

## O.N.E.

## ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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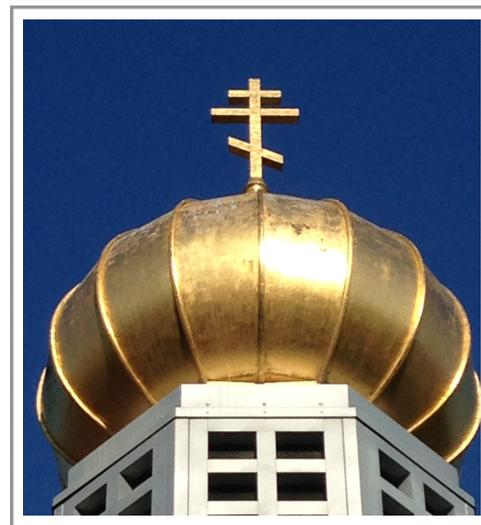
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## *All Saints, Hartford, celebrates one hundred years*

Rev. James Parnell

What a joy it was to have Archbishop Nikon, clergy from all over the region, the faithful of All Saints, our family and friends, and our honored guests, celebrating the festal Vigil with Litya on Saturday night and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, May 4, 2014, in celebration of our 100th Anniversary!

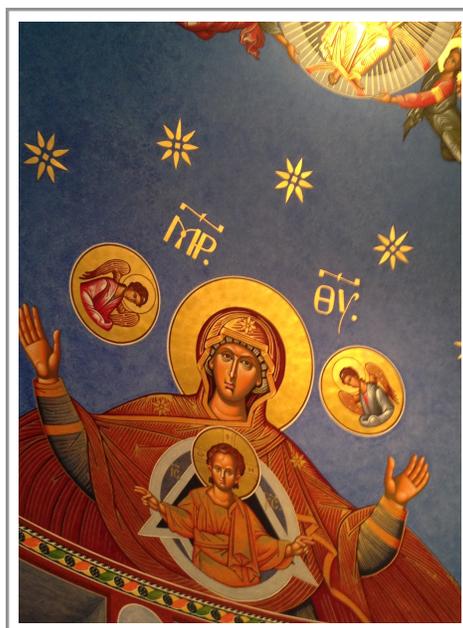
What a wonderful surprise for Archbishop Nikon to bestow awards on the clergy and faithful of All Saints: Fr. Joseph was awarded the Gold



**Above:** The dome of All Saints Church.

**Below:** The icon of the Virgin of the Sign in the apse above the altar.

Photos: John Barone



Cross and elevated to the rank of Archpriest. (He now wears a gold pectoral cross and is styled formally as "Archpriest Joseph," or "The Very Reverend Father Joseph.") Fr. James was awarded the Purple Skufiya. (He may wear a violet-colored hat on special occasions.) The faithful of All Saints were awarded a Gramota, signed by all the Bishops of the Holy Synod of the OCA.

We sang the hymns of Pascha and our patronal feast, the Synaxis of All Saints, as we went in procession with

*All Saints to 7*

## *Archbishop receives Scout award*

On May 14, 2014 Abp Nikon received the North Star Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

The North Star award is a limited award bestowed upon those who are not members of the Boy Scouts of America. Only about 30 have been bestowed nationwide.

This is the first of such award given by the Old Colony Council.

The citation reads: "The Boy Scouts of America Old Colony Council present this North Star Award to His

Eminence, The Most Reverend Nikon, Archbishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese in recognition of outstanding service to youth."

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in the the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The award itself is a silver North Star with the Boy Scout insignia in the center.

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**Right: Archbishop Nikon** wore his North Star to the Diocesan Council meeting in May.

*Photo: John Barone*

## *Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Chelsea, Mass. comes to honored close*

Rev. Joshua Mosher

The parish of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary celebrated its 90th anniversary on May 11, 2014, with His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon presiding. Their pastor since 1985, Fr. John Bacon was honored as he retired after many years of faithful service. His Eminence was also awarded the North Star, a high honor from the Boy Scouts of America [see article above].

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church was founded in 1924, with its first members of Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian descent. The demographics of the area have changed radically since those early days of prosperous factory work. As of May, the parish consisted of about thirty members with limited assets.

At the Diocesan Council meeting on May 21, Archbishop Nikon announced with regret that the parish had voted to dissolve and convey its property to the diocese. Greg Shesko represented the closed parish at the meeting, and explained that they had not felt able to support another priest—nor a choir. The decision to close explicitly included the hope that the local Romanian Mission of the Nativity of the Ever-Virgin Mary would continue to use the church building, Mr. Shesko said.

The Diocesan Council acknowledged the transfer of property and created a committee to deliberate on its future.

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## *Pastor of All Saints, Hartford reflects on Military Chaplaincy*

Rev. James Parnell

One weekend of every month (on average) and for two weeks (usually during the summer) of the a year, I serve the 1-102nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain), a combat unit in the Connecticut Army National Guard. I essentially “grew up” in the Army, spending the last 12 of my 29 years (all of my adult life, and half of my whole life) in the military, so it’s home, in many ways. I spend eight years as an enlisted soldier before being commissioned and sent to seminary to complete the requirements to become a Military Chaplain.

I live in two worlds, military and civilian, or perhaps more to the point, military and ecclesial, since for my two “flocks,” they usually see me in *uniform* or in *Church*. The two rarely cross paths, except through me. I am, in many ways, a bridge between these two worlds of the Church (of which a minority of my soldiers are a part) and

the Army (of which a minority of my parishioners are a part).

I don’t usually wear my big fancy pectoral cross (I do have a small and light wooden one underneath my fatigues...). I also don’t wear my cassock. The Army was kind enough to give me nice uniform with an embroidered cross so that, when I walk up to a group of soldiers, they all know who I am and why I’m there. Some may know that I’m “Fr. James,” but everyone knows right away: I’m Chaplain Parnell.

They also gave me a hat (also with a cross), this nifty “neck gaiter” to keep me warm while going to and fro ministering to shivering soldiers, and a vest with pockets for carrying Bibles, holy water, a small stole, prayer books, medical supplies, and even, at times, the Body and Blood of Christ.

As an Orthodox Priest and Chaplain, I have to be able to fit the Litur-

**Left:** Fr. James’s chaplain uniform.

**Right:** Fr. James displaying his cap and “neck gaiter” during wintry training.  
All photos for this article by Fr. James Parnell



gy—essentially a whole Church's worth of liturgical necessities—in miniature form into a few pockets. So no matter where I might be, whether in a standing chapel or in the middle of the woods, on an altar on the back of a truck—along with even just one Orthodox soldier—we can serve the Divine Liturgy.

A lot of my soldiers have been to war. Yet we still train. We spent a weekend sleeping out in the woods and training for war, whether it's assaulting a trench or working on marksmanship (target practice). I'm a non-combatant: I don't carry a weapon as a Chaplain. So, what do I do? My job is three fold: nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead.

So I practice because “we train like we fight.” Even though I have a military vest underneath, I still bring my stole (at a minimum) because even though most of my Soldiers aren't Orthodox, I'm still their priest.

**Above:** Soldiers assembled to pray.

**Center:** Fr. James reads the appointed Epistle.

**Below:** Fr. James preaches, connecting military training to training in prayer.



Sometimes the groups are large; other times they're small. Sometimes people come to services not for the sermon or hot coffee (if I remember to bring my pocket stove), but in order to have a private word afterwards—like the parishioner who shows up early for the Hours in order to go to confession. I usually read from Scripture—this day, I'm reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews from a Molioben for Soldiers.

I usually offer a prayer of blessing for my “other” flock. God knows they need it—and I can always use more practice.

Sometimes I preach a sermon—this time about “training” to use our faith so that we're ready when it's no longer “just an exercise,” and the real battle is being waged. Just like we practice using the radio, learning how to plug in frequencies, and even just practice talking using the proper nomenclature—so we can be heard and understood on the other end, and so that we can comprehend the messages being sent to us—we must prac-

**Right:** Fr. James leads soldiers in prayer.



**Below:** Soldiers of Fr. James Parnell's company, practicing a patrol.

tice our faith when it might seem unimportant or too time consuming. Imagine if we only pick up our weapon during battle, having never fired it or cleaned it before—or if we try using a radio on the battle field without any training—we're liable to not just miss the mark but hear nothing but static, because we won't even know how to call.

Other times, I am just walking with my soldiers. They're practicing going on patrol, focusing on what they'll do if they're ambushed, what are their tasks on the next objective, and walking with a rifle in their hands again.

So I pray. And while yes, I'm praying that God will protect them from visible enemies they may face then, I'm praying even harder that He would protect them from the invisible ones they face now. I pray the invisible war so many of our soldiers are fighting won't claim one of them today—somewhere in the world, we lose a soldier to suicide every single day. We

lose a veteran to suicide about every 55 minutes. I pray that by walking with them in the woods in the snow—spending a few minutes saying “Hey” to each soldier; asking about their girlfriend or their mother who's sick; chatting in the rain—that they might remember my name and that I gave them a card. Maybe they might take a second in the wee hours of the morning someday when they feel helpless and hopeless: “Hey... maybe I could call Fr. James...? Or better yet, maybe I can call on Christ!”

