

O. N. E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Archpriest David Koles retires from Holy Trinity, New Britain



Right: Fr. David Koles preaches just before his retirement.

Paul Salina

Archpriest David Koles retired as rector of the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in New Britain, Conn., on June 30, 2021 after serving the faithful of that parish for fifteen years. Fr. David is actually the first priest to retire from the parish, which was founded in 1902, as all other priests had moved to other assignments. The one exception is Fr. Joseph Dankevich of blessed memory,

who fell asleep in the Lord as the active parish priest with 34 years of service.

Fr. David received his Master of Divinity Degree in 1983 at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and married Melanie (Kopcha) that same year. They then moved to San Francisco where he was ordained a deacon and served as

Koles continued on 2

Right: "The Holy Things are for the holy." Fr. David Koles presides at the Divine Liturgy.



Koles continued from I

the administrative aide to the Bishop of San Francisco. Fr. David was ordained to the priesthood in 1987 with a move to Terryville, Conn., where he and Matuska Melanie raised two daughters, Juliana and Irene.

Fr. David was first assigned to the parish in Willimantic and then was assigned to the Holy Trinity Church in 2006. During the last fifteen years, Fr. David has served as Dean of the Connecticut Deanery and held several other positions and responsibilities within the Diocese of New England. Fr. David has always welcomed visiting clergy and hierarchy with enthusiasm and genuine warmth and created close ties with other clergy and parishes in New Britain.

Fr. David has been a faithful servant to God and to his flock. He has

been meticulous in his preparation of services and has gained a vast array of knowledge in travels to many historic sites of importance in the Orthodox Faith.

Having been in the Altar to assist at times, I have observed the reverence and prayerful manner in which Fr. David conducts himself throughout all services. Fr. David has baptized our infants, married our young adults, ministered to our sick and suffering, and has buried our elders. All was done with love and compassion for his flock.

Fr. David enjoys the game of golf, but unfortunately, it is a fickle mistress to him, teasing him with an occasional good shot but forcing him to chase the little white ball into the rough, woods, or sand traps more often than not. Perhaps retirement will allow him the time to perfect his game so he can catch up to the proficiency of Matushka.

And speaking of Matuska Melanie, she has been a dedicated

Above: The Holy Trinity parish presents a gift to Fr. David at his retirement party.



member of the Sisterhood, organizing many parish events and helping with the collection of donations for our neighborhood families and organizing the coffee hour list. All this done in addition to singing in the choir and helping with two grandchildren.

Fr. David and Matuska Melanie were honored with a catered brunch on Pentecost, where several speakers recounted the service and friendship of our pastor. A proclamation from the Mayor of New Britain was read and

Below: Fr. David, M. Melanie, and their daughters Juliana and Irene.



the parish thanked Fr. David with several gifts.

Fr. David and Matuska Melanie will be attached to the Terryville

Parish and he will continue to serve the Diocese in his semi-retirement.

May God Grant Fr. David and Matuska Melanie many years. **ONE +**

Right: The Koles family.



Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, to celebrate their 125th anniversary *September 25–26, 2021*

Nina Kosowski

Save the Date: Saturday And Sunday, Sept. 25–26, 2021.

The 125th anniversary of Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, Conn., was supposed to be held in 2020, but the Covid-19 virus altered those plans. Recently, permission was granted to hold our delayed celebration. Plans for the weekend include: Saturday Vespers at 5:00 pm with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon. Sunday morning, beginning at 8:45 am, there will be a Hierarchal Liturgy with

His Beatitude. Coffee hour to follow. At approximately 1:30 pm a dinner will be served at The Whitney Farms Restaurant in Monroe. Specific details for the dinner menu, reservation dates, payments, and banquet ad book will be forthcoming. Anyone who attends Three Saints, has family (past/present) associated with Three Saints, and friends of Three Saints parishioners is welcome to attend. Mark your calendar and join our celebration. For further information: contact Fr. Patrick Burns (203-734-3988) or Nina Kosowski (nk246@aol.com). **ONE +**

Two members of the Diocese of New England receive college scholarships from Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Conn.

Matushka Lydia Westerberg

Congratulations to Trey (Richard III) Comshaw of SS Peter and Paul parish in Meriden and Mary Halvorsen of Christ the Savior Church in Southbury. Each student has been awarded a \$1,000.00 FORCC Scholarship.

Trey will attend the University of Saint Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut and will major in psychology with the goal of earning of Bachelor of Arts Degree.

Mary will attend the University of Rochester with the goal of attaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in biology.

Trey and Mary have worked to achieve academic excellence. They have also completed the entire 11-12 years of church school coursework offered in their respective parishes and have served their parishes in many different ways. Additionally, they have actively participated in their local parish com-

munity sharing their time and talents on many levels. Trey: "Whether it's cleaning the church, helping with Special Olympics, or volunteering in the Westfield Fire Department, there is always someone in need. These hands-on opportunities have given me real life experiences that have helped to shape my life perspective."

One church school teacher commented that whenever called upon, Mary [has always been] "gracious and positive to take on a leadership role" and to actively participate in parish "outreach activities."

Trey and Mary will be recognized on Sunday, October 3rd at the annual FORCC Benefit Banquet, St. Dimitrie Orthodox Church Easton Connecticut.

We wish our students many blessings as they continue their education.

May God grant them many years!

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Left: Mary Halvorsen at the University of Rochester.



Right: Trey Comshaw was recognized as a graduate earlier this year at SS. Peter & Paul, Meriden, Conn.



Christ is risen! Now what?

Right: Members of Holy Transfiguration gather to discuss the "55 Maxims of the Christian Life."

Photo: M. Cynthia Voytovich



Heidi Crosby

Parishioners of all ages at Holy Transfiguration, New Haven, took advantage of pleasant summer Sunday mornings after the Divine Liturgy to enjoy coffee hour al fresco, followed by a discussion of Fr. Thomas Hopko's "55 Maxims of the Christian Life."

Knowing that the excitement of Pascha is all-too-often followed by a dispiriting return to old routines, our Church School director, Heidi Crosby, organized this series as an encouragement to keep the joy of Pascha and the disciplines of Great Lent alive in our day-to-day struggles. Each week, she prepared icon cards with 5-7 of the maxims printed on the back,

together with a tangible reminder to take home with us: cotton balls to recall reserving time for silence and pennies to denote faithfulness in small things, to name two.

Fr. Steven Voytovich and Dn. Mark Roosien led the discussions, expounding on Fr. Hopko's pithy words with scriptural passages, quotes from the Fathers, and personal anecdotes. It was particularly moving to hear stories about Fr. Hopko and Fr. Paul Lazor and their joint efforts at St. Vladimir's Seminary on the one-year anniversary of Fr. Paul's falling asleep in the Lord.

We were also privileged to hear from our former seminary intern, Cornelius, who spent a portion of his

pandemic quarantine time in a monastery and had observations to share based on his experiences there. With the wonders of modern technology, our livestream-attending parishioners were blessed to be able to listen in on the series, as well.

After many months of very limited fellowship, it was refreshing and

encouraging to spend time with one another contemplating the practical ways in which each of us can nurture growth in life, faith, and spiritual understanding. We look forward to more such endeavors in the future!

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Right: Fr. Steven Voytovich and Dn. Mark Roosien lead the parish discussion.

Photo: M. Cynthia Voytovich



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Upcoming

September 30 Deadline for next issue of the ONE

- Sept. 25-26 Three Saints, Ansonia, celebrates 125th anniversary
- October 3 FORCC (Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut) Annual Benefit Banquet at St. Dimitrie Church, Easton, CT
- October 29-30 Diocesan Assembly hosted by Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT