

**CHRIST IS RISEN!! INDEED HE IS RISEN!!**

**Paschal Message of  
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman**

**HOLY PASCHA 2005**

*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)

The darkness and death of our sinful lives has been conquered by the Messiah. The Lord Jesus Christ brings light and life into the world through the Cross and Resurrection. The Light of Christ shines in the darkness of the world, and the “darkness has not overcome it.”

**To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of New England**

Each and every one of us is invited by the Lord to share in the reality of the Resurrection. We are invited to drink deeply from the waters of life given to us in the Church, in order to quench the thirst of the Fast. We are invited to eat the Bread

Dearly beloved:

Christ is risen!  
Indeed He is risen!

What a joy to utter those words! After a long, cold and dark winter, the springtime breezes, sunshine and warmth have begun to rejuvenate the world around us. Buds and flowers blossom on trees and plants. Fields are plowed and crops planted. Everything seems alive in anticipation of the future.



of Life who is Christ – sacrificed and raised from the dead to redeem us from our sins.

Beloved brothers and sisters, I greet you in the joy of the Feast and pray that the Light of the Resurrection and the gift of the Kingdom granted by the risen Christ be embraced by all of you.

Christ is risen!  
Indeed He is risen!

Our lenten journey of encountering the cold and dark recesses of our souls and opening up to the joy of the lenten springtime is now fulfilled in the fruit of the Resurrection. Christ is risen, overthrowing all that is darkness and death. The Apostle John reminds us in the words we hear proclaimed at the Paschal Liturgy that in Christ “...was life, and the life was the light of men.”

With love in the Risen Lord,

*Herman*

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



**Diocese of New England • Orthodox Church in America**

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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 2, 2005  
*Northern Deanery Meeting, 9:00 A.M.*  
*with His Grace, Bishop Nikon, St. Johnsbury, VT*
- April 3, 2005  
*FORCC Mission Vespers, 4:00 P.M.*  
*TBA*
- April 10, 2005  
*Connecticut Deanery Mission Vespers, 4:00 P.M.*  
*Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church, Waterbury, CT*
- Northern Deanery Mission Vespers, 4:30 P.M.*  
*Holy Resurrection Church, Berlin, NH*
- April 17, 2005  
*Connecticut Deanery Holy Unction, 4:00 P.M.*  
*Three Saints Church, Ansonia, CT*
- April 18, 2005  
*Metropolitan Council Meeting*  
*OCA Chancery, Syosset, NY*
- April 24, 2005  
*PALM SUNDAY*  
*Connecticut Deanery Bridegroom Matins, 4:00 P.M.*  
*Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, Terryville, CT*
- May 1, 2005  
*THE HOLY PASCHA*
- May 12, 2005  
*Connecticut Deanery Meeting, 7:00 P.M.*  
*Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT*
- May 25, 2005  
*Diocesan Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M.*  
*Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT*
- May 30, 2005  
*100<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage*  
*St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, PA*
- June 3-4, 2005  
*Consecration of New Church*  
*Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT*
- June 19-24, 2005  
*Summer Institute of Music and Pastoral Practice*  
*St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY*
- July 17-22, 2005  
*14<sup>th</sup> ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL, Toronto*

# Around the Parishes

## *Ansonia, Connecticut*

Our annual Parish Meeting was held on January 30, 2005. The Parish elected the following individuals as officers: President: Nina Kosowsky; First Vice President: Kevin Pimpinelli; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Donald Klischer; Treasurers: William Troester and Barbara Charette; Recording Secretary: Carol Zavednak; Corresponding Secretary: Julie Craft; Trustee (3 yrs): Delores Carangelo and Dorothy Dudchik; Sunday School Superintendents: Gloria Timpko and Stacy Pimpinelli. There are twenty curators this year, some new and others returning – congratulations and best wishes to all – we appreciate your donation of time and service to your church.

Our kitchen is becoming reorganized and looks wonderful! We received quite a few generous donations of money as well as time to make this a success. This is making many feel like they want to “break it in” and try out the equipment, as well as get back to fellowship events. There have been a couple of breakfasts put on by our local chefs and the parish was very appreciative.

