HOLY TRINITY
ORTHODOX CHURCH

AUGUST 2015
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<td>Divine Liturgy, 9:00 A.M Coffee Hour – Dresko/Vek</td>
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<td>St. Herman of Alaska</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy, 9:00 A.M Coffee Hour – Jessie &amp; Joseph</td>
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<td>(8/10 – 8/15)</td>
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<td>Choir Picnic</td>
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<td>Cleaners - George Matyczyk</td>
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<td>Greeter - Betty Beck</td>
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DORMITION FAST: The fast in preparation for the Great and Holy Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos begins on August 1st and ends with the celebration of the Festal Divine Liturgy on August 15th. Fr. David will be available for confession after Saturday Vespers.

A note about Confession and frequent Communion: For those who are receiving the Eucharist every Sunday and on Feast days, an acceptable rule of thumb is to participate in the Sacrament of Confession at least once during each of the four Lenten seasons during the year. Also, in preparation for receiving the Holy Eucharist, especially at Sunday Divine Liturgy, prayer and fasting is the acceptable practice. Prayer, by attending Vespers the night before, and fasting, from midnight until after Divine Liturgy. When we have a weekday Festal Vesperal Liturgy the rules of fasting are the same as for Pre-sanctified. We also should participate in the Sacrament of Confession if we are absent from Divine Liturgy & the Eucharist for three weeks in a row.

FEAST DAYS: There will be two Great Feasts during the month of August. The first is the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Thursday, August 6th. [Since Fr. David will be away we will not have services at New Britain]. We can celebrate with our neighbors in Hartford or Terryville or the Partonal Festal Divine Liturgy at Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven at 9:00 a.m.

The second is the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Saturday, August 15th. We will celebrate with Festal Great Vespers & Blessing of Flowers on Friday, August 14th at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday the Festal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.

FILL THE BAG: We will be collecting school supplies for the children of our neighborhood. PLEASE check out the flyer and see Matushka Melanie or Gladys Labas to see where you can assist!! All items due by **August 9th**!

GOLF DAY: The Men's Club invites you to join them for a round of golf (9 holes) on Sunday, August 23, 2015 at Timberline Golf Club, 330 Southington Road, Berlin, CT. Mark your calendars and keep watch for more information!

GENERAL CONFESSION: is normally held on the last Saturday of each month (except for lenten periods), following Great Vespers. All regular communicants should make every effort to attend each General Confession. The next General Confession will be held on Saturday, August 29th.

The August charity collection is for for **Presbytera Katherine Baker**. She is the widow of Fr. Matthew Baker, who tragically died in a car crash this past March traveling home from church, and the mother of six children, Isaac, Elias, George, Eleftheria, Cyril, and Matthew Jr. This past May Fordham University presented Fr. Matthew’s doctoral diploma to Presbytera Katherine. She was accompanied by two of her sons—Isaac, 12, who accepted his father’s doctoral hood, and Cyril, 4.

There is a “GoFundMe” [http://www.gofundme.com/nizf2g](http://www.gofundme.com/nizf2g) web page where 100% of the donations received in this campaign will go directly to his wife. The collection will be taken on the last Sunday of the month. Please use the envelope provided in your monthly mailing and be generous!!

PARISH COUNCIL: The next meeting of the 2015 Parish Council will be held on Monday evening, August 31st at 7:00 p.m. All council members are asked to make every effort to attend the meeting.
Birthdays & Anniversaries in AUGUST:

7 Nicholas Tabakow 1927
8 Jennie Everson
8 Irene Ferrandino 1955
13 Peter Anop 1957
15 Julia Salina 2005
22 Scott Ahern 1972
25 Margaret Wagner 1945
28 Amy Labas 1975
28 Jason Ferrandino 1981
29 Mariel Sahin 1972
5 Peter & Gladys Labas 1973
5 Ed & Marion Bichun 1967
9 George & Maureen Ludko 1969
16 Paul & Annette Salina 1970
19 Nicholas & Melissa Dresko 2007
22 John & Tessa Mah 2008

“WHEN I WAS SICK YOU CAME TO ME”
The following parishioners (and friends) are now home-bound or in long-term care facilities. If there are any names missing, please inform Fr. David. The regular schedule of visitations is included on the monthly calendar. Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to make regular visitations to nursing homes and shut-ins. Our loved ones NEED to feel connected to their parish family.

Bay Ridge Health Center, Annapolis, MD
Jennie Skovich

Jerome Home, New Britain
Sadie Albino

Arbor Rose, New Britain
Nona Belomyzy
Mary Camarata

Monsignor Bojnowski Manor, New Britain
Helen Karabin


PARISH DIPTYCHS
Please remember our departed brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Mary Molchan 79 August 1 1930
Nicholas Kotek 84 August 1 1973
Konstanty Zavadsky 104 August 1 1991
Child Stephen Nazaruk 6 August 2 1935
Sergei Popov 36 August 3 1905
Anna Horbal 80 August 3 1980
Mary Shimchick 81 August 3 2009
John Martinchuk 67 August 4 1939
Katherine Panka 17 August 5 1911
Agafia Makula 56 August 5 1939
Constantine Mazur 70 August 5 1950
Michael Raduha 41 August 6 1111
Zeniaid Skunciklen 86 August 6 1914
Child John Sokolovich 6 mo August 6 1918
Anna Pyzow 86 August 6 1980
Edward Czerwinski, Sr. 77 August 6 2003
Mary Zuk 77 August 7 1965
Sophie Johnson 94 August 7 2009
Child Vasili Abhusminov 1 mo August 8 1909
John Matyczek 77 August 8 1973
Mary Turek 77 August 8 2002
Olga Skotnicki 96 August 8 2013
Anna Shilno 52 August 9 1913
Child Olga Mazur 28 days August 9 1916
John Matusiwich 52 August 9 1947
Stephen Dobosz 86 August 9 2004
Lillian Zamayduk August 9 2006
Joseph Burak 63 August 10 1955
Joseph Zuk 73 August 10 1957
Paul Belomyzy, Sr. 55 August 10 1961
John J. Hamilla 79 August 11 1957
Andrew Erosh 72 August 11 1965
John Horbal 12 August 12 1936
Child Sophie Valsha 1 August 13 1908
Jacob Michael Haschuk 64 August 13 1961
Olga Kotrady 61 August 13 1969
Mit. Apr. Anthony Diachenko 8 mo August 13 1970

Rector: 1914
Anne Cherpak 100 August 13 2011
Child Mary Mardetska 2 August 14 1917
Anastasia Diachuk August 15 1941
Natalie Sniitko 48 August 16 1927
Foma Protesena 71 August 16 1960
Child John Petriska August 17 1906
In 1994 the 200th anniversary of Orthodoxy in America was celebrated — the bicentennial of the establishment of a Russian Orthodox mission on Kodiak Island, Alaska. On September 24, 1794, ten missionaries from the Valaam Monastery in the St. Petersburg (Russia) diocese, who had traveled for a year across 7,000 miles, finally reached their harsh new mission land in Alaska, or "Russian America," which had been a part of the Russian Empire until its sale to the United States in 1867. Only one of these original missionaries survived and remained in America—Holy Father St. Herman.

American Orthodoxy today owes a great debt to these ten missionary monks, most especially to the simple and humble ascetic monk, Father Herman. Truly the "North-Star of Christ’s Holy Church," and the last survivor of the original 1794 mission, he worked among the Alutiiq people for 43 years, teaching them by word and by the example of his holy life and great deeds. For most of those years he lived on Spruce Island—his "New Valaam”—teaching and caring for the natives as his beloved children, frequently defending them against the exploitation of the Russian fur traders. The people quickly grew to love him and came to him with all their problems. He lived the most ascetic life possible, eating and sleeping little, wearing the same ragged clothes year-round, feeding the birds and wild animals (even bears), and in continual prayer with his constant companions—God, the saints and the angels. When smallpox, brought by the European ships, ravaged the native Alaskans, Father Herman personally ministered to them, and brought all the orphans to his New Valaam, where he took care of them. He built an orphanage, school and chapel. He grew food in his garden, caught fish and baked cookies for the children. He taught them in his school, and showed them by his example how to live a godly life. Indeed, the children and adults loved their holy father, St. Herman.

He told the people that after his death outsiders would forget about him for 30 years. Indeed, 30 years later, in 1867, at the time of the sale of Russian America to the United States, Bishop Peter of Alaska began the formal investigation of St. Herman’s life, which led to the publication of his Life in 1894 and eventually, to his glorification in 1970. Blessed Father Herman has worked countless miracles since his repose in 1837, as he continues to guide those who follow the Orthodox way in America.

St. Herman’s relics were brought from Spruce Island to the Resurrection Church on Kodiak at the time of his glorification on August 9, 1970. This Resurrection Church is the successor of the 1794 Resurrection Church founded by St. Herman and his fellow missionaries upon their arrival on Kodiak.

A beautifully carved wooden reliquary in the Resurrection Church contains the coffin with Father Herman’s relics. On top of the reliquary arc: a large icon of the saint (center); as well as the "paramon" cross and metal chains (on the
left) that he wore (shown in the icon at the top); and his klobuk (monk’s hat) (in the glass box on the right). Also to be found at this church is Father Herman’s hand cross, which he is shown holding in the icon at the top.

THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

The Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on August 15. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ’s mother. It proclaims that Mary has been “assumed” by God into the Heavenly Kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

According to St. Theophan the Recluse: “Mary hath chosen that good part (Luke 10:42). The Dormition of the Mother of God represents a good end to such a choice. The Savior Himself received her soul in His arms at her Dormition. Many saints were made worthy of the same. In various ways and degrees, all those who choose that good part meet with this. At the time this choice is made, the saints foresaw this end through hope, and even felt it to a certain degree; but then come labors, struggle and forcing oneself, shrouding the chosen path. The good end of that good part remains as a guiding star. It is as a faraway shining light for a traveler who is overtaken by darkness. Hope is the stimulator of energy and the maintainer of patience and constancy in what was begun, while hope itself is strong through faith. People make their choice according to faith, and through hope they are firm in their choice; while through patience they attain that good end.”

The Theotokos died like all humanity, “falling asleep,” so to speak, as the name of the feast indicates. She died as all people die, not “voluntarily” as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Apostles were miraculously summoned to this event, and all were present except Thomas when the Theotokos passed from this life. She was then buried.

Thomas arrived a few days later, and desiring to see her one more time, convinced the others to open her tomb. Upon doing so, the Apostles discovered that her body was no longer present. This event is seen as a first fruits of the resurrection of the faithful that will occur at the Second Coming of Christ. The event is normally called the Dormition, though there are many Orthodox parishes in English-speaking countries with the name Assumption. In Greek, Dormition is [Κοίμησις] Koimisis - falling asleep in death - from which the word “cemetery” derives.

Image Not-made-by-hands

The Icon of the Savior, Image Not-Made-By-Hands, also Acheiropoieita (Greek: αχειροποίητα, "made without hand") is one of the earliest icons witnessed to by the Church. The Feast of this icon is celebrated on August 16, during the afterfeast period of the feast of the Dormition, and is called the Third Feast-of-the-Savior in August.

During the time of the earthly ministry of the Savior, Abgar, ruler in the Syrian city of Edessa, was afflicted with leprosy. Reports of the great miracles performed by the Lord extended throughout Syria (Matt. 4:24) and as far as Arabia at this time. Although not having seen the Lord, Abgar believed in him and wrote a letter requesting Christ to come and heal him. Abgar sent his court painter, Ananias, with this letter to Palestine telling him to paint an image of the Divine Teacher. Ananias was not able to go to near Christ because of the great many people listening to his preaching. He attempted to produce an image of the Lord Jesus Christ from afar, but could not. The Lord called Ananias and promised to send his disciple in order to heal Abgar from the leprosy and instruct him in salvation. Then the Lord called for water and a towel. He wiped His face with the towel, and on it was His Divine Image.

The Savior sent the towel and a letter to Edessa back with Ananias. With thanksgiving Abgar received the sacred objects and started healing. He continued healing until the arrival of the disciple Thaddeus, Apostle of the 70. The Apostle preached the Gospel and baptized the Abgar and all living in Edessa.

Having written on the Image Not-Made-By-Hands the words, Christ-God, everyone trusting in Thee will not be put to shame, Abgar adorned it and placing it over gates of the city. For many years it was venerated by those who passed through the gates. Edessa, a great-grandson of Abgar, fell into idolatry and was determined to remove the image. In a vision, the Lord ordered the Bishop of Edessa to conceal...
the image. The bishop and his clergy at night, blocked up the niche with clay tablets and bricks inclosing with it a lit lampada. Many years passed by and the inhabitants forgot about the Holy Object.

In the year 545, the Persian King Chroses I, besieged Edessa, and all seemed hopeless. But Bishop Evlavios was commanded by a vision of the Theotokos to get from the enclosed niche the image with which to save the city from the adversaries. Dismantling the niche, the Bishop found the Holy Image; before it burned the lampada and on the clay tablets, with which the niche had been enclosed, was a similar image. After preceding with the Cross and the Image Not-Made-By-Hands around the walls of the city, the Persian army miraculously departed. In 630, Edessa was seized by Arabs; but they did not hinder veneration of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. There are several traditions concerning the fate of the Image Not-Made-By-Hands. One is that it was carried away by Crusaders during the time of their dominion over Constantinople (1204-61), but the ship on which Holy Objects had been taken, sank in the Sea of Marmora. Another is that the Image Not-Made-By-Hands was taken about 1362 to Genoa, where it was presented to and preserved in a monastery dedicated to the Apostle Bartholomew.

http://orthodoxwiki.org/Image_Not-made-by-hands

Parish Council Meeting 6-1-15

Members in Attendance: Fr. David Koles, Gladys Labas, Chris Adams, Dan Belonick, Marion Bichun, Sarah Clark, Rosemary Delaney, Chris Dresko, George Matyczyk, and Juliana Veek.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:13PM and began with “O Heavenly King.”

Warden Gladys Labas passed out the April 27, 2015 meeting minutes.

Pastor’s Report:
Father thanked Dan Belonick and those who helped with the Parish Picnic as well as Chris Dresko for directing our extended choir which included visiting members of All Saints in Hartford. This was a very successful weekend with a schedule of the picnic on Saturday running into Vespers.

Father also received thank you notes from the National MS Society, Team Jenga and Home Front who were the recipients of recent monthly charities.

Father will be at All Saints of America in Salisbury on June 14, Holy Transfiguration in New Haven on September 27, and Ss. Peter & Paul in Manville, New Jersey (his first home parish) on October 4 for the anniversaries of these parishes in Connecticut attending as Dean and in New Jersey.

Father added that 18th All American Council is coming up in July and he and Evelyn Cherpak will be traveling to Atlanta.

Warden Labas asked about the sexual harassment policy and implementation. Chris Dresko shared his experience with these policies and administering certifications as an educator, and will complete some research on how our parish and how the diocese can possibly utilize an easier, more internet based system.

Warden’s Report:
Gladys Labas congratulated Dan Belonick on a very successful picnic. The addition of the bounce houses was appreciated by the children and families and most people were very satisfied with the change of holding the picnic on Saturday afternoon rather than Sunday.

Gladys and Evelyn have been looking through the archives that were on site.

The Bichun Scholarship went well and it was a very nice event. We are hoping to have more applicants next year. The scholarship amounts awarded to every applicant is based on the cost of a course at their university.

Gladys will be away beginning on August 13th for two weeks.

Financial Report:
Chris Adams and Dan Belonick presented then April figures, which have not been audited:

- April Income: $14,700.48
- April Expense: $14,953.11
- Expense/Income: -$252.63

Marion Bichun motioned to accept the financial report, Chris Dresko seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Adams met with the church’s financial advisors, Morgan Stanley. They discussed the state of the financial market and realigning investments moving forward. We will be moving our accounts to Morgan Stanley so they can service our accounts for free, as opposed to the fees we are currently paying with Bank of America. Also, Mr. Adams will be holding another meeting at the end of the second financial quarter.

The financial committee will meet July 9, 2015.

Secretary’s Report:
Marion Bichun and Chris Adams presented amendments to the April 27, 2015 minutes:
- All Saints in Hartford, not Meriden
- Proper spelling of Angel in “Angel Cried”

Chris Adams moved to accept the April 27, 2015 minutes with changes, Dan Belonick seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.
Finance Committee:  
The next meeting will be on July 9.

Building and Grounds:  
Thank you to Dan Bradanini for seeing the roof repair project through its completion.

The council is looking forward to Dan’s and Father’s research on fixing the internal damage done by the leaking roof.

George asked Father about any discussions on the upper garage. He also wanted to see if we were planning to sell the two pews which sit in the upper garage.

George Matyczyk reported that the cemetery committee will review:

- Anderson Turf has run into an issue with CCSU regarding the irrigation work. We need to cut into the sidewalk to connect to their meter, which is on CCSU property, and they are not in favor. The council suggests he connect with Mike Wanik, who was warden at the time we granted CCSU the easement to make changes to the road.
- George would like to have a committee come with him on Sunday 14th to identify which trees should be proposed for removal. Juliana Veek will provide information on local tree removal services.
- The roads are cracked and in need of repair, so George will be seeking quotes to make repairs this fall.
- Father will call Baker to follow up on the installation of the new archway, which needs to include the repair of the existing cross.
- The invoice sheet for burials includes a fee for the Priest and Choir Director, and Father clarified that those fees are only imposed for non-active parishioners. George asked again for people to have a list of people who can attend the Funerals to open the church, light the candles and help host the attendees.

George added that after this year, he will need to step down as the person who handles all the cemetery, the various vendors, and the odds and ends of the parish. He is seeking a replacement – the Council agrees that his service is very important to the church and finding a suitable person or persons to assist is a top priority.

At church, there has been a path that walkers have been going through the new grounds and we should consider changes to make that path an actual walkway.

The garage door is difficult to close, and it would be too expensive to replace, but George will look into changing out the handle and if that would provide a more cost-effective solution.

Old Business:
Parish Picnic – Dan Belonick noted the finances from the picnic. Total cost of food was $174, and Dan received $90. The Sisterhood offered to cover the remaining food costs. The men’s club paid for the bounce houses.

New Business:
Church Cleaners: June is Chris Adams. July, December 2015 and January 2016 are not covered. July we may have a volunteer and Juliana Veek volunteered for December.

Father noted that Sunday, June 6 we will be visiting All Saints Parish in Hartford, as discussed as part of a partnership with them in celebrating our parish feast days, and it was brought to his attention that the Sunday School was planning to hold an outing that Sunday and needed to cancel with services not being held in New Britain. No one on the Council was informed about this outing, and recommends that the Sunday School (or any organization at Church) present a letter proposing any parish event to the Priest and Council for information and approval. This would prevent such instances from happening in the future.

The air conditioning units in both the Sunday School and the Choir Loft need to be replaced. George will check on the strength of the current units so we can replace them with similar ones.

Thank you to Mike Wanik for putting flags at the graves in our cemetery in honor of Memorial Day. It was a beautiful tribute.

The File project is progressing, and the Council discussed outfitting the church basement better for safe file storage and for the evolving needs of the church school. These changes will help us make the best use of our existing space, save us money on the rented storage space and best protect our church records. George will look into companies who can complete this project.

The Council suggested different places to donate the remaining property in the bookstore. Suggestions included the nearby seminaries, local parishes and Bakers.

Rachel Santoro, Amber Fiedler and Gladys Labas will be teaching the church school this coming year.

August Charity: Marion Bichun suggested assisting Presbytera Catherine Baker whose husband Fr. Matthew Baker recently lost his life in a car accident.

Next meeting: 
Monday, June 29, 2015 7:00PM

Marion Bichun motioned for adjournment at 8:45PM. The meeting concluded with “It is Truly Meet.”

Submitted by,  Sarah Clark

A Reminder ….
….. from Buildings & Maintenance

Please remember the image pictured here when locking the chains “gate” to our parking lot. This will preserve the locks by putting the tension on the hook and not the lock.

Thanks!