

The Orthodox Clergy Association of Greater Bridgeport

invites you to a celebration of the

Mystery of Holy Unction



Thursday, December 13, 2018

Saint George Albanian Orthodox Church

5490 Main Street,

Trumbull, Connecticut

The service will begin at 6:30 p.m.

After the service refreshments will be provided in the Church Hall



St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Church

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Fr Steven Hosking

Rector

Phone: 860-866-5802

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Services Schedule

Please see our [online calendar](#) for dates and times of Feast Day services.

Bulletin for Sunday, December 09, 2018

Welcome



Jesus Christ taught us to love and serve all people, regardless of their ethnicity or nationality. To understand that, we need to look no further than to the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Every time we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, it is offered "on behalf of all, and for all." As Orthodox Christians

we stand against racism and bigotry. All human beings share one common identity as children of God.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatian 3:28)

Weekly Services

Tuesdays at 8:30a - Daily Matins
Wednesdays at 6:00p - Daily Vespers (The Church is open at 4:30p for "Open Doors" - confession, meditation and reflection).
Thursday at 8:30a - Daily Matins
Saturday at 5:30p - Great Vespers
Sunday at 9:30a - Divine Liturgy

Members of our Parish Council are:

Susan Hayes - Council President (Leaving the Council)

Susan Egan - Council Treasurer (Leaving the Council)

Greg Jankura - Member at Large

Glenn PenkoffLedbeck - Council Secretary

James Pepitone - Council Vice President (Resigned from the Council)

Vincent Melesko - Member at Large (On Leave from the Council)

Roderick Seurattan, Kyle Hollis - Newly

Elected: Michael Kuziak, Natalie Kucharski -

Elected Replacements

Pastoral Care - General Information

- *Emergency Sick Calls* can be made at any time. Please call Fr Steven at (860) 866-5802, when a family member is admitted to the hospital.
- *Anointing in Sickness:* The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, the hospital, or your home, for anyone who is sick and suffering, however severe.
- *Marriages and Baptisms* require early planning, scheduling and selections of sponsors (crown bearers or godparents). See Father before booking dates and reception halls!
- *Funerals* are celebrated for practicing Orthodox Christians. Please see Father for details. The Church opposes cremation; we cannot celebrate funerals for cremations.

Announcements

Update on the Rd House

This past week Mike Kuziak obtained the services of an architect and structural engineer, the four of us then met with the contractor to go over his work. The conversation was very detailed both the engineer and architect had positive reactions to the contractor's work. We are currently waiting for their official report.

Update on the Church Roof Leak

This past Sunday, the roof of the church developed three leaks as a result of the heavy rains. We have begun looking for a certified roof contractor to assess where the leaks are occurring and how to make necessary repairs. We are also looking into how much of this would be covered by our insurance.

Saints and Feasts



December 09

The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos

According to the ancient tradition of the Church, since Saint Anna, the Ancestor of God, was barren, she and her husband Joachim remained without children

Reflection



Galatians 4:22-31 (Epistle, St. Anna)

For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But

he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar – for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children – but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.” Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the

son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Luke 8:16-21 (Gospel, St. Anna)

No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. And it was told Him by some, who said, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.” But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 4 Kontakion(Conception of the Theotokos)

Today the universe rejoices, for Anna has conceived the Theotokos through God's dispensation, // for she has brought forth the one who is to bear the ineffable Word.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 1:12-18

Brethren, we give thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that

in everything he might be preminent.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from Luke 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Wisdom of the Fathers

The Lord... freely bestows upon us the bountiful gifts of His mercy, in order that we should not grudge His gifts to those whom He sends to us.

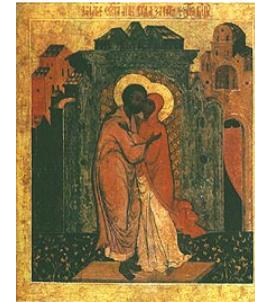
St. John of Kronstadt

My Life in Christ: Part 1, Holy Trinity Monastery pg. 226, 19th Century

until old age. Therefore, sorrowing over their childlessness, they besought God with a promise that, if He were to grant them the fruit of the womb, they would offer their offspring to Him as a gift. And God, hearkening to their supplication, informed them through an Angel concerning the birth of the Virgin. And thus, through God's promise, Anna conceived according to the laws of nature, and was deemed worthy to become the mother of the Mother of our Lord (see also Sept. 8).

Lives of the Saints

The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God



Troparion & Kontakion

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent

prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

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 Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

"In the icon 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 all the universe by its power."

There are also icons in which Saint Anna

holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna's face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk district of Volhynia diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

Parish Calendar

Service and Events

November 15 to December 17, 2018

Thursday, November 15

Nativity Fast

Sunday, December 9

10th Sunday of Luke
Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 10

The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugephus
Dori Kuziak - B

Tuesday, December 11

Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople
8:30AM Daily Matins

Wednesday, December 12

Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithous
4:30PM Open Doors
6:00PM Nativity Reflection

Thursday, December 13

Herman the Wonderworker of Alaska & First Saint of America
Repose of St. Herman of Alaska

8:30AM Akathist to St Herman

Friday, December 14

The Holy Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius, and Callinicus of Asia Minor, and Philemon, Apollonius, and Arian of Alexandria

Saturday, December 15

Eleutherios the Hieromartyr, Bishop of Illyricum, and his mother Anthia
9:30AM Liturgy at St Nicholas Church
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, December 16

11th Sunday of Luke
Evangelism and Outreach Ministry meeting
9:30AM Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 17

Daniel the Prophet & Ananias, Azarias, & Misail, the Three Holy Youths

Prayers, Intersessions and Commemorations



William, Sophia, Robert, Ann, Evelyn, Nina, John, Alex, Luke, Kathryn, Anastasia, Malcolm, Veronica, Darlyne, Irene, Nancy, Elena, Jevon, the new born Stella Anna, Ivan and Joscean.

And for... Sofie, Katrina, Olena, Valeriy, Olga, Tatiana, Dimitri, Alexander and Maxim.

All of our College Students: Alex, Kaitlyn,

Jack, Sam, Connor, Nadia, Isaac and Matthew.

—
Many Years! to Dori Kuziak on the occasion of her birthday!

We remember those who perished in the Newtown School shooting on Dec 14th.
Memory Eternal!

—
Pray for: All those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and their own homes due to illness; for all those who serve in the armed forces; widows, orphans, prisoners, victims of violence, and refugees;

All those suffering chronic illness, financial hardship, loneliness, addictions, abuse, abandonment and despair; those who are homeless, those who are institutionalized, those who have no one to pray for them;

All Orthodox seminarians & families; all Orthodox monks and nuns, and all those considering monastic life; all Orthodox missionaries and their families.

All those who have perished due to hatred and intolerance and all those departed this life in the hope of the Resurrection.

—
Today we commemorate:

Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most-holy Theotokos. Prophetess Anna (Hannah), mother of the Prophet Samuel (ca. 1100 B.C.). St. Sophronius, Archbishop of Cyprus (6th c.). St. Stephen the "New

Light" of Constantinople (10th c.).

Hymns of the Day

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Tone 4 Troparion (Conception of the Theotokos)

Today the bonds of barrenness are broken:
God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna.
He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God, by whom the Uncircumscribed One was born as a mortal Man;
He commanded an Angel to cry to her: "Rejoice, of full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs//