

Congratulations!

Sarah and Brian Davis welcomed a baby girl, **River Madison**, on October 17, 2017.

Her grandparents are *Kim and John O'Brien* and her great-grandmother is *Toni Barmashi*.

Many Years!

Për Shumë Vjet!

Advent Unction Service

This Thursday, December 7th, the service of **Holy Unction** 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.

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 next Sunday, December 10th for the card to be printed and mailed in a timely manner.

Forms are available at the Candle Desk.

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.

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.

Looking ahead

Father Dennis is beginning to work on the **House-blessing Schedule** for 2018. If you know someone who would like to be added to or taken off the list, please let him know as soon as possible.

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, our **Charity Collection** will benefit the **Trumbull Food Pantry**, which assists needy persons in our area.

Please be generous!



Ephesians 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all virtue and holiness and truth), testing what is well-pleasing to the LORD, and have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For of the things that are done by people in secret, it is shameful even to speak; but all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light: for all that is made manifest is light. Thus there is a saying, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you." See to it, therefore, brethren, that you walk with care, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. Do not become foolish, then, but understand what is the LORD's will. And do not be drunk with wine, for in that is wantonness; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting in your hearts to the LORD.

Luke 18:18-28

At that time a certain man approached Jesus and asked Him, saying, "Good Master, what shall I do to gain eternal life?" But Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but only God. You know the commandments: 'Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honor thy father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have kept ever since I was a child." But when Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing is still lacking to you; sell everything you own, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When he heard these things, he was much grieved, for he was very rich. But Jesus, seeing him become sad, said, "With what difficulty will the wealthy enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." And they who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" He said to them, "Things men cannot do alone, they can do with God's help."

Efesianëve 5:8-19

Vëllezër, ecni si bij drite, sepse fryti i Shpirtit është në çdo mirësi, e drejtësi, e të vërtetë; duke provuar ç'gjë është e pëlqyeshme për ZOTIN. Edhe mos u shoqëroni në punët e pafrytshme të errësirës, por edhe më tepër t'i qortoni. Sepse ato që bëhen fshehurazi nga ata, është turp edhe të thuhet. Po gjithë sa qortohen nga drita, shfaqen; sepse çdo gjë që shfaqet është dritë. Prandaj thotë: "Ngrihu ti që fle, dhe ngjallu prej së vdekurish, dhe Krishti do të të ndriçojë." Shikoni pra, si të ecni me kujdes; jo si të marrë, po si të urtë, duke shfrytëzuar kohën, sepse ditët janë të këqija. Prandaj mos u bëni të pamend, po asish që kuptojnë ç'është dëshira e ZOTIT. Edhe mos u dehni me verë, në të cilën ka plangprishje; por mbushuni me Shpirt të Shenjtë, duke folur midis jush me psalme e me himne dhe me këngë shpirtërore, duke i kënduar e duke i psalur ZOTIT me zemrën tuaj.

Llukait 18:18-28

Në atë kohë, i erdhi pranë Jisuit një i parë e pyeti, duke thënë: "Mësues i mirë, ç'të bëj që të trashëgoj jetë të përjetshme?" Edhe Jisui i tha: "Ç'më thua i mirë? Asnjë nuk është i mirë, përveçse një, Perëndia. Ti i di porositë: 'Mos shkel kurorën; Mos vrit; Mos vidh; Mos jep dëshmi të rreme; Ndero atin tënd dhe nënën tënde'." Edhe ai tha: "Të gjitha këto i kam ruajtur që në rininë time." Edhe Jisui, kur dëgjoi këto, i tha: "Edhe diçka të mungon, shit gjithë ç'ke dhe ndajua të varfërve, dhe do të kesh thesar në qiell; dhe eja, e ndiqmë pas." Por ai, kur dëgjoi këto, u hidhërua; sepse ishte fort i pasur. Edhe Jisui, kur pa se u hidhërua, tha: "Sa me vështirësi do të hyjnë në mbretërinë e Perëndisë ata që kanë pasuri! Sepse më kollaj është të hyjë gamilja nëpër vrimën e gjilpërës, se një i pasur të hyjë në mbretërinë e Perëndisë." Edhe ata që dëgjuan thanë: "E kush mund të shpëtojë?" Edhe ai tha: "Të pamundurat për njerëzit janë të mundura për Perëndinë."