

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Youth Rally 2007</i>                   | 2 |
| <i>Dn. Christopher Westrate</i>           | 3 |
| <i>Project Mexico</i>                     | 4 |
| <i>Mission to Africa</i>                  | 5 |
| <i>Rev. Barnabas Fravel</i>               | 6 |
| <i>News from the Northern Deanery</i>     | 7 |
| <i>All Saints of America Salisbury CT</i> | 8 |
| <i>Upcoming Events</i>                    | 8 |



## A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP NIKON

To the faithful of the Holy Diocese of New England and the Holy Albanian Archdiocese:

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Having returned from our summer vacations and settled back into our schedules, it is good for us to take a moment to reflect on our own personal relationship with Christ. For the past several months, and indeed for the past year or so, it has been so easy to be distracted by an ongoing crisis within our church.

With the beginning of a new ecclesiastical year and the Elevation of the Precious and Life-creating Cross, we are once again called to elevate the Holy Cross through our actions as Orthodox Christians. Yes, the present crisis must be frankly addressed and corrected, but only God can bring about true and lasting healing. In order for each of us to be instruments of God's saving power, we fix our gaze on Christ's perfect sacrifice on the Cross and ceaselessly confess Him as our Lord and Savior.

Each day it seems as though we rush to accomplish as much as possible in the mere 24 hours of a day, only to wake up the next morning and start all over again. Often we neglect to put into our busy routines time for Christ and His Holy Church. Taking time to remember Christ is essential for our spiritual growth and wellbeing. Moreover, as the Church, our high calling is to serve a world yearning for greater awareness and knowledge of Christ. Simply put, Christ must be first and foremost in our daily lives.

By building a firm foundation in Christ and deepening our relationship with Him in prayer, we demonstrate that we ultimately do not belong to this world; that, as Orthodox Christians, we belong to Christ and are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is my constant prayer that all of us continue to remain close to Christ and His Church.

Over the past few months my life has been very busy, and I'm sure yours has been as well. There have been numerous ordinations in our Northern Deanery during the past year, and I have endeavored to visit all of the parishes in both dioceses (Diocese of New England and the Albanian Archdiocese) over the past year. Yet with the complexity of parish schedules, as well as my own, there are a few parishes that I have yet to visit. In addition my diocesan ministry, I continue to serve as a member of the OCA's Pension Board; the Lesser Synod and have represented the Diocese at numerous Church functions.

As our new ecclesiastical year begins, new and exciting opportunities are given to us. Several projects and initiatives are in the planning stages for our deaneries, for our diocese and for our personal spiritual growth. Our publication of ONE will help us all by keeping us informed of the activities and programs that are offered. Whether they are retreats, lecture programs or diocesan initiatives, they support and enhance our personal and corporate spiritual growth.

At the annual assemblies of the Diocese of New England and the Albanian Archdiocese, I shall once again ask the pastors to submit their preferred dates and two alternate dates for the 2008 Archpastoral visitation. This will assure that each of our parishes has the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharistic Liturgy with their hierarch and that I would have the pleasure of meeting the faithful, the parish councils and the children of our communities.

With my prayers and blessing for you and your families for this new Ecclesiastical year, I remain,

With Love in the Lord,

*T Nikon*

# YOUTH RALLY 2007

BY RALLY STAFF, PHOTOS BY LUCY HOPKO

Arts and Crafts, Scavenger Hunts, Water Games, Camp Fires, Trail-Walking, Swimming, "Capture the Flag", Soccer, Board Games, Canoeing, and much more were all part of the fun and fellowship enjoyed from Monday, August 13, until Saturday, August 18, at the Diocese of New England's Youth Rally '07. Rally participants also took part in and benefited from Chapel

services each morning, afternoon and evening, as well as Christian Education Sessions and Choir Singing and Chanting Practice most mornings during Rally.

Thirty-three "Rallyers" between the ages of ten and sixteen participated in Rally, led by nine adult Rally Staff members. Rally had eleven more participants than last summer and fifteen young people were at Rally for the first time. The Rally Staff was a veteran group, with eight of the nine having served as staff members previously. Rally participants came from

all over the Diocese, with every Deanery and thirteen different Diocesan parishes being represented.

Youth Rally 2007 was held at the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, New Hampshire. The Center is a camp and retreat center owned and operated by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston. The Center is the same site at which recent Youth Rallies have been held. Rally receives wonderful hospitality at the Center and gratitude and thanks are extended to our hosts, especially His Eminence, Metropolitan METHODIOS of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston, and the on-site director of the Center, Mr. Michael Sintros. The facilities at the Center include wonderful cabins, a fine Dining Hall, an Arts and Crafts Cabin, sports and games fields (including a newly renovated outdoor basketball court), a well-kept waterfront on a picturesque lake, and, most importantly, a beautiful, fully equipped, Chapel. The Center is a terrific place to spend a week.

The theme for Rally 2007 was "Relationships." We discussed our relationships with

God, with family, with peers, and with the world at large. A particularly lively discussion during the Christian Education Sessions involved exploring, comparing and contrasting both the positive and negative aspects of peer pressure.

Highlights of Rally included the celebration of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Wednesday, August 15, the visit on Thursday morning of our diocesan hierarch, His Grace, Bishop NIKON, and the traditional and eagerly anticipated Thursday evening field trip to Canobie Lake Amusement Park. We also enjoyed the closing Camp Fire on Friday evening and the solemn Divine Liturgy to conclude Rally on Saturday, the last morning of Rally.

In closing, gratitude is extended to all those who make Rally happen: the faithful members of the Diocese who make Rally possible through their financial support of ONE STEWARDS, the dedicated, reliable and hardworking staff, and, especially, the wonderful young people who make Rally such a good time. See you next year at Rally!



Fr. John Hopko and Fr. Dennis Rhodes celebrate the Divine Liturgy



Rally participants took advantage of the wonderful weather to play lots of fun games.



His Grace Bishop NIKON with Rally Staff



**“Rallyers” and Staff at Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook , NH  
Rally 2007**

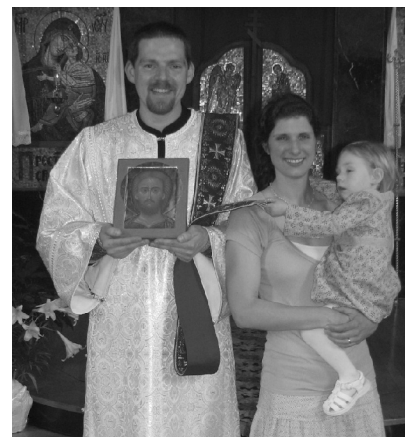
## NEW TO THE DIOCESE DEACON CHRISTOPHER WESTRATE

*Deacon Christopher Westrate was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by His Grace, Bishop Nikon on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 and is attached at Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, Boston.*

Deacon Christopher was born in Danvers, Massachusetts in 1976. He attended Gordon College, where he studied history and literature and there he fell in love with Lisa N. Hall, who became his wife. While studying literature at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, where Dn. Christopher

earned his M.A., he more deeply investigated the Orthodox Church and after a very inspirational catechumenate, the Westrates were received into the Orthodox Church at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Boston.

Deacon Christopher and Lisa live in Amesbury, Massachusetts with their two year old daughter Anna. Dn. Christopher has taught literature and writing courses for eight years at New Hope Tutorials: an ecumenical educational hybrid, which enables homeschooling parents to supplement their at-home curricula with small group classes.



# PROJECT MEXICO: SUMMER 2007

BY BETHANY LATANZI

*This summer sixteen members of the Diocese of New England went abroad as part of two separate teams to work with Project Mexico. The participants represented Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Mission, Bethel CT; Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville CT; and Christ the Savior Church, Southbury CT. The author of this article was a member of one of the teams.*

Hopko from Ss. Cyril and Methodius) volunteered towards the end of last year to go on a mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico through Project Mexico: an organization based at Saint Innocent Orphanage in a little town just outside of Tijuana. Project Mexico organizes groups to come for a week at a time to build houses for needy families in the area. Each person

in the group pays around \$600 to go (not including round-trip air-fare) and almost all of the money goes toward the construction materials needed to build the house. The thirteen of us did just this: we built a house for a lady name Maria.

She is a middle age lady that had previously been renting a small room at a local inn. All her children are grown and she has a job that pays \$150 a week. The land on which we built her a 14' x 16' house with two windows a locking door and a concrete floor, has a mortgage of \$7,000, which she must pay off over time.

Although such things as a window, door and non-dirt floor are basic necessities in American life, life in Mexico is very different. Most of the country deals with widespread poverty there being so few jobs. While the cost of living in Mexico is almost comparable to that of America, incomes in Mexico are

often one tenth of ours if not less. Most Mexican homes do not have any electricity, running water, indoor plumbing or other household comforts. Many families are lucky to have a house at all, although what they

would consider a house would seem a pile of junk to most Americans. Basically a typical Mexican family is struggling to keep food on the table and what we would consider necessities to them are luxuries. I mean if you had to choose between the two, would you feed your family or have electricity?

Another result of the poverty is an inability for many par-

ents to take care of their children, which means that many children are put into state orphanages. Due the great number of orphans, the state orphanages often are forced to discharge children in their early teens. Boys are discharged at especially young ages: from eleven to fifteen years old. Most of these kids then go on to become involved in various illegal activities. Saint Innocent Orphanage is an all boys orphanage that takes in boys when they have been dis-

charged from the state orphanages. The orphanage provides a home, food, education, family and most important a strong religious influence. These boys have come

from some of the most difficult pasts you could imagine, but one look at their smiling faces and you would think they were the richest kids in the world. Spend time with them and you start to see why they are so happy.  
(Mexico to 5)



The mission was to go to Mexico and build a house. That is all we knew, before we got there. Of our thirteen member team, few had any knowledge of what this trip was going to be like. As soon as we saw the Mexican military outpost when we crossed the border questions began to form in our minds. "Is Mexico really safe? Are there soldiers everywhere? What does the orphanage look like? Are there any trees? What have we gotten ourselves into?"

Fortunately those questions and concerns were, for the most part, quickly forgotten.

The thirteen of us (twelve from Christ the Savior Orthodox Church plus Thomas





(Mexico from 4)

There is so much to tell about Project Mexico, the orphanage and our individual experiences, but it would take forever. Lets just say we were exposed to a different way of life, which, in fact, most of the world calls nor-

mal. We worked hard and learned more than we thought possible. We worked in the mission field showing God's love to Maria and we saw God's love in everything. We went to give, but we gained more than we gave. Going to Mexico made those who went and everyone who sup-

ported us a part of the family at St. Innocent Orphanage. And as we would ask for our immediate family, we ask that you continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Mexico. We could not have succeeded without the prayer and financial support

everyone has already given us. For us to continue going to Mexico and being a part of the family there we need continuing support and prayer; we need your help so that with God's love we can continue to do good works for our brothers and sisters in need.

The members of the two teams that traveled to Project Mexico are: Ana Christina Bush; Sheryl and Rachael Fatse; Thomas Hopko; Joanna Knudsen; Rachael Kopcha; Sergey, Anton and Ivan Krayniy; Bethany and Phoebe Lantazi; Melanie and Chuck Ringa; Kari Stewart; Anna-

marie Unschuld; Deacon John Zarras.



## THE ALEANDRO'S MISSION TRIP TO AFRICA

BY REV. J. SERGIUS HALVORSEN

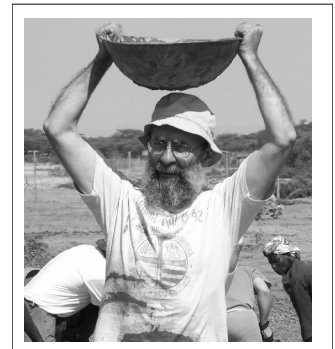
"The first thing that happens that happens when you come to a Turkana village in Africa" says Father Vladimir Aleandro, "is that they give you a new name; an African name." But this is not a simple task. The villagers come, they greet you, they look you over, and then there is no small amount of discussion among the group as to what the new name should be. In the case of Fr. Vladimir and Matushka Suzanne, they were named Papa Emorou, and Mamma Appua. In the Turkana language "Emorou" means 'mountain' and "Appua" means a flowing stream—a name which referred to her ability to keep up with the non-stop efforts of the Turkana women. With their new names, Fr. Vladimir

and Matushka Suzanne Aleandro began the hands-on work of building a stone church building, and ministering to the Turkana people. However, it had taken a considerable amount of work simply to get to the village.