## OUR DIOCESE

PEOPLE  
PLACES  
EVENTS

Our Sunday School group is venturing into the first of hopefully many fundraisers with their “Basket Raffle.” Each Sunday School class is in charge of bringing in items with a different theme, i.e., cook’s basket, and the students will assemble the baskets and put them on display. Our hope is to sell raffle tickets and people can choose which basket (s) they would like to try to win. The drawing is scheduled for Palm Sunday, so keep posted for results!!

– submitted by Julie Craft

## *Hartford, Connecticut*

Outreach efforts and a desire to help others continue to motivate many at All Saints Church. Our youth in the past month have risen to the occasion. Our high school youth sponsored another meal – this time a brunch, with the assistance of teacher Nick Medynski and others. Proceeds of more than \$700 are being contributed to help persons with need in Alaska through Project Outreach Alaska.

Our younger children have also stepped forward. First was a project, inspired by Rosemary Medynski, daughter of Jan and Nick Medynski, to send letters to the homeless for Christmas. A shelter responded with thanks

for the effort. More recently Rosie, along with Katarina Holobinko, daughter of Joan and John Holobinko, and Larissa Denisky, daughter of Gail and Tom Denisky, were instrumental along with other students in collecting candy and goodies and preparing a card that were given to a homeless shelter in Hartford.

We baptized and chrismated Vladimir Ethan Timurovich, infant son of Terri Ann Lindeberg and Timur Lagutin, two persons with probably the longest “commute” in our history. The family attends Church in the Orthodox Church in America’s cathedral parish in Moscow, and when in the states participates at All Saints. Many Years!

Elected at our annual meeting and blessed to serve by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, our officers and council members for 2005 include: President, Michael Stenko; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Catherine Vargas; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Christopher Evans; Recording Secretary, Joan Holobinko; Financial Secretary, Mark Ranstead; Treasurer, Tom Denisky; Trustees, Andrea Lichatz, Susan Ranstead, Lynn Gudelski, Olga Mucha, Nicholas Medynski and George Pawlush; and Auditors, Linda Kolios and Michael Danchak. Special thanks to our FOCA-R Club which provided food and refreshments for the meeting.

Our annual Egg-stravaganza, which offers pysanky classes, as well as gift items, food and the like was held March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Recent funerals at our parish include services for Tanya Kreyditch, Mary Zaharevitz and Ann Misaiko. Memory Eternal!

Plans are being made for a May 15<sup>th</sup> concert presented by our choir and jointly sponsored by our parish and St. Francis Hospital Auxiliary to benefit one of the breast cancer projects at the hospital. More information closer to the date will be available by calling 860-523-0334.

– submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

## *Kingston, Massachusetts*

On January 18, 2005, St. Mark of Ephesus parish celebrated its patronal feast day with the special presence of His Grace, Bishop Nikon. The bishop was accompanied by Archdeacon Roman and Fr. John Bacon was also in attendance. His Grace awarded the Nabedrenik to Father Antony Gori, our pastor, and the blessing to serve as a subdeacon to Peter Condrick (grandson of our beloved Lubov Dechio). Many Years to Father and to Peter!

We celebrated with a Vespers Liturgy followed by a special meal provided by Peter’s family and prepared by our own chefs extraordinare, George & Nancy Haddad. Our parish has also been blessed with two new icons

## “Lord, Bless my Enemies”

A Prayer of Saint Nikolai of Ochrid

*(Saint Nikolai was consecrated as a bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Church before World War II. He was arrested by the Nazis during their occupation of Yugoslavia, and spent the war as a prisoner at Dachau concentration camp. After the Communist takeover of his country, he was exiled and spent his last years at Saint Tikhon Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. He fell asleep in the Lord in 1956.)*

**B**less my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

Enemies have driven me into Thy embrace more than friends have.

Friends have bound me to earth, enemies have loosed me from earth and have demolished all my aspirations in the world.

Enemies have made me a stranger in worldly realms and an extraneous inhabitant of the world.

Just as a hunted animal finds safer shelter than an unhunted animal does, so have I, persecuted by enemies, found the safest sanctuary, having ensconced myself beneath Thy tabernacle, where neither friends nor enemies can slay my soul.

**B**less my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

They, rather than I, have confessed my sins before the world.

They have punished me, whenever I have hesitated to punish myself.

They have tormented me, whenever I have tried to flee torments.

They have scolded me, whenever I have flattered myself.

They have spat upon me, whenever I have filled myself with arrogance.

**B**less my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

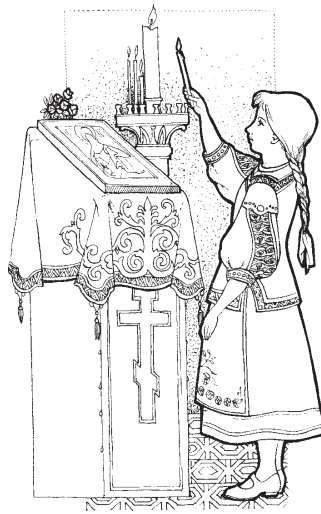
Whenever I have made myself wise, they have called me foolish.

Whenever I have made myself mighty, they have mocked me as though I were a dwarf.

Whenever I have wanted to lead people, they have shoved me into the background.

Whenever I have rushed to enrich myself, they have prevented me with an iron hand.

Whenever I thought that I would sleep peacefully, they have wakened me from sleep.



Whenever I have tried to build a home for a long and tranquil life, they have demolished it and driven me out.

Truly, enemies have cut me loose from the world and have stretched out my hands to the hem of Thy garment.

**B**less my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

Bless them and multiply them; multiply them and make them even

more bitterly against me:

so that my fleeing to Thee may have no return;

so that all hope in men may be scattered like cobwebs;

so that absolute serenity may begin to reign in my soul;

so that my heart may become the grave of my two evil twins: arrogance and anger;

so that I might amass all my treasure in heaven;

so that I may for once be freed from self deception, which has entangled me in the dreadful web of illusory life.

Enemies have taught me to know what hardly anyone knows, that a person has no enemies in the world except himself.

One hates his enemies only when he fails to realize that they are not enemies, but cruel friends.

It is truly difficult for me to say who has done me more good and who has done me more evil in the world: friends or enemies.

Therefore bless, O Lord, both my friends and my enemies.

A slave curses enemies, for he does not understand.

But a son blesses them, for he understands. For a son knows that his enemies cannot touch his life. Therefore he freely steps among them and prays to God for them.

**B**less my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them. Amen.





# Help needed to complete new church

by Fr. Jozef Petranin

In September 2004, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, together with His Grace, Bishop Seraphim, and His Grace, Bishop Nikon, made his first official visit as Primate to the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia. One of his stops was my former parish of the Ascension of the Lord, in Strazske, Slovakia.

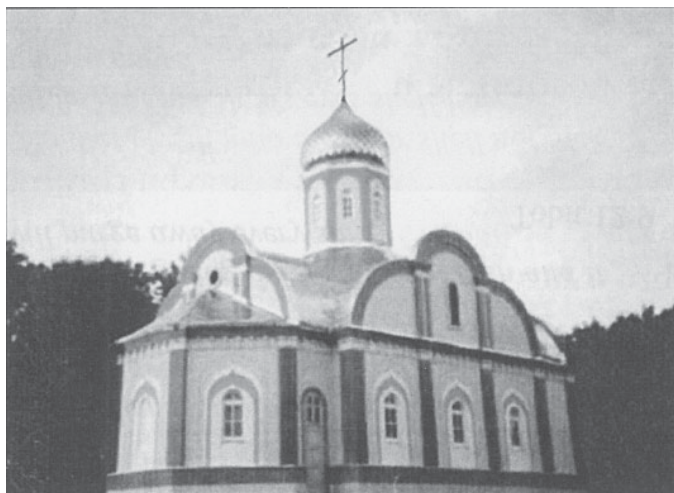
From my humble personal perspective, the history of Orthodoxy in Slovakia began in 1950 when over 100 Greek Catholic (Uniate) priests with their parishes in a "Sobor" held in Presov decided to return to their mother Orthodox Church.

For nineteen years (1950-1969), the Orthodox Church in Slovakia enjoyed the freedom to grow and attract the Orthodox faithful. In 1969, the Czechoslovak government arbitrarily imposed by force a draconian decree that all the churches (which included the property of the church sites themselves including attached parish houses serving those churches) who returned to the Orthodox fold in 1950 were now instantaneously "Greek Catholic."

Thousands of faithful, practicing Orthodox Christians found their churches shuttered or they suffered physical violence as victims of hostile takeovers of their beloved parishes. As parish priest of the Ascension of the Lord Church in Strazske, I unfortunately was brutally and physically removed from the church grounds and my flock was violently dispossessed of their church by a mob armed with sticks and fists.

In looking back, I can only thank God for guiding me in my decision in 1965 to help construct a new parish house. That house became the physical and spiritual refuge of my flock. This small one family parish house became our church home through sheer necessity at that time, and to this day is still where Divine Liturgy is served.

Recently, I received a letter from the current pastor of The Ascension of the Lord Church in Strazske, Father



*Rendering of the new church*



*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, visits Strazske, Slovakia, in September 2004. The faithful need assistance in completing a church site blessed by His Beatitude.*

Michael Dzugan. He informed me that the city of Strazske had offered the parish a most beautiful piece of property for the express purpose of building a new church. The cost of this parcel of property was one Slovak Kron (about two cents in today's US dollar equivalent).

As of today, a foundation has been put into place for the new Ascension of the Lord church building, over which His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman and his delegation visited and prayed for a successful completion.

Father Dzugan has impressed me with his examples of the determination and the sheer will of his parishioners to build their church to the glory of God largely through their own means. But in a country of 36% unemployment, help from our Orthodox brothers and sisters abroad is needed for this God-given work of love to succeed.

As Jesus has taught us, "In as much as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me." (Matthew 25:40) Your offering shows that from what is yours, you were able to share with us. You will always remain in our prayers. "My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matthew 21:13).

**W**ould you please help me to finish building this beautiful church? It is for my spiritual children whom I served for many years before coming to the USA in 1970. These are the very same children whom I taught in religious classes in public schools thirty-five years ago. They have grown up to become fathers and mothers with their own children today. They are my spiritual children who now have written and call upon me: "Dear Father Jozef, please help us to finish construction of our church."

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, will you not also hear their voices and help? May all of God's blessings be upon you and may you be rewarded ten-fold for your generosity.

Please make donation checks payable to "St. Nicholas Orthodox Church" and mail to:

V. Rev. Jozef Petranin  
1 Hoover Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

## FORCC News

A new parish has recently joined the Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut. We welcome St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 600 Silver Lane, Stratford.

We also extend a warm welcome to St. John's clergy: The Reverend E. Michael Macura, and subdeacons Wylie Meath, Joseph Laput, Joel Pleban and Joshua Cayer.

Our recently elected officers for 2005-2006 are: Nina Kosowsky, President; Matushka Lydia Westenberg, Recording Secretary; Heidi Crosby and MaryAnn Kendall, Corresponding Secretaries; Marion Gulash, Treasurer; Richard Kendall, Assistant Treasurer; William Balamaci, Immediate Past President. Congratulations and best wishes to all.

Meeting dates for 2005 are as follows: May 19, June 16, September 15, October 20 and November 17. Please refer to your Church Bulletins for meeting locations. You are cordially invited to attend our meetings, which start at 7:30 P.M. and end at 9:00 P.M.

On Saturday, May 14, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Park Ave, Bridgeport, will host a seminar entitled "Teaching Our Faith: A Seminar for Orthodox Church School Educators." Heidi Crosby of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in New Haven is the coordinator for this event.

Scholarship applications are available for students of FORCC member parishes only. \$1,000.00 scholarships (one boy and one girl) and \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded at our annual Banquet in October.

We would like to remind students graduating this year, that the FORCC applications are available on our website ([www.forcc.org](http://www.forcc.org)).

Applications should be completed and forwarded to: Eva Vaniotis, 4100 Park Ave, #12, Bridgeport, CT 06604 by June 1, 2005.

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

## New Britain parishioner memorialized

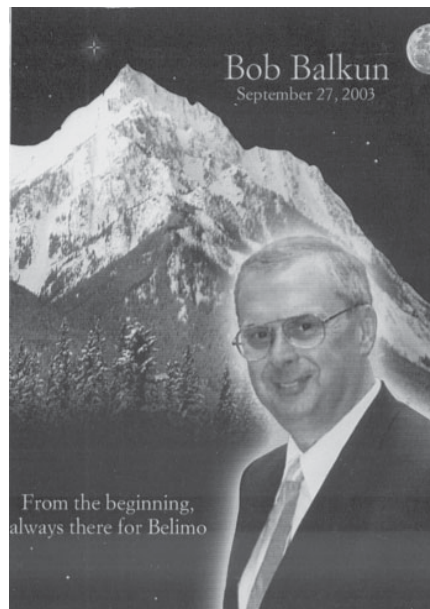
On December 10, 2004, Belimo Aircontrols held a dedication ceremony to celebrate the newly expanded headquarters on Ridgebury Road in Danbury, Connecticut.

The dedication included a tribute and recognition of Robert Balkun, who served as the project manager for fifteen years, prior to his passing on September 27, 2003.

In his honor, the *Robert Balkun Training Center* was created in the new addition to serve as the company's staff development needs.

Bob Balkun was a loyal and dedicated leader at Belimo, moving the company forward in the early years with the invention of the "black box." He was an engineer and a master problem solver in the company. As the president of Belimo, Werner Buck, said, "Without Bob, there would have been no Belimo."

In addition to his dedication to Belimo, Bob was a member, former altar boy, council member, and past



president of YROCA, of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in New Britain. He was also a Boy Scout leader of Troop 44 and involved with FIRST Robotics. Bob was a member of ASHRAE, a member of the Civil Air Patrol, and a veteran of the Vietnam War.

His spirit of volunteerism and his support to others leaves a strong legacy. Bob was a role model for others and respected by those around him. Among those Bob leaves are his wife, Edie; his son, Robert; his mother, Louise; and three brothers.

Please join us in the celebration of the

### Consecration of Christ the Savior Orthodox Church

1070 Roxbury Road, Southbury, Connecticut

Saturday, June 4, 2005

8:30 am - Hierarchical Vesting

9:00 am - Consecration & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Celebration Banquet to follow

Dolce Heritage, Southbury, CT

Adults \$40.00 - Children 12 & under \$15.00

Choice of Meals to Be Announced

Reservation Deadline May 13, 2005 - For Banquet info call

Pattie Kopcha  
203.264.8051

**PARISHES FROM 3**

adorning the deacon's doors. These icons were written by Matushka Anne Margitich of California, who happens to be the daughter-in-law of our first pastor, Father Michael Margitich!

This year's snow has not hampered other improvements both inside and out. The ladies group is awaiting the spring thaw so that the outside "peace garden" can be finished in memory of those who departed this past year, our beloved friends; David Steinemer, Bob Price and John Pambuko. Our church council has been busy painting the inside church walls in preparation for this Pascha.

Congratulations to Dominic and Sarah Kirchner, who welcomed their new baby boy, Joshua Adam, on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to the baptism!

Our prayers are with Matushka Karen Dick and Missionary Lynnette Hoppe, who are suffering, and their families. You are remembered in our liturgy. Nathan and Lynnette Hoppe are missionaries serving in Albania and friends of our parish, supported by our women's group.

Please pray for our mission and come and visit us this summer!

*- submitted by Laura McGillicuddy*

**Meriden, Connecticut**

We have been very busy at Ss. Peter and Paul parish during the winter months. Our Brotherhood held their Annual Installation Dinner in January.

After a snow delay in January, we were able to hold our Annual Parish meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We discussed a number of topics related to the health and well being of our Parish, and elected our Council and Trustees. Congratulations to President - Alexia Tassmer, Vice President - Helen Kasperovich, Treasurer - Irene Zavednak, Secretary - Tim Tassmer, and Trustees - John Barone, Linda Craig, Raisa Fahy, Donna Leonowich, Walter Lukashevich, Al Mankevich, Sarah Massaro, George Rutcho, John Stoidis, Dan Veronick, John Veronick, and Valerie Wigglesworth.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, we were very happy to have His Grace, Bishop Nikon, visit our parish and preside at Divine Liturgy. His Grace was greeted by Father Timothy Lowe, our pastor, and our Council President Alexia Tassmer. After Liturgy, we all drove to our Community Center where the Church Council sponsored our Meatfare Dinner in his honor.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, we invited The Estonian Chamber Choir to perform a concert for us. The Estonian Chamber Choir is from Tallinn, Estonia and has traveled and performed throughout Europe. Seven members, under the direction of Valery Petrov performed several religious and secular arrangements. Our Church was full with parishioners, several folks from around the diocese, and many people from Meriden who were interested in hearing this wonderful Choir. After the concert, we were all treated to a delicious spread of refreshments, deserts, and

punch arranged by our Parish Council.

We are planning many events for the upcoming year. Come and join us; you're guaranteed to have a fine time.

