

Rector's Letter, July, 2019

Dear brothers and sisters:

This month, we hear from the Gospel:

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ... But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:22–33)

It is terribly hard to stop worrying. We spend so much effort and anxiety on things utterly beyond our control and strength—especially when it comes to our loved ones. But when we truly consider, we realize that when we calm ourselves and let go of our worries, we actually accomplish more. God does know what we need!

During Lent, we are invited to read the Book of Proverbs. One passage struck me this year:

There are those who by distributing their livelihood increase it, and there are others who gather, yet have less.... As for him who puts his trust in wealth, he will fall, but as for him who supports the righteous, he will flourish. He who does not deal graciously with his own household will inherit wind, and the fool will be a slave to the

insightful one. From the fruit of righteousness grows a tree of life, but the souls of transgressors are cut off untimely (Proverbs 11:24–30).

“From the fruit of righteousness grows a tree of life”! The Lord tells us in so many different ways that he will bless us abundantly, if only we will trust him. If only we will stop frantically gathering to cover our own needs. If only we will be generous with others. If only we will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

It is so hard to begin, when we know this is not the way the world works. But, as the Proverbs remind us, there are many things we know that aren't necessarily so! Those who are most resilient, most at peace, most full of joy, are those who are generous, gracious, and thankful.

Try the Lord's way this summer, and see how good the Lord is.

Yours in Christ,



Around the Parish

His Eminence, our Archbishop Nikon is continuing his slow recovery from surgery and is confronting fresh health challenges. In addition to prayers, words of encouragement are welcome: 517 E. Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127-4415.

Thanks go to everyone who worked hard to host our **parish picnic** on Sunday, June 23. It was a beautiful and fun day for the parish and our guests.

On Sunday afternoon, July 7, at 3:00 PM in the afternoon, there will be **A Celebration of Pastoral Transition at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church**, Southbury. During that event, Fr. Vladimir Aleandro will ceremonially pass over the care of that parish to its new pastor, Fr. Moses Locke. The event will begin with the Akathist Service “Glory to God for All Things,” and continue thereafter with a picnic. The clergy and faithful of our Diocese are invited to attend this event. For details, please call 203-267-1330.

We will be **blessing vehicles** after the Liturgy on Sunday, July 14, as a celebration of the Prophet Elijah, who was carried up to heaven in a fiery chariot. (You can find the account in the Bible: 2[4] Kings 2:1-14.) On a Sunday close to St. Elijah’s feast (July 20), we go out from the church to our vehicles to pray that the Lord would keep us safe as we travel. Please open your doors so that your vehicles may be blessed inside and out.

Fr. Joshua will be away for the weekend of July 21, and our dean has not been able to identify a substitute. As a result, **we will not hold services in Meriden for July 20-21**. Instead, please plan to attend one of our sister parishes, for example, Holy Trinity, 305 Washington Ave, New Britain, and Holy Transfiguration, 285 Alden Ave, New Haven.



Looking ahead to August, the **Dormition Fast begins on August 1**. It always lasts two weeks, in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Theotokos on August 15.

We will celebrate the **Transfiguration of the Lord** on August 6. We remember how the Lord took three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, up to Mount Tabor. There he was transfigured, revealing his divine glory to them as far as they could bear it. We will observe the eve on Monday, August 5, with Great Vespers at 6 PM. We will also bless fruit at that service. For the feast itself on Tuesday, we are invited to Holy Transfiguration, New Haven, for Divine Liturgy at 9 AM.

We will celebrate the **Dormition (Falling-Asleep) of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary** on August 15. On the eve, Wednesday, August 14, we will also celebrate Great Vespers, and on Thursday, the Divine Liturgy at 9:30, both services followed by the blessing of flowers. The Dormition is a foretaste of the universal hope of life following death. In the feast’s icon (which we can see on the ceiling of our church), we see the Theotokos laid out upon her funeral bier, but her Son bearing her up to heaven, as a new-born babe. We glorify her, and pray that, on the last day, all of us may be carried into new life!