

Albanian Independence Day

We offer prayers today for the Albanian people and nation in honor of **Albanian Flag Day—Ditë e Flamurit.**

Many Years!

Për Shumë Vjet!

Thank you!

I want to thank all of you for the wishes, thoughts, prayers and cards I received after the death of my former wife, **Valentina Rhodes.**

Such expressions from my parish family mean a great deal to me.

Again, thank you!

Father Dennis

Educational Mini-Series to be held

This 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 Unction Service

On 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 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.

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 4:1-6

Brethren, I, the prisoner in the LORD, exhort you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling by which you were called, with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, careful to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, even as you were called to a single hope in your calling: one LORD, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all. But to each one of us, grace was given according to the measure of Christ's imparting.

Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of their synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent over and utterly unable to look up. When Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are delivered from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and instantly she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus was curing on the Sabbath, addressed the crowd, saying, "There are six days in which one ought to work; on these therefore come and be cured, and not on the Sabbath." But the LORD answered him and said, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath let go his ox or ass from the manger and lead it out to water? And this woman, daughter of Abraham that she is, whom Satan has bound, lo, for eighteen years, ought not she too be released from this bond on the Sabbath?" And as He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and the entire crowd rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Efesianëve 4:1-6

Vëllezër: Ju lutem pra juve unë i burgosuri në ZOTIN, të ecni denjësisht në thirrjen që u thirrët, me çdo përvulësi e butësi, me zemërgjerësi, duke duruar njëri-tjetrin me dashuri, duke u kujdesur të ruani unitetin e Shpirtit me anë të lidhjes së pajtimit. Një trup e një Shpirt ka, sikurse edhe u thirrët me një shpresë të thirrjes suaj; një ZOT, një besim, një pagëzim, një Perëndi dhe Atë i të gjithëve, i cili është përmbi të gjithë, dhe me anë të të gjithëve, dhe në të gjithë ju. Edhe gjithësecilit prej nesh iu dha hiri sipas masës së dhuratës së Krishtit.

Llukait 13:10-17

Në atë kohe, një të shtunë ishte Jisui duke mësuar njerëzit në një sinagogë. Edhe ja një grua që kishte frymë sëmundjeje tetëmbëdhjetë vjet, dhe ishte kërrusur e nuk mundej fare të ngrihej drejt. Edhe Jisui kur e pa, e thirri dhe i tha: "Grua, je e çliruar prej sëmundjes sate." Edhe vuri duart mbi të, dhe ajo menjëherë u drejtua, dhe lavdëronte Perëndinë. Po i pari i sinagogës u përgjigj me zemërim, sepse Jisui ditën e shtunë e shëroi, dhe i thoshte turmës: "Gjashtë ditë janë, në të cilat duhet të punoni; ndër këto pra ejani e shërohuni e jo ditën e shtunë." ZOTI pra u përgjigj e i tha: "Hipokrit, gjithësecili prej jush ditën e shtunë a nuk zgjidh kaun e tij a gomarin e tij nga grazhdi, edhe e sjell e i jep ujë? Edhe kjo që është bijë e Abrahamit, të cilën ja tek e pati lidhur satanai tetëmbëdhjetë vjet, a nuk duhej të zgjidhej prej kësaj lidhjeje ditën e shtunë?" Edhe ndërsa ai po thoshte këto, gjithë ata që i dilnin kundër turpëroheshin; dhe gjithë turma gëzohej për gjithë punët e lavdërueshme që bëheshin prej tij.