

# O. N. E.

## ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

---

### Inside this issue:

---

Southbury, Conn., news	2
Hartford outreach	4
Clinton, Conn., news	5

**Right:** His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon grants Fr. Michael Westerberg the archpriest's miter.



## Fr. Michael Westerberg Honored

John Kruchok

Holy Transfiguration parish in New Haven welcomed His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon on Sunday, Aug. 12. Parishioners, friends and guests gathered on this date with great joy for the celebration of the hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the elevation of V. Rev. Fr. Michael Westerberg to the dignity of mitered archpriest.

Clergy in attendance included Fr. Steven Belonick, Fr. Joseph Gall, Fr. Steven Voytovich, and Protodeacon Paul Nimchek.

His Eminence, with the blessing of

the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America commended Fr. Michael for his many years of pastoral ministry and leadership, noting his special gifts, talent and commitment to mentoring youth, college students, seminarians, priests and matushki. Remarking that Father did not accomplish all of this on his own, His Eminence recognized the many contributions of Matushka Lydia.

During the Divine Liturgy, Paul Romanovsky was also tonsured a reader. Following a procession to bless

*Axios!* continued on page 6



## ***New Beginnings at Christ the Savior***

**Above:** Fr. Vladimir Aleandro of Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn., speaks about Tim Halvorsen's participation in a mission trip to Albania.

Nicholas Yuschak

### ***Heading for Albania***

Tim Halvorsen, a member of Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn., will be going on an OCMC-sponsored Mission trip to Albania. Tim gave an enlightening presentation at coffee hour on the importance of missionary work and what it meant to him personally.

### ***Visiting from Alaska***

Christ the Savior Church welcomed Father David Rucker for Great Vespers

and Divine Liturgy. Fr. David and Matushka Roxanne are OCMC Missionary Specialists working at St. Herman's Seminary in Kodiak. During his sermon and later at coffee hour, Fr. David traced the message of Jesus' organizing and training of His apostles and disciples down to the present times and our own parish.

### ***Newly Illumined:***

On Sunday May 6, 2018 Nancy DeGrazia was received into the Orthodox Christian Faith through the

**Below:** Father David Rucker anoints our youngest server, Jack McGinnis with oil from St. Herman's grave on Spruce Island.





**Above:** Pictured from left to right: Renate Sica, John Skelton, and the **newly-illuminated Nancy DeGrazia.**

Sacrament of Holy Chrismation. Congratulations and Many Years to Nancy and her Sponsors Renate Sica and John Skelton!

***A New Catechumen:***

Blessings and a warm welcome to Bob Hanley! After a period of study and discernment, Bob has decided to make the commitment to be enrolled as a catechumen as he prepares to enter into the fullness of the Orthodox Church.

***Ready for Jeopardy:***

On Sunday, June 3, 2018 our Live Wires and Teens participated in a game of knowledge about the Orthodox faith. The Alpha Team challenged the Omega Team on their mastery of this past year's church school curriculum, "The Beatitudes and the Parables". Prizes were handed out in the end and an exciting time was had by all! **ONE +**

**Below: Fr. Sergius Halvorsen stands with the children of Christ the Savior.** Pictured in the **front row from left to right:** Timothy Cole, Jack McGinnis, Cecilia Cole, Thea Oleynikov, Kirill Oleynikov, and Hannah Cole. Pictured in the **back row from left to right:** Team Captain Tim Halvorsen, Team Captain Mark Yuschak, Sofia Cole, and Father Sergius



## All Saints hosts Memorial Day BBQ at Cosgrove Commons veterans' home

Members of All Saints, Hartford, have for several years volunteered at a local veterans' home run by the Crystalis Center. Last Memorial Day, they hosted a cookout for the community. On this page and the top of the next, we have scenes of the day.





**Above: Members of All Saints, Hartford,** enjoying their meal after serving the barbecue.

## ***Blessings at St. Alexis, Clinton, Conn.***

Vincent Melesko

On May 6th, we were blessed to have Bishop Nikon visit our parish to celebrate the Feast of Saint Alexis. We always enjoy his visits and in his honor we held a soup/stew food competition with the funds raised going to benefit ONE Steward.

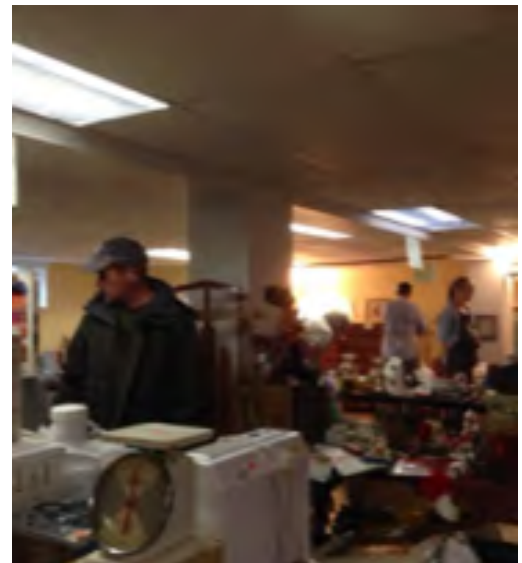
Under the direction of Stasia PenkoffLidbeck, Saint Alexis held a Tag

Sale/Bake Sale on May 19th. It wasn't the best weather day to have an outdoor Tag Sale because of the rain, so we held it in the church basement. Under the circumstances, we didn't do all that bad.

Olga Kucharski celebrated her 98th birthday on June 25th. Many church members visited her to help celebrate this wonderful event and to sing "Happy Birthday" and "God Grant You Many Years." She inspires us all. **ONE +**

**Below Left:** Archbishop Nikon presides at the patronal feast of St. Alexis, Clinton, Conn.

**Below Right:** The basement of St. Alexis hosts a **tag and bake sale.**





**Above: Archbishop Nikon** addresses Fr. Michael just before awarding the miter.

**Below: His Eminence leads the cross procession** around Holy Transfiguration Church.

## ***Axios! from page 1***

the four sides of the church, further remarks and dismissal, the faithful were invited to a bountiful lenten brunch. Father Michael and Matushka Lydia have served Holy Transfiguration parish for nearly 38 years, with the celebration of their first Divine Liturgy on October 1, 1980. Axios!

Fr. Michael Westerberg was baptized as an infant at Holy Trinity Church in East New York, Brooklyn. From childhood

and through his early teen years, he spent his summers at his grandparents' cottage situated in the pine forests of a large community of Russian immigrants, ROVA Farms in Jackson, New Jersey, where, as a young boy he looked up to the parish priest, Father Peter Popov, who served vespers daily. Following Father Peter's example, Father Michael has served vespers daily for the entire forty-four years of his priesthood.

Father Michael was active in the Boy Scouts of America and attended camp in the Catskill Mountains of New York,



**Right: Fr. Michael and M. Lydia Westerberg** stand with His Eminence and concelebrating clergy.



where he eventually served as a staff member. He served as Lodge Chief of the Nassau County (NY) Order of the Arrow.

In 1966 while in college, Father was drafted and served in the army in both Germany and Vietnam. Returning from Vietnam, he worked at a brokerage firm on Wall Street until he could return to college. Father Michael completed his undergraduate studies at Salem College, West Virginia excelling in oratorical competitions, after which he enrolled at St. Vladimir's Seminary. As a seminarian doing volunteer work in New York area hospitals, he met Lydia Koblosh. They married in June, 1974.

Father was ordained to the diaconate in September, 1974, and to the priesthood by then Bishop Herman (later Metropolitan Herman,) in January 1975. During his senior year at St. Vladimir's, Father began serving Holy Resurrection Church in Berlin, New Hampshire as assigned by Bishop Dmitri, the New England Diocesan bishop.

Father Michael has served the New England Diocese in many leadership capacities. He was dean of the Northern New England Deanery for three years

and dean of the Connecticut Deanery for six years. He served as administrator for numerous parishes as vacancies necessitated. He was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese by the late Archbishop Job, and served in that capacity for fifteen years while the New England Diocese did not have a resident hierarchy.

Father Michael has also served in various departments of the Orthodox Church in America. He was Chairman of the Department of Pastoral Life and Ministry, a member of the Department of Lay Ministries and a member of the Department of External Affairs. He was elected to several terms as diocesan representative to the Metropolitan Council. Elected by the All American Council, he served on the OCA Pension Board for ten years, the last seven as group leader.

Father Michael was Orthodox chaplain at the West Haven, Conn., Veteran's Hospital for thirty-five years, until his retirement from the VA in December, 2016, and he continues to serve as chaplain to the Orthodox Christian students at Yale University as he has for thirty-seven years.

**ONE +**

**ONE:**  
**Orthodox New England**  
 Diocese of New England  
 Orthodox Church in America  
<http://www.dneoca.org>  
 Published bi-monthly

Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church  
 PO Box 2876  
 305 Washington Avenue  
 New Britain Conn. 06050-2876  
 Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
 US Postage  
 Paid  
 Permit #559  
 New Haven  
 Conn.

His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon  
 Rev. Joshua Mosher, Editor  
 Phone: 203-237-4539  
[frjmosher@sspeterpaul.org](mailto:frjmosher@sspeterpaul.org)



The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors. Dogmas of the Church, or Official Statements, will be so labeled.

Materials in *ONE* may be reproduced with acknowledgement of the source.

#### **Subscriptions:**

The ONE Newsletter is distributed free of charge to members of the diocese. It is also available as a PDF on the diocesan website.

If you are a member of the diocese and have not been receiving a copy, please contact the editor: Rev. Joshua Mosher.

#### **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* as a PDF as it is published, please sign up at our website: <http://www.dneoca.org>.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Sept. 30</b>	<b>Deadline for the next issue of the ONE</b>
Oct. 19	Diocesan "Rally after Rally" Event at All Saints, Hartford
Oct. 26-27	Diocesan Assembly hosted by All Saints, Hartford
Dec. 28	Diocesan "Rally after Rally" Youth Event at All Saints, Hartford
Feb. 22	Diocesan "Rally after Rally" Youth Event at All Saints, Hartford
April 19, 2019	Diocesan "Rally after Rally" Youth Event at All Saints, Hartford
June 21, 2019	Diocesan "Rally after Rally" Youth Event at All Saints, Hartford