



DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

55th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Hartford, CT

OCTOBER 26-27, 2018

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

The 55th New England Diocesan Assembly will convene on October 26-27, 2018, hosted by All Saints Church, Hartford, 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 54th Diocesan Assembly. Another email, early in September, will contain the proposed budget for 2019. 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 7th**. Please make every attempt to attend 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 55th 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 ending on August 31, 2018. 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

August 2018

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I extend this invitation to you to participate in the 55th 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 James Parnell and the parishioners of All Saints 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 26-27 in 2018 for this 55th 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,

+ Nikon

Archbishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese



ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH
Orthodox Church in America | Diocese of New England
205 Scarborough St | Hartford, CT 06105
www.AllSaintsHartford.org

August 22, 2018: Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Theotokos; Matyr Agathonicus & his companions

Your Eminence, Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of New England

It is our great joy to welcome you to All Saints Orthodox Church in Hartford, Connecticut!

On **Friday, October 26th**, *The Archdiocesan Center at Saint Thomas Seminary, 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, Connecticut* will be the location for our meetings, Vespers, and Banquet. For those who require overnight accommodations, dormitory-style guest rooms will be available here as well. On **Saturday morning** (after checking out from the seminary guest rooms, if necessary), we will gather a few miles down the road at **All Saints Orthodox Church, 205 Scarborough Street, Hartford, Connecticut** for our Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, followed by breakfast and our final session. The theme of our assembly this year is, to put it bluntly, simply: ***“What are we doing and why?”***

As I can’t speak for anyone else, I’d like to offer an, admittedly, somewhat lengthy reply on behalf of All Saints:

The City of Hartford was founded in 1635 and is among the oldest cities in the United States. It is home to the nation's oldest public art museum (*Wadsworth Athenaeum*), oldest publicly funded park (*Bushnell Park*), and the oldest continuously published newspaper (*Hartford Courant*). When Mark Twain wrote in 1868, "Of all the beautiful towns it has been my fortune to see this is the chief," it was Hartford – his longtime home – that he had in mind. This is partly because Hartford was one of the richest cities in the United States for many years after the Civil War. However a lot has changed. Since the 1950s, the surrounding suburbs have grown—and even flourished in some cases—but Hartford itself has faced severe decline. Not only did Hartford’s population drop 30% from 1950-2010, we lost department stores, insurance campuses, dozens of factories & along with them our status as the center of production for an array of products (*from firearms to typewriters and bicycles to sewing machines*)—to make no mention of our hockey team! Because of these changes, **the demographics of Hartford have shifted dramatically.**

In 1934 the Slavic community in Hartford centered around our small brick church (just down the block from the State Capital), was large enough and important enough to have the Governor of Connecticut in attendance at its 20th Anniversary Liturgy and banquet. Fast-forward to 2018 and the Russian community in Hartford is almost non-existent: just 0.48% of the population. Compare that with another statistic: almost half (40%) of Hartford’s residents are Hispanic or Latino—and 77% of those residents are Puerto Rican. Today **more than a third** of Hartford residents hail from the island and Connecticut has the highest concentration of Puerto Ricans in the US.

In 2014, our parish of All Saints celebrated 100 years in Hartford and 50 years in the West End (having moved from downtown Broad Street in 1964). In the past 100 years, we’ve not only moved buildings; we changed jurisdictions a few times—we *were not only once part of the Metropolia and ROCOR, we were, for a brief time, even part of the Soviet “Living Church” and our own pastor became one of its so-called-bishops!* — to make no mention of the change of calendar, language, and name. While we are about to have our 45th “Russian Tea Room and Bazaar” open-house, we haven’t been known as *“The First Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of All Saints, Inc.”* since the 1990s.

We became simply “All Saints Orthodox Church” as (and with) a literal “sign” to say one didn’t have to be Russian to find a home at All Saints. And though it took some time... people got the message.

The groundwork was all before my time; I moved to Hartford on June 6, 2013—the same day that Archpriest William DuBovik fell asleep in the Lord. Originally slotted to be his assistant while a resident at Hartford Hospital, I served the parish as a diocesan supply priest while attached to New Britain. After the summer ended, I met with the Archbishop to discuss the possibility of my serving as parish priest, if only temporarily, but when I told my wife she was rather wary about it. “Why?” I asked. She said, “It’s like there’s no life here; the church just feels... **dead.**”

Five years later, All Saints is *very much alive!* In the past five years **we’ve welcomed 33 individuals** into the Holy Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation. A third of these (11) were adult or teenage converts; over a quarter of them (9) are African-American, Latino, or “multi-racial. In addition, as I write this letter, we have seven more individuals preparing for holy illumination! We’ve also celebrated 14 weddings in the past five years, including a couple from among those 33 converts; the bride—chrismated in 2014—was the first adult chrismated here in almost a decade, while the groom—baptized in 2015—was the first adult baptism at All Saints in over two decades; in 2017 they were the first black couple married in our parish. Compare this reality with the 30 funerals I’ve presided over since 2013: not surprisingly almost all were of Slavic ancestry & baptized in our parish decades ago, but sadly, in over half of these cases I couldn’t find a single parishioner who’d ever even heard their name.

Yet, it isn’t just the demographics of our parish that have kept pace with the changes in our city. Though once “The Richest City in the Union” and the “Chief of Beautiful Towns,” 150 years after Mark Twain waxed eloquently about our fair city, **nearly half of Hartford’s children live in poverty**; about a third of our residents fall below the poverty line. Because of this, Hartford has changed—and so has our parish. Our parishioners have, over the past five years focused more of their time, talents, and energy out into our city and our region than ever before; **we’ve committed to caring for the poor and the needy, the homeless and orphaned, the immigrants and the refugees, and all those suffering in Central CT and beyond.** The parishioners of All Saints have in just the past five years, **raised over \$50,000** for local and international charities; **provided thousands of bagged lunches for the hungry/homeless through Loaves and Fishes, over a ton of canned food through Foodshare, and thousands of diapers for local newborns through St. Francis Hospital Pantry; and donated hundreds of toys for young patients at CT Children’s Hospital, hundreds of meals and Christmas gifts for Veterans & their families through the Chrysalis Center, and hundreds of coats to the poor and needy through Coats for Connecticut—not to mention dozens of times our parishioners took in homeless, helped settle and care for newly-arrived refugees, helped our neighbors make it to the end of the month, or opened the church** for someone who needed to pray on a Thursday evening even though they weren’t Orthodox; we were the only church in town that set their hours to **“open” 24/7.**

What are we doing in Hartford? We, as a parish, have made a conscious and intentional decision to trust Christ and to strive to *be* the Church.

What does that mean? We are striving to serve Christ in Hartford & to serve Hartford in Christ. We are committed to going out of our way to welcome those who 50 (or 20...or even 10) years ago would have been turned away from many of our parishes. We’ve not just welcomed ‘them’ if they happened to show up on our doorstep—we’ve made it a priority to see all the people of Hartford as **Háme: “our (people)”**. Over the past five years we’ve honestly done a lot to seek out **our people** and to love **our people**, and to serve **our people** without any expectation that we’ll get anything back.

Why? Because we’ve finally begun to take seriously the words of the King who said: *“inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”* We still have a long way to go; there is still a lot we have left to do; and we don’t have it all figured out; there are so many poor, sick, suffering, lonely, depressed, addicted, and starving people in this city – it’s hard work.

Yet, we’ve come to realize, at the end of the day...”those people” are **our people**.

In Christ,

Fr. James Parnell
Pastor, All Saints Orthodox Church – Hartford, CT

Information

Friday's Assembly will be held at
The Archdiocesan Center at Saint Thomas Seminary
467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002

If you are interested in overnight accommodations at this location
Room rate of \$40 (single only)
Accommodations are dormitory-style guest rooms
Reservations only through September 30th

Driving Directions

**From The Archdiocesan Center at Saint Thomas Seminary
To All Saints Church
502 Scarborough St, Hartford, CT 06105**

Start out going southeast on Bloomfield Ave/CT-189 toward Westbrook Rd.

Then 1.75 miles

Turn slight left onto Albany Ave/US-44 E.

Albany Ave is 0.3 miles past Winhall Ln.

Then 0.29 miles

Turn right onto Scarborough St.

Scarborough St is 0.1 miles past Terry Rd.

If you reach Mark Twain Dr you've gone a little too far.

Then 0.14 miles

205 Scarborough St, Hartford, CT 06105-1130, 205 SCARBOROUGH ST is on the right.

If you reach Asylum Ave you've gone about 0.4 miles too far.



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All Saints Orthodox Church

Hartford, CT

OCTOBER 26-27, 2018

Tentative Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
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Friday October 26, 2018

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	55th Assembly Registration	Seminary Retreat Center
10:00 a.m.	Opening Service of Thanksgiving	Seminary Retreat Center
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	1 st Plenary Session	Seminary Retreat Center
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Seminary Retreat Center
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	2 nd Plenary Session	Seminary Retreat Center
5:30 p.m.	Vespers and Confession	Seminary Retreat Center
6:30 p.m.	Social Hour	Seminary Retreat Center
7:00 p.m.	Banquet	Seminary Retreat Center

Saturday, October 27, 2018

8:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	All Saints Church
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Brunch	All Saints Church
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	3 rd Plenary Session	All Saints Church



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CLERGY (PRIEST/DEACON) REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ STATE / ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____ EMAIL: _____

PARISH _____ CITY _____ STATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Please RETURN this form by October 7, 2018 to:

Alexia Tassmer
95 South Orchard St
Wallingford, CT 06492

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

<p>BANQUET- On Friday evening I will attend _____ I will not attend _____ Banquet Meal is a Buffet</p>

___ Commuting to Assembly

___ Overnight accommodations \$40.00 (include check)

****Please note the Room Reservations October 7th Deadline!****



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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 55th 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 7, 2018 to:

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95 South Orchard St
Wallingford, CT 06492

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

BANQUET- On Friday evening	
I will attend _____	I will not attend _____
Banquet Meal is a Buffet	

___ Commuting to Assembly

___ Overnight accommodations \$40.00 (include check)

****Please note the Room Reservation October 7th Deadline!****



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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 7, 2018 to:

Alexia Tassmer

95 South Orchard St

Wallingford, CT 06492

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

BANQUET- On Friday evening

I will attend _____ I will not attend _____

Banquet Meal is a Buffet

___ Commuting to Assembly

___ Overnight accommodations \$40.00 (include check)

****Please note the Room Reservation October 7th Deadline!****



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OBSERVER REGISTRATION FORM

PARISH: _____

CITY _____ STATE: _____

The undersigned observer has been duly authorized by his/her parish to participate in the 55th 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 \$65.00 per person.

Please RETURN this form by October 7, 2018 to:

Alexia Tassmer
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Wallingford, CT 06492

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

BANQUET- On Friday evening

I will attend _____ **I will not attend** _____

Banquet Meal is a Buffet

___ Commuting to Assembly

___ Overnight accommodations \$40.00 (include check)

****Please note the Room Reservation October 7th Deadline!****

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

Checks are payable to the DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND.