

The Orthodox Christian Women's Council of Connecticut will meet on Saturday October 21 at 12:30 p.m. at St. Dimitri Orthodox Church on Sport Hill Road in Easton. This will be its Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and Pot Luck Lunch. Attendance/membership is open to all the women of the Eastern orthodox Christian churches in Connecticut.

The Women are beginning to collect new pajamas for their annual outreach project to the needy in the City of Bridgeport. Contact Nadia Murad for further information.

If anyone is interested in seeing the wonderworking Icon (see details below), but would like a ride on Saturday, please contact Melissa Josefiak to make arrangements.

**MIRACULOUS, MYRRH-STREAMING ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

“KARDIOTISSA/TENDER HEART” from St. George Orthodox Church in Taylor, PA will be visiting ST. MARY’S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH at 54 Winter St, New Britain, CT On November 3rd and 4th, 2017

All are invited to join Archbishop NIKON and neighboring clergy on Sunday November 12, 2017 at 4:00 pm for the Vespers of St. Nektarios. Please note this is the Sunday after his Feast Day. There will be a procession with his relics, prayers for the sick and anointing with the oil from St. Nektarios’ tomb. A light Buffet will follow. On the feast, Thursday November 9, there will be Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am.

Christ the Savior Orthodox Church  
1070 Roxbury Rd Southbury Ct. 06788  
203 267 133 www.christsaviorchurch.org

#### THE VENERABLE PELAGIA

Pelagia was a repentant sinner. She was born to pagan parents in Antioch, and was endowed by God with great physical beauty. Pelagia used her beauty to the destruction of her own soul and those of others. She became very wealthy as a result of her prostitution. Once, while walking past the Church of the Holy Martyr Julian, in which Bishop Nonnus was preaching, she stopped in and heard a sermon on the Dread Judgment and the punishment of sinners. Those words so shook her and changed her that she immediately felt revulsion for herself, acquired true fear of God, repented of all her sins and fell down before St. Nonnus with the plea that he baptize her: "Have mercy on me, a sinner, holy Father. Baptize me and teach me repentance--I am a sea of iniquity, an abyss of destruction, a net and weapon of the devil." Thus this penitent begged the hierarch of Christ with tears, and he baptized her. At her baptism, Blessed Romana, the deaconess of the church, was her godmother. Romana, as her spiritual mother, grounded her well in the Christian Faith. But Pelagia was not satisfied with baptism alone. She was keenly aware of the multitude of her sins and, pricked by her conscience, decided on a great ascetic labor. She left her enormous, sinfully gained wealth to the poor, and secretly went to Jerusalem as the monk Pelagius. There, she shut herself up in a cell on the Mount of Olives, and began the difficult ascesis of fasting, prayer and all-night vigils. After three years, St. Nonnus's deacon, James, visited her and found her still alive, but when he visited her again several days later, he found that she had reposed, and he honorably buried her body. St. Pelagia entered into rest in about the year 461

## St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Christian Church

108 East Main Street

PO Box 134

Clinton, CT 06413

### Scripture Readings

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

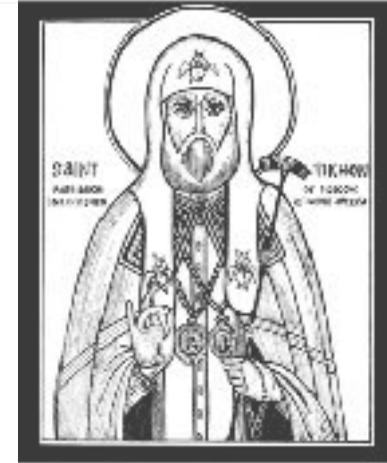
Luke 7:11-16

### Commemorations

Ven. Pelagia the Penitent (457).  
Ven. Dosiféi (Dositheus), Abbot of Verkneóstrov (Pskov–1482). Ven. Tryphon, Abbot of Vyatka (1612).  
Ven. Thaïs (Taïssia) of Egypt (4th c.). Virgin Martyr Pelagía of Antioch (303). Monk Martyr Ignatius of Prodromou (Mt. Athos–1814). Ven. Philotheus, Patriarch of Constantinople (1379).

### Information

Rev. Steven Hosking, attached  
frsteve@stalexischurch.org  
860.664.9434 (church)  
860.866.5802 (message)  
www.stalexischurch.org



## Welcome to our Guests

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy and services. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Liturgy. Please sign our guest card and join us for refreshments and fellowship after the services.

Feel free to ask questions before or after the services. Any member of our Council or Congregation are glad to assist you. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the narthex (back of the Church).

Our Parish Council Representatives are:

President - Susan Hayes  
Vice President - Deborah Bray (Memory Eternal)  
Secretary - SubDeacon Joseph Brubaker  
Treasurer - Susan Egan  
Member at Large - James Pepitone  
Member at Large - Demetra Tolis



*This week's services and events*

Monday, October 9, 2017  
8:30a - Akathist for St Tikhon

Tuesday, October 10, 2017  
No Services

Wednesday, October 11, 2017  
No Services  
No Open Doors

Thursday, October 12, 2017  
No Services

Saturday, October 14, 2017  
5:30p - Great Vespers

Sunday, October 15, 2017  
9:30a - Divine Liturgy  
Church School to follow  
Evangelism and Outreach Ministry

*Announcements*

The Outreach Ministry is planning to ship "Halloween" packages to our college students and young adults. We are reaching out to all parishioners to help by donating any of the following items. Please bring the items to church no later the Sunday, Oct. 22.

- Snacks: Cliff Bars, Kind Bars, Easy Mac, dark or milk chocolate, gum, pretzels or Goldfish
- Gift cards: Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, Subway or gas cards
- Halloween candy or decorations

**Please continue to pray for...**

Please continue to pray for...

Subdeacon Joseph, Sophia, Robert, Ann, Daria, Dori, John, Evelyn, June, Nina, Joan, John, Alex, Alan, Luke, Kathryn, Anastasia, Glenn, Veronica, Darlyne, Irene, Nancy, Dionysian, Elena, Jevon, Ivan and Joscean. And for... John, Jennifer, Nicholas, Isabel, Elizabeth, John, Jordan, Michael, Lee, Eva, Neil, Gina, Joey, Michael, Madelyn, Sofie, Katrina, Olena, Valeriy, Olga, Tatiana, Dimitri, Alexander and Maxim.

Deborah Bray, may her memory be eternal!

**This week we celebrate:**

Vinny and Marlene Melesko on the occasion of their birthdays; Ed and Susan Hayes on the occasion of their anniversary.

Finding Meaning in Suffering  
Fr. George Morelli

Chaplain's Corner

Short essays written for the La Jolla Veteran's Hospital newsletter in La Jolla, California

Many people hold the common belief held that life should not include hardship and suffering and that events that occur, and the way people act should be the way we want them to be. Psychologists have picked up on this attitude system as a major source of emotional disorders. Karen Horney (1950) called it the "tyranny of the shoulds." Albert Ellis (1962), talked about - demanding expectations - that people and events should always follow our preconceived ideas. Psychologists have attempted to find the meaning of illness, suffering, and death. Just the titles of some books by one well-known psychiatrist, Viktor Frankl, illustrate such attempts: Man's Search for Meaning (1959); The Will to Meaning (1969); The Unheard Cry for Meaning (1978).

Different religious traditions have attempted to understand suffering. Hindu tradition considers suffering a consequence of inappropriate living. Buddhism considers suffering a form of craving, not dissimilar to the shoulds and demanding expectations discussed by Horney and Ellis. Buddha teaches: "No sufferings befall the man who is not attached to name and form, and who calls nothing his own." (Dhammapada 17: 221). The Koran, in Islamic tradition, points out: "If ye are suffering hardships ... but ye have Hope from God, while they have none. And God is full of knowledge and wisdom. [4:104]. In Judeo-Christian Sacred Scripture, the Book of Job presents the quintessential spiritual perception. From a human perspective, although Job's sufferings are unjust and inexplicable, nevertheless, he retains his commitment and trust in God.

Our Eastern Church Father, St. Maximus the Confessor, (Philokalia II), expands on this theme but also provides insight into other possible motivations individuals may have: "A man endures suffering either for the love of God, or for hope of reward, or for fear of punishment, or for fear of men, or because of his nature, or for pleasure, or for gain, or out of self-esteem, or from necessity."

Finally, to find meaning in suffering we could apply the teaching of St. Isaac of Syria: "A time of trial is beneficial to everyone: the diligent are tried so that their wealth may increase; the lax, so that they may be preserved from harm; those spiritually asleep, so that they may prepare themselves for watchfulness; those who are far from God, so that they approach Him; those who are God's close associates, so that they may come closer to Him in freedom of speech." (Brock, 1997).

*please see the e-bulletin for the complete article and references*