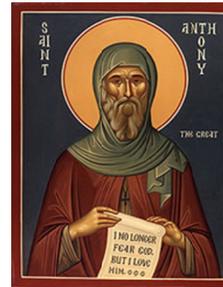
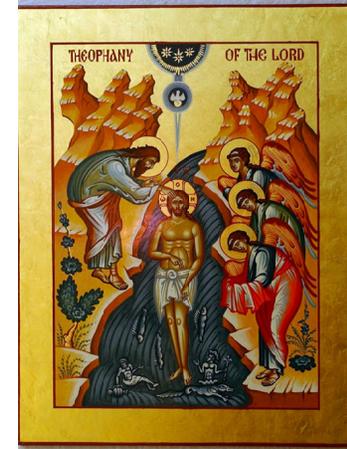
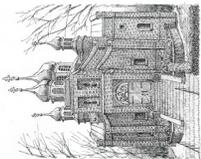


HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH



JANUARY 2020

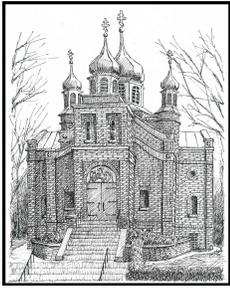
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
305 Washington Street
P. O. Box 2876
New Britain, CT 06050-2876



HÖLY TRINITY ÖRTHÖDÖX CHURCH

JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Charity: 	Cleaners: 1/5: ? ? ? 1/12: ? ? ? 1/19: ? ? ? 1/26: ? ? ?	Greeter: P. Salina	1 Circumcision Ss. Basil the Great & his mother Emilia	2 St. Juliana of Lazarevsk Orthodoxy 101 @ 10:30 AM	3	4 Great Vespers 5:00 PM
5 29th after Pentecost Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water 9:00AM Coffee Hour – Koles	6 Theophany: Baptism of our Lord Festal Divine Liturgy @ Terryville 9:15AM Hartford 7:00 AM Meriden 9:30 AM	7 Synaxis of John the Baptist Home Blessing	8	9 Home Blessing	10	11 Home Blessing Great Vespers 5:00 PM CONFESSION
12 30th after Pentecost Divine Liturgy 9:00AM Coffee Hour – Choir	13 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 PM	14 St. Sava of Serbia Home Blessing	15	16 Home Blessing	17 St. Anthony the Great Home Blessing	18 Great Vespers 5:00 PM CONFESSION
19 31st after Pentecost Church School 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:00AM Coffee Hour – ??? Sisterhood & Men's Club Annual Meetings	20	21	22 Apostle Timothy Home Blessing	23 Orthodoxy 101 @ 10:30 AM	24 St. Xenia of Petersburg Home Blessing	25 St. Gregory the Theologian Great Vespers 5:00 PM GENERAL CONFESSION
26 32nd after Pentecost New Martyrs of Russia Church School 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:00AM Coffee Hour – PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	27 St. John Chrysostom	28	29	30 Three Holy Hierarchs <i>Annual Fr. Alexander Schmemmann Memorial Lecture @ SVS 7:00 PM</i>	31 Unmercenaries Cyrus & John	FEB 1 Festal Great Vespers with Litya 5:00 PM CONFESSION



Monthly Newsletter of
HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
 305 Washington Street • PO Box 2876 • New Britain, CT 06050-2876

www.htocnb.org
JANUARY 2019

EPIPHANY/THEOPHANY:

We will celebrate the Great Feast of Theophany with Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water on Sunday, January 5th at 9:00 p.m. On the day of the feast, Monday, January 6th, Festal Divine Liturgy will be served @: Terryville at 9:15 a.m.; Hartford at 7:00 a.m.; Meriden at 9:30 a.m.



HOUSE BLESSINGS: The schedule for house blessings is included in this newsletter (pg. 5). The house blessings will begin on January 8th. Please try to be available at your scheduled date and time. When Father arrives, please have the following ready: a bowl for holy water, an icon, a candle, and separate lists of living and departed loved ones for remembrance. Stereos and televisions should be turned off. If you are on the list and need to cancel or change your appointment, or if you are **NOT** on the list and wish to be added, please call Father's cell number ASAP. Anyone wishing to have the house blessed will be accommodated.

FAST-FREE: The time between the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and Theophany (December 25th - January 4th) is a fast-free period in the Orthodox Church. This year the Eve of Theophany (Sunday, January 5th) is a **fasting day**.

PARISH COUNCIL: The final scheduled meeting of the 2018 Parish Council will be held on Monday evening, January 13th. We will review the proposed operating budget for presentation to the annual meeting, go over final preparations for the annual meeting, and finish any business still outstanding. All council members are reminded of the schedule change and asked to make every effort to attend the meeting.

SISTERHOOD & MEN'S CLUB: The Annual Meetings for the Sisterhood & Men's Club will be held on Sunday, January 19th after coffee hour. Following the meeting the Men's Club will go for lunch.

GENERAL CONFSSION: is normally held on the last Saturday of each month (except for lenten periods), following Great Vespers. All regular communicants should make every effort to attend each General Confession. The next General Confession will be held on January 25th.

ANNUAL MEETING: The annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th, (with a snow date of February 2nd) following the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. All voting members of the parish are asked to plan on

being present and participating in the meeting. You are a voting member if:

- You are at least 18 years of age.
- You participate in the Sacraments of Confession and Communion regularly, but at least annually, in the parish.
- You have made a stewardship (financial) commitment to the parish and signed a pledge form.

If you have any questions about your eligibility please see Fr. David or Daniel Belonick.

Also, we are in need of your service on the council with a number of officers leaving the council for their 'break'. If you have served in the past please consider this again. If you have never been on the council now would be a good time to add your talent and become a leader in our Parish. Please respond positively when a member of the nomination committee comes to talk with you!

The January charity collection is for A Little Compassion in memory of Alexandra Dilger.

ALC tries to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Young adults with autism (ASD) and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) face daunting barriers in finding and keeping meaningful work as well as in becoming active members of their community. Having the opportunity to learn to work in an environment that fosters growth is something the majority of young adults with disabilities never have.



A Little Compassion Inc. (ALC) was founded with 3 goals:

- To create work experience/employment opportunities for young adults with disabilities and build a bridge to adulthood.
- To provide an array of social activities geared toward the interests of young adults with and without disabilities and offer them in a safe, comfortable space in the community to gather.
- To offer the community an opportunity to learn critical awareness, acceptance and inclusion of people of all abilities.

Archpriest David Koles, Rector
 9 Frankie Lane
 Terryville, CT 06786
 Phone: 860-573-0013
 Email: frdavid@htocnb.org

Together we will make the world a kinder, more fulfilled and inclusive place one community at a time.

Visit their website at:
<https://alittlecompassion.org/home-nest/>

The collection will be taken on the last Sunday of the month. Please use the envelope provided in your monthly mailing and be generous!!



Birthdays in JANUARY:

3	Daniel Bradanini	1945
3	Abby Burrill	2018
6	George Ludko	1945
6	Jillian Wanik	1964
8	Janice Hromi	1944
11	James Dounouk	1937
15	Katherine Szeszakow	1922
16	Barbara Burrill	1952
17	Daniel Belonick	1982
23	Diane Steffick	1948
24	Emilia Haskins	2016
28	Elitsa Baltadshiev	1981
30	Gabriel Dresko	2013
31	Enrico Santoro	1946
31	Anthony Dresko	2010



“WHEN I WAS SICK YOU CAME TO ME”

The following parishioners (and friends) are now home-bound or in long-term care facilities. If there are any names missing, please inform Fr. David. The regular schedule of visitations is included on the monthly calendar. Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to make regular visitations to nursing homes and shut-ins. Our loved ones **NEED** to feel connected to their parish family.

Jerome Home, New Britain

Sadie Albino

Alexander Dubnansky

Monsignor Bojnowski Manor, New Britain

Mary Camarata

*Grandview Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center
 [Walnut Hill Care Center], New Britain*

Martha Cherpak

LiveWell, Plantsville

Betty Beck

At Home: Helen Anop, Jim Dounouk, Jane Gunning, Joseph Kowar, Stella Liwen, Jennie Pich, Antoinette Rudy and Katherine Szeszakow.



PARISH DIPTYCHS

Please remember our departed brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Anna Hamilla	67	January 1 1927
Agatha Gedz	79	January 1 1965
Anton Bichun	80	January 1 1972
Michael Romanuk		January 2 1948
Valerian Garlewski	54	January 3 1947
Frank Smith	62	January 3 1956
Helen Karabin	92	January 3 2018
Theodora Mazufek	43	January 4 1931
John Bilas	70	January 5 1960
Daniel Panish	86	January 5 1965
Evdokia Noveck	65	January 5 1965
Vera Neill	20	January 5 1984
Child Lydia Mazur	8 mo	January 6 1927
Helen Srachno	16	January 7 1936
John Karpie	65	January 7 1959
Helena Bichun	81	January 8 2000
Child William Koles, Jr.	2 days	January 9 1947
Waselesia Dudchick	73	January 9 1963
Child Stephen Yanushkevich	9 mo	January 10 1908
Peter Saskevich	55	January 10 1927
John Baldowski	55	January 10 1971
Mary Hamilla Carlson	95	January 10 2004
Theodosia V. Belomyzy	30	January 11 1917
Basil Hulis		January 11 1919
Child William Koles, Sr.	61	January 11 1979
Irene Panasuk	70	January 12 1941
Vladimir Baranovsky	50	January 13 1947
Wasil Panasewich	58	January 13 1978
Nina Molchan	88	January 13 2007
John Tarasov	38	January 14 1927
Helen Verbitsky	77	January 14 1968
Olga Matczyzyk	69	January 14 1994
Paul Gelazin		January 14 2002
Mary Ankuda	50	January 15 1926
Basil Pavarno	32	January 16 1913
Mary Shatula	78	January 16 1936
Modest Nazaruk	71	January 16 1962
Mary Cherpak	89	January 16 1974
Peter Sokoloski, Sr.	72	January 17 1961
John Gadzik	61	January 18 1983
Anna Garlewski	94	January 18 1992
Sophie Belonitsky	62	January 19 1939
Child Peter Burak Jr.	2 days	January 19 1951
Vladimir Dankevich	49	January 19 1971
Child Jennifer Smith	2	January 19 1997
Stephen Podonuk	43	January 20 1940
Borys Karanowytsch	75	January 20 1982
Violet (Valentina) Wellman		January 20 1987
Michael Hrablook	80	January 20 2001
Akim (Joachim) Dimnitch	73	January 21 1973
Robert Walls	84	January 21 1975
Mary Martinuk	49	January 22 1935
Anton Radionchik	79	January 22 1970
John Makula	69	January 23 1968
Joseph Bylek	79	January 23 1969

Lydia Levy	46	January 23 1974
Katherine Steffick	91	January 23 1975
Arthur Novick	74	January 23 1992
Peter Molchan	45	January 25 1963
Sophie Kwasnick	53	January 25 1967
Alexander Semascho	80	January 25 1973
Philip Baboval	88	January 27 1982
Methilde Shevchuk	90	January 27 2002
Maria Stregotsky	86	January 27 2008
Child Vladimir Pravka	1	January 28 1922
Vaslov Antonik	55	January 28 1947
Leonty Homrafucuk	58	January 28 1951
Nikolai Vholek	65	January 28 1958
Nicholas Grusha	88	January 28 1971
Yaroslav Roman	82	January 28 1992
Daniel Martinook	79	January 28 2005
Valerian Bielomiy	78	January 29 1968
Anna Opanasenko	83	January 29 1986
Michael Piekarski	63	January 30 1962
Stella (Stephanida) Tynik	90	January 30 2012
Olga Fedak	88	January 31 2006

ВЪЧНА ПАМАТЬ



HOUSE BLESSING SCHEDULE 2020

January 7, 2020 TUESDAY, 1:30 P.M.

Shafran	Everson
Szestakow	Rudy
Culton	

January 9, 2020 THURSDAY, 2:00 P.M.

S Matyczuk	G Ludko
G Matyczuk	P Salina
Tabakow	Wanik

January 11, 2020 SATURDAY, 11:30 A.M.

Cook	Dilger
Kokus	

January 14, 2020 TUESDAY, 4:30 P.M.

Ahern	Karabin
Mah	

January 16, 2020 THURSDAY, 2:00 P.M.

Liwen	Bichun
Murr	Sahin
Polzun	

January 17, 2020 FRIDAY, 2:00 P.M.

Kowar	Kaplan
Potter	Thomas
Rottman	

January 22, 2019 WEDNESDAY, 3:00 P.M.

Cabrera	Belonick
E. Santoro	Mabry
Clark	

January 24, 2019 FRIDAY, 4:00 P.M.

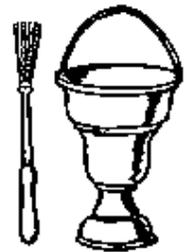
R. Delaney	Fiedler
Hromi	



The Blessing of Water

In the Book of Genesis, we read that creation began when the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters. (Gen. 1:2) Throughout the Bible, water plays an important and a 'mystical role' in human existence and in man's relationship with God the Creator.

Water has the capacity to produce death, as recounted in the story of Noah and the ark (Gen. 6); or to produce life, as noted in the story of Moses' striking the rock in the desert to produce water for the parched wanderers (Numbers 20). While the waters of the Red Sea parted to allow the Hebrews to pass over in safety (and thus preserve life), the same waters came rushing upon the Pharaoh and his army drowning them.



In the New Testament, we see water becoming the means by which the Trinity was revealed during the Baptism of Jesus, which we celebrate on the Feast of Theophany on January 6 each year. In the Baptism of Jesus, at the hands of John the Baptist, the spiritual significance and potential of water as the source of life is again revealed and reaffirmed just as in Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

In a sermon on Theophany, St. John Chrysostom says: "On this day Christ was baptized; through His Baptism He sanctified the element of water. There let us all draw of the water and store it in homes, because on this day the water is consecrated."

In blessing water on the Feast Day, we ask and pray that the original purpose of water, as a source of life, blessing and holiness be revealed to us as we drink it. In the Garden of Eden, Adam enjoyed a unique and lordly relationship with Creation. After the Fall as he was expelled from Paradise, he heard the words, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life." (Genesis 3:17) From that point Adam would be subject to Creation, and not a master. Yet through Christ, the curse is lifted, just as the curse of death is lifted from the human race through the Resurrection. Because of Christ's coming and His work of salvation and redemption (as the hymns say, "dispensation"), Man and Creation are reconciled. Creation is able once more to meet not only the physical needs of man, but the elements of creation can be, and are, sources of grace and healing as we worship the Lord of Life.

When we bless water - or any other material object - and when we celebrate the Mysteries (Sacraments) of the Church, we reverently and gratefully proclaim that Christ Himself (in the words of the Divine Liturgy) "offers and is offered" blesses and sanctifies the world (cosmos) as the Great High Priest.

The celebration of the Great Blessing of Water is an affirmation that through Christ's own baptism, He who is our loving Lord has lifted the curse of Adam's sin, and given the creative goodness of God's creation back to mankind once again.



The Blessing of Homes

The custom of blessing homes during the Theophany season is of special beauty and significance. It is not simply a sentimental tradition without meaning, nor is it a custom whose meaning we have forgotten, like an old friend whose face we remember, but whose impact on our life has been forgotten.

When an Orthodox Christian believer moves into a new home, he dedicates his new home as the abode of a follower of Christ. He asks that God, the source of all goodness and the Giver of every perfect gift, to bless his house and all that is within it; he recalls that Jesus Christ, His Son, came to bring Salvation to all, even as He brought Salvation to the house of Zaccheus; he prays that the Holy Spirit may abide in it, guiding those who dwell in it in the Paths of righteousness.

On the Feast of Theophany we rededicate our home for its original purpose, just as we must periodically rededicate our life to Christ. We do it especially on this Feast because this is the day on which we remember in the Church Year the coming of Christ who began His Ministry when He descended into Jordan to be baptized by St. John the Forerunner and Baptist. He enters again into our lives reminding us that we must "repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

An Orthodox Christian must dedicate not only himself and his house to the Lord, but his daily work and all his efforts as well. All things are to be done to the glory of God. That is why in the Orthodox Church, not only religious objects, such as icons, crosses, churches and vestments, are blessed, but also homes, fields, animals and all objects which are used in our daily life for the good of man. In this the Church expresses its faith that the Holy Spirit's sanctifying action extends over the whole Creation.



A Theological Analysis of the Iconography of The Baptism of Christ

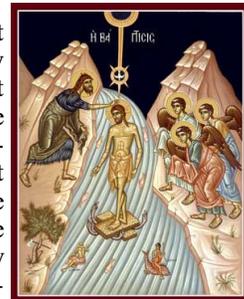
by Hieromonk Silouan Peponakis

The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River by John the Forerunner is also called an "epiphany". The word "Theophany" (manifestation of God) comes from the apostolic passage: "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory (1 Tim. 3:16), and is more related to the Nativity of Christ. The word "Epiphany" (appearance) comes from the apostolic passage: "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people" (Tit. 2:11), and refers to the Baptism of Christ, because it was then that people came to know the grace of the Godhead.

With the appearance of the Holy Trinity and the confession of the Honorable Forerunner we have the official confession that

the Son and Word of God is "of the Trinity", who was incarnated for the salvation of the human race from sin, the devil and death.

It is known that in the ancient Church on this day, January 6th, the feasts of Christmas and Theophany were celebrated together. These feasts were divided in the fourth century, and Christmas was transferred to December 25th. Theophany is also called the Feast of Lights due to the baptism and illumination of catechumens as well as the display of lights.



At the top of the icon there is a hand that blesses in glory. Below this the Holy Spirit is illustrated "like a dove" and just below this Christ is in the waters of the Jordan being baptized by John the Forerunner, who is not looking at Christ, but has his gaze in the heavens from where he hears the voice of the Father in the Holy Spirit bearing witness: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased."

This depiction is very important, because here we have the revelation of the Holy Trinity to Saint John the Forerunner. From here we will make much reference to the book by His Eminence Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos titled *The Despotism of Feasts*. The manifestation of the Triune God to man shows among other things that only man is an earthly initiate and worshipper of the Holy Trinity, and the only one created by the Triune God in His image. Saint Gregory Palamas teaches that animals do not have a mind and reason but an animated spirit, that is not self-subsistent, which means that when animals die, they lose their spirit, since they don't have essence but only energy. However, man has a reasonable mind and a spirit that animates attached to the body, which is why he alone is in the image of the tripartite God.

Saint Gregory Palamas interprets the phrase "in Whom I am well-pleased" as how the grace of God is one, but sometimes it acts in good pleasure, since God wills it, and sometimes by concession. God knew that the fall of man would take place and did not create him for this but separated him, because God Himself willed it for man. God does not abolish the freedom of man. So, there is the will of God according to good pleasure and the will of God according to concession. With this in mind the affirmation of the Father: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased" shows that the incarnation was the will of God according to good pleasure.

The testimony of God the Father for His Son shows that the Son is the "radiance of the glory of the Father", since there is a common essence and energy in the Triune God.

The appearance of the Holy Spirit "like a dove" shows us that the Holy Spirit is not a dove, but He appeared as a dove because the Holy Spirit is not created but uncreated like the other persons of the Holy Trinity. That the Holy Spirit together with the voice of the Father sat on Christ shows that the persons of the Holy Trinity are consubstantial, and it also shows that the Messiah was not Saint John the Forerunner, but Christ.

It is known that Christ had no need for baptism, since the baptism of John led people to become aware of their sins. Christ, writes Saint John of Damascus, was not baptized because He had need for purification, but "to bury human sin by water," to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify "the nature of water" and to offer us the form

and example of Baptism. Christ was baptized to crush the heads of the dragons in the water, because it was believed that demons dwell in the water. This is why we see in the icon of the Baptism water monsters that have turned their backs on Christ because of the fire of the deity. Christ was baptized to wash away sin and bury the entire old Adam in the water.

Many icons of the Baptism in conjunction with the hymnography of the feast present Christ completely naked, thus indicating how Christ humbled himself for the sake of people. He became naked that He may clothe man in an incorruptible garment.

Another main person who took part in the baptism was Saint John the Baptist. He was made worthy by God to hear the voice of the Father, and to see the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The “and behold the heavens were opened to Him” of Matthew the Evangelist, and the “he saw the heavens tear apart” of Mark the Evangelist indicate the superiority of the uncreated over the created, as well as the restoration of an “open” relationship between God and man after its “closure” due to sin.

Many things can be said based on the teachings of the Fathers of the Church regarding a theological analysis of the icon of the Baptism. My main point though is that Christ gave us each the possibility to acquire the Grace of sonship, a Theophany in our personal life.

www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2014/01/a-theological-analysis-of-iconography.html
<https://blog.obitel-minsk.com/2018/01/theological-analysis-of-iconography.html>



Parish Council Meeting – October 28, 2019

Members in Attendance: Fr. David Koles, Daniel Belonick, Julia Boisvert Bress, Nadine Cabrera, Rosemary Delaney, Greg Dresko, Al Hromi, Gladys Labas, Paul Salina, Ellen Santoro, Rachel Santoro, and Stephanie Thomas

Meeting Called to Order at 7:03 p.m. and began with the singing of O Heavenly King. Dan Belonick led the Council in a reading.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. David reviewed our liturgical schedule for November. On Friday & Saturday the 1st & 2nd the Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Theotokos “Kardiotissa” from Taylor, PA will be at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Church. On Sunday, November 10th, Christ the Savior Church, Southbury will host the deanery for Great Vespers at 4:00 pm for St. Nectarios of Aegena. His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON will preside. The Nativity Fast will begin on Friday, November 15th. Confessions will be held at different times during the week (please check calendar/webpage) and before & after Vespers. The Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple will be celebrated with Festal Vesperal Liturgy at 6:00 pm Wednesday, November 20th followed by and Advent Potluck supper.

We received a thank you note from the CT Family Support Network for our Monthly Charity support.

Fr. David reported that the Stefficks have moved to Myrtle Beach. He also asked for prayers for Antoinette Rudy, our senior most member, whose son called to report she is having extreme back & shoulder pain.

Diocesan Assembly:

Fr. David reported that it was wonderful to have his Beatitude at the Diocesan Assembly during this interim time as we look for a new archpastor. We are now the second largest church in the diocese due to the addition of two parishioners and the loss of parishioners in other parishes. Our assessment will go up a modest amount.

There was discussion at the Assembly regarding the current status of the church in Waterbury. Many of the parishioners have joined other parishes in the area. There is some discussion as to whether the church parish may merge with another local parish.

Greg Dresko reported that a strategic committee has been formed to conduct an assessment of what the diocese needs to succeed. Currently, there is a large number of churches in the diocese and a declining number of people. By the next Assembly, we are hoping to have a draft of a plan for how to move forward for the diocese, including considerations of mergers or plans for consolidating. Greg reported he was happy to see some action after the inaction of last year’s meeting.

Fr. David will be sending a link to the results of the survey that was shared with parishioners. He reported that while we are waiting for an archpastor, there is a consensus that the diocese needs to look ahead.

At the meeting, there was also discussion of ways to unify the diocese. Currently, each church has been operating on its own as opposed to a unified diocese. Archbishop Nikon was overstretched and there was a discussion about how a chancellor may be able to add to the unity. There was discussion at the Assembly over what role a chancellor may play and whether or how he would be paid.

Rosemary Delaney noted that there are currently five seminarians in the diocese. She also noted that the youth program is really reaching out with the Antiochian archdiocese. Fr. Moses Locke is the new youth director. There are activities out there, but our church and others are not participating. We need to reach out and work together as a group of Orthodox people. Rosemary also observed that the parishioners need to support the priests so that they are not overburdened in taking on too many responsibilities.

Fr. David reported that there are candidates in mind for bishop, but that the diocese is not replacing him at this time. We are allowing period of mourning for Archbishop Nikon, but the replacement process is beginning.

Warden's Report:

Dan Belonick thanked Fr. David, Greg Dresko, and Rosemary Delaney for attending the Diocesan Assembly to represent the parish and to report back. He also thanked Rachel Santoro and Gladys Labas for all they are doing with the church school. There is a lot going on and wonderful energy. Dan reported that the Scoops for Troops ice cream social was very nice. Michael Ahern offered his thanks to the parish for supporting this venture. Dan hopes more people will show up to these types of events in the future. Dan welcomed Stephanie Thomas and thanked her for jumping into auditor position.

Secretary's Report:

The September Minutes passed via an email vote.

Financial Committee:

Nadine Cabrera reported last month that we transferred \$7,500 from dividend income to our operating account at the beginning of September. This has worked out well. We are still

earning a lot of dividend and interest. Our investments are doing fine – this month stocks are a little better than fixed income. Our investment policy is to get interest and dividends with stable principal even though the market goes up and down. Our investments have earned approximately \$23,000 in interest income through September 30. Our total assets, including operating account, as of September 30, 2019 is \$1,292,356.05.

Al Hromi motioned to accept the financial report; Greg Dresko seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

April Report:

Total April income -	\$15,041.00
Total April expenses -	\$16,164.36
Expense over Income -	-\$ 1,123.36

May Report:

Total May income -	\$ 9,597.00
Total May expenses -	\$12,895.22
Expense over Income -	-\$ 3,298.22

June Report:

Total June income -	\$13,217.41
Total June expenses -	\$13,476.48
Expense over Income -	-\$ 259.07

July Report:

Total July income -	\$13,639.35
Total July expenses -	\$16,188.79
Expense over Income -	-\$ 2,549.44

August Report:

Total August income -	\$10,042.00
Total August expenses -	\$14,454.63
Expense over Income -	-\$ 4,412.63

Ellen Santoro moved to accept the financial reports from April through August; Paul Salina seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. The Council thanked Ellen Santoro, Rosemary Delaney and Dan Belonick for their work in finalizing the reports.

September Report:

Total September income -	\$18,881.00
Total September expenses -	\$11,538.72
Income over Expense -	\$ 7,342.28

Paul Salina moved to accept the financial report for September; Al Hromi seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Al reported that he has been contacted by the taxpayer advocate, Diane Love, and he will be working with her to recoup the taxes that were overpaid and the 2016 taxes which was taken out of the parish's account this October. The parish will hopefully have about \$3,000 coming back from the IRS.

Building and Grounds:

The masons have fixed the areas that needed repair. Now that the immediate masonry work has been completed, Rich Susca will be working on coming up with a plan for the leaks. Rich thinks these are isolated to particular areas and not a global issue, but he is continuing to explore. Rich will be working with Dan Bradinini on an outdoor roof covering for the winter. We will also look into scraping the paint inside.

The trees along the parking lot have been removed at \$2100 as contracted. The Council will need to think about what to plant in the spring and will continue to discuss options.

The Council also discussed miscellaneous repairs and changes

that are needed including a new outdoor mat, repairing the glass for the outdoor sign, addressing the peeling ceiling in the men's restroom and the lighting in the women's restroom, and repairing the lights above the altar.

Parish Life:

There will be a decorative hat event on Saturday, November 2 hosted by the Men's Club. Pizza will be provided.

Dan Belonick thanked all who donated to Chrysalis Center and also who donated for the welcome kits. \$380 was collected in the monthly charity collection. Thanks to Ellen Santoro for coordinating the project. There will be opportunities to help with Bingo at the Chrysalis Center in Hartford in November. The dates will be put dates in the bulletin.

Cemetery Committee:

Gladys Labas reported that she did a walkthrough of the cemetery on October 18. All of the groundhogs have all been removed. There are about fifteen stones that need trimming badly. Some of the WWII markers also need to be fixed. The Council discussed planning a workday for trimming the stones with a group of volunteers. Gladys will put together a date in early spring.

One of the trees around the main monument is dying. Sonia Matyzyk noticed and suggested that it would be acceptable to take that tree and its sister tree down. Her family had donated the trees. Given the slim budget for the cemetery the Council discussed monitoring the tree to see how it is doing next year.

The water at the cemetery will be turned off this week and will be turned back on in March.

Old Business:

Dan Belonick is working with Scott Ahern, Greg Dresko and Nick Dresko to set a date for a parish safety training. Dan is also finalizing the safety plan.

New Business:

The Council will have three positions open in 2020 due to people who are rotating off. The Council discussed who may be interested in joining and who may be right for the more intensive positions, including financial secretary. There was discussion about the need for the financial secretary to be someone who regularly attends church and is able to commit some time each week to the position.

The Council discussed the midnight service for the Nativity. When the parish transitioned to midnight services, the transition was to be reassessed after five years. This will be the parish's 5th year. Attendance has been about the same although there were more people in 2018 than in the past. Fr. David encouraged parents to bring their children even if they fall asleep. The parish will continue the evening service this year. Vespers and compline will be held on December 23 and vespers, compline, liturgy will be held at 10:30 pm on December 24.

December Charity – Greg Dresko motioned to support the International Orthodox Christian Charities; Al Hromi seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting -

Regular Council Meeting: November 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Rachel Santoro motioned to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, *Julia Boisvert Bress*