*- submitted by John S. Nighyew*

**New Haven, Connecticut**

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. The following officers were elected: President Daniel Crosby, Esq.; Vice President Dimitry Klimenko; Secretary John Fillyaw; Financial Secretary Susan Papademetris and Treasurer Susan Lickwar. Our thanks to outgoing Treasurer, Judy Ross. Congratulations and Many Years!

Catherine Mary Palmer, daughter of Matthew and Beth Pearsal-Palmer was baptized on Saturday, February 12. May God grant good health and many years.

Our collection of non-perishable foods for the needy continues. At the end of February, we had collected and donated 2800 pounds to the local food bank

On Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our parish with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, coffee hour, and a banquet to be held at the Country House Restaurant in East Haven. Martha Asarisi is in charge of the banquet reservations. Many activities have been scheduled leading up to our celebration.

Father Paul Tarazi will conduct a four-part lecture series on The Book of Revelation beginning May 9<sup>th</sup>. The lectures will be held on May 9, 16, and 23 and June 6.

The youth of our parish are participating in a series of six workshops entitled "Building on the Foundation Laid by the Saints of North America." They are studying the lives of Saints Juvenaly, Peter the Aleut, St. Herman, St. Jacob, St. Innocent, St. Tikhon, St. Raphael and St. Alexis.

The choir is preparing a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative CD featuring hymns from the feasts throughout the year.

April is volunteer month. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our volunteers (too numerous to mention by name) for their commitment and dedicated service. May God bless all of them with good health, happiness and Many Years!

*- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon*

**Southbury, Connecticut**

What a month February was! My son, Timothy Lee Cole was born on February 9<sup>th</sup>. We are so blessed to have a wonderful church family to help us raise him. We were welcomed back as Timothy entered his time as a catechumen, preparing for his baptism in March. I was also surprised by a wonderful shower in honor of Timothy's birth. My sincere thanks to all for their sincere support and prayers during the past nine months and today!



## PARISHES FROM 7

Throughout the month, a series of inquiry classes and open houses were held on Saturday evenings, with participation from the local community. Many visitors and curious neighbors continue to visit with us.

The teens, under the supervision of Kari Stewart worked very diligently to assemble health care kits for tsunami victim relief. Twenty health kits, containing hygiene products were sent to IOCC for distribution. Our younger children, The Live Wires, held a very successful food drive and monetary collection for support of the IOCC children's lunch program.

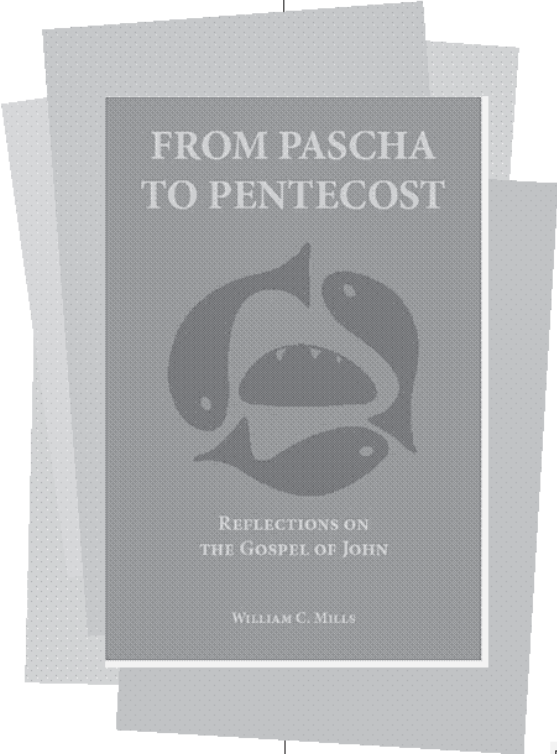
We look forward to the journey of Great Lent together.

*- submitted by Sarah Cole*

**PUBLICATION  
DEADLINES**

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

**Summer Issue  
June 15<sup>th</sup>**



**From Pascha to Pentecost:**  
Reflections on the Gospel of John by  
Fr. William C. Mills

---

Fr. Mills is the rector of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC and serves as an adjunct professor of religious studies at Queens University in Charlotte.

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From Pascha to Pentecost is a collection of short spiritual reflections on the daily readings from the Gospel of John which are read during the Paschal season.

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