

Save the Date: **FORCC Benefit Banquet**
Sunday, September 25, 2022
St. Dimitrie Orthodox Church Easton, CT



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

On Tuesday, Aug. 2, our parish is planning to participate in **National Night Out** in Hubbard Park, Meriden. This community-building celebration involves numerous organizations all encouraging Meriden kids to find opportunities for their energies. We plan to set up a tent and table, to serve out water, share information, and engage in friendly conversations. Volunteers are welcome!

We will celebrate the **Transfiguration of the Lord** on Aug. 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 Saturday, Aug. 5, with Great Vespers at 6 PM. For the feast itself on Saturday, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM. We will also bless fruit at both services.

Rector's Letter July, 2022

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

Thank you to all the voting members of SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church: **over 80% submitted ballots on our proposed new parish by-laws, and the vote was unanimously in favor.** We have asked His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon to bless these new bylaws, which would go into effect at that time.

Congratulations to our college graduates, **Thomas Crosby and Kristina Yarovinsky**, and our high school graduate **Ephraim Mosher**. May God grant them many years!

The All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America is planned for this July 18-22 in Baltimore. Fr. Joshua and Mary Jane Rodgers are our parish delegates, joining many from our Diocese of New England and from across North America. Please pray for wisdom and grace. To can learn more about the upcoming AAC:

<https://www.oca.org/aac/>

We will be **blessing vehicles** after the Liturgy on Sunday, July 24, 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.

Do you desire to connect with Orthodox youth, have questions about living our ancient faith in a modern world, or just plain love the outdoors? **If you are an Orthodox youth between the ages of 9 and 17 sign up for Youth Rally 2022!** Held in beautiful Contoocook, NH, this is a chance to make friends and memories for a lifetime! All the information for registration can be found at: www.dneyouthrally.com