One soldier, cresting the hill alone, with so much more weight on his shoulders than that 35lb pack. I often pray for strength, for them and for me; for their families—and for mine. So whether I'm holding a service of prayer, visiting a soldier who fell and hurt her ankle, or serving panikhida for the departed soldiers of the unit, or just being present so that they can be reminded that God loves them—and that God is here with them—I'm there to be their priest, to bring them closer to Jesus Christ. Even if it's a tiny step here and there, one weekend per month. **ONE +**



## Diocesan Youth Rally: August 11-16

Youth Rally 2014 is set for August 11-16. Youth Rally is our annual diocesan summer camp for youth who have completed 5th grade and have not reached their 18th birthday. It takes place at the Campgrounds of the Greek Orthodox Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center, Contoocook, New Hampshire.

If you have not attended Youth Rally before, you will discover a time for meeting and making friends that share your Orthodox Faith, developing relationships, learning new things about your Faith, the Church, yourself, and others you meet during Rally, and having lots of fun in the process.

Youth Rally also needs volunteers over 18 years of age to serve on the staff. Adult Staff Members need to be active Orthodox Christian communi-

cants of at least 18 years old who have the blessing of their parish priest (i.e., the priest who regularly hears their confession) to participate and who have been approved as staff by Fr. John Hopko, Rally Director.

**Please note:** given the increased scrutiny of child safety measures in our diocese and the OCA, Youth Rally will be strict in applying the rules for transportation. Any arrangement other than a parent or legal guardian directly providing transportation of their youth **must be cleared in advance** with the Youth Rally director.

For further information and registration materials, please contact Fr. John Hopko, Youth Rally Director, at phone number (860) 582-3631, or email [saintcyril@snet.net](mailto:saintcyril@snet.net). **The deadline for registration is July 7.** **ONE +**

## “Giving Above And Beyond”

### A summer update

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

The 2014 ONE Stewards donations as of mid-May have already exceeded our diocesan budget of \$20,000. This is the largest donation total ever received by ONE Stewards at this point of the year.

Our ONE Stewards donations support our diocesan Youth, our diocesan Seminarians, our diocesan Missions, and our diocesan Charity donations. The annual Diocesan Youth Rally is scheduled again for August. The total cost just for the rally is over \$20,000. Therefore ONE Stewards donations over that amount are critical in supporting all the diocesan activities mentioned.

Show your support by “Giving Above and Beyond” with a 2014

summer donation to ONE Stewards. A ONE Stewards envelope is included in this issue of the ONE Newsletter. Help us to set a new record in donations this year.

Contributions can always be mailed to the ONE Stewards address:

ONE Stewards  
PO Box 1182  
Torrington, CT 06790

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## All Saints from I

our beautiful (and brand new) Patronal Feast Day Icon of the “Synaxis of All Saints,” which was blessed by Archbishop Nikon.

**Above:** Archbishop Nikon stands with **now-Archpriest Joseph Irvin**, Chancellor Fr. John Kreta, **pastor Fr. James Parnell** (wearing his new skufiya) and Connecticut Dean Fr. David Koles.

**Below:** Fr. Joseph Irvin and Fr. James Parnell bear the **new icon of All Saints** in the procession around All Saints Church.

We recognized some of our many faithful parishioners at All Saints who give sacrificially of their time and talents in service to Christ and to our community by presenting Certificates of Recognition to Cathy Vargas, Ola Ferla, Michael Danchak, Nicholas Medynski, Christopher Evans, Christopher DuBovik, and the directors and members of the All Saints Choir.

We celebrated with food and drink, stories, speeches (and a history quiz) at the Banquet, where we remembered our past, gave thanks for the present, and looked forward to the future.

We remembered our founders, benefactors, clergy and faithful, whose tireless labor, sacrificial giving, and leadership made for a strong foundation on which God is now building! We especially remembered the ever-



memorable Archpriest William, whose many years of labor and service to All Saints have made for a rich soil in which we are now growing strong, by the grace of God.

We thanked God for all those who have come before us and prayed that He might continue to shower us with His love, His strength, and His blessings, and that He might grant to the Church of All Saints “Many, Many More Blessed Years!”

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## Upcoming Events

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| Aug 10    | Deadline for the next issue of the ONE                       |
| July 7-11 | Vacation Church School at Three Saints Park, Bethany, Conn.  |
| Aug 11-16 | Youth Rally  |
| Aug 27    | Diocesan Council at St. Peter & St. Paul, Springfield, Mass. |
| Oct 24-25 | Diocesan Assembly in Cumberland, R.I.                        |