

Father Dennis to be away

Father Dennis will be away this week for his ex-wife's funeral in Philadelphia. He will return on Friday, November 24th.

In his absence, there will be no services in Church, including the Feast of the Entrance of the Virgin Mary and Thanksgiving Eve.

If there are any emergencies while he is away, contact Fr. George Coca at (203) 895-5464, or an Orthodox priest near you.

News from the Women's Council

The *Orthodox Women's Council's* annual drive for **Pajamas for Kids** (*infants to 18-year-olds*) is continuing through March. (Please note, sweat pants will work for the 18-year-olds).

If you would like to contribute *new* pajamas, a container is located in the Church Hall. Thank you for your participation.

Community Christmas Card

As in years past we will be collecting contributions for our annual **Community Christmas Card**. All entries must be turned in by Sunday, December 10th for the card to be printed and mailed in a timely manner.

Forms are available at the Candle Desk.

The Nativity Fast

We are now in the **Nativity Fast**, which lasts through the Divine Liturgy of Christmas Day. During this time, Orthodox Christians fast and pray in preparation for the Feast.

According to the Tradition of the Church, we observe this Fast by abstaining from meat (including poultry and eggs), dairy, olive oil and wine. On Wednesdays and Fridays, we also abstain from fish. While many people relax these rules, particularly until after Thanksgiving, it is important that we do as much as we can, so that we can properly prepare ourselves spiritually for the Great Feast of our LORD's Nativity.

Educational Mini-Series to be held

On Wednesday, November 29th, we will hold the third installment of our adult education "mini-series" on Saints in our Church Hall at 7:00 p.m., following the celebration of the Akathist Hymn, "Glory to God for All Things."

In our final session, titled "Who is my Saint?", we will discuss why Saints are important for us and how we can relate to our patron Saint and the other Saints of the Church calendar.

Advent Uncction Service

On Thursday, December 7th, the service of **Holy Uncction** will be celebrated in our parish, sponsored by the *Orthodox Clergy Association of Greater Bridgeport*.

The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall afterwards.

General Parish Meeting scheduled

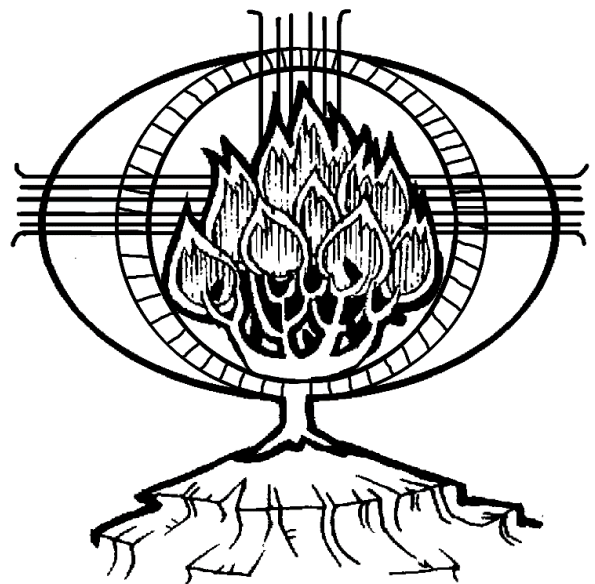
There will be a **General Parish Membership Meeting** on Sunday, January 14, 2018. We will be electing Parish Council members and discussing important needs of our parish community.

Please plan to attend.

Charity Collection

This month, the month of *Thanksgiving Day*, our **Charity Collection** will benefit the **Bridgeport Rescue Mission**, which assists needy persons in our area.

Please be generous!



Ephesians 2:14-22

Brethren: Christ is our peace. He it is who has made both Jews and Gentiles one, and has broken down the intervening wall of the enclosure, the enemy, in His flesh. He has voided the Law of commandments expressed in decrees, so that of the two He might create in Himself one new man, and make peace, and reconcile both in one body to God through the Cross, having destroyed their enmity within Himself. And as He came, He announced the good tidings of peace to you who were far away, and of peace to those who were near: because through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. Therefore, you are now no longer strangers or foreigners, but citizens with the saints and members of God's household: you are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets with Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole structure is closely fitted together and grows into a temple holy in the LORD; in Him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.

Luke 12:16-22

The LORD told this parable: "The land of a certain rich man brought forth abundant crops. And he began to consider, saying, 'What shall I do, for I have no room to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store up all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many good things laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool, this very night, you must give up your life; and the things you have provided, whose will they be?' So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich as regards God." After He had said this, He cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Efesianëve 2:14-22

Vëllezër: Krishti është paqja jonë, ai që i bëri të dyja një, dhe rrëzoi murin ndërmjetës të ndarjes, duke shfuqizuar në trupin e tij armiqësinë, ligjin e porosive urdhëruese, që të ndërtojë në veten e tij nga të dy një njeri të ri, duke bërë pajtim, dhe të dy në një trup t'i pajtojë me Perëndinë me anë të kryqit, pasi vrau armiqësinë në të. Edhe erdhi e predikoi ungjillin e paqes tek ju që ishit larg, dhe tek ata që ishin afër, sepse me anë të tij që të dy afrohemi në një Shpirt tek Ati. Prandaj nuk jeni më të huaj e të jashtëm, por bashkëqytetarë të shenjtorëve dhe pjesëtarë të shtëpisë së Perëndisë; sepse u ndërtuat mbi themelin e apostujve e të profetëve, ku gur qosheje është vetë Jisu Krishti, në të cilin e gjithë ndërtesa e lidhur bashkë rritet në tempull të shenjtë në ZOTIN, në të cilin edhe ju jeni ndërtuar që të bëhet banesë e Perëndisë me anë të Shpirtit.

Llukait 12:16-21

ZOTI u tha këtë paravoli: "Një njeriu të pasur i erdhën mbarë arat. Edhe mendohej me veten e tij, duke thënë: 'Ç'të bëj? Se s'kam ku të mbledh prodhimet e mia.' Pastaj tha: 'Këtë kam për të bërë, do të prish grunarët e mi dhe do t'i bëj më të mëdhenj, dhe do të mbledh atje gjithë drithin tim dhe të mirat e mia. Edhe do t'i them shpirtit tim: O shpirt, ke shumë të mira që gjenden për shumë vjet; prehu, ha, pi, dhe gëzohu.' Po Perëndia i tha: 'I marrë, këtë natë do të kërkojnë prej teje shpirtin tënd. Dhe të kujt do të jenë sa bërë gati?' Kështu do të jetë ai që mbledh thesarë për veten e tij dhe nuk bëhet i pasur në Perëndinë." Duke thënë këto, thërriste: "Kush ka veshë për të dëgjuar, le të dëgjojë."