

Thank You

Thank you to Chef Chris Evans, Monica Kapral and Tom & Gail Denisky for preparing a delicious Lenten Lunch after the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy this past Monday, celebrating the 1 year anniversary of His Grace Bishop Benedict's consecration to the Episcopacy!

Thank you to Sophie Szymczyk for the donation of the poinsettias decorating the church this year – in loving memory of Leon Szymczyk.

Thank you to the Vargas Family for donating and putting up the Christmas tree.

Help Wanted

If you are interested in being a member of the *Facilities Committee* for the Parish, please see either Greg Belekewicz or Mark Ranstead. *Thank You!*

Adult Education

Wednesday Vespers/Adult Education will meet next on *December 11th* – at which time we will be discussing Chapter 4 of *Acquiring the Mind of Christ* by Archimandrite Sergius.

Theology Café

The next gathering of the *Theology Café* will be *December 10th* - all are welcome, bring a friend! 7:30 PM at 107 Elizabeth St., Hartford CT. Please RSVP to Amy Hayashida by December 8th. (937-631-5989).

Parish Council

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be *Tuesday, December 17th* beginning at 6:00 p.m. - Zoom meeting.

Words from Father Constantine

The Righteous Anna

The Gospels and other books of the New Testament do not mention anything about Saint Anna, the mother of the Theotokos. According to Tradition, the priest Matthan (Matthew 1:15), a resident of Bethlehem, had three daughters: Mary, 1 Sobe, and Anna. Mary was married in Bethlehem, where she gave birth to Elizabeth, the mother of Saint John the Baptist. The Holy Righteous Anna was the youngest daughter of the priest Matthan, who was from the tribe of Levi, of the family of Aaron. Her husband, the Holy Righteous Joachim was from the tribe of Judah, from the house and family of King David. According to the ancient promise, the Messiah was to come from the lineage of King David (Luke 2:4).

The couple lived in Nazareth of Galilee. Every year, they gave two-thirds of their income to the Temple in Jerusalem, and to the poor. By God's Providence, the holy couple had no children until their old age. They were greatly saddened by this, since the Jews considered childlessness a great misfortune and a punishment from God. They prayed fervently for the Lord to give them children. On a certain feast, when the Israelites were bringing gifts to God in the Temple at Jerusalem, the High Priest, believing that the childless Joachim did not have God's blessing, refused to accept gifts from him. Saint Joachim was grief stricken. He consulted the genealogy of the twelve tribes of Israel and ascertained that all righteous men had offspring, including Abraham, when he was a hundred years old. Without returning home, Saint Joachim went into the wilderness and spent forty days there in strict fasting and prayer, entreating God's mercy for himself, and washing away his disgrace with bitter tears.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on the Gospel of Saint Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. Many icons of the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot. Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer the universe by its power.”

Fellowship Hour Sign-Up

Hosts and Hostesses needed for Fellowship Hours – please see the clipboard/sign-up sheet at the coffee window – please sign up for a Sunday or two that are convenient for you! Any questions, *please see Monica Kapral. Thank you!*

Church Metrics – Memory Eternal!

*William Starinovich – 12/8/90; William Powlishen – 12/8/94; Kathryn Manuck – 12/12/83;
Dorothy Kozlovich – 12/12/95; Alexander Klishewitz – 12/13/94; Peter Stero – 12/14/76; Sophie Ryan – 12/14/83*

Commemorations

Living:

Margaret, Roger, Daniel, Nicholas, Diane, Susan, Eileen, Mike, Ron

Departed:

Alina, Jozef, Theresa, James, Genevieve, Patrick, Shotiko, Glenn, Andrew, Ann Marie

All Saints Bookstore – December Sale

Beginning next Sunday, December 1st through to Sunday, December 29th all items in the bookstore will be 15% off! If you are looking for a unique gift for someone, please stop by after Liturgy. Any questions, please see Cathy Vargas or Michael Stenko. *Thank you!*

Troparion/Kontakion

Troparion — Tone 3

(Podoben: “The Divine Faith...”)

In following your divine calling from your youth, / you shone forth upon the world with the gift of your ascetical labors. / And as one made glorious by the grace of dispassion, / you healed diverse passions. / O Venerable Father Patapios, / entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy.

Kontakion — Tone 3

(Podoben: “Today the Virgin...”)

Finding your temple to be a place of spiritual healing, / people flocked to it eagerly, O Saint. / They seek to be healed of their diseases and to receive the remission of the sins / which they committed during their lives, / for you are seen as a protector of all those in need, / O Venerable Patapios.

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

<https://www.oca.org/readings/daily/2024/12/08/2>

Gospel according to Luke 17:12-19

<https://www.oca.org/readings/daily/2024/12/08/3>

Outreach Opportunitites

Foodshare

There is a basket for donations of nonperishable food items for Foodshare in the “Donations Corner” in the Church Hall – NEW LOCATION! We are also in need of brown bags with handles. Also, please avoid food items in glass containers. *Please remember to thank God for your blessings by helping those in need. God Bless and Thank you!*

Golden Elephant

Golden Elephant Update: She is in need of cleaning supplies, hangers, dog toys, a cat box with liter and gift cards (VISA, grocery stores). *Thank you!*

Reminder - Feed a Friend – Sunday – December 8th

Please put your lunches into refrigerator in the Church Hall (Thank You!)

Help the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and the victims of domestic abuse here in the Greater Hartford region by giving them something that's hard to come by: A Free Lunch! We'll deliver bagged lunches to [Loaves and Fishes](#) in Hartford, beginning today and every second Sunday of each month, who has numerous men, women, and children, who will appreciate the food you provide and the love that you show in making it. This is a great opportunity to get your kids to help and discuss with them the words of Christ: "When I was hungry, you fed me...."

To participate - Make & bring a brown-bag lunch to Church which includes all of the following:

- 1) Sandwich,
- 2) Piece of Fruit
- 3) Bag of Chips/pretzels
- 4) Canned/Bottled Drink &
- 5) Desert (pudding, cookie, etc.)

Important Note: For the purpose of uniformity, please include all/only the items above.

Also PLEASE write type of sandwich (and the presence of any allergens) on bag.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Wreath Reading

Light Green Candle – which expresses *faith*.

Light Blue Candle – which expresses *hope*.

Light Gold Candle – which expresses *love*.

Light White Candle – which signifies *peace*.

The fourth candle reminds us of the Angel's message to the shepherds, "Peace on earth and goodwill toward men."

Four Advent candles burn,
Now we with Wise Men turn
To seek the Child Who brings us light
And follow Him where'er He goes
In blazing sun or blackest night.

Christ, You are our Peace. You broke down the wall of partition that separated us from God. Now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Make us reconcilers and peacemakers. Amen.

St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir Returns to Connecticut for the annual Sacred Music Concert!

We invite you to join us for a special evening of sacred music performed by the talented seminarians of St. Tikhon's Seminary. This concert, dedicated to the memory of our beloved former chancellor and pastor emeritus, The Very Rev. Mitered Archpriest Nicholas Timpko, is a cherished annual tradition that brings together our community in celebration and remembrance.

The concert will be held at Three Saints Orthodox Church in Ansonia, CT, on Sunday, December 8th, at 4:00 p.m. All donations will go to support "The Very Rev. Mitered Archpriest Nicholas Timpko St. Tikhon's OCA Seminarian Memorial Scholarship," which contributes to the formation and education of future priests and leaders in the Orthodox Church.

While admission is free, we appreciate and encourage donations in support of this vital scholarship fund. Please see the flyer posted on your church bulletin board for more information. Checks can be made payable to Three Saints Orthodox Church (with "STOTS" in the memo line) and mailed to:

*Three Saints Orthodox Church – ATTN: Scholarship
26 Howard Ave,
Ansonia, CT 06401*

May our good Lord bless you for your generosity!

Please Note

Any photos taken at Church events may be used on the Church website or Facebook page. If you have any questions on this, please see or contact Father Constantine. <https://www.oca.org/files/PDF/official/2018-1024-socialmediaguidelines-clergy-lay-leaders.pdf>

Christmas Tree Snowflakes

Remember a loved one with a Christmas tree snowflake, which will be hung on our parish Christmas tree.

Donations are \$5. You may offer a snowflake *in memory of* or *for the health of* someone. Return this form to the basket in the vestibule or email it to Cathy Vargas at carv58@aol.com. (**Max. 2 names per snowflake**)

In Memory of:

Name to appear on Snowflake _____

Health of:

Name to appear on Snowflake _____

Donation amount _____

Offered by _____

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Have a Blessed Week!