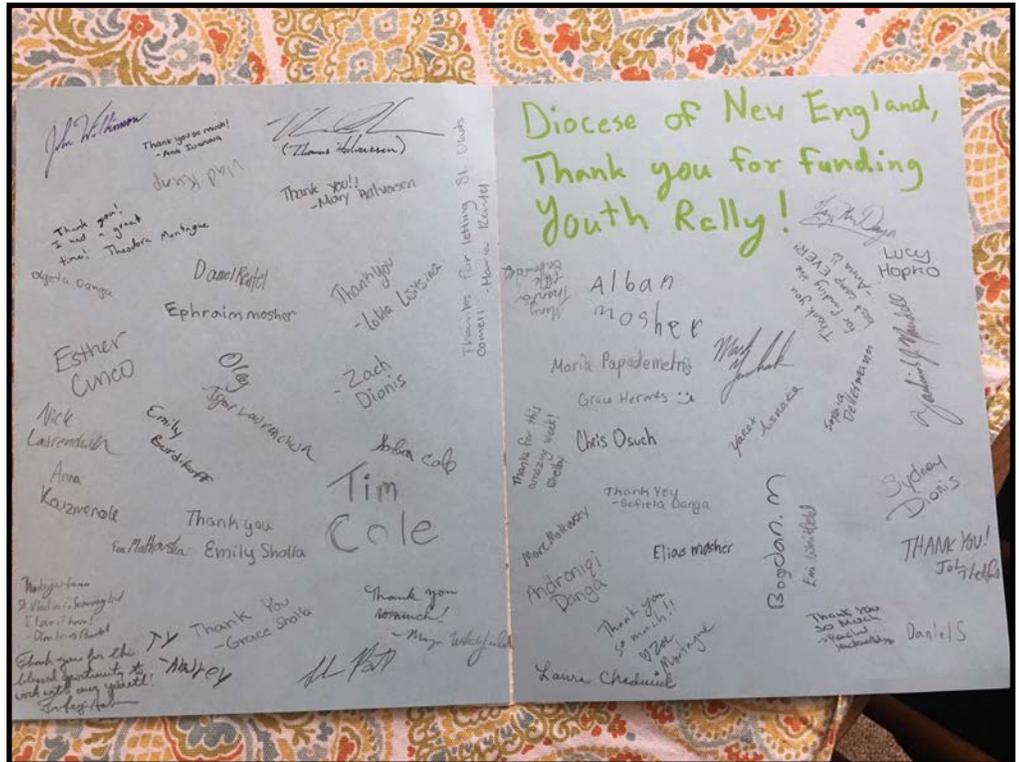


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ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Right: The Youth of Rally 2018 signed a **thank-you card to the Diocese of New England**, expressing gratitude for the funding that makes the week possible.

One member of Youth Rally, Miya Whitfield, also shared her experience of Youth Rally and why it matters so deeply.

Celebrating Youth Rally

Miya Whitfield

This was my fifth year attending Youth Rally. I love each time more than the previous. It is the best opportunity to spend an entire week with people who are like you in so many ways. I go to a school where I am one of two practicing Orthodox teens—the only one in the OCA out of 1200 students. At our home parish, my sisters and I make up fifty percent of the middle to high school age population. Coming to Rally every year is not only fun, but also strengthening. Nowhere else do I have the opportunity to talk and pray and

sing with more than 40 other Orthodox youth. Rally brings all of us from around the diocese together as a family. The scavenger hunts and water fights bring us together as friends; the the choir singing and Christian Ed. discussions bring us together in our faith.

The camp puts a lot of emphasis on having fun, with games and activities, but I enjoy the church services most. Like most at camp, I go to church regularly. At home I can get lost in the ceremony and routine. In the small

Rally continued on page 7

Above: Our **Social Hall** has become a construction site for the duration

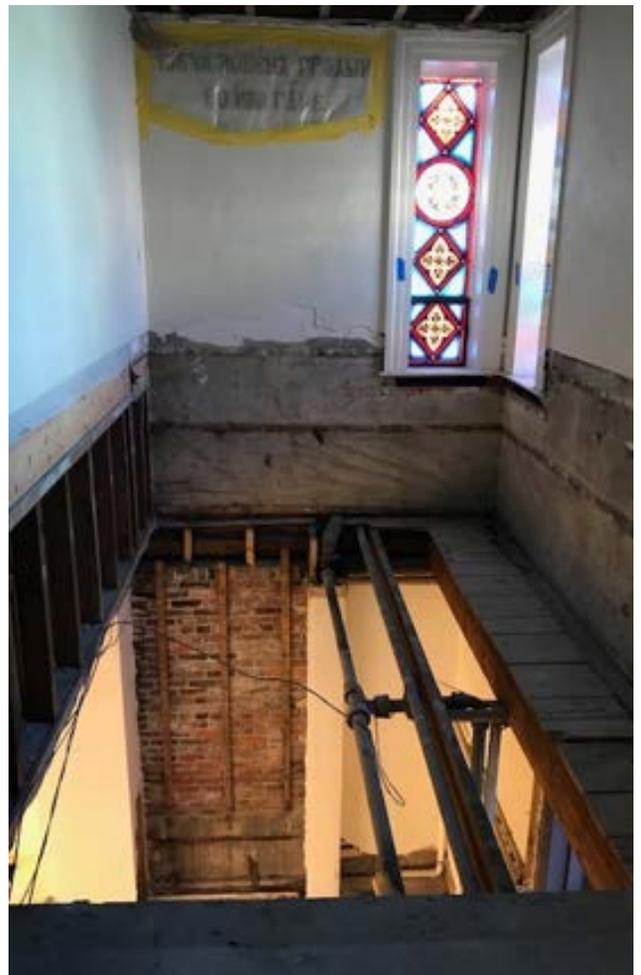


Renovation of St. Nicholas of Salem

Below: The opening created in the narthex for the **new side stairs**.

We at St. Nicholas Church in Salem, Mass., have been trying for almost 20 years to find a way to add wheelchair access to our church. The parish founders did not leave a spare inch anywhere on the property —no room for an outside ramp, no unused space for a lift, either inside or outside. To complicate matters, we are on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission must approve any changes to the building.

In the old days, no one expected to be able to go to church if they could not walk and climb stairs. Fortunately, those days are gone. We have seen too many loved fellow parishioners become unable ever to come to church again, once they lost the ability to handle stairs. In 1908, there was essentially no such thing as



Right: Cutting through our granite foundation to create the new side entrance.



handicap access, and no one expected it. Nowadays, failing to provide accessibility is something of a message, and it is one we do not wish to send.

In 2014 we began another effort, and after having one design rejected by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, we finally settled on a plan: We could repurpose the existing side entrance as a wheelchair-accessible entrance, and put a handicap lift (VPL) where the original inside stairs had been. Of course, that meant that we had to relocate the stairs to the other side of the narthex. And that meant that we had to relocate the bathrooms, which had been below the far side of the narthex, at the Social Hall (basement) level. This led us to a much-needed bathroom renovation, and the addition of an ADA-compliant/Family

bathroom, giving us three bathrooms in all.

This was also an opportunity to remove the crumbling asbestos tile from the Social Hall floors, and add an additional external entrance on the other side of the church, improving our emergency exits. We were also able to add a new set of stairs from the original side entrance, down into the Social Hall; this is a great improvement in emergency egress from the Hall, and a great convenience for deliveries. It did require the creation of a small bulkhead in a corner of the nave, to allow headroom for the stairs.

For the first month of construction, we celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Hawthorne Hotel in downtown Salem, only a few blocks from our church. Since



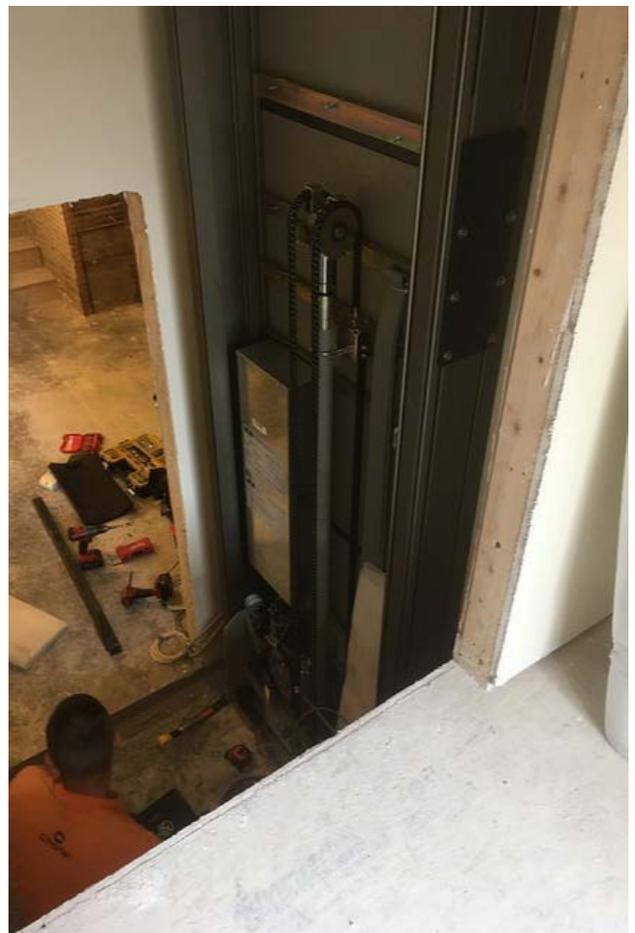
Above: Cutting into the nave—very carefully!—for the bulkhead for the stairs.

Below: The machinery of the lift is partially installed.

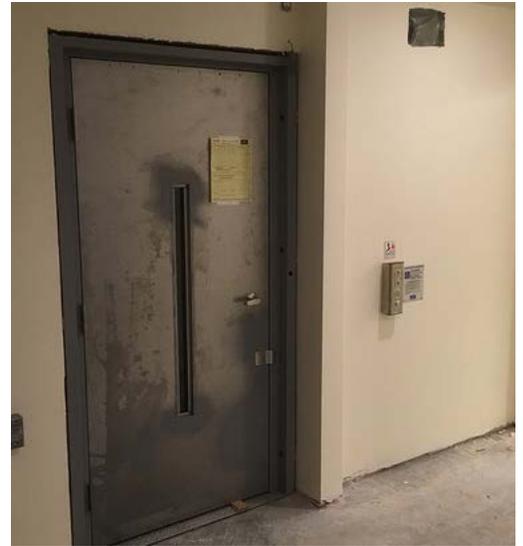
then, we have returned to having services in the nave of the church, which is largely untouched by the construction. Our Coffee Hour is an abbreviated, very simple affair, held in the nave after Liturgy is over. Our restroom needs are met by a pair of high-end port-a-potties in the parking lot. We can have evening services during the week, but of course during the day construction takes over the building, and services are not possible.

The work started in June, 2018, and is still in progress. We hope to have the project completed by the end of October, and to have access to our Social Hall and bathrooms by the end of September.

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Above: More photos of the Salem renovation project have been shared online since this article was written. Here are scenes of further progress downstairs, notably showing the door of the new lift. To see more, visit www.orthodoxsalem.com



St. Nicholas, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, participates in “Third Thursday” Event

Below: St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Pittsfield, Mass. has been participating in the downtown **Pittsfield Third Thursday** event for 5 years. The booth offers gyros, spinach pie, baklava and Russian icons and souvenirs. It has been a very successful fundraiser for the church.



Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish Celebrating with Archbishop Nikon

Above Left: Fr. John Hopko, the pastor of Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Terryville, Conn., greets His Eminence at the entrance of the church. Archbishop Nikon made his annual visitation to the parish and presided at the Liturgy.

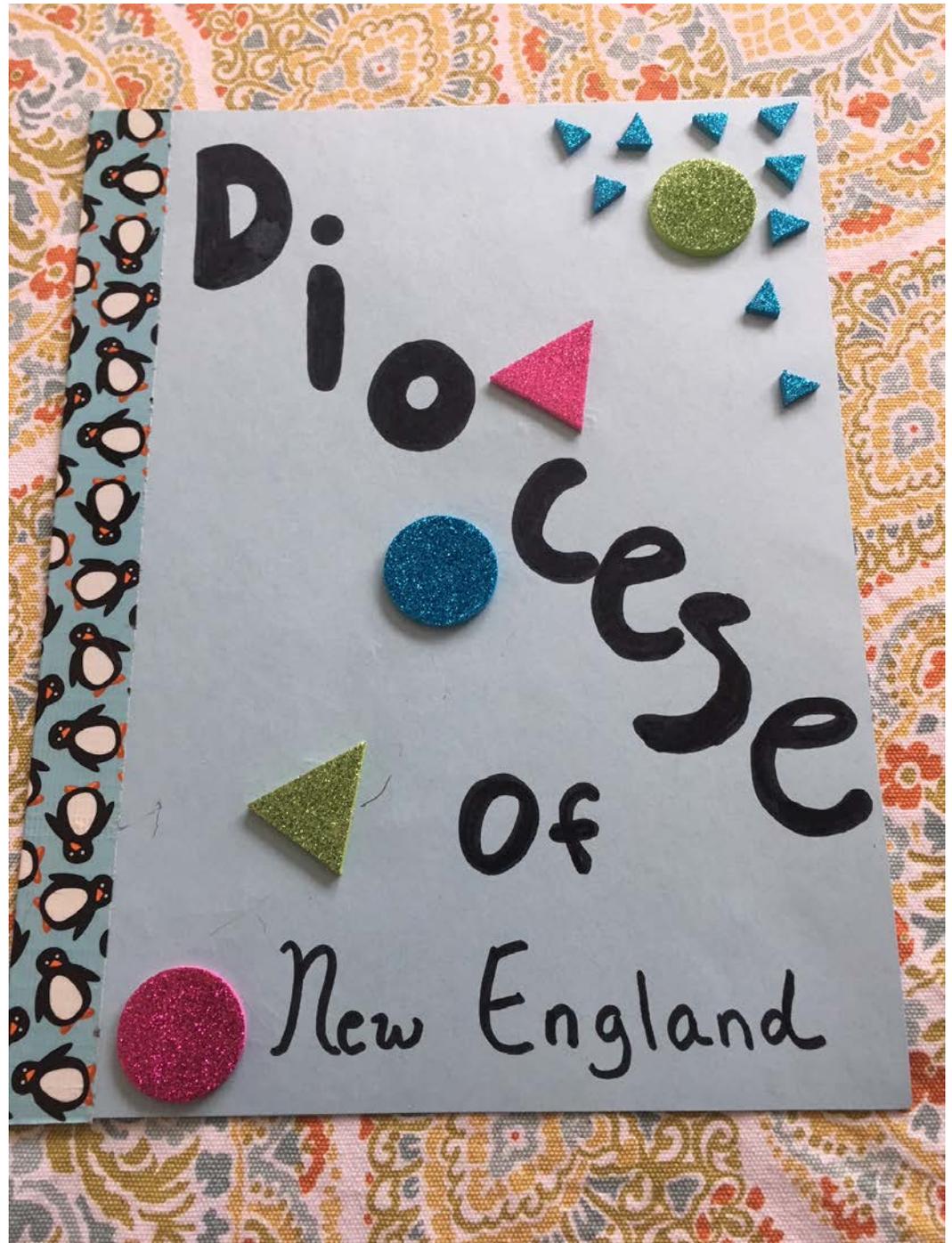
Above Right: Archbishop Nikon addresses Fr. Hopko and the faithful of the parish.



Below: One family of many faithful gathered to celebrate with His Eminence.



Right: The colorfully decorated cover of the thank-you card from the kids of Youth Rally, to everyone who supports the program.



Youth Rally from I

chapel I am reminded of how beautiful the simple service and setting is. Away from the crowded schedules and busy life, everything slows down at Rally. Everything is very focused once we enter the church. We all try to leave everything outside and be present in the moment. It allows every person to be

able to experience the peace and joy of simply being in church, with no distractions. For me, Rally is so important because it provides a place of peace and silence that I have not been able to find anywhere else in my life.

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 Rev. Joshua Mosher, Editor
 Phone: 203-237-4539
frjmosher@sspeterpaul.org



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Upcoming Events

Nov. 30

Deadline for the next issue of the ONE

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