

# O. N. E.

## ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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**Right: Fr. Steven Belonick,** who recently retired and who has been rector of Holy Ghost, Bridgeport, baptizes **Thomas Quill.**

## Joyful Sadness at Holy Ghost

Cathleen Durden

Holy Ghost, Bridgeport, welcomed two new members to the church, first with baptism of infant Thomas James Quill, followed by the adult baptism of Joseph Dias. They were very special sacraments performed by Father Stephen. Later in the month the community celebrated the betrothal of Joseph Dias to Kelsey Guggenheim.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, Holy Ghost held its second annual Health Fair with much success. Griffin Hospital provided its mobile health resource van, along with several nurses, and

screened local residents for diabetes, administered blood pressure screenings and performed stroke assessments. It was a free service in which participants learned about the risk factors to stroke, warning signs, prevention, and steps for taking action. PIVOT Ministries also partnered with Holy Ghost and prepared a free lunch for those in attendance. New to the fair was United Illuminating and their Energy Efficiencies Solutions team, offering energy audits to local residents. The City of Bridgeport Department of Aging also attended for the first time and provid-

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**Top: Father Steven and Matushka Deborah Belonick** pose beside a cake honoring their service to the parish and the Church at large.

**Middle: Holy Ghost's Health Fair** ready for visitors.

**Bottom: Chamber Singers** of the Connecticut Choral Society in concert at Holy Ghost.

ed information on the free services they offer for the city's seniors. Children that attended with parents decorated pumpkins. It was a beautiful day and a great way to meet local residents and enjoy fellowship.

On Sunday, October 22, the Holy Ghost community and friends honored Father Steven Belonick for his 39 years in the priesthood at Oronoque Country Club in Stratford. Family and long time friends and clergy gathered to say thank you and goodbye to Father Steven and his wife Matushka Deborah, after serving at Holy Ghost for the past 5 years.

Father Steven has had a big impact at Holy Ghost, growing the parish spiritually as well as expanding its outreach program in the east side neighborhood of Bridgeport, where Holy Ghost is located. Matushka Deborah has been directing the choir and filling the church with much fervor and life. Father and Matushka will be greatly missed.

On December 3, Holy Ghost held its third annual Christmas Concert. It was intimate an gathering in which Chamber Singers from the Connecticut Choral Society filled the church with the sounds of the season.

Director Ron Dureski offered a background on each song performed, which was a nice addition to the music. The

concert was free to all who attended. Food and refreshments were offered after the show. We look forward to another concert next year!

**ONE +**



## *Old Year Ends and a New Year begins at Christ the Savior Church, Southbury*



**Top:** Procession of the Clergy and Faithful with the Relics of St. Nektarios.

*Photo: Christ the Savior Church Website*

**Bottom Left: Fr. Vladimir Aleandro** is awarded the Jeweled Cross by Archbishop Nikon, as Fr. John Kreta looks on.

*Photo: Diocese of NE, OCA Facebook Post*

**Bottom Right: Trainee therapy dog** visits children of Christ the Savior.

Pictured from left to right: Kyrill Oleynikov, Thea Oleynikov, Sofia Cole and Hannah Cole.

*Photo: Christ the Savior Church Facebook Post*

Nicholas Yuschak

On Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, over a dozen area clergy and numerous faithful gathered at Christ the Savior Church in Southbury, Conn., for a Pilgrimage in honor of St. Nektarios of Aegina. His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon presided over Vespers, Procession with relics, anointing with oil and prayers for the sick.

Fr. Vladimir Aleandro was awarded the Jeweled Cross by his Eminence Archbishop Nikon at the feast Day of St. Nektarios. He was given this honor early in recognition of his service as the confessor of so many clergy in the Diocese, says Fr. John Hopko, Connecticut Dean. "Axios! Axios! Axios!"

Therapy-dog-in-training Gabriel visited Matushka Suzanne's Live Wires class recently. The kids learned more about Gabriel and the job of a therapy dog. He will be training over the next year and visiting his Christ the Savior family often!

Saint Nicholas paid a visit once again to Christ the Savior Church! We prayed before the icon of St. Nicholas and listened as Fr. Vladimir taught about the life and miracles of St. Nicholas and presented gifts to the children. Matushka Suzanne helped St. Nicholas pass out apples to be shared with children of all ages.

Many thanks to Russell De Pace of the Boy Scouts of America who brought the



Peace Light to us for the Vespers Liturgy and Blessing of Water on Theophany. Originating from the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born, the light is carried by airplane in two blast-proof miner's lamps to destinations around the world. This is the 31st year that the light has come to the US and the third year that it has come to Christ the Savior.



**Top: Saint Nicholas** visits Christ the Savior.

**Middle Left: Scouts bring the Peace Light to Christ the Savior.** Pictured from left to right: Michael Fatse, Mark Yuschak, Timothy Cole, Russell De Pace, and Fr. Vladimir.

*Photo: Christ the Savior Church Website*

**Middle Right: Nancy DeGrazi** is received as a catechumen.

*Photo: Marina Zheludkova Facebook Post*

**Bottom: Change for Chickens** a big success.

Blessings and a warm welcome to Nancy DeGrazia who was received on Sunday, January 7, as our newest catechumen during Divine Liturgy!

Thanks to the efforts of Sofia Cole we raised \$254.63 at Christ the Savior Church for the charity Change for Chickens. According to Sofia, "we will

be sending 13 flocks of chickens and someone to help teach people how to raise them. The families who will receive the chickens live in rural Arkansas, which has a very high child poverty and hunger rate. Thank you to all who helped us reach our goal and beyond!"

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## First Priest at St. Mark's: Memory Eternal

Laura Geigle

Mitred Archpriest Michael Margitich, first priest at St. Mark's, Kingston, Mass., fell asleep in the Lord on Nov. 11, 2017. May his memory be eternal!

Fr. Michael served in our parish from 1984 to 1988. He worked diligently and tirelessly to build up our community during those early years. His son Mark is a member of our church along with Mark's wife Gina—our choir director—and their two sons Bobby and Simon.

The newspaper clipping above features Fr. Michael beginning services in the new parish. It is taken from an article published in the Plymouth, Mass., newspaper on Dec. 6, 1984.

The photo below was taken circa 1988 at the now-closed church in Chelsea, Mass. Fr. John Bacon recalls it was taken at the ordination to Deacon of the late Protodeacon Basil "William" Safchuk (d. 2016) in Chelsea, by His Eminence, Archbishop (then Bishop) Job. The Deacon escorting the subdeacon is Deacon Andre Beshta, retired now and attached to Holy Annunciation, Maynard. Just behind the Archbishop is Archdeacon Roman Skvarnavicius (d. 2007). Father Michael Margitich is by the window.

St. Mark's also lifts up the memory of Protodeacon Nicholas Drobot's father, Archpriest Wsevolod (d. Nov. 8, 2017). Memory eternal! **ONE +**



# Everything Ties Together

Rev. Joshua Mosher

We sometimes divide life into the “spiritual” and the “material,” to our cost. The material covers the practical activities: earning money, managing property, matters of sickness and health, and also our friends, family, and interests. The spiritual is focused on church services, prayers, the Bible, the sacraments, and similar affairs—all really the province of the priest.

But the division is an imaginary one. Our Lord has a lot to say about things we sometimes think of as strictly material: money, business, health, family, friends—it’s all tied together with the Spirit of God, according to our Lord’s Gospel.

And the division of labor is imaginary too. We consider “ministry” the work of the priest (and okay, we’d include the altar servers and choir), but cleaning the church? That’s not the same thing. But the Spirit doesn’t make that distinction. Preaching and cleaning, praying and hosting coffee hour—they are all ministries necessary for the work of the church, and the Spirit works through each one of us, no matter how we serve.

