

O. N. E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Celebrating Archbishop Nikon



Top Right: His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon wears the Order of St. Innocent as he blesses the faithful.



Bottom Right: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon stands beside Archbishop Nikon and those gathered to celebrate.

On Saturday, July 6, 2019, clergy and faithful representing both the Diocese of New England and the Albanian Archdiocese gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the or-

dination to the Holy Priesthood of His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon. His Beatitude, Tikhon, Metropolitan

50th Anniversary continued on 2

Fiftieth Anniversary from I

of the Orthodox Church in America, was also able to participate and presided over the occasion. Festivities were held at the Spaulding Nursing and Therapy Center, Boston, where His Eminence is receiving care.

Above and Below: Metropolitan Tikhon speaks to Archbishop Nikon as he prepares to award him the **Order of St. Innocent—Gold Class.**

The celebration opened with a prayer service acknowledging the faithful service of our archpastor and asking the Lord's continued blessings upon him. At its conclusion, all sang "Many years!"—notably including one time in Albanian, when His Beatitude gave the Cross to Archbishop Nikon to bless the people.

Afterward, Metropolitan Tikhon acknowledged Archbishop Nikon's loving and dedicated service to the Church. "You should know while carrying this great burden that you are loved," he said. He added, "I have been looking for a chance to award you the Order of Saint Innocent—



Gold Class," a high honor granted by the Holy Synod of the OCA.



His Eminence, seated in his wheelchair and wearing comfortable clothing, responded, "None of the other bishops get to wear this award with this outfit."

Fr. John Kreta, chancellor of the Diocese of New England, shared a poster of the anniversary gift, which was not quite ready for delivery: a quilt with images of each parish in both dioceses. He did give a matching pillow on the day.

Fr. Vasily Lickwar expressed "the profound love of the clergy and faithful" for Archbishop Nikon.

He replied, "These are easy dioceses to love. As clergy we plant the seeds. We don't get to see these seeds germinate for twenty or thirty years. Our privilege is to plant the seeds of the



Above: Fr. John Kreta presents a poster representation of the quilt that would be delivered later as a 50th anniversary gift to His Eminence.

Below: Archbishop Nikon stands in the midst of the celebration.



gospel in the hearts of faithful, knowing it will bear fruit. I am honored to serve along with you."

Fr. Dennis Rhodes, who had just returned from a mission trip to Albania, brought gifts and greetings. He had the blessing to serve with His Beatitude, Anastasios, Archbishop of Albania. When Fr. Dennis introduced himself, Archbishop Anastasios immediately asked to pass on his brotherly greetings. A vicar bishop asked to pass along gifts to Archbishop Nikon as well.

The celebration concluded with cake and general fellowship. Each guest took time to sit and speak with His Eminence before he departed.

In the words of a prayer from the day's Molieben, "Most merciful Master ... grant our archpastor and all Your people health, virtue and length of days."

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Right: The relics of all the canonized saints of North America were set in the middle of All Saints of America Church for veneration.



Rejoicing in All Saints of America

The church of All Saints of North America invited everyone to join us for the celebration of their Feast Day on June 30.

The afternoon began with the small Paraklesis to the Most Holy Theotokos. We prayed for the intercession of the Theotokos for our dear bishop Nikon, the Priests, Matushkas, and faithful of our diocese and our parish who are sick, suffering, and grieving. This service was served before an Icon of the Theotokos which, on the Fifth Saturday of Great Lent this year, the Saturday dedicated to the Theotokos, streamed a single stream of Holy Oil.

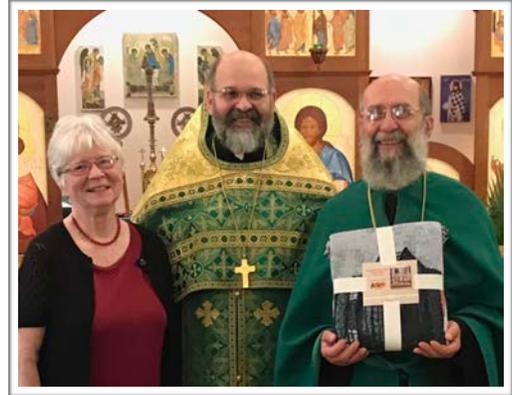
This happened during a time when our small parish was deeply grieving and shocked by the death of our beloved Samya. Samya was a beautiful young lady of 24 who was baptized and grew up in our church and passed away on Forgiveness Sunday in the #302 Flight in Ethiopia, which crashed leaving no survivors. Since that time, others that we have

loved in our parish also passed away, and still others are very sick.

As Fr. John Kreta remarked: “This small stream of Holy Oil was, we believe, a visit to us from the Theotokos to tell us ‘I am with you,’ She is here with us all to comfort and strengthen us. To give us hope and encouragement. Not our church only, but our entire diocese is struggling and suffering, and needs her comfort, her encouragement, strength and hope. Her icon is a gift bestowed on all of us.”

Following the Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos, we served an Akathist to All the Saints of North America, our patron Saints. Our small Parish is greatly blessed to have the relics of 10 of the North American Saints. The relics were placed in the center of the church and we knew that, not only physically, but also spiritually, we were praying surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses.” Standing before the relics of 10 glorious saints, and an icon which had streamed was truly awe inspiring.

Serving with us were several priests from the New England diocese, including Fr. Vladimir Aleandro. It was his last service before his retirement. On behalf of our parish, Fr. John presented Fr. Vladimir and Matushka Susanne with a retirement gift: a blanket with a lighthouse on it. A lighthouse has been the theme of Fr. Vladimir's service to God. "I will build you a lighthouse from which the light of Christ can shine." Fr. Vladimir and Matushka have certainly done so throughout their years of service.



Above: Fr. John Kreta stands with M. Susanne and Fr. Vladimir Aleandro after presenting them a retirement gift.

Fr. John concluded the day by saying: "These gifts of the relics and the Icon are not for our parish only, they are for all of us. Anytime that you wish to come pray before the relics, or simply sit for a time in the presence of the saints, call me! I will

come open the church for you. Do not be shy, they are here for all of us!"

The church's phone number, if you would like to contact Fr. John, is (860) 824-1340. You can also learn more at the parish website:

[<allsaintsofamerica.us>](http://allsaintsofamerica.us)

Glory to God!

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Below: Fr. Steven Hosking congratulates Charles Giessen, the winner of the St. Alexis Chili/Chowder Cook-off.

St. Alexis Church, Clinton, Conn.

Vincent Melesko

On Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, St. Alexis honored the scouts of our parish for Scout Sunday. Altar boys Michael and Zachary Neiss wore their Boy Scout uniforms to church.



Also honored were Kyra Suerattan and her sister Anastasia Elliott, life members of the Girl Scouts, and Alec Hoehnebart, a current Boy Scout.

Charles Giessen was this year's winner of St. Alexis' Souper Bowl, Chili/Chowder Cook-off. His winning chili was a very tasty chicken chili. Thus far, we have had no repeat winners of the Souper Bowl trophy.

Cooks brought in their favorite chili, chowder or soup and parishioners voted on their favorite dish by contributing donations. The dish that received the most donations was declared the winner. As the winner, Charles received the "Traveling Trophy" and a hand crafted wooden spoon. This year we raised just over \$630 for OCMC and donations of nonperishable food stuff was collected for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries.

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St. Mark of Ephesus welcomes you!

Catherine Condrick

St. Mark of Ephesus Orthodox Mission is located in the quaint, New England town of Kingston, Massachusetts. We are blessed with a warm, family-oriented body of faithful believers and our members are of all age groups and we embrace many cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00 every Sunday morning and Great Vespers is held the first Saturday of every month at 6:00 in the evening. We have a lively group of children and church School classes take place every Sunday after venerating the cross. If you are ever in the Kingston area, please come and worship with us. We would love to see you!

This summer, for the very first time, our church school is hosting its very first Summer Church School Day on Saturday, August 3. This day will begin at 9:30 in the morning with a fellowship breakfast and will run through dinner into the evening followed by Great Vespers. The theme is "Defenders of the Faith" and the children



dren will participate in a variety of educational indoor and outdoor activities. On Sunday, August 4, the children will share their experience with the parish. If you would like to learn more about St. Mark of Ephesus Orthodox Mission, please visit our website <stmarkofephesusma.org> and our Facebook page. Details regarding the Summer Church School Day are located on our website under the Church School tab. **ONE +**

ONE Stewards Summer Update

Thank you all, individuals and parishes, for your generous support of ONE Stewards during 2019. Our ONE Stewards donations support our diocesan Youth programs, Seminarians, Missions, OCA Seminaries, and Charity donations.

As you already may be aware, there will not be a Youth Rally in 2019. Some ONE Stewards donations were specifically given to support the Youth Rally. It has been decided that these Youth Rally donations will not be transferred to the Diocesan account for use in 2019 but instead will

remain in the ONE Stewards account. In this way these donations will be available to support a 2020 Youth Rally or to support new Youth programs that may be implemented next year.

Thank you all again for "Giving Above and Beyond" in 2019.

ONE Stewards
PO Box 1182
Torrington, CT 06790

Deacon Paul Nimchek
ONE Stewards Administrator

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Fourth Blessing of the Bikes

For the fourth year in a row, All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church of Salisbury, Conn., held a Blessing of the Bikes for the community. On Sunday, June 2, a total of 21 brought their motorcycles for the blessing. The event was covered by the local newspaper, The Lakeville Journal.

According to the report, the participants began with a ride from Northfield, gathering riders from across the state as well as New York, traveling the scenic route to Twin Lakes for the blessing.

After Fr. John Kreta led the prayers and blessed each bike, the church welcomed their guests with a picnic. The journalist Lans Christensen was struck by the contrast between the unassuming exterior and the awe-inspiring interior.

Fr. John did not repeat his experience of riding on the back of any of the bikes this year, for-

unately. But the rest of the day seems a beautiful tradition in the making to connect with the wider community.

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Upcoming Events

Sept 15, 2015 Deadline for the next issue of the ONE.

Aug 3

Summer Church School Day at St. Mark's, Kingston, Mass.

Oct 25-26

Diocesan Assembly in Clinton, Conn.