

# O. N. E.

## ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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## An Ordination in Pittsfield

### *Fr. Joseph Gall is ordained at St. Nicholas*

Steven Nikitas

**Right: Fr. Joseph Gall, newly-ordained to the priesthood, stands in the midst of St. Nicholas, Pittsfield, Mass., to proclaim his first priestly prayer. All photos of the ordination by Lisa Marie Goudey.**



Father Joseph Gall was ordained to the priesthood on February 20 in a ceremony at his new church, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Archbishop Nikon presided. Clergy celebrants included Fathers John Kreta, David Koles, Michael Westerberg, Dennis Hendershot,

Steven Belonick, Vladimir Aleandro, Dennis Rhodes, Michael Korolov and David Mezynski.

Attending were Coptic Orthodox priests Father Athanasius Farag and Father Bishoy Mikhail, the father and brother-in-law of our new St. Nicholas Matushka Mary Farag-Gall.

Continued on 2

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**Above: Then-Deacon Joseph Gall** leads the Little Entrance, bearing Archbishop Nikon's omophorion.

**Below: Just before he is ordained, then-Deacon Joseph joins the Great Entrance of the Liturgy covered by an Aer.**



Father Joseph is a native of Edinboro, Penn. He was baptized and chrismated into the Orthodox Church as an infant. He attended Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Crossingville, Pennsylvania where Father Hendershot served as his parish priest and mentor for 32 years.

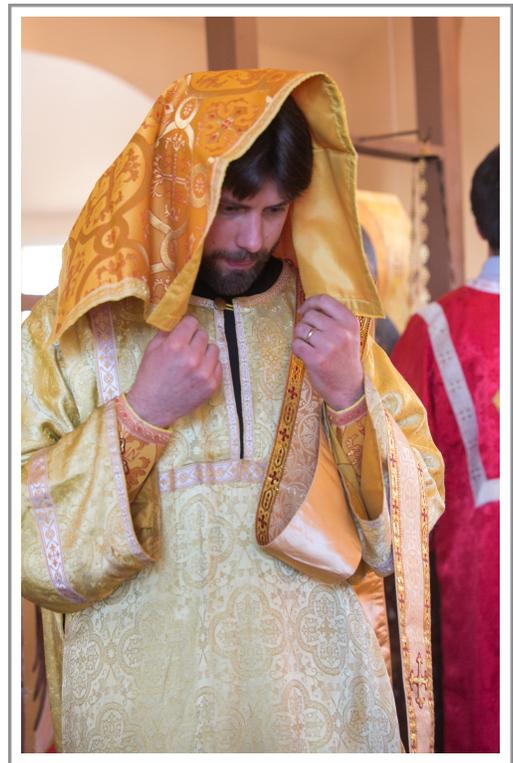
As a child Father Joseph made frequent pilgrimages to the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, Penn., which strongly influenced his faith.

Father Joseph graduated from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in education. He was a full-time first grade teacher when he decided to change his career path and attend St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Westchester County, New York.

Upon completion of his training at St. Vladimir's in May 2015 he served as a deacon at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in New Haven, Ct. under the direction

and care of Father Westerberg.

Father Joseph replaces Father Barnabas Fravel who left St. Nicholas



**Above: Archbishop Nikon gives the phelonion to Fr. Joseph as part of the rite of ordination.**

Below: **Father Athanasius Farag and Father Bishoy Mikhail**, the father and brother-in-law of Matushka Mary Farag-Gall.



last September for a new post at St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

Father Joseph met his wife during his first year at St. Vladimir's. They were married in the Coptic Orthodox Church in July 2015 through an agreement of the Orthodox Church in America with the Coptic Orthodox Church.

The Coptic church is the world's oldest Christian continuously worshipping church. It was established in Alexandria, Egypt by the Apostle and Evangelist Mark in AD 42.

Matushka Mary was raised in the Coptic faith in New Jersey. Father Athanasius, himself a graduate of St. Vladimir's, was ordained in 1989 and became the priest at St. Antonious and St. Mina Church in East Rutherford, New Jersey which Matushka Mary has attended throughout most of her life.

She received her undergraduate degree at Harvard University where she majored in linguistics and learned Ancient Greek and modern French. She completed a Master's degree in liturgical studies at Yale Divinity



**Above: Fr. Joseph with his wife, M. Mary, stand with Archbishop Nikon and the clergy and family celebrating the day.**



**Below: Fr. Athanasius Farag makes a presentation at the banquet following the Liturgy. Fr. Athanasius offers a Coptic priest's cross to the newly-ordained.**



School and published articles on Egyptian liturgical prayers. As a fellow of the German Academic Exchange Service she spent one year in Germany studying Coptology at the University

of Münster and liturgy at the University of Bonn.

Upon her return to the US she entered a doctoral program at Yale University to study the history of



**Above: Fr. Joseph Gall presides** at his first Divine Liturgy.

**Below: Fr. Joseph offers communion** to a member of his new parish.

Christianity in late antiquity. She currently is writing her dissertation on the foundation and consecration of churches in the Roman empire.

St. Nicholas looks forward to a bright future in our growing parish

under Father Joseph. We also expect to expand our faith through Matushka Mary's Coptic heritage and scholarly work.

Many years to both!

**ONE** +



## *On the Care of the Creation*

Rev. Mark Korban

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been known for many years as someone who is very concerned about the Christian obligation to care for God's creation. He has often been called the "green" Patriarch. He was cited in Pope Francis' recent encyclical "Laudato Si" as someone who has been a strong voice for care of the creation. In the opening paragraphs Pope Francis states: "Patriarch Bartholomew has spoken in particular of the need for each of us to repent of the ways that we have harmed the planet." The Patriarch has also said that we cannot separate our religious lives from concern for creation: "We must be responsible and responsive citizens of the world."

There has been much discussion in the OCA in recent years of the need for us to evangelize and spread our faith. It has been said that one way to do this is to build a bridge between the Church and the legitimate concerns of those whom we are trying to reach. In Vermont and many other places there is a deep concern by people outside of the Church about the problem of climate change. There is broad agreement in the scientific community that climate change is happening and that it is mostly human-caused. Both people of faith and others share the concern of what to do about it.

In response to this concern, St. Jacob of Alaska Mission in Northfield, Vt., invited well known and highly regarded scientist and author Bill

**Right: Bill McKibben speaks on the environment** at St. Jacob of Alaska, Vt.



McKibben to give a talk on Jan. 23 before our Saturday vespers service. Mr. McKibben was invited by Patriarch Bartholomew to participate in an environmental summit in Halki, Greece in 2012. He has written many books on the environment and has taught at Middlebury College, including a course on the bible.

We wanted to use this event as an educational opportunity for our parish and as an outreach to the local community. We advertised the talk and were pleased when close to 120 people came, many who had never been in an Orthodox church. Some said they had driven by the church many times but had no idea that we were an Orthodox parish. Many found the general beauty and the iconography impressive.

In his talk, Mr. McKibben spoke of the gospel imperative to “love our neighbor” in relation to the problem of climate change. In many parts of

the world, climate change is already having severe impacts. For instance in some Pacific island regions, populations have to move due to rising sea levels caused by ice melt in the Arctic. The Zika virus in South America is likely due to an increase in mosquito population caused by warmer temperatures. The increased flooding and droughts are also causing much suffering.

We are continuing with an on-going discussion group with people who attended the talk. Hopefully, in time, we can introduce those who are interested, to the full Orthodox view on creation care and invite them to explore the faith on a deeper level. This experience is proving to be a blessing for our parish. If you would like to view Mr. McKibben’s talk use the link :

<https://vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T01221&video=263168>

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**Right:** Father Hosking presents the trophy at St. Alexis, Clinton, Conn., to Phyllis Sturtevant, the winner of their annual Souper Bowl Chili/Chowder Cookoff. All funds collected are donated to the IOCC.

*Photo: Vincent Melesko*



## *Celebrations in Clinton, Conn.*

The following couples recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries at Saint Alexis Church in Clinton, Connecticut:

Above: **Robert and Ann Pavlik** on October 23, 2015.

Below: **Alex and Luba Martins** on October 3, 2015.

*Photos: Vincent Melesko*



# Diocesan Youth Rally 2016: *Monday, Aug. 8 to Saturday, Aug. 13*

V. Rev. John Hopko

The dates for the Diocese of New England Youth Rally 2016 have been set for Monday, August 8, 2016, through midday on Saturday, August 13, 2016. (Staff will be asked to arrive on Sunday evening, August 7.) As for the many past years, the Youth Rally will take place at the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center, Contoocook, New Hampshire. The basic schedule and agenda of the week will follow the patterns set over the last several years.

Youth Rally is a residential camping program for Orthodox

Christian young people. You will be eligible to attend Youth Rally as a youth participant if, at the time of Rally, you will have completed 5th grade and have not yet celebrated your 18th birthday.

Also, we are actively seeking interested Orthodox Christian adults to serve as Youth Rally Staff.

For further information about Youth Rally, please contact Fr. John Hopko, Youth Rally Director.

Please, spread the news about Youth Rally!

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**Right: Kids at Youth Rally 2015** listen to a talk by Fr. John Hopko.



# Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn.

Nicholas Yuschak, Jr.

Christ the Savior Orthodox Church celebrated the “Souper Bowl” of Caring on Sunday, Feb. 7. The purpose was twofold: to collect food for the Woodbury Food Bank and to raise funds for FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve).

FOCUS provides aid for many needs here in the United States. The

youth of the parish held soup pots as well as thank you and FOCUS signs.

Scout Sunday was a proud event at Christ the Savior Church. We recognized our five Eagle Scouts and one Gold Award Scout as well as presenting Scout Sunday patches to our younger scouts.

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**Above: Scout Sunday participants** (front row) Daniel Brockett, Gregory Brockett, Eagle Scout James Brockett, Alana Brockett, Timothy Cole, Sofia Cole and Hannah Cole. (second row) Deacon Gregory Curran, Father Vladimir Aleandro and Eagle Scouts, Peter Kopcha, William Kopcha and Paul Filipowich.

Missing from the photo were Eagle Scout, Nicholas Yuschak and Gold Award Scout, Sarah Cole.



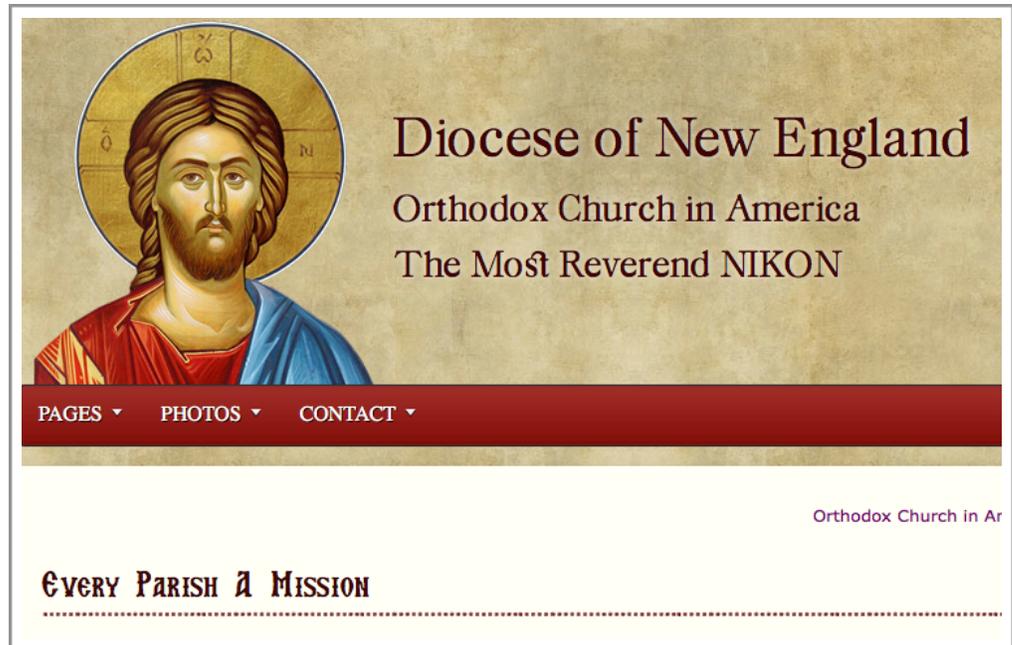
**Below: “Souper Bowl” participants** front row: James Pulley, Jack McGinnis, Thea Oleynikov, Kirill Oleynikov; second row Sarah Bundy, Timothy Cole, Sofia Cole, Hannah Cole, Mary Halvorsen, and Mark Yuschak; back row Thomas and Timothy Halvorsen.

*Photos: Nicholas Yuschak, Jr.*



# Mission School materials on Diocesan Website

Right: The Diocese of New England mission resource page on its web site:  
<http://www.dneoca.org/mission.html>



The Diocesan of New England now has a web page dedicated to mission resources from the OCA Mission School:

<http://www.dneoca.org/mission.html>

The purpose of this “site” is to provide mission resources for the parishes of the Diocese of New England. It has links to in-depth materials and to Fr. Steven Hosking’s lively presentation at the last Diocesan Assembly.

The page features a word from Fr. Alexander Schmemmann: “The Church thus is not a ‘self-centered’ community but precisely a missionary community, whose purpose is salvation not from, but of, the world. In the Orthodox experience and faith it is the

*Church-sacrament* that makes possible the *Church-mission*” (“The Missionary Imperative,” *Church World Mission*, p. 214).

In 2015, the OCA establish its first every Mission School. The page quotes the stated purpose of the Mission School: “The Mission School is an initiative of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America based on a proposal of a task force on the use of a bequest. The Mission School seeks to train clergy and lay people on fundamentals of mission planting, operation and evangelism. It is not meant to be theoretical but rather practical training for those either in or going to a mission.” **ONE+**

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Diocese of New England  
Orthodox Church in America  
Published bi-monthly

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**Rate:** \$50.00 per quarter page, \$100.00 per half page, \$175.00 per full page.

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The ONE Newsletter is distributed free of charge to members of the diocese. If you live in New England and would like to receive this newsletter at your home address, please contact Fr. Joshua Mosher at the address below.

**Paid Subscriptions:**

For people living outside of New England, \$10.00 per year or any part thereof. Subscription outside of the US: US\$15.00.

**Electronic Distribution:**

If you would like to receive *ONE* in electronic format **only**, please contact Fr. Joshua Mosher at the email address below.

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**Upcoming Events**

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| <b>May 7</b> | <b>Deadline for the next issue of the ONE.</b>                          |
| Mar 20       | Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers: Holy Trinity G.O., Waterbury, Conn.        |
| Mar 27       | Connecticut Deanery Lenten Vespers: Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn. |
| Apr 10       | Connecticut Deanery Lenten Vespers: St. Nicholas, Pittsfield, Mass.     |
| Apr 17       | Connecticut Deanery Unction Service: Three Saints, Ansonia, Conn.       |
| Apr 24       | Connecticut Deanery Bridegroom Matins: All Saints, Hartford.            |
| June 5       | St. Nicholas, Pittsfield, Mass., celebrates centennial                  |
| June 10-11   | Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn., celebrates 25th Anniversary        |
| Aug 8-13     | Diocesan Youth Rally  |
| Oct 9, 2016  | Holy Trinity, Willimantic, Conn., celebrates centennial                 |