

The Lighthouse September, 2017

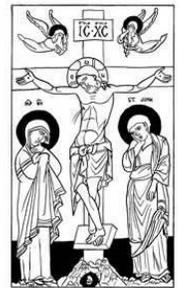
Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, 1070 Roxbury Road, Southbury, CT 06488
Archpriest Vladimir Aleandro (203) 267-1330 www.christsaviorchurch.org

A Blessed New Year! No, it is not January yet and we are not celebrating Rosh Hashanah. For Orthodox Christians, September 1 begins the new liturgical year. It represents the time when the harvest is in, debts are paid, thanks is given for the past and we look to the future asking God's Blessing on new beginnings. As is most fitting, we begin with a birth that had and continues to have profound consequences for the world and our lives.



September 8 is the Feast of the birth of Mary, the Theotokos. Through her God took flesh and came to give us life now and everlasting. On the evening of Thursday, September 7, we celebrate with Vespers and Liturgy beginning at 6:30PM. This will be followed by a festive supper. Come to the "Birthday Party".

September 14 is the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. On the eve, Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30, we will have Vespers, Liturgy and Veneration of the Holy Cross. This will be followed by a Lenten Supper. September 14 is a day of "strict fast".



God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

Born new of Water and Spirit: Thea Barbara, daughter of Zach and Rachel Goulet, who was born on July 15, will be born anew through water and The Holy Spirit on Sunday, September 10, at 9:15 AM. Following Liturgy there will be an "Extended Coffee Hour". Please see the bulletin board. Our prayers and congratulations go to the Goulet and Kopcha families.



Education Program for 2017-2018. Our education program will begin on September 17. This year our theme is "**The Beatitudes and Parables**" The youngest to the oldest member of our community will examine and reflect on the beautiful gift that has been given to us, our Orthodox way of life seen through the teachings of Jesus in the Beatitudes and His parables.

Teachers this year will be: Teen Group, Father Sergius; Grades 2-5, Matushka Suzanne; and Kindergarten, Matushka Mary Ann. The class lists are posted in the hallway.

Adult Study group will meet on Monday mornings from 10 – 11 AM. They will use the book **The Ladder of the Beatitudes** by Jim Forest. An order sheet will be posted for those wanting to order the book.

Beatitude in action

After a renowned career in academia, priest and author Henri Nouwen devoted his final years to living in community with and caring for adults with severe developmental disabilities. A friend once asked Nouwen if it might make more sense to spend his remaining time writing.

"I am not giving up anything," Nouwen answered. "It is I, not Adam [the man he helped with the most basic needs], who gets the main benefit from our friendship."

Nouwen didn't merely read Jesus' beatitude "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matthew 5:7). He lived it. Based on *I Am in Here* by Elizabeth Bonker and Virginia Breen

Scholarship Fund 2018. *We are beginning our Scholarship Fund Donations during the month of September.* Our parish scholarship fund awards grammar school graduates with a \$50 gift, high school graduates with a \$200 cash award and undergraduate college students with a \$200 cash award annually for three years. This June, 2018, we will honor: one eighth grade graduate, one high school graduate and four college students. We are privileged to have very active Orthodox youth in our parish. The future of the Church is in our midst. Please use the large envelope on the bulletin board for your scholarship donations. **THANK YOU! Our 2018 Scholarship Goal is \$1,100.**

Come to the **Women's Retreat Saturday, September 9.** "A person is humble when he knows that his very being is on loan to him." St Maximos the Confessor.

We will resume our discussion of **Being Bread** by Stephen Muse. Evangeline Zarras will lead our sharing of ideas this month on the chapter "Settling the Score a Different Way", pp.89 – 95. Akafist, *Glory to God for all Things* begins at 9AM, followed by a short meditation, quiet time, breakfast and discussion. All women are welcome. Take a morning, step aside from your cares and concern and find peace with the Lord and fellowship with other women. We conclude at 11:30 AM.

Who is the "Buggy Man"? All men are invited to come on the night of the Holy Cross, September 14 to find out. This September Men's Mini Retreat we will begin at 7:00 PM. It is so encouraging to see the growing number of men from our parish come together to support and grow in their Orthodox Christian life.

Many Years to our college students. We extend our encouragement and prayers to our college students: **Sasha Bondarev** as he continues his studies at *NVCC*, **Megan Curran** who will begin her final year at *Marist*, **James Brockett** who starts his third year at *UCONN*, **Thomas Halvorsen** as he begins his second year at the *University of St Andrew's* in Scotland and Timothy Halvorsen entering *Bard College*. *May you walk in the ways of the Lord all the days of your lives.* We are proud of your accomplishments and send you back to school with our love and prayerful best wishes.

Heads Up: We will be collecting "Snack Packs for Back Packs" for the Woodbury Food Bank at the end of the month. Collection boxes will be available *on Sunday, Sept. 17 through Sunday, September 24.* Healthy snack foods and drinks will be greatly appreciated.

Life during the month of August at Christ the Savior: The pace of life did not slow down with visitors and "pilgrims". We are most grateful for Deacon Stephanos Ritsi who served Vespers and gave a presentation on The Church in Albania. Deacon and his family are full time missionaries in Albania.

Memory Eternal: On the feast of Christ the Savior, Svetlana Tchistiakov, the oldest member of our parish, Fell Asleep in the Lord. Her "Pascha" and funeral was, in a providential way, a blessing for all of us.

Congratulations: LeAnn Cassidy will return to work this year as "Teacher of the Year for District 14. We are proud of you and ask The Lord to Bless your work as a Ministry to Youth.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Sunday, November 12. It is **the Sunday after the Feast of St. Nectarios** and this year **Archbishop Nikon** will be coming to **celebrate "Vespers of St. Nectarios"** with us at **4:00 pm.** Note this will be in place of the Eve of St. Nectarios Vespers. Be sure to tell family and friends about it. He who accepts present afflictions in the expectation of future blessings has found knowledge of the truth; and he will easily be freed from anger and remorse. Saint Kosmas Aitolos