

O. N. E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Right: Celebrating the eve of the **feast day of St. Alexis** in Clinton, Conn.

Anniversaries Bring Action

Rev. Steven Hosking

Christ is Risen!

This May 7th, the parish of St. Alexis, in Clinton, Conn., celebrated the 110th anniversary of the repose of St. Alexis Toth, as well as the 25th anniversary of his canonization and the 25th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

The anniversary celebrations centered around the celebration of Vespers on the evening of the 6th and Divine Liturgy on the morning of the 7th; these were particularly joyful because of the Paschal celebration as well. Fr.

Steven Voytovich, the parish's first rector, gave the reflection at end of Liturgy, where he noted the unusual circumstance of a parish, being founded the same year as the canonization of its patron saint, means that all anniversary celebrations have added meaning. In effect, any celebration of the parish is a celebration of St Alexis. Joyous Feast!

Services were followed by fellowship meals prepared by the parishioners. The parish will be the host for the 2019 Diocesan Assembly in October.

Anniversaries continued on page 2

Anniversaries bring action at St. Alexis



Top and Bottom Left:
New icons installed at St. Alexis, Clinton, at the end of last year.

Bottom Right:
Iconographer Ivan Rumyancev stands beside his icons during installation.

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The commemoration of these anniversaries will continue throughout the year. On Saturday, June 1st, Dr. Nicole Roccas, author of *Time and Despondency: Regaining the Present in Faith and Life*, will be speaking. This presentation is open to the public. On Saturday, October 19, the choral ensemble Lyra will be holding a concert (again, open to the public).

in the Sanctuary and Altar. This iconography and installation was the result of an anonymous donation to the church in honor and recognition of the 25th anniversary of the parish. Installation began on Dec 26 and was concluded on Dec 29. The icons were painted on canvas and then glued in pieces on the prepared wall. The first service with the new iconography was Great Vespers, Saturday after the Nativity.

Fresh Iconography

During the days immediately following the Nativity of our Lord, the parish of St. Alexis had new iconography installed

The iconographer, Ivan Rumyancev, was the creator of the church's original iconography, and was commissioned to work on the new installation. Mr.



Top and Bottom:
Volunteers at work
preparing the walls of St.
Alexis for the new icons.



Rumyancev drew and installed three different icon murals.

On the arch directly above the iconostasis, the iconography depicting the Ascension of our Lord has now been installed. On the north wall of the altar is the icon depicting Jacob's dream of the Ladder ascending to heaven. The third icon, on the altar's south wall, is that of Moses and the Burning Bush.

On the altar's east wall, Mr. Rumyancev also redrew the four hierarchs (Saints

Basil the Great, John Chrysostom, Gregory the Theologian and Nicholas the Wonderworker) to make them larger and more visible from the sanctuary. He also touched up the colors to the icon of the Resurrection to make it "stand out" more.

More pictures of the iconography installation can be found on Facebook (@stalexisorthodox) or on Instagram (st.alexisorthodox), as well as our web site (www.stalexischurch.org). **ONE +**



An African Safari at Christ the Savior Church, Southbury!



Top: Ephraim Mosher makes ugali from cornmeal and boiled water.

Bottom Left: Papa Emoru (Father Vladimir) teaches us about our brothers and sisters in Turkana.

Bottom Right: Participants made a poster illustrating their goal to provide three Paschal Meals to Turkana villages.

Photos: Mark Yuschak

Nicholas Yuschak, Jr.

Saturday, March 30, was an exciting day! Young people, 6th grade and older were invited to bring their passports for a

Safari Adventure at Christ the Savior Church.

One participant, Mark Yuschak, wrote: "Had an awesome time at the Hunger



Top Right: Sophia Cole delivers ugali ingredients on her head the Turkana way.

Middle: "Not bad!" After a day of work, learning, and fasting Ephraim Mosher, Alban Mosher, Grace Hermes, and Sophia Cole are thankful for their meal of ugali.

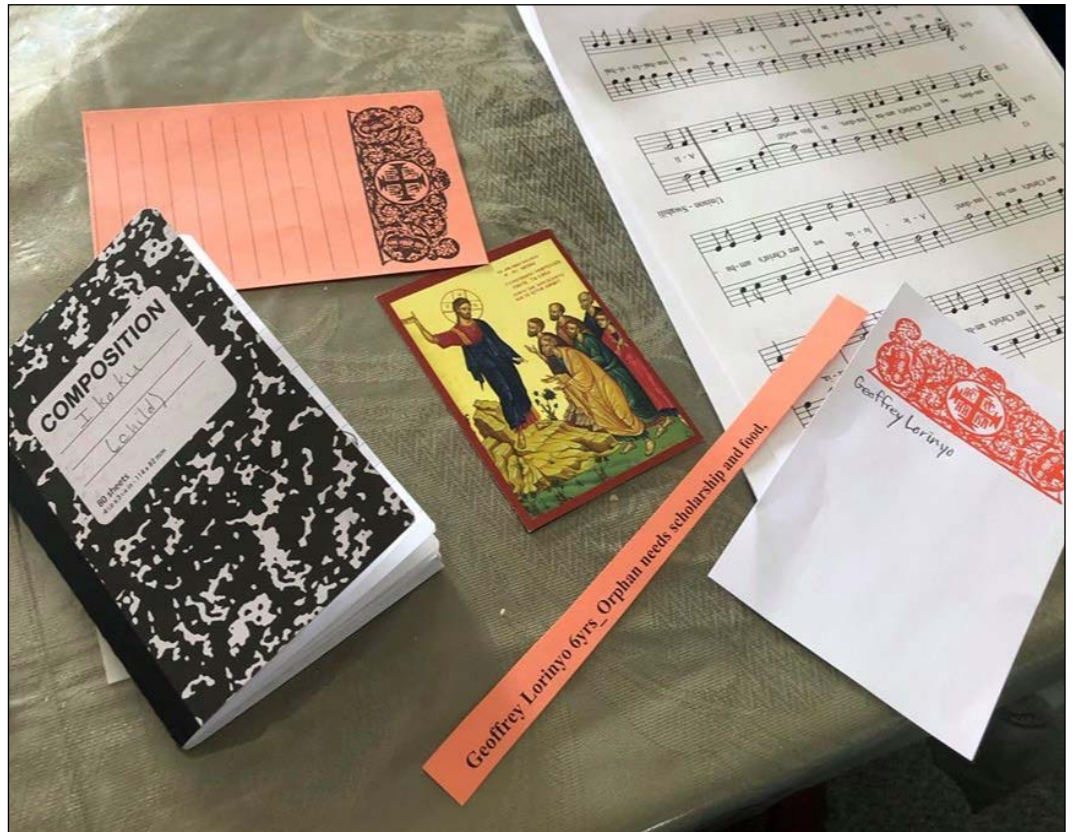
Bottom: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Each participant was given a Turkana name and "adopted" a Turkana orphan in need of a scholarship and food.

Photos: Mark Yuschak

Strike! We went on our own safari, made ugali, and a plan to provide paschal meals to parishes in Turkana! Plus, we had Papa Emoru a.k.a. Father Vladimir, a seasoned visitor to our sister parishes in Turkana as our guide!

We baked prosphora, had a memorial for all children who have died from hunger, vespers, and sang "Christ's Ambassadors" for the parish! A great day with great people!"

ONE +



Thoughts behind canceling Rally 2019

More scenes from Youth Retreat in Southbury

Top: Making prosphora: Ephraim Mosher explains how to prepare and cut the dough to Alban Mosher while Sophia and Timothy Cole look intently on. Photo: Mark Yuschak

Middle: Christ's Ambassadors: Mark Yuschak directs the Hunger Strike Squad 2019 after Vespers in their rendition of "Christ's Ambassadors" in English and Swahili. Photo: Nick Yuschak

Hunger Strike Squad 2019: Pictured from left to right in back row: Alban Mosher, Father Vladimir Aleandro, and Ephraim Mosher. From left to right in front row: Grace Hermes, Sophia Cole, Rachel Yackovetsky, Mark Yuschak, Timothy Cole, and Sarah Cole. Photo: John Skelton

In a letter dated May 9, 2019, Fr. John Hoko formally announced that the Diocese of New England's Youth Rally 2019 has been canceled. As Rally Director, Fr. Hopko made the decision with the approval of His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon, and Diocesan Chancellor Fr. John Kreta:

"Youth Rally 2019 has been cancelled because we have failed to put together a staff of adult volunteers sufficient to the task of appropriately preparing for, convening, and safely operating Youth Rally," Fr. Hopko wrote.

"Our first and highest concern and priority at Youth Rally is to ensure the safety of the Youth Participants ('the Rallyers').... This year we were unable to meet those standards. Thus, necessarily, Rally could not take place, and, therefore, has been cancelled."

To help the diocese better understand the challenge and to plan for future years, Fr. Hopko laid out the current standards for holding Youth Rally. The staff first requires a Director to recruit, train and supervise all adult staff. Rally also requires two or three priests "with an aptitude for youth ministry," one of whom will serve as Rector. Fr. Hopko has filled this role in addition to serving as Rally Director.

Fr. Hopko highlighted the need for "the volunteer services of a licensed healthcare provider (in actual practice most often a registered nurse)" currently licensed in the locale where Rally takes place.

To provide "around-the-clock

supervision of and care for the Youth Rallyers," Fr. Hopko has identified the need for ten to twelve exemplary adult laypersons to serve as camp counselors. Fr. Hopko explained that experience has taught that these adults should not be direct family members of Rallyers nor recent youth participants. There also needs to be a balance of ages among



Top Left and Right:

Scenes from the **Turkana villages** the Hunger Strike in Southbury supported.



Bottom: Recently, Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church, Waterbury, CT, donated to the Diocese of New England a set of dikiri and trikiri candlesticks for

use by the Diocesan Hierarchy when serving in the Diocese. His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON used these candlesticks at the recently completed Diocesan Assembly. Pictured here with the candlesticks are Reader John Paul Szepel, Parish Council President, and Fr. John Hopko, Parish Administrator.

Reader John Paul initially donated these candlesticks some years ago to the Waterbury Parish in memory of the faithful departed members of his family. Recently, he then in turn initiated the process by which these candlesticks are now being donated to the Diocese. May the Lord God remember in His Heavenly Kingdom all the faithful departed members of the Szepel Family and of Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary Church.

these volunteers: "It is all but absolutely necessary that several of them be older and more experienced and proven persons, who bring to the role of adult staff at Youth Rally a clear history and record of faithful and steadfast Christian responsibility, manner of living, and habit of being."

All staff must also be able to commit to a full week of participating both in training and Rally itself. All must have



the blessing and endorsement of their parish priest and pass a background check.

The last part of Fr. Hopko's letter shifted to wider considerations:

"In the Diocese of New England, we will now begin the process of examining our youth ministry programs and initiatives. Part of that examination will be to consider carefully the future of what we have called "Youth Rally." Youth Rally, in one form or another, took place annually for the last 32 years in the Diocese of New England, since 1987 through to 2018."

Fr. Hopko had previously announced that, after this year, he would be stepping down after fifteen years as Rally Director. In his letter, he expressed his commitment to help "figure out how Rally might best be revived and reconstituted."

Fr. Hopko concluded, "I apologize for my failures, especially as connected to the issue of this summer's Youth Rally and its unfortunate, but necessary, cancellation." However, past participants continue to express deep gratitude and respect for Fr. Hopko's leadership of Youth Rally. They are eagerly looking forward to summer 2020, whatever new form Rally takes.

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Upcoming Events

June 21

June 21

July 8-12

Oct. 26-27

Deadline for the next issue of the ONE

Diocesan "Rally after Rally" Youth Event at All Saints, Hartford

Vacation Church School at Three Saints Park, Bethany, CT

Diocesan Assembly hosted by St. Alexis, Clinton, CT