Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

A parish of the New England Diocese ✣ Orthodox Church in America

285