

O. N. E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Candidate for Bishop Announced *Special Assembly on October 28*

V. Rev. Joshua Mosher

In a letter to the Diocese dated June 1, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon called for a Special Assembly to consider the nomination of Fr. Benedict Churchill for Bishop of New England.

Fr. Benedict is currently priest of St. George Mission in South Carolina and also an editor of SVS Press. He is a retired manager at Xerox and a scuba instructor—so he has excellent administrative and leadership instincts and is in vigorous health.

He met for two hours with the Diocesan Council last month and thoroughly impressed all of us. Our biggest regret is that we need to wait many months before he could possibly be elected and consecrated as our bishop.

His Beatitude's letter is published on page 4.

Right: Fr. Benedict Churchill



Paschal Joy Abounds at Holy Ghost, for the Ordination of Fr. Mark Roosien

V. Rev. Joshua Mosher

On Saturday, May 6, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the hierarchal Divine Liturgy at Holy Ghost, Bridgeport, where he ordained Deacon Mark Roosien to the Holy Priesthood. Fr. Moses Locke was also recognized for his years of service with the *nebedrennik* and purple skufia.

Among the concelebrating clergy were Fr. John Kreta, Diocesan Chancellor; Fr. Steven Voytovich, Connecticut Dean and Parish Administrator; Fr. Chad Hatfield, President of St. Vladimir's Seminary; and a host of local and seminary clergy. The church was filled with parish faithful and well-wishers from near and very far, including the widely spread Roosien family and a company of seminarians. Many remarked on the joyful and inspiring Paschal atmosphere of the day.

His Beatitude preached on the Leave-taking of the Myrrh-bearers: "The Spirit bears witness in us, and we bear witness to one another, sometimes in ways we don't expect, notice, or ever realize. We never know what potentially great saints may be out there, waiting to be inspired by our little works of devotion and faithfulness.

"Just as the myrrh-bearers and apostles had their part, and the fathers had their part, and the ascetics and the martyrs have their parts, so do we have our part to play in bearing witness to Jesus Christ and carrying forward that witness to the world

Above: A host of clergy await the entrance of Metropolitan Tikhon.

Deacon Mark Roosien and Protodeacon Paul Nimchek bear censers in the center.

Below: Metropolitan Tikhon delivers the ordination charge to Deacon Mark as he kneels at the corner of the Holy Table.

Photos: Subdn. Nectarii Lukianov.



throughout space and time.

“And if we are faithful in little, then we have the Lord’s promise that he will put us over much in the age to come—for even the smallest portion in the kingdom of heaven is much greater than anything in this world.”

After the Liturgy, Fr. Steven Voytovich spoke of how his heart “is warmed to see the discernment of Deacon Mark fulfilled in ordination today. It is also warmed, seeing the witness of this parish that consistently chose the hard way that leads to new life.”

Fr. John Kreta honored sacrifice made by Fr. Mark and Claire. Both taught and cared for their children while he finished seminary. He charged them in the words of the Lord: “Remember you have not chosen me but I have chosen you.’ Bring Christ to those that need *Him*, not yourself. We pray that carrying His cross will bring you great joy.”



Below: Fr. Moses Locke is awarded the *nebedrennik*.

Photo: Subdn. John Barone.



Above: Deacon Mark and Mka. Claire and their children, standing with Fr. David Koles.

Fr. Chad Hatfield observed the great number of seminarians who chose to come celebrate. He said, “It is a testimony to how you built strong relationships in just one year. Fr. Mark is a gifted teacher who will be helping parish to grow in spirit and service to the work of Christ here.”

Fr. Mark responded with humble thanks to those who guided and supported him. Beyond those who were able to participate in the liturgy, he acknowledged the great influence of Father Elijah Muller and Father

Patrick Riordan. He also honored the memory of St. Alexis Toth on the eve of his feast, rejoicing in his exemplary efforts that included helping to found this church of Holy Ghost. He greeted and thanked his parents and family for loving support and coming from all over to celebrate. The farthest came from Lille, France!

Fr. Mark concluded, speaking both of himself and his wife Claire, “It is not an achievement to be ordained but a mark of obedience to God. It is not an end point but the beginning of a life of sacrifice and service which both of us are signed up for. Pray for us as we try to bear the cross.”

ONE †

Archpastoral Letter on Candidate for Bishop

Dear Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Diocese of New England The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

With gratitude to Almighty God, I am writing to you today to inform you of the progress made in identifying a possible candidate for the office of Bishop of New England. As you know, the Diocese of New England has been widowed since the passing from this life to life eternal of the Ever-Memorable Archbishop Nikon in September of 2019. In July of 2020, in my capacity as Locum Tenens of the Diocese of New England, I informed the Diocese of the step-by-step procedures we would take in finding a Bishop for New England.

I am pleased to announce that the first eight steps of this procedure have been completed. The search committee first met (via zoom) with Fr. Benedict Churchill for several hours to discern if he might be a good candidate for Bishop of our Diocese. This meeting proved most favorable and it was recommended that Fr. Benedict be asked to meet with the Diocesan Council. This meeting took place in person on May 6th and lasted for over two hours. On May 17th at the next Diocesan Council Meeting, the council voted unanimously to request me, as the Locum Tenens of the Diocese, to call for a Special Nominating Assembly and to recommend Fr. Benedict Churchill to be nominated for the office of Bishop of New England.

In consultation with the Diocesan Council, I am now calling for a Special Diocesan Assembly to be held on Saturday October 28, 2023, at Holy

Transfiguration Orthodox Church in New Haven, CT for the sole purpose of nominating Fr. Benedict Churchill for presentation to the Holy Synod for election as the Bishop of the Diocese of New England at the next Regular Meeting of the Holy Synod in November.

The procedure for this special nominating assembly and election is outlined in my letter mentioned above, with the understanding that there is only one name for consideration to elect or not to elect.

The Diocesan Council has approved the limiting of our already scheduled Diocesan Assembly on Oct 27- 28 to a one-day assembly to allow for the Special Assembly on Oct 28 following the Divine Liturgy. Each parish will need to decide on how to elect their delegate for the Special Assembly, either to have the elected delegate for the Annual Assembly serve as the delegate for both assemblies, or to elect a separate delegate for each assembly.

In the light of the Great Feast of Pentecost, let us pray the Holy Spirit who descended upon the Apostles and filled them with knowledge and wisdom, will guide all of us in the selection of the Bishop of New England. I ask all of you to continue to include the petition sent out for this purpose in the litany of supplication, with great attention until we meet in October.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada
Locum Tenens of the Diocese of New England

Ordination of Fr. Zachary Wasuta, Archpastoral Visits to Springfield, Mass.; Hartford, Clinton and Ansonia, Conn.

On April 1-2, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon made archpastoral visits to three churches in New England. On Saturday morning, April 1, His Beatitude ordained Zachary Wasuta to the Holy Priesthood in the course of the hierarchal Divine Liturgy at Saint Peter & Saint Paul Church, Springfield, Mass. The Metropolitan also awarded Priest Mark Korban the jeweled cross.

Fr. Zachary has faithfully served Holy Resurrection Church, Berlin, N.H., and now has been assigned to lead and care for that community.

That evening, the Metropolitan visited All Saints, Hartford, for Great Vespers.

On Sunday, April 2, His Beatitude presided at the hierarchal Divine Liturgy at St. Alexis, Clinton, Conn.



Below: Mary Serviss greets Metropolitan Tikhon at the doors of St. Alexis, Clinton.



He preached on St. Mary of Egypt: “St. Mary, among the greatest of ascetics, was not abandoning the world, but benefitting the world immensely through her prayer. Indeed, it is the teaching of the saints that the world is only sustained by and for the prayers of the righteous. In this way, Saint Mary’s self-denial and retreat into the desert was not an abandonment of the world, but a profound act of Christian love.

“Our repentance, our turning back to a right relationship with God, can become for us, too, a personal initiative that allows a bit more grace into fallen creation.”

Sunday afternoon, the Metropolitan presided at the Service of Holy Unction for the Connecticut Deanery. The church was filled with faithful seeking God’s healing mercy. **ONE** +

Archpastoral Visit to St. Alexis

Vincent Melesko

On Sunday, April 2, Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Church, Clinton, Conn., was honored to have His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon visit our church. Upon entering the church, Metropolitan Tikhon was greeted by Mary Serviss, with a bouquet of flowers; Carolyn Neiss, Church Council President, with bread and salt and Father Steven Hosking, with the blessing cross. Deacon Timothy Skuby, attached to the parish, was joined by Deacon Peter Ilchuk, Subdeacons Nektary Lukianov and John Barone and Altar server Ephraim Mosher.

Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated a beautiful Liturgy. The church choir, lead by Sue Lukianov, was excellent. After the



Top: Carolyn Neiss, St. Alexis Church Council President greets Metropolitan Tikhon.

Middle: Metropolitan Tikhon acknowledges the greeting of Father Steven Hosking.

Bottom Left: Metropolitan Tikhon with Deacon Timothy Skuby, Deacon Peter Ilchuk and Subdeacon Nektary Lukianov

Liturgy, all enjoyed a Lenten buffet in the church hall. **ONE** ✝

Bottom Right: Metropolitan Tikhon with Subdeacon John Barone, Altar server Ephraim Mosher, Deacon Peter Ilchuk and Subdeacon Nektary Lukianov.



Orthodox Christians for Life, Christ the Savior

Sofia Cole, Arden Stamper

During the month of March, Christ the Savior Church in Southbury, CT participated in the 3rd Annual National Orthodox Baby Shower. They collected items for Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center in Waterbury. Donations supported Carolyn's Place's "Earn While You Learn" initiative, a program to teach first-time parents the basics of pregnancy and child care. The program is six-weeks long, and participants receive a gift every week and a new crib, baby outfit, and keepsake at the conclusion of the classes. Over the six weeks, they learn about and are given a car seat, baby bath and accessories, a mommy bag for the hospital, and more. Led by their Orthodox Christians for Life parish ministry, Christ the Savior collected 956 diapers, 45 packages of wipes, and 215 other items.

Christ the Savior also marched for the sanctity of human life at the Connecticut March for Life in Hartford on March 22.

ONE †



Top: OCLife parish ministry leaders **Arden Stamper** (left) and **Sofia Cole** (right).

Middle: Collections for Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center.

Bottom: (Back left to right) Mat. Suzanne Aleandro, Sarah Cole, Tim Cole, Elias Locke, Fr. Moses Locke, Mat. Christy Locke, (front left to right) Sofia Cole, Seraphim Locke, Hannah Cole, Maria Locke, and Symeon Locke.



Once More Unto the Breach

Thomas Barton

“The gates of hell shall not prevail.”

We are all of us familiar with this saying of Christ, and I am sure all of us have said it many times. But I have realized that the way in which it is most often quoted is incorrect. It is most often cited when talk of persecutions arise. Demonization. When all the manifold assaults of the world are repeated as a litany and the final doxology comes in the form of, “but the gates of hell shall not prevail.”

Indeed, they shall not. But gates do not assault. They do not persecute. Gates are stationary objects. When our Lord told us they will not prevail He was speaking with the expectation that His Church would be on the offensive. That we would go and lay siege to Hell. That we would overcome those gates and leave them ruined behind us as we took the example of His Harrowing as our guide and followed Him into the sulphureous regions of the earth to help save those held captive there. Our temples are not castles in which we wait out an attack, they are outposts behind enemy lines from which we are meant to face the powers and principalities of the world through spiritual combat, not just within our own hearts, but upon the very streets we walk. Yes, the gates of Hell will not prevail, but for as long as we do nothing, they shall remain standing.

And where are these gates? They are down on the corner. They are in the houses of the lonely. They are at the grocery store and the shopping mall and the hospital. In the towers of commerce, the halls of politics, the

celluloid dreams of the media. The gates of Hell are in the suburbs and the ghetto and the trailer park. In the hearts of all those faces walking past us on the street, who have never once heard the Gospel outside the particularly American, and heretical, version preached largely by ahistorical and unorthodox voices.

And the gates of Hell are in the hearts of you and me.

The Church, of course, holds within her the means to break down those gates within the human heart. And any member who faithfully confesses to their spiritual father and strives to live the ascetic life of the Church cannot help but begin the long and arduous war to conquer them within the soul, but the problem, the key problem, is that one has to actually enter into the Church in order to begin this warfare.

For the vast majority of those around us, the war is not begun, and the enemy takes hold, and the slow process of condemnation is eventually completed. And we, the Body of Christ, sit back and watch it happen. We watch it happen out of fear of being offensive, even though Christ is “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” We watch it happen out of fear of our own vulnerability, even though “God’s power is made perfect in weakness.” And, God help us, we watch it happen out of our own indifference and lack of love, even though “he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the

Right: Metropolitan Tikhon presides at the Reception into Orthodoxy of adult converts at St. Nicholas, Salem, Mass., on the eve of Palm Sunday, April 8. Pictured: Robert (John) Crowley along with Joseph (Anthony) and Mary Beth (Elizabeth) Marsala.



name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” This is the the Great Commission which we are meant to fulfill.

The word *commission* means “to send together.” It speaks of a unity of purpose. The Church through her various members is directed towards this one overarching goal, which is the baptism of the world and the discipleship of all people. Even in the seeming isolation of ascetic endeavor, in the cave of our heart where we seek God, we are not doing it for ourselves alone but for the sake of the whole world. This is one of the reasons why St. Anthony went into the desert, why monasteries exist, and why the Liturgy is held. “And through us to all the people.”

There can be no Church without this mission and the health of the Church will depend upon how seriously we strive to follow it. Our parishes will live and die by how we undertake this

mighty and God-given task and the souls of our brothers and sisters will likewise either enter into eternal bliss or condemnation based upon their ability to love outside themselves for the salvation of their neighbor.

At our Diocesan Assembly in 2022 there was much talk of parish closures and consolidations, of new ways of functioning. We have parishes without priests, parishes without enough members to sustain themselves, and clergy who are underpaid and needing to take extra work in order to survive, but what is not needed are new models and paradigms. We need to remember that our faith is Apostolic, and to remember it in a way that goes beyond the apologetic and intellectual. It needs to be lived. We need to realize we are ones sent out into the world with a purpose.

If we care about declining parish membership, if we care about being able to support our priests, if we care about the Orthodox Church being more than an enclosed community which most people in this country

know nothing about, then the answer is simple: We must do the work we have been given to do. We must seek to fulfill to the best of our ability the Great Commission. We must evangelize. For God's promise is indeed sure, and if He tells us the gates of Hell will not prevail then they will not prevail, but we cannot sit in our parishes and wait for Hell's detainees to escape on their own. We must actively work to go and free them.

To this end, the Diocese of New England should consider establishing an evangelization committee, comprised of both clergy and laity who feel compelled by God to do the work of the evangelist, in order to strengthen and inspire this work in all of our parishes. Its goal would be to find ways to evangelize in the world around us, taking into account the strange new landscape in which the Church finds herself, to teach those called to the task of evangelism, and to foster enthusiasm for this work within parishes. Priests should be encouraged to seek out parishioners who have this gift, and those parishioners themselves should be trained for this work. The clergy cannot do this alone.

We seek to help our communities in many ways, but mere outreach is not enough. After Christ fed the five thousand, when many followed Him to the next town, He said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." This must be our message as well. All of our work to alleviate the material conditions of

those around us must be oriented towards salvation. Faith comes through hearing: we must speak. And we must journey forth.

If we are to truly offer the Gospel to the world than like Christ we must go to the places He went to. Where do the drug addicts go in our towns? We must go there. Where do the homeless find themselves? We must go there. Where are all the hurt and the broken and the lame and the poor and the wretched cast-off members society cares nothing about? We must go there. It does the suffering people we encounter no good to hear God loves them if we do not love them. We would then only make ourselves out to be liars. We are the Body of Christ. When we reach out our hands in love, they are His. If we don't do this, who will?

This work will be difficult and will take great courage. There will be pushback, not just from the world, but from our own brothers and sisters. We will be forced to be more open, taking the suffering into our own hearts. We will be afraid. Unsure. We will feel like we are walking through the dark. And the journey will be perilous. Real danger will be involved. For the places we must go, the places which Christ and His saints have never shied away from, are not easy nor nice. This should be expected, for we will be entering into Hell itself. But let us remember, Christ's light shines even there, for "if I go down to Sheol, You are there." And go down we must. This is where following Him leads.

Again, I ask: If we don't do this, who will?

Thomas Barton is a member of Holy Trinity, Springfield, Vermont.

ONE Stewards 2023

On Palm Sunday, April 9, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Holy Dormition, Cumberland, R.I. He awarded **Father Vasily Lickwar (right)** the miter, honoring his many years of service.



“GIVING ABOVE AND BEYOND”

To date, the ONE Stewards donations have totaled a little over \$15,000. This is \$7,000 short of the budgeted amount. The Youth Rally in August needs our additional support since the total expenses for Rally have increased considerably.

Enclosed with this ONE Newsletter is a ONE Stewards return envelope. Please consider sending a donation. If you have already donated, please consider a second donation. **Thank you!**

In 2008, our ever-memorable Archbishop Nikon began the “Bishop’s Circle Challenge”, asking us to join him in donating \$500 or more to ONE Stewards. Thus far this year there have been 12 Bishop Circle donors.

Please help grow the number of Bishop Circle Donors. **Thank you!**

Your ONE Stewards donations enable the Diocese to support the following essential Diocesan programs:

- ◆ Youth Rally and other Youth Programs
- ◆ Seminaries and Scholarships for Seminarians
- ◆ Support for Diocesan Missions
- ◆ Charitable Giving to support programs like IOCC, OCMC, OCA Stewards

Use the ONE Stewards reply envelope enclosed in the newsletter or donate online at our Diocesan website, <https://dneoca.org>

Thank you for your continued support.

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Upcoming

- July 31** **Deadline for next issue of the ONE**
- Aug. 7-12** **Diocesan Youth Rally**
- Oct. 1** **Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in CT (FORCC) Benefit Dinner at St. Dimitrie Church, Easton, Conn. Dr. Philip Mamalakis, guest speaker**
- Oct. 27** **Annual Diocesan Assembly at Holy Transfiguration, New Haven**
- Oct. 28** **Special Nominating Assembly also in New Haven**