
Inside this issue:

Stewards of the Diocese of New England	2
Claremont Parish on Historic Register	3
Parish Grant Program	5
Clinton Parish News	5

His Grace Benedict Is Ordained Bishop of Hartford and New England

Right: Standing upon his cathedra, **His Grace, Bishop Benedict** blessed each of the assembled clergy and faithful in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston.



Archpriest Joshua Mosher

On Saturday, Dec. 2, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston, clergy and faithful from New England and beyond rejoined in the ordination of His Grace, Bishop-Elect Benedict as Bishop of Hartford and New England. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, together with numerous hierarchs of the Or-

thodox Church in America and sister jurisdictions, presided over the two-day order of services.

On Friday, Dec. 1, at the opening Service of Thanksgiving and the Nomination and Proclamation of a Bishop, His Grace said he would “strive by

“Bishop” continued on page 6

Name Change:

Stewards of the Diocese of New England *“Giving Above and Beyond”*

ONE Stewards has a new name. The Diocesan Council has re-named our annual appeal to “**Stewards of the Diocese of New England.**” The monies donated enable the Diocese to provide extra financial support to 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, and OCA Stewards

Since 2022 the Diocesan Youth Rally has returned with increased attendance, providing a very special week for everyone who attends. However, the cost of the Youth Rally has increased substantially. Your help is needed more than ever to support the Rally and the other Diocesan programs that Stewards of the Diocese of New England donations help fund.

Be on the lookout for the 2024 Stewards of the Diocese of New England reply envelopes in your mail at the



end of February. You can get a head start by donating online at our Diocesan website, <https://dneoca.org/>

During our upcoming Lenten journey, let us all commit to prayer, fasting, and charitable giving. Thank you for your continued support.

Checks should be made payable to “Diocese of New England.” Please note the new mailing address for donations:

**Rev. Justin Griffing
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
1304 North St.
Pittsfield, MA 01237-1569**

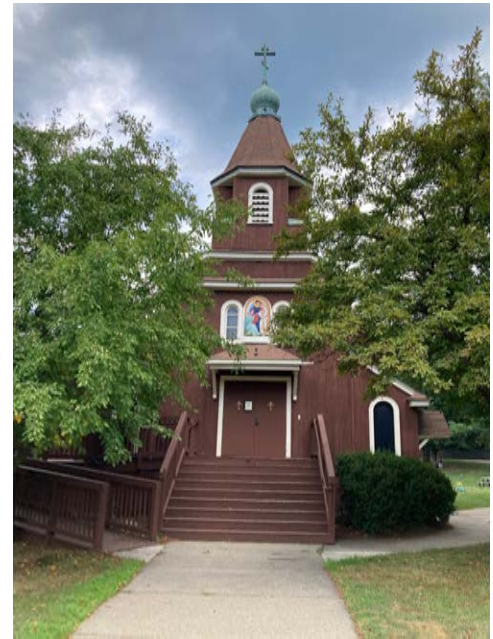
ONE †

Holy Resurrection, Claremont, listed on the N.H. Register of Historic Places

Ted Petro

This past summer, Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Claremont, N.H. was added to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The parish sought this listing as a step toward applying for grants from the N.H. Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, which provides matching grants to unique and historically significant properties.

The property for Holy Resurrection includes the church, which was built in 1941, a brick 1840s Greek Revival style house that currently serves as the rectory for Fr. Andrew and Mka. Galina Tregubov, and a 200-year-old



Above: Holy Resurrection, Claremont, New Hampshire.



Below: The nave of Holy Resurrection.

Above: The Rectory and barn, depicted in the 1941 Dedication Booklet.

carriage barn that includes several horse stalls. Both the rectory and the barn need extensive repairs to keep them functional for years to come. The parish has already begun fund-raising, and the barn has been stabilized, but more work is necessary.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church was founded in 1909 by Eastern Europeans who had immigrated to Claremont looking for a better life. The parishioners first purchased a local house to serve as both church and rectory.

In 1940 the parish bought a property at 99 Sullivan St. that included a house, a barn, and enough space to build a new church. The property was originally owned by the Tyler family, a prominent Claremont family that was instrumental in developing water-powered mills in Claremont as part of the Industrial Revolution. The family arrived in Claremont in



1767 with Col. Benjamin Tyler who built the first dam across the Sugar River. His grandson, John Tyler, operated the local paper mill and patented a water wheel that was used in factories across the growing country. His contributions to industry were recognized in his obituary in the New York Times.

In 1840, another grandson of Benjamin Tyler, The Hon. Austin Tyler, built the house which now serves as the rectory for Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church. His descendent, Anna Lovering, sold the property to the parish in 1940.

The church is modeled after Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Berlin, N.H., which is itself listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The church in Claremont was consecrated in 1941 and has undergone several renovation and beautification projects under Fr. Andrew's leadership.

Below: The Rectory and barn as they appear today.



The State Historical Resources Council of the N.H. Division of Historical Resources approved the parish's listing on the N.H. Register of Historic Places, citing its unique architecture, one of the few Eastern Orthodox (Slavic) style churches in New Hampshire. The parish was also

recognized for its embodiment of community and cultural traditions as part of the immigration history of New Hampshire. If you are ever in the Upper Valley area, please join us in worship!

ONE †

Parish Grant Program

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

The 2024 Diocesan "Parish Grant Guidelines" and "Grant Application" are available on the Diocesan website at www.dneoca.org. Parishes in the New England Diocese can apply for financial grants to help support outreach and charity programs in their communities.

The diocese has budgeted up to \$10,000 for grant monies to support parishes in these efforts. Applications will be reviewed as received. Check the website for details.

ONE †

News from St. Alexis, Clinton

Vinny & Marlene Melesko

On October 29, 2023 the Outreach Ministry of St. Alexis hosted a "Baby Shower" for Birthright which is located in Clinton, Connecticut.

Birthright is a pregnancy support service that offers love, friendship and support to women who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant. Birthright is a tax-free, charitable organization run by trained, dedicated volunteers through the support of private donations. Their services are always free. The Baby Shower, which was very well attended, included a pot luck buffet and shower games. It was our way to present the Birthright

volunteers, who attended the Shower, with six bushel baskets filled with baby supplies and maternity clothes donated by our parishioners.

Safe Futures

For our Advent project this year, St. Alexis collected toys, adult gifts and gift cards for "Safe Futures" of New London. Safe Futures is an agency that aids women, men and children in need of shelter and counseling as a result of domestic abuse. We donated ten grocery bags full of gifts as well as \$125 in gift cards. As usual, Safe Futures appreciated the generosity of our parishioners.

ONE †

“Bishop” *from* *page 1*

Above: Bishop-Elect Benedict

your prayers to be a worthy bishop.” He observed that he has sought to follow the Rule of Saint Benedict, whose guidance for an abbot leading a monastery is not so different from what is needed for a bishop over a diocese. This is the model he will follow, he said. The Bishop-elect served Daily Vespers following this rite.

At the conclusion of Vespers, Metropolitan Tikhon announced, “Tomorrow it will be my joy to consecrate a successor to the episcopal throne of the diocese and to the apostles.” He movingly summarized the succession of Bishops of New England. Archbishop Dimitri led the diocese from 1972 to 1978 as the first Bishop of Hartford, before he was transferred to the Diocese of the



South. From 1983 to 1992 Archbishop Job served until his transfer to the Diocese of the Midwest. Archbishop Nikon in 2005 added New England to his episcopal care, until his repose in 2019.

Below: The concelebrating hierarchs and clergy follow Metropolitan Tikhon as he begins his entrance prayers before the Divine Liturgy.



Above: Bishop-Elect Benedict recites the Symbol of Faith before the seated hierarchs.



The Metropolitan himself cared for the diocese as Locum Tenens from 2019 until the consecration of Bishop Benedict. His Beatitude pointed out how this list “shows how the diocese has endured many lengthy periods of awaiting a new ruling bishop, anchored by solid leadership.” He expects that, as Bishop, Benedict will demonstrate similar solid leadership.

On Saturday morning, Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the Divine Liturgy, together with His Grace Bishop John of Worcester of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, His Grace Bishop Irinej of

Below: The vesting during the Ordination of Bishop Benedict.



Left: His Grace Bishop Irinej of the Diocese of Eastern America of the Serbian Orthodox Church



Right: Metropolitan Tikhon blesses all those assembled with the dikirion and trikirion.



the Diocese of Eastern America of the Serbian Orthodox Church, His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West, His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, His Eminence Archbishop Michael of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, His Grace Bishop Nikodhim of Boston and the Albanian Archdiocese, His Grace Bishop Andrei of Cleveland and Auxiliary to the Romanian Episcopate, and His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth and Auxiliary to the Diocese of the South.

The chancellor, deans, and many clergy of the Diocese of New England concelebrated, as did Fr. Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the OCA, and many others. Fr. Marcus Burch, Chancellor of the Diocese of the South, represented the diocese which Bishop Benedict has served these last ten years.

Fr. Theodore, abbot of Our Lady and Saint Laurence Monastery in Col-

orado, a Western Rite Benedictine under the Antiochian Archdiocese, also concelebrated. Bishop Benedict fruitfully communicated with the abbot for many years, but only met him in person this weekend.

Before the Liturgy began, the Bishop-Elect was presented as candidate before all those assembled. He proclaimed the Symbol of Faith in Greek and English, confessing in detail the essential teachings of the Orthodox Faith, its canons and rules.

He promised to seek unity and love with all bishops and to care for the flock entrusted to him faithfully, after the pattern of the apostles.

At the Trisagion, Fathers Alexander Rentel and John Kreta led Bishop-Elect Benedict into the altar, presenting him to Metropolitan Tikhon and all the bishops. His Beatitude led the prayers of ordination, "That he may be worthy to ask those things necessary for salvation." The candidate was vested as a bishop with myriad responses of "Axios!" At the last, His

Grace was presented to all with a last ringing of “Axios!”—“He is worthy!”

His Beatitude preached on the passage, “Be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” “When the Lord tells us to prepare treasure which lasts and gird ourselves, he said, “we know our life has urgency and purpose. Every day is a day to work, walking while we have light. Prayer, confession, worship, mercy—these are the work we are to do today and not leave for tomorrow. Forgive all, leaving nothing for later. Keep watch. The Nativity Fast is a help and reminder for this work, but the work is for all seasons and we are given a bishop to lead this work and teach us to keep watch through prayer all days of our life. So when Lord appears in His Second Coming, we will greet him with joy.”

At the end of the liturgy, the Metropolitan addressed the newly consecrated bishop, welcoming him to his new see. His Beatitude said it is “a

dread and awe-inspiring call, but for the faithful, your ministry represents a fearless opportunity to approach God.... Rely not only on your considerable knowledge but on the prayers and counsel of your fellow bishops who have together much experience.”

Metropolitan Tikhon then presented the episcopal staff to Bishop Benedict and escorted him from there to his cathedra, upon which the new hierarch blessed the members of his diocese and all those assembled.

At the celebratory banquet a number of speakers offered congratulations and reflections. Fr. Marcus Burch noted the deep connection between the Diocese of the South and New England. Archbishop Dimitri left New England to lead the South, and now Bishop Benedict is departing the South for New England.

Protopresbyter John Maharis delivered greetings from His Eminence Methodius of Boston (Greek Arch-

Right: OCA Chancellor Fr. Alexander Rentel and Diocesan Chancellor John Kreta stand with other senior priests in the Great Entrance.



Above: Bishop Benedict is escorted out of the altar to his cathedra.



Seminary, celebrated strong bond between the seminary and Bishop Benedict. He made clear that SVS Press will continue to need him. Recognizing His Grace's devotion to the Rule of St. Benedict, he cited chapter two, changing "abbot" in the original text to "bishop."

Fr. Alexander Rentel acknowledged the long periods in the Diocese of New England, when it fell to its chancellor to care for the diocese between bishops, expressing thanks to Diocesan Chancellor Fr. John Kreta. He also recalled how, during COVID Zoom meetings of diocesan clergy, he was inspired by the quality of the discussion. He concluded by encouraging Bishop Benedict to bear his own episcopal staff with the confidence of the Staff of Moses over the Evil One, in caring for his own diocese.

diocese) who expressed the desire to work together in New England.

Fr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological

Fr. John Kreta recognized past bishops of the diocese as "humble men who truly loved God. They also truly loved our diocese and from this de-

Below: His Grace stands upon his cathedra for the first time.



veloped our profound love of these men.” He recalled how Archbishop Nikon took care of the South after Archbishop Dimitri died; Archbishop Job “who was dearly loved and was so sad to leave us for the Midwest”; and now Metropolitan Tikhon, “who has joyfully and lovingly been present over these years after Archbishop Nikon’s death.”

Fr. Kreta recalled the blessing of a call from Archbishop Nikon during Bright Week, soon after he became Bishop of New England, just wanting to know how his family was doing. “His passing was so difficult because he was loved so dearly.” He observed how Metropolitan Tikhon showed generosity even before Archbishop Nikon’s passing, visiting His Eminence in hospital and ministering to parishes on his behalf. Fr. Kreta saw his struggle, wanting to help the diocese more, while constrained by the limits of his canonical role as *locum tenens*.

The Diocesan Chancellor gave the Metropolitan a plaque with images of all the churches of New England and a copy of the diocesan icon painted by Archbishop Job.

Finally, he addressed Bishop Benedict: “We know you did not seek this office, but we also see your humility and obedience in accepting this omophorion. You are already showing great care and concern. May the Lord grant you many years.”

His Grace briefly addressed the diocese, saying, “As I get to know you better, we will craft a vision together. This will happen with your prayers.”



Metropolitan Tikhon concluded the day, saying, “I am sorry but also happy to relinquish this *locum tenens*.” He recalled his personal connection to New England, going back through the Packard family to the founding of Massachusetts Colony. He assured Bishop Benedict of his own prayers and support, presenting *another* copy of the diocesan icon—he promised he was not regifting his own!

His Beatitude shared a final word of gratitude to Diocesan Chancellor Fr. Kreta. He said, “You are an image of what is good in this diocese. You made my own work as painless and smooth as possible.” He awarded Fr. Kreta a primatial gramota for his faithful service.

ONE +

O.N.E.

Diocese of New England
Orthodox Church in America
Published bi-monthly

His Grace, Bishop Benedict
V. Rev. John Kreta, Chancellor
V. Rev. Joshua Mosher, Editor
Phone: 203-237-4539
frjmosher@sspeterpaul.org



Advertising: This publication will accept advertisements. However, we reserve the right to refuse any advertisement we find unacceptable for a publication of this kind.

Rate: \$50.00 per quarter page, \$100.00 per half page, \$175.00 per full page.

The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors. Dogmas of the Church, or Official Statements, will be so labeled. Materials in *ONE* may be reproduced with acknowledgement of the source.

Subscriptions:

The ONE Newsletter is distributed free of charge to members of the diocese. If you live in New England and would like to receive this newsletter at your home address, please contact Fr. Joshua Mosher at the address below.

Electronic Distribution:

If you would like to receive *ONE* in electronic format **only**, please contact Fr. Joshua Mosher at the email address below.

For subscription requests:

frjmosher@sspeterpaul.org
203-237-4539
PO Box 186
Durham CT 06422

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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
Paid
Permit #559
New Haven
Conn.

Upcoming

- Mar 22** **Deadline for next issue of the ONE**
- Feb 22** **Diocesan Council Meeting online**
- Mar 24** **Sunday of Orthodoxy, Annunciation Vespers at St. Dimitrie, Easton, Conn.**
- Mar 31** **Lenten Mission Vespers at St. Peter & St. Paul, Springfield, Mass.**
- Apr 7** **Lenten Mission Vespers at St. Nicholas, Pittsfield, Mass.**
- Apr 14** **Lenten Mission Vespers at Holy Transfiguration, New Haven**
- Apr 21** **Holy Unction Service at Three Saints, Ansonia, Conn.**
- Apr 28** **Connecticut Deanery Bridegroom Matins at All Saints, Hartford**
- May 11** **Bright Saturday Liturgy at Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Terryville, Conn.**