



## DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

*52nd DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY*

Willimantic, CT

**OCTOBER 23-24, 2015**

To the Reverend Clergy, Parish Councils and Faithful of the Diocese of New England,

The 52nd New England Diocesan Assembly will convene on October 23-24, 2015, hosted by Holy Trinity Church, Willimantic, CT. Registration begins on Friday morning at 8:30 A.M. Clergy and Lay delegates are reminded that this is a two-day assembly, and all are expected to be present for the entire assembly.

Details regarding overnight accommodations, registration for the assembly - including delegate accreditation forms and travel details are included in this attachment. In the second attachment please find the draft minutes from the 51st Diocesan Assembly. Another email, early in September, will contain the proposed budget for 2016. All parishes are receiving this packet in electronic form only.

Please note that the deadline for the rooms, the forms and banquet registration are **October 5th**. Please make every attempt to attend the banquet this year, as the cost to the Diocese is all inclusive. We have one rate for those in attendance that we will be charged which includes the cost for all meals including the banquet.

As indicated in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the parish lay representative(s) are to be chosen by election — either at a general parish meeting or a parish council meeting, according to local practice. The number of lay representatives corresponds to the number of assigned (not attached) clergy — priests and deacons — in the parish. Vacant parishes may elect and send one (1) lay representative. Accordingly, lay representation to the 52nd Assembly is on the enclosed sheet.

In order to send voting delegates to the Diocesan Assembly, parishes must be current with their Diocesan and OCA Fair Share that is at least through the fiscal year just ended on August 31, 2015. Please note that lay delegates whose parish fair share is not current will be seated as observers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Alexia Tassmer*



+ *Nikon*

*Archbishop of Boston, New  
England and the Albanian  
Archdiocese*

*Orthodox Church in America*

Most Rev. Nikon (Liolin) P.O. Box 149 Southbridge, MA 01550 508-764-3222  
Email: [bpnikon@aol.com](mailto:bpnikon@aol.com)

August 2015

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I extend this invitation to you to participate in the 52nd Annual Assembly of the Diocese of New England. For many it is a regular occasion and for others it will be a first.

I know that Father Marc Vranes and the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church are anxiously awaiting and are looking forward to our arrival.

How joyous it is when the whole church gathers, Bishop, Clergy and Laity not only to determine and define our direction and activities for the coming year as “all things must be done in order.” Certainly, the business of operating is important but to join together in the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy is our greatest joy.

It is in this light that I once again think of our gathering together in the Connecticut Deanery during this beautiful time of year on Friday and Saturday October 23-24 in 2015 for this 52nd Annual Assembly as the “Synaxis of the Diocese of New England.” Defined by the dictionary “Synaxis” means the gathering of the faithful, especially for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. I know all of you will want to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy on Saturday Morning.

Included with this package you will find all pertinent information regarding accommodations, schedules, etc. I know that none of us will want to miss out on fully participating in the life of our church.

With my Love, Blessings and Prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Nikou". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Archbishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese



Holy Trinity Orthodox  
414 Valley Street  
Willimantic, Connecticut



August 16, 2015  
Afterfeast of the Dormition

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Your Eminence, Archbishop NIKON, Reverend Clergy, and Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus:

It is with great joy the Holy Trinity community welcomes its hierarch, clergy, lay delegates, and observers to the 52nd Annual Diocese of New England Assembly. This is the first time Holy Trinity has hosted a Diocesan Assembly in its ninety-nine year history. The assembly actually serves as the kick-off event to our year-long Centennial celebration which culminates on October 9, 2016.

It was not very long ago that our parish was actually closed. Holy Trinity struggled mightily through the 1980's & 1990's. The decline was swift and steep. The community began to regain its footing in the early 2000's. The catalyst for our church's rebirth was students from the University of Connecticut's Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Soon after their arrival, several families with young children joined our community, and then more young families with children came. You will see the current group of OCF students in action at our church on Saturday, October 24. I can assure you, you will be impressed with their zeal, dedication, and their humility, through service and acts of Christian charity.

What we now have at Holy Trinity is a young and vibrant community, one well positioned, by God's grace, to begin the next 100 years in eastern Connecticut. Although our community continues to be regarded as small, our most recognizable characteristic, as identified by the National Church Development model, is loving relationships. That's a pretty powerful dynamic, and one that every person at Holy Trinity, young, middle-aged, and seniors alike, has gotten behind. The catalyst is love for God, which is manifested in love for neighbor.

The first day of the Assembly (October 23) will take place at the Immaculata Retreat Center, 289 Windham Road, Route 32, Willimantic. Immaculata is a Roman Catholic facility staffed by the Oblates at Mary Immaculate. They have been very gracious in accommodating us. All Friday sessions, including Vespers, will take place at IRC, which has recently undergone some renovations and upgrades.

Overnight accommodations are also at Immaculata. The cost is just \$30 per person for the room. The cost per person to the Diocese is \$70, which includes the meeting room, use of the chapel, all

meals, including Friday's banquet in the dining hall. The rate for those arriving Thursday, (October 22) that wish to stay over is \$65 per person. We will sacrifice a few creature comforts at Immaculata. There is internet hook-up, but there are no televisions. Linens are provided. The rooms are small and each has a dresser, bed (some are twin), and sink and shower area. Bring your Bible. Remember, Immaculata is, first and foremost, a retreat center.

Saturday's Hierarchical Liturgy (8:30am), Brunch, and final Plenary Session, will be held at Holy Trinity, 414 Valley Street, Willimantic, a 1.8 mile drive from Immaculata. On the drive to Holy Trinity, you will pass the Thread City Crossing & "The Frog Bridge". The bridge landmark is adorned with eight foot high bronze frogs atop concrete thread spools. The spools on the bridge represent Willimantic's former prominence in the cotton thread and silk manufacturing industry.

Once at Holy Trinity, note that our parking lot is small, but our good neighbors at Calvary Baptist have once more allowed us the use of their parking lot for the day. Please do not park in the Hartford Cleaners lot, unless, of course, you are visiting with us on a Sunday morning. Consider it an open invitation.

Room reservations for Immaculata should be completed by October 5, 2015. Reservations will be made (and paid in advance) on your registration forms. Please let us know bed size preference.

For those who would prefer to stay at the Best Western Regent Inn, 123 Storrs Road, Route 195, Mansfield, CT, (3.2 miles from Imaculata, 4.0 miles to Holy Trinity) reservations can be made by calling 860.423.8451 at any time. Rooms will be filled on a first-come basis, and there is no discount available. The regular room rate for one King bed is \$123.30, and \$116.40 for two double beds. Both rates include taxes. AAA, AARP, and active military discounts apply.

On behalf the entire community of Holy Trinity, we welcome everyone to the Thread City and the 52nd Diocese of New England Assembly.

In Christ,

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V. Rev. Marc Vranes  
860.983.2012  
Email: marc.vranes@comcast.net

**Driving Directions**  
**To Immaculata Retreat Center**  
289 Windham Rd (Rt 32), Willimantic, CT 06226

**From Immaculata Retreat Center to Holy Trinity Church**

289 Windham Rd, Willimantic, CT 06226, USA

1.8 mi - about 5 mins

1. Head northwest on Windham Rd toward Selden St	0.3 mi
2. Continue onto Pleasant St	0.8 mi
3. Turn right onto Mountain St	0.1 mi
4. Mountain St turns right and becomes Bridge St	0.1 mi
5. Turn left onto Main St	449 ft
6. Turn right onto Windham St	0.1 mi
7. Turn left onto Valley St Destination will be on the left	0.3 mi

414 Valley St, Willimantic, CT 06226, USA



## DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

*52nd DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY*

Holy Trinity Church

Willimantic, CT

**OCTOBER 23-24, 2015**

### **Tentative Schedule**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
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#### Friday October 23, 2015

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	52nd Assembly Registration	Immaculata Retreat Center
10:00 a.m.	Opening Service of Thanksgiving	Immaculata Retreat Center
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Plenary Session	Immaculata Retreat Center
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Immaculata Dining Hall
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session	Immaculata Retreat Center
5:30 p.m.	Vespers and Confession	Immaculata Chapel
6:30 p.m.	Social Hour	Immaculata Retreat Center
7:00 p.m.	Banquet	Immaculata Dining Hall

#### Saturday, October 24, 2015

8:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Holy Trinity Church
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Brunch	Holy Trinity Church Hall
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Plenary Session	Holy Trinity Church



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Holy Trinity Church

Willimantic, CT

**OCTOBER 23-24, 2015**

### CLERGY (PRIEST/DEACON) REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **RETURN** this form by **October 5, 2015** to:

Alexia Tassmer

95 South Orchard St

Wallingford, CT 06492

Any questions please call **Alexia** at 203-284-0856 [atassmer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:atassmer@sbcglobal.net)

<p><b>BANQUET</b>- On Friday evening <b>Meal Choice:</b>    <u>    </u> <b>Baked Haddock</b>                           <u>    </u> <b>Stuffed Shells</b></p>
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     Commuting to Assembly

     Overnight accommodations \$30.00 (include check)

If sharing a room who will be your "roommate" \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please note the October 5th Deadline!\*\***



## DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

52nd DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Holy Trinity Church

Willimantic, CT

**OCTOBER 23-24, 2015**

### DELEGATE / ALTERNATE REGISTRATION FORM

*(Please circle if you are a delegate or an alternate)*

PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*The undersigned has been duly authorized by his/her parish to participate in the 52nd Annual Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New England.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Rector \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parish Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH SEAL

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Credentials \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT DELEGATE / ALTERNATE**

I am a member of my parish in good standing. I have received the mysteries of Confession and Communion at least annually for the past three years at my home parish. I am not under ecclesiastical interdict. I am not married outside of the Orthodox Church. I am not living in violation of Orthodox moral standards. I am not a member of any anti-church and/or secret societies (such as Masonic organizations.) I have contributed the required fair share remittances to the Orthodox Church in America and to the New England Diocese.

**Signature of Delegate / Alternate (Circle One)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Any departure from the above mentioned qualifications must be explained on a separate sheet of paper by the observer and the Rector and submitted to the Diocesan Bishop (Administrator) through the Credentials Committee for approval by the Bishop or administrator.)*

**Please RETURN this form by October 5, 2015 to:**

Alexia Tassmer  
95 South Orchard St  
Wallingford, CT 06492

➤ Any questions please call **Alexia** at 203-284-0856 atassmer@sbcglobal.net

<b>BANQUET- On Friday evening</b> <b>Meal Choice:</b> ___ <b>Baked Haddock</b> ___ <b>Stuffed Shells</b>
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\_\_\_ Commuting to Assembly  
\_\_\_ Overnight accommodations \$30.00 (include check)  
If sharing a room who will be your "roommate" \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please note the October 5th Deadline!\*\***



## DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

52<sup>ns</sup> DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Holy Trinity Church

Willimantic, CT

**OCTOBER 23-24, 2015**

### DIOCESAN LAY COUNCIL MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Rector \_\_\_\_\_

**Please RETURN this form by October 5, 2015 to:**

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95 South Orchard St

Wallingford, CT 06492

➤ Any questions please call **Alexia** at 203-284-0856 atassmer@sbcglobal.net

<p><b>BANQUET- On Friday evening</b> <b>Meal Choice:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Baked Haddock</b>                           <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Stuffed Shells</b></p>
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Commuting to Assembly

Overnight accommodations \$30.00 (include check)

**\*\*Please note the October 5th Deadline!\*\***



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**OCTOBER 23-24, 2015**

### OBSERVER REGISTRATION FORM

PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*The undersigned observer has been duly authorized by his/her parish to participate in the 52nd Annual Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New England.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Rector \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH SEAL

Signature of Parish Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Credentials \_\_\_\_\_

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT OBSERVER

I am a member of my parish in good standing. I have received the mysteries of Confession and Communion at least annually for the past three years at my home parish. I am not under ecclesiastical interdict. I am not married outside of the Orthodox Church. I am not living in violation of Orthodox moral standards. I am not a member of any anti-church and/or secret societies (such as Masonic organizations.) I have contributed the required fair share remittances to the Orthodox Church in America and to the New England Diocese. I certify that the above information is true. I also understand that as an observer, I may not speak or vote on any matter on the assembly floor.

**Signature of Observer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

(Any departure from the above mentioned qualifications must be explained on a separate sheet of paper by the observer and the Rector and submitted to the Diocesan Bishop (Administrator) through the Credentials Committee for approval by the Bishop or administrator.)

**Please RETURN with the Assembly Fee of \$70.00 per person.**

**Please RETURN this form by October 5, 2015 to:**

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95 South Orchard St  
Wallingford, CT 06492

➤ Any questions please call **Alexia** at 203-284-0856 atassmer@sbcglobal.net

<p><b>BANQUET- On Friday evening</b> <b>Meal Choice:</b> _____ <b>Baked Haddock</b>                           _____ <b>Stuffed Shells</b></p>
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\_\_\_\_ Commuting to Assembly

\_\_\_\_ Overnight accommodations \$30.00 (include check)

If sharing a room who will be your "roommate" \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please note the October 5th Deadline!\*\***

The **Assembly Fee** covers all the reports, all meals and the banquet.

**Checks are payable to the DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND.**