These are all different ministries, different activities, requiring different gifts—just like St. Paul talks about in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 12. He speaks about gifts from the Holy Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, even miracles—but also helping others and even administration. All of them glorify God and serve others, which is what Christian ministry is all about.

You probably have heard how another name for the Church is the Body of Christ. In this same chapter while talking about variety of gifts and ministries, St. Paul helps us understand by talking about different members of the Body, like different body parts:

For as the body is one and has many members ... so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.... If the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? ... But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

So we, members of the Body of Christ, members of his Church, each have our gifts that God asks us to use to build up that Body, wherever we find ourselves. The whole Body suffers when one member holds back, and the whole Body benefits from even the most quiet, seemingly unnoticed contribution. Please join in! **ONE+**

Below: Connecticut Dean Fr. John Hopko leads the **annual commemoration of the departed of the Connecticut Deanery** on Nov. 17, 2017.





## Giving Above & Beyond: ONE Stewards 2018

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

The Diocese again exceeded the ONE Stewards budget level of \$22,000 in donations during 2017. His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon and the Diocesan Council are very appreciative to all of you throughout the Diocese who support ONE Stewards each year.

The "Bishop's Circle" of donors (\$500 or more) again added some new members in 2017. This select group of donors truly set an outstanding example of "Giving Above and Beyond" for the Diocesan activities supported by ONE Stewards.

Show your support of our diocesan Youth, our diocesan Seminaries, our diocesan Missions, and our diocesan Charity donations during 2018 by supporting ONE Stewards. You should be receiving your ONE Stewards appeal envelope in late February. During our Lenten journey, let us all commit to prayer, fasting, and charitable giving. Join Archbishop Nikon in supporting ONE Stewards with your generous offerings.

ONE Stewards  
PO Box 1182  
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**Right:** Father Steven Hosking holds the **Souper Bowl Trophy and a picture of Daria Krawchuk** taken at a prior Souper Bowl cook off. Behind Fr. Steven is the list of selling prices of each chili, and the chili from Wendy's offered in memory of Daria is shown selling for \$250!



## St. Alexis Community Raises \$600, Celebrating the Memory of a Beloved Parishioner

Vinny Melesko

On Sunday, Feb. 4, St. Alexis, in Clinton, held its 8th annual Souper Bowl Chili, Chowder Cook-off. This year there were ten entrants and most were a type of chili. All were excellent. People donate to the chili of their choice and the one with the most money wins. The winner receives a wooden spoon and their name engraved on the traveling trophy. This year's winner was a "Wendy's Chili" entered in honor of

Daria Krawchuk. Daria, who passed on Feb. 1, had submitted this fast-food chili several times over the years, as a running joke. It may not have been the best tasting chili, but her chili won, hands down. All monies received will be donated to the International Orthodox Christian Charities in Daria's memory. Nonperishable food items for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry and Clinton Family Services were collected as part of this event.

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## Upcoming Events

<b>March 15</b>	<b>Deadline for the next issue of the ONE</b>
Feb. 23	Youth Retreat at All Saints Church, Hartford
Feb. 24	Retreat at All Saints Church, Hartford: "Becoming Fire—Christian Living in Turbulent Times" with Dr. Al Rossi
March 4	2nd Sunday of Great Lent, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, Terryville: CT Deanery Mission Vespers
March 10	Talk by V. Rev. Dr. Rentel, "Broken in the World and Made Whole by Christ" at All Saints of America, at 12:15 PM
March 11	3rd Sunday of Great Lent, St. John the Baptist Church, Mill Hill, Bridgeport: FORCC Vespers
March 16	Youth Retreat at All Saints Church, Hartford
March 18	4th Sunday of Great Lent, Holy Trinity Church, New Britain: CT Deanery Mission Vespers
March 25	5th Sunday of Great Lent, Three Saints Church, Ansonia: Annual Unction Service
April 1	Palm Sunday, All Saints, Hartford: Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday