

O. N. E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Right: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon informs

Father Benedict (Churchill) that he has been nominated by the Diocese of New England.
Photo: John Kruchok

On Nov. 6, 2023, the Holy Synod of Bishops elected him as Bishop of Hartford and New England.

His Grace, Benedict, Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of New England



Archpriest Joshua Mosher

Calling upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, on Oct. 28, 2023, the delegates of the Special Nominating Assembly of the Diocese of New England overwhelmingly nominated Father Benedict Churchill to be considered by the Holy Synod of Bishops for election as Bishop of New England. Father Benedict asked for all the prayers of the whole diocese.

Saturday began with a Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven. His Beatitude presided, with Diocesan Chancellor Archpriest John Kreta, Archpriest Steven Voytovich of Holy Transfiguration and Dean of the Connecticut Deanery, and numerous clergy of the diocese celebrating. The church was

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St. Mark of Ephesus Orthodox Church welcomes Fr. Kevin Kalish and his family

From left to right:
Mka. Erin, Mary, Father
Kevin, Elizabeth and
James Kalish.



Syrian and the Orthodox Tradition. The book was published in 2022 by Holy Trinity Seminary Press.

Fr. Kevin and Matushka Erin's son, James, is an altar server at St. Mark's, and both he and his younger sister, Mary, attend church school; we are blessed to have the eldest, Elizabeth, teaching our young children in church school.

Catherine Condrick

We are truly blessed to welcome our new priest, Fr. Kevin Kalish, and his family to St. Mark of Ephesus Orthodox Church in Kingston, Mass. May God grant them many years!

Fr. Kevin was born and raised in Belleville, Ill., and received his MA and PhD at Princeton University and his Diploma in Pastoral Theology from the Pastoral School of the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. He was ordained to the priesthood on September 5, 2010, and was received into the Orthodox Church in America in January of 2021.

He is also a published writer and in 2022, he wrote *She Who Loved Much: The Sinful Woman in Saint Ephrem the*

Two events coming up at St. Mark's are our Christmas Fair (11/25) and Children's St. Nicholas Day Celebration and Christmas Tree decorating (12/3). We welcome all our brothers and sisters in Christ to come visit our parish. Sunday Divine Liturgy is at 10:00 AM with coffee and fellowship hour following; church school takes place every Sunday during the church school year after Liturgy, and Great Vespers is at 5:00 PM on the first Saturday of every month.

Please visit our website to learn more about our parish at this address: stmarkofephesusma.org

Visit our Facebook page at "St. Mark of Ephesus Orthodox Church, Kingston, MA."

ONE +

Altar Server Workshop in New Haven

Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, hosted a Subdeacon and Altar Server Workshop on Saturday, Oct. 14. Numerous men and boys gathered to learn from Fr. Steven Voytovich, Fr. Mark Roosien (who had considerable experience as a deacon), and Subdeacon Nectary Lukianov. Participants had the opportunity to practice challenging aspects of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. **ONE +**

Top Left: Subdeacon Nectary Lukianov guides workshop participants in vesting a bishop.



Top Right: Youngest participants



Bottom: Workshop participants receive instruction from Subdeacon Paul Tzvardik.



*Photo credit:
John Barone*

Scenes from Youth Rally 2023

Youth Rally 2023 hosted 48 campers this August in New Hampshire, with the theme, "Becoming Saints."

Youth Director Father Moses Locke was supported by Asst. Director Ephraim Mosher, Alexia Tassmer providing administrative support as Diocesan Secretary, Camp Nurse Rick Comshaw, as well as Fathers Patrick Burns, Mircea Geana and Kevin Kalish. Mka. Sarah Geana was deeply involved in Christian Education as well.

Camp counselors and a trained life guard completed the staff, but Rally also welcomed as a guest Father Benedict, later elected Bishop of New England.

*Photo credit:
Julaisa Santiago*





Rally this year featured crafts, games, educational activities, swimming and boating, and the traditional trip to a local amusement park.

All this was in addition to daily Matins or Divine Liturgy, Vespers and Compline.

*Photo credit:
Julaisa Santiago*



At this year's Rally, young adults served as camp counselors, choir director, Bible Study leader, photographer, and Asst. Youth Director.



Choir Director Advertisement

Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, Boston, MA

Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral (OCA) in Boston, MA seeks a Choir Director committed to leading its choir, recruiting and supporting new singers, and working with Cathedral clergy to nurture its life of worship. Our regular schedule includes Vigil on Saturday, the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, and daily Vespers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For each Feast Day, both Vigil and the Divine Liturgy are celebrated, and we offer a full cycle of services during Lent and Holy Week. Additionally, the Choir Director must be available for rehearsals, weddings, and funerals as the need arises.

Outside of Nativity, Great Lent, Holy Week, a typical week is 12-15 hours.

Skills and Experience:

Past experience in successfully leading a group of volunteer singers is required. Familiarity with Orthodox worship, liturgical cycles, and basic rubrics is also required. Experience in leading an Orthodox choir and working with clergy is ideal, but not required.

Compensation:

The anticipated pay for the position is \$35,000 - \$40,000 annually, with 3 weeks of paid vacation time.

How To Apply:

Email fr.theophan.whitfield@gmail.com to contact Father Theophan Whitfield, Cathedral Dean, for a detailed description of the position and its requirements. Following that, please send a resume and cover letter to the same address.

Bishop-Elect Benedict

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filled with delegates and many others come to worship and pray this historic day.

Metropolitan Tikhon in his sermon observed that this is the feast of Ven. Job of Pochaev, the patron saint of Archbishop Job of blessed memory, who was a beloved Bishop of New England before being transferred to the Diocese of the Midwest. His Beatitude noted that Archbishop Job painted the Diocesan Icon of the Sign which since that time continues to hold a place of honor throughout this and all Diocesan Assemblies.



Top: Metropolitan Tikhon presides at the opening prayer of the Diocesan Assembly on Friday, Oct. 27. Photo: John Kruchok

Kiev, who said there is no standing still in the spiritual life. We are either drawing near to the Light, to make it our own, or we are falling away into darkness.

At the conclusion of the service, His Beatitude added further remarks, noting that Lord in the second appointed Gospel called on us to take His yoke upon ourselves. “We are considering whether to ask Father Benedict to take this yoke upon himself to serve Christ in leading this diocese,” he said.



Middle: Fr. Benedict with Fr. John Hopko Photo: Timothy Fetzko

The metropolitan preached on the Lord’s instructing us in the day’s Gospel that a lamp is set on a lamp stand, not hidden. The saints illumine us in this way, and we can add even Archbishop Job to this, he said. As the psalmist writes, “God is glorified in the council of His saints.” At the same time, the glory we behold is not set out just for us to marvel at, but we are all called to strive to be filled with that Light. He concluded with a recollection of Metropolitan Onufry of



Bottom: Fr. Mark Roosien explains the new diaconal and catechist training program of the diocese. Photo: Timothy Fetzko

Top: The portrait of Metropolitan Platon stood in a place of honor throughout the two Assemblies, as part of the presentation on his life on Friday.



During the Liturgy, His Beatitude, on behalf of the Holy Synod, also awarded the jeweled cross to Fathers Robert Dick and John Eissman and elevated Father Steven Hosking to the dignity of Archpriest.

Following a generous brunch provided by the faithful of Holy Transfiguration Church, Metropolitan Tikhon convened the Special Nominating Assembly. He acknowledged it has been a long four-year process. First we gave time to mourn the well-loved

Bottom Left: A display case with some of the numerous historic items featured in Babette Basil's presentation on the life of her great-grandfather, Met. Platon.



Bottom Right: Ms. Basil addresses the Diocesan Assembly
Photos: Timothy Fet-zko

and ever-memorable Archbishop Nikon, who reposed in 2019. Then the Church needed considerable time to identify suitable candidates. But now we have a candidate in Father Benedict Churchill, who is originally from this diocese, which is the ideal case, His Beatitude said. He allowed that Father Benedict since has moved, and thus is not so familiar to many now. But Father Benedict has taken much time to meet on several occasions and become better known throughout the diocese.

Metropolitan Tikhon emphasized the nomination was not a foregone conclusion. We have only one candidate to consider, recommended by the Diocesan Search Committee. The Diocesan Council, after an extensive in-person meeting, asked His Beatitude to convene this assembly. "We call on the Holy Spirit to guide us and raise up a spiritual father for this diocese," he said.

Diocesan Chancellor Father John Kreta formally presented the name of Priest Benedict Churchill for nomination by the Diocese of New England. While singing "The grace of the Holy Spirit has assembled us today," the delegates voted by secret ballot. His Beatitude announced the result to the assembly, who, once he had



Top: Father Benedict addresses questions from the Assembly on Friday.

Photo: Timothy Fetzko

been recalled into their midst, greeted Father Benedict Churchill with gladness.

Friday, Oct. 27, was dedicated to an accelerated annual Diocesan Assembly, compressing the customary two days of business into one. By the grace of God and careful preparation and leadership, the agenda was completed with time to spare. The highlight of the day was a guest presentation by Babette Basil, the great-granddaughter of His Eminence, Platon, first Metropolitan of All America and Canada.

She shared stories and historic items from his life, which has not been well understood until now. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was fascinated to learn of the trove of family history and arranged to have most of it shipped to him in Russia; tragically, he died before publishing anything on Metropolitan Platon and those documents have been lost.

However, Ms. Basil has collected the invaluable remaining documents and items, which represent a personal record of the history of the Church in Russia and America before, during, and after the Russian Revolution. After years of fruitless efforts to have them translated and curated, she has at last established an encouraging collaboration with Father John Park-



er and St. Tikhon's Seminary. In recognition of this close relationship, she entrusted a pectoral cross of Met. Platon to Father Parker.

Ms. Basil spoke movingly of her great-grandfather's consistent courageous efforts to save lives. Most dramatically, he confronted a murderous pogrom in Kiev, rebuking the mob in full vestments, until they repented on their knees. Her grandmother spoke of how all her life, Jews would visit her home to express thanksgiving for Metropolitan Platon, without whom they would have been killed.

Metropolitan Platon wrote a chronicle of the martyrdom under the Bolsheviks of a great number of clergy in moving and brutal detail, how they were tortured and executed, how they sang hymns unceasingly before being shot. His Eminence himself was to be hanged from the Kremlin if caught, and all his immediate family

Bottom Left: Father Steven Voytovich, rector of host parish Holy Transfiguration, New Haven, welcomes Metropolitan Tikhon to preside at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the heart of the twin Diocesan Assemblies.

Bottom Right: Metropolitan Tikhon elevates Fr. Steven Hosking (pictured) to Archpriest, in addition to conferring the Jeweled Cross to Fathers Robert Dick and John Eissman.

Photos: John Kruchok



had wanted posters circulated. Elected as Metropolitan of All America and Canada in 1922, he faced the onslaught of the “Living Church,” which was a Soviet front organization claiming to be the official successor to the Orthodox Church in America. His cathedral of St. Nicholas in New York City was seized in a lawsuit, but in a few years, the Church, under Metropolitan Platon’s leadership, won later cases and ended the threat of the Living Church.

The presentation was gratefully received and plans are underway to share more of the life of Met. Platon with the whole Orthodox Church in America.

Earlier in the day, noting this was the Sixtieth Diocesan Assembly, Metropolitan Tikhon said he has presided over ten percent of the assemblies of the diocese. Father Kreta in his Chancellor’s Report gave thanks to God for two years of growth in the diocese after many years of decline. He also rejoiced in filling all but one parish vacancy after years of struggle. A new diaconal and catechist training program promises to raise up new leadership in parishes. Individual parishes are undertaking creative outreach.

Diocesan Youth Rally, the annual summer camp, continues a legacy of excellence and enthusiastic participation. Father Kreta emphasized, “Youth Rally is an essential ministry in our diocese. Kids are up against so much confusion in the world. They need an Orthodox environment to ground them for what they face in schools,

from their peers. We want this to grow as much as possible. Many youth workers have been inspired by their experience of youth camp. Youth Rally is one of the most important outreach efforts in our diocese.”

Among the final items considered at the Assembly was a resolution expressing profound gratitude for the love that Metropolitan Tikhon has manifested to the diocese in his years of caring for its people.

The business of the Annual Diocesan Assembly concluded with an opportunity for delegates to ask a variety of questions of Father Benedict. Among his responses, he said, “Whatever God expects me to do, I believe He also gives me the strength to do, as well as providing me with help, which comes through your prayers.... Christ will provide us a test where he has already provided us the questions, and the answers as well! ‘I was hungry and you fed me....’ I don’t have all the methods or ideas, but I encourage each person to think concretely about how to do that in life.”

Friday’s Assembly finished with Daily Vespers and dinner together in warm fellowship. **ONE** †

Bottom Right: Metropolitan Tikhon addresses Fr. Benedict as the Holy Synod of Bishops elects him Bishop of Hartford and New England at the Synod meeting following the Assembly, on Nov. 6, 2023.



Thinking Orthodox

Mka Lydia Westerberg

Dr. Jeannie Constantinou, author of several books including *Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind*, recently presented a thought-provoking FORCC (Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut) sponsored Zoom lecture on what it means to “think Orthodox.” What does Orthodox Christian culture mean? What does it mean to convert to Orthodoxy? Is the American experience, which has its roots grounded in the exaltation of the individual—is that experience a roadblock to participating fully in the Orthodox Christian culture, which is not based on the rationalism of the west or the exaltation of the individual but rather on the culture of the apostles and the exaltation of our Lord, Jesus Christ?

The full expression of the Orthodox faith is found in

the Church. Without living in the Church it is not possible for a Christian to be Orthodox, to think and act in an Orthodox Christian manner.

Dr. Constantinou’s outline of the historic theological differences between East and West throughout the centuries provided us with an understanding of how we got here. The real challenge is, “How are we going to maintain our Orthodox faith in what some would call a ‘post-Christian’ culture?” The only way is by acquiring an Orthodox mind through life in the Church. **ONE** †

Right: FORCC recently bought advertising on a billboard to promote awareness of Orthodoxy and direct inquiries to local churches.



Choir Director wanted at Three Saints Church, Ansonia

Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, Conn., is looking for a Choir Director to start as soon as possible.

The Choir Director of Three Saints is the manager of the Choir under the direction of the Parish Priest, in consultation with the Parish Council.

We strive for a consistent liturgical schedule and continual growth through receiving new converts and welcoming people to our parish.

If you are interested, if even a little bit, please contact Fr. Patrick Burns:

Call 203-893-1721 or email pnevmaticmotives@gmail.com for more information and to discuss other particulars.

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V. Rev. John Kreta, Chancellor
V. Rev. Joshua Mosher, Editor
Phone: 203-935-7066
priest@sspeterpaul.org



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For subscription requests:

priest@sspeterpaul.org
203-935-7066
PO Box 186
Durham CT 06422

Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church
PO Box 2876
305 Washington Avenue
New Britain Conn. 06050-2876
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Upcoming

- Jan. 15** **Deadline for the next issue of the ONE**
- Dec. 1** **Vespers, Nomination of Bishop-Elect Benedict, and Confession of Faith at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston**
- Dec. 2** **Hierarchal Divine Liturgy with Consecration and Enthronement of His Grace, Benedict, Bishop of Hartford and New England, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston**
- Dec. 9** **Youth Retreat, "From Sunday to Sunday: Living the Christian Life in the World with Prayer, Discipline and Love," with Fr. John Hopko at Holy Trinity Church, New Britain**
- Feb. 20** **Diocesan Council Meeting via Zoom**

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the Sept. 2023 issue, the final sentences of Mary Jane Rodger's article, "What Are We Called to Give?" were cut off.

Here is the conclusion:

"Let us consider the needs of the children in Romania as we consider what we are called to give. To learn more about donating to Saint Parascheva Orthodox Charity, visit spcharity.org on the web."