In March, with the blessing of Bishop NIKON, the Aleandros began preparing to serve as missionaries with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) to build a Church in . OCMC missionaries must do their own fundraising, and Fr. Vladimir said that the generosity of members of the Diocese "humbled and amazed" him. Not only were the Aleandros able to raise the money for their transportation and living expenses, but they also made a sizeable contribution to the overall construction costs involved in building the church. Physically, their journey began at the beginning of July with a trip to the OCMC in Florida where they attended a two day retreat along with the eleven other members of their mission

team. Members came from the US and Canada, and ranged in age from twenty to seventy four years old. After arriving in Nairobi, the team spent a few days acclimatizing, and then began a two-day journey to the village of Lodwar in the north-west corner of Kenya, near the borders of Ethiopia and Sudan. Traveling by bus, the long journey was complicated by flash-floods which turned the already primitive roads into seas of mud. Lodwar, which was the base of operations for the team, was described by Fr. Vladimir as, "something resembling an old-West frontier town...but in Africa." Like much of the American South-West, the region surrounding Lodwar is mountainous, rocky desert. Being in the southern hemisphere, July is wintertime in Lodwar, but even so, the temperature was over 100° F every day. The Aleandros said that it took five days to get used to the heat and still they experienced, "constant thirst."

The physical work of building the church was labor intensive!. From leveling the site, to pouring the slab for



the foundation, to erecting the walls: everything was done by hand using local materials. Sand had to be "quarried" on site using shovels and screens, and this, along with stone, had to be carried by hand to the site. Mortar was also mixed, and carried by hand. The villagers did not have, wheelbarrows to move the tons and tons of sand, stone and cement. Rather each of them used a large metal "wok" which is balanced on one's head. (These same "wok"s are also used for cooking over a fire.)

Working, literally hand in hand with people who speak no English was a challenge. But, Mat. Suzanne said of

(Africa to 6)





(Africa from 5)

Alice and Agnes, two Turkana women she worked with, "I didn't speak Turkana and they didn't speak English, but we communicated quite well." Indeed, the physical work of building with stone and mortar was a tangible means to engage in the more important work of building friendships in Christian love. For some of the Turkana villagers, members of the OCMC team were the first white people they had ever seen. But, this was the first time any of the villagers had ever seen white people working side by side with Africans.

During their time in Turkana, Fr. Vladimir and Mat. Suzanne traveled to a number of extremely remote villages where they were greeted with great joy by people who have no resident priest, and who, in one village, must make an hour and a half journey on foot to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. In one such village, when Father arrived his translator told the villagers that they were there to celebrate the Liturgy. The villagers had no idea that Father was coming, but within half an hour, one hundred and twenty people were gathered to celebrate the Liturgy. In one instance, Father performed a

wedding in a village that had not seen a priest in a year. Wherever the Aleandros went, the people had an insatiable desire to hear the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Once, after walking through the desert for more than an hour, Father and Matushka, along with their translator, arrived in a very small village in the middle of the desert. As soon as the people heard that a priest had arrived, the entire village gathered and asked to hear the Gospel. After he had preached and taught, for some time, the villagers brought him the one small melon that was growing in their tiny common garden. They gave thanks to God for the melon, and the entire community shared this small bit of precious food. Among the African people hunger may be great, but hunger for the Word of God is even greater.

Under the watchful eye of Fr. Athanasius, a native African engineer who has overseen the construction of thirty churches, the mission team built a stone and mortar church building that will serve as far more than a place for the community to gather for liturgi-

cal prayer. The building will also be used as a school for the children, and as a clinic. The mere fact that the church building is the most substantial structure in the village is a powerful icon of the centrality of the Church in the life of the people. Unlike America, where so often Church is a once-a-week activity at a remote location, the Church is at the very heart of village life for the Turkana people. Fr. Vladimir said that on the last day he was in the village, the entire community gathered to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the new building. "I raised the Gospel to intone 'Blessed is the Kingdom' and I could barely make a sound through the tears of joy."

Mat. Suzanne said of the trip, "My goal when I went to Africa was to learn how to pray. When I was there, I felt the prayers of others for the first time. Thank you for your prayers!"



## NEW TO THE DIOCESE REV. BARNABAS FRAVEL



Rev. Barnabas Fravel

In January 2007 Priest Barnabas Fravel was assigned to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Pittsfield, MA

Fr. Barnabas was born on April 6, 1974, in Jersey Shore, PA, the second-youngest of six children. He was received into the Orthodox Church in January 1997 at Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Williamsport, PA. Holy Cross is the place where he met his wife to be the former Miss Daria Kovalak. Fr. Barnabas and Matuska Daria were married in September of 2000 and now have two children: Myra, 4, and Matthew, 1.

Fr. Barnabas was ordained to the Diaconate on September 15, 2002 and then to the Holy Priesthood on December 6<sup>th</sup> (St. Nicholas Day), 2002 by His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman.

Fr. Barnabas is a 2003 graduate of St. Tikhon's Seminary. Prior to coming to Pittsfield he served as rector of Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in Frackville, PA for 4 years. He is the first American-born priest to serve at St. Nicholas since its opening 91 years ago.

## NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN DEANERY

BY SUBDEACON LAWRENCE JOHNSON

The first half of 2007 has been busy. Now that the New England diocese is blessed with its resident hierarchy, His Grace Bishop NIKON, we in these northern parts have been graced with his presence for several ordinations, details of which follow.

**Ordination of Gregory Uhrin to the Holy Diaconate and Charles Powell and Brian Donovan to the Holy Subdiaconate at Holy Resurrection, March 3, 2007**

Gregory Uhrin of Salisbury, N.H., was born into an Orthodox family and baptized at St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in Robins, Ohio. He has been a member of Holy Resurrection since 1977 and for the last several years has been president of the parish council.

He and his wife, Lisa, have two adult children, Tracy and Michael, and he owns his own business in television production in the New London area.

His undergraduate education is from Hiram College in Ohio with graduate work at the University of Western Illinois and the Warner Brothers Film Workshop at the University of Iowa. He completed his theological education through the OCA's late vocations program in and is assigned at his home parish, Holy Resurrection, Claremont.

During the same liturgy, Charles Powell of Pomfret, VT and Brian Donovan of Charlestown, NH were ordained to the Holy Subdiaconate. Sdn Charles is a member of Holy Resurrection and Sdn Brian is a member of Holy Trinity in Springfield, VT.

**Ordination of Deacon Caleb Abetti to the Holy Priesthood at St. Jacob of Alaska, March 10, 2007**

Caleb Abetti grew up in the Connecticut River valley of Vermont and New Hampshire, received his undergraduate degree at Calvin College in Michigan and completed his Master of Divinity degree at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

He became a member of Holy Resurrection in 2000 where he and his wife Nicole were married that same year. Together with his wife and three children, he is assigned as pastor for the Vermont parish in Northfield Falls.

**Ordination of Subdeacon Patrick Brian Donovan to the Holy Diaconate at Holy Trinity Church in Springfield, VT on April 28, 2007**

Brian Donovan was born in 1956 to a Roman Catholic family and became an evangelical at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1973. He graduated with a BS degree in Biblical Studies at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, and an MBA from Salem State College. He recently received an MA in Orthodox Theology from the University of Lebanon through the St. Stephen's program. After sojourns in the Baptist Church and Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Deacon Patrick was chrismated in 2000 and was ordained to the Holy Subdiaconate at Holy Resurrection Church in Claremont, NH on March 3, 2007.

He has been married to his wife, Kim, for 27 years and has a son, Patrick, and daughter, Kathleen. The Donovans reside in Charlestown, NH and he is a vice-president of commercial lending at TD Banknorth in Keene, NH. Deacon Patrick is assigned to Holy Trinity Church in Springfield, VT.

**Ordination of Subdeacon John Konkle to the Holy Diaconate at St. Jacob of Alaska Mission in Northfield Falls, VT on April 29, 2007**

John Konkle was born in Albion, MI in 1957. He was initially a Roman Catholic and then an Evangelical Protestant until he began attending Holy Resurrection Church in Claremont where he and his wife, Amy, and two children, Jeremiah and Jared Peter, were received into Orthodoxy on Theophany, 1996. Deacon John received a BS in Mathematics from Michigan Technological University in 1980, an MDiv from the International School of Theology in 1985, an

MA in philosophy from UC Riverside in 1985 and an PhD in philosophy from Princeton University in 1992. He attended St. Vladimir's Seminary for the Fall 1996 term and plans to return to SVS in the future to complete his Masters in Theology. He also completed the OCA Late Vocations Program. Deacon John was tonsured a reader in 1998 by Metropolitan THEODOSIUS and to the subdiaconate by Bishop NIKON on March 19, 2007.

Deacon John is assigned to St. Jacob of Alaska Mission in Northfield Falls, VT.

**Ordination of Subdeacon Ambrose Charles Powell to the Holy Diaconate at Holy Resurrection Church, June 3, 2007**

Charles Powell was born and grew up in suburban Philadelphia in a Protestant family and was baptized at age 23. He attended and received his BA degree from Dickinson College in 1980 and his JD degree from the Villanova University School of Law in 1983. He currently owns his own law firm in White River Junction, VT, where he and staff concentrate their practice on representing disabled workers.

Deacon Ambrose completed his theological education through the OCA Late Vocations Program. His community service includes being a director of the Woodstock Union High and Middle schools. He and wife, Margaret and three children reside in South Pomfret, VT and his son, John, is currently an undergraduate at Villanova. The family was introduced to Orthodoxy by a friend and shortly thereafter converted to Orthodoxy and were received into Holy Resurrection Church in Claremont, NH.

Deacon Ambrose is assigned as an associate pastor at Holy Resurrection Church.

Two readers were tonsured: Scott Brown and Alexis Rastorguyeff, both of Holy Resurrection.



Axios! Bishop NIKON vests the newly ordained Deacon Gregory Uhrin.



Rev. Caleb Abetti

O.N.E.

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## ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA, SALISBURY CT

BY HOPE MONGEAU

All Saints of America Orthodox Church has had a busy last few months. In June we welcomed His Grace Bishop Nikon to celebrate our feast day. We had a picnic after liturgy. It was a joy to be together. We had many visitors to our parish over the summer, while many of our regular parishioners were away on vacation. In July a planned outing to see the Rock Cats play in New Britain was rained out, but we rescheduled for August 23 and had a fine time at the ball park. On August 18, Claudette Douglas generously hosted a picnic/party at her home for the parish and friends. We had many guests and were hon-

ored to have Nadia Milleron's uncle, Ralph Nader join us. It was a beautiful day.

On August 25, after a lesson on the Good Samaritan, the Church School children put together school packets for the needy, that will be sent through IOCC. The children had a blessing for the start of school, had pizza, and some of them went bowling after. We are hoping to have a more active church school this coming year.

It has been a difficult summer in some ways as three of our parishioners are very ill and are not able to come to liturgy. They are in our prayers.

## Upcoming Events in the Diocese of New England

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|----------------------|---|
| <b>October 18</b>    | Connecticut Deanery Clergy Retreat: Christ the Savior Church, Southbury CT                          |
| <b>October 19</b>    | "Three Levels of Prayer" Abp. Lazar (Puhalo) Christ the Savior Church                               |
| <b>October 26-27</b> | Diocesan Assembly: Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Meriden CT.   |
| <b>October 28</b>    | Yale Russian Chorus Concert: All Saints Church, Ansonia CT.   |
| <b>November 2-3</b>  | CT Bible Lecture Series: Christ the Savior Church, Southbury CT.                                    |
| <b>November 3</b>    | 34th Annual Russian Tea Room and Bazaar: All Saints Church, Hartford, CT.                           |
| <b>November 4</b>    | Ordination of Nicholas Finley to the Holy Diaconate, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville CT. |
| <b>November 8</b>    | Saint Nektarios Day Celebration: Christ the Savior Church, Southbury CT.                            |
| <b>November 15</b>   | Advent Fast Begins  |