA of tomorrow in light of the OCA today by creating a baseline of current practice.
4. To explore the differences in practice between growing and non-growing parishes.

## The Data

In total 161 surveys were completed either via paper/mail or the web. Only 7% of the parishes in non-territorial dioceses and Alaska and Canada responded to the survey. For the “Lower 48” Territorial Dioceses the responses rate was 41%.

The parish founding dates of the respondents (from Lower 48 territorial dioceses) was compared to the founding dates for OCA Parishes overall (from Lower 48 Territorial Dioceses). The characteristics of the two groups and the survey population correlated very well.

Our conclusion is that the survey population accurately represents a cross section of parishes from “Lower 48” Territorial Dioceses. The survey is large enough and representative enough to be useful in fulfilling the objectives.

## Key Findings

The survey included over 70 questions. A complete summary of data and findings has been posted at <http://aac.oca.org>. The following is a brief

synopsis of a few of the most important findings.

**1. Growth.** Parishes describing themselves as having “good” or “fair” growth outnumber those describing themselves as being in “slow” or “serious” decline by approximately 3:1.

**2. Liturgical Language.** Four out of five parishes use English only. Less than 2% of parishes use no English.

**3. Parish Size.** Parishes are small. If your parish is larger than 100-125 you’re above average.

**4. Converts.** The typical parish has about 25% converts.

**5. Orthodox Immigrants.** One third of parishes are experiencing an influx of immigrants.

**6. Service Frequency.** Fifty-six percent of parishes have two services or fewer per week.

**7. Pastoral Changes.** Over half of respondent parishes changed pastors in the last ten years.

**8. Facilities Issues.** Seventy-six percent of parishes are dealing with facilities issues including renovation, iconography, purchasing property or planning a new building.

**9. Characteristics of Growing Parishes.** Of parishes which characterized themselves with “fair” or “good” growth, the following can be said:

- a. The average age of parishioners is getting younger.
- b. They are more likely to be experiencing an influx of immigrants
- c. They are more likely to have a higher concentration of converts
- d. There has been less pastoral turnover.
- e. They have more frequent services, greater participation in the services and are more likely to have parishioners who take communion regularly and go to confession more than once per year.
- f. They demonstrate greater participation in adult education.



**EAGLE SCOUT**

Josef Pawelchak receives his Eagle Scout Award after many years of service to Troop 68 of Farmington, Connecticut. He is a member of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville, CT.

– submitted by Deborah Wegh

g. They are more apt to have strategic planning, growth or parish ministries planning as the central focus of parish council activities.

h. They are more likely to use pledge forms, stewardship committees and all member canvases as part of their stewardship practices.

i. They are more likely to apply a variety of other parish practices such as a web site, a parish brochure, and adult retreats.

j. They apply more of the practices covered in the survey on a regular basis.

*(This is a synopsis of material presented at the Diocesan Assembly by Joseph Kormos, a member of the Preconciliar Commission for the 13<sup>th</sup> All-American Council and a parishioner at Christ the Savior/Holy Spirit Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. [Diocese of the Midwest, Orthodox Church in America])*

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Theotokos into the Temple and the Nativity Feast. Our high school students are working on an oral history of our parish.

Several of our young adults have had highlights in their lives. Alexis Boyd graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in biotechnology. If you have been watching UConn women's basketball, keep your eyes out for Sarah Richards playing the trombone in the band. Samuel Boyd is on the Superintendent's List at the Naval Academy. Along with sailing on one of the Navy's finest "cruise" ships this summer, Samuel will be pursuing an internship program at the Pentagon. We congratulate Alexandra Richards on her acceptance into Western Connecticut State University for the fall. Alexandra will be busy studying criminal justice and competing on the university swim team.

Congratulations to the Ruperto family on the occasion of the baptism of their daughter, Anne. Anne is the daughter of Frank and Stephanie Ruperto.

– submitted by Christine Boyd

*New Haven, Connecticut*

Winter seemed endless, but old man winter with his frigid temperatures and white fluffy ground cover did not deter our faithful parishioners.

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The following officers were elected: Starosta Michael Tvardzik; Assistant Starosta Xenephone Papademetris; Secretary John Filyaw; Treasurer Judy Ross; Financial Secretary Michael Poloukhine. Council members who were not returning (Secretary Penelope Mitchell and Treasurer Joshua Mosher) were thanked for their dedication and hard work this past year.

The parishioners wished Matushka Lydia many years and best wishes for her February 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Our youth enjoyed the FOCA Atlantic District annual Ice Skating and Pizza Party at the Milford Ice Pavilion. A great time had by all. Also noted, "no pillows" required after the skating session.

Congratulations and best wishes to the proud Milberg (Stuart and Robin) family on the arrival of their newborn son, Samuel, on St. Valentine's Day (February 14<sup>th</sup>). Samuel has a sister, toddler Alexandria. And, of course, we cannot forget Grandmother Anne Bosse and Great Grandparents Nicholas and Helen Cherniavsky. May God bless them all with good health and many years.

A Mother's Club has been established as a support group for our young mothers. They meet on a regular basis to exchange thoughts and ideas, while the children get to know each other and enjoy their playtime.

Nada Sizemore was awarded a gramota by Bishop Mitrophan of the Serbian diocese for her untiring efforts on behalf of St. Sava's Serbian Orthodox mission in Boston, which recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. Nada is a parishioner at Holy Transfiguration along with

her husband David. Nada has worked tirelessly on behalf of building up the parish in Boston and helping Serbian refugees. We at Holy Transfiguration are thrilled that her dedication and hard work have been acknowledged.

Great Lent is a beautiful and moving experience in our parish. Most activities are curtailed so we may enrich our lives by partaking in the many liturgical services to prepare for the Paschal triumph.

This year we held a "covered dish" Meatfare dinner. Those attending brought pre-lenten and lenten delicacies that were enjoyed by all. During Great Lent, we have our traditional lenten suppers following the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts and the Vespertal Liturgy for Annunciation.

The lenten Read-A-Thon is underway. Our youth look forward to this annual event. A friendly competition is held to see who can do the most reading. They are paired with an adult buddy and spend time at home reading passages from the Bible or material from the Church library. Some of the youth read before, during and after service.

– submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

*Stamford, Connecticut*

The Christmas season saw much activity and fellowship at St. Mary's. After the Vigil service on Christmas Eve, many parishioners joined in the church hall for a traditional Holy Supper prepared by a group of women from the parish. This Supper has become a wonderful tradition of our parish that brings back memories of old times. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, a Russian New Year's Dinner was held. The dinner included various Russian foods and delicacies prepared by several members of our church who immigrated from Russia and the Ukraine over recent years. Displays of Russian crafts, antique samovars, Matrioushka dolls and lacquered boxes added to the atmosphere and invoked thoughts of St. Petersburg.

The St. Mary's Ladies Guild has also been quite active in recent months. After many of its members spent much time and effort working on the Troika Fair held in October, the Ladies' Guild focused its effort on helping the local community by sponsoring a food drive during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Much food was gathered and donated to local groups for distribution to those who are less fortunate. At its January meeting, the Ladies' Guild welcomed Father Vladimir Horoszczak (our pastor), who held a discussion on the teachings of the Orthodox Church. The discussion was so well received that these discussions will be scheduled regularly in the future.

Throughout the Christmas services, our parishioners heard the beautiful singing of the choir. Over the past two years, our Choir Director, Elena Kovalchuk, has put much time and effort into developing the choir, particularly the youth of the parish, many of who serve as readers

**PARISHES FROM 7**

during the services. Weekly rehearsals are held prior to Saturday Vespers. We all look forward to hearing our choir sing the beautiful hymns of the Paschal season.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the parish held its Annual Meeting. Many important topics were discussed, one of which was the creation of a committee to research the purchase of traditional Russian church bells. A committee was also established to plan the commemoration of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Mary's. We all look forward to quite a celebration! The following officers were elected at the Annual Meeting: Barbara Driscoll, President; Robert Stefanov, Vice-President; Walter Kopesky, Treasurer; Nina Bodick, Financial Secretary; Marcy Briggs, Secretary; and Karina Danielian, Corresponding Secretary.

Senior members of the parish were busy in February making piroghi for the Maslenitsa while listening to Russian music.

Congratulations and Many Years to Daniel and Natalia Koughlin on the birth of their son, James Alexei, and John and Enis Kulik, long-time parishioners of St. Mary's, who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in February.

*– submitted by Gregory Driscoll*

*Woodbury, Connecticut*

Christ the Savior Mission has experienced great joy and also great loss. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, our own John Zarras was ordained to the Holy Diaconate at St. Vladimir's Seminary. Many from the parish made the trip to celebrate and share in this blessing. Since Deacon John and Matushka Evangeline joined our mission, they have been integral to its very heartbeat and life. We cannot thank them enough for all that they do for us and for the Lord.

With heavy hearts we suffered the falling asleep of John Driscoll, a man of great humor and warmth who always made one feel comfortable and was able to bring a smile to even the most hardened of faces. To his wife

Pauline, a longtime and faithful member of the mission, we extend the deepest condolences.

Within days of this loss, Nicholas Aleandro (the father of Fr. Vladimir Aleandro) fell asleep in the Lord. His Grace, Bishop Nikon, presided at a Panikhida for him, at which at least one hundred people were in attendance. It was an extremely moving service for an extremely wonderful man. To the Aleandro family, your parish extends, once again, most heartfelt condolences and love.

Those connected with the mission in a very special way who have also fallen asleep are Fred Dirga, Kateryna Stepankiw, Matushka Olga Vansuch (wife of Fr. Nicholas Vansuch, who was the first to prepare the ground and inspire the founding of our mission), and most tragically, 4 year old Robert Louis Abric IV, who was baptized at our Mission with the name Gabriel on February 6, 2000 and went to be with the Lord on February 11, 2003.

It has been a difficult month, but as we continue through Great Lent, we can see shining in the distance the Great Light of Pascha and rebirth.

*– submitted by Burgess Speed*



*Newly-ordained Deacon  
John Zarras after serving  
his first Divine Liturgy at  
Christ the Savior Mission  
in Woodbury, CT  
(Photo: M. Grzech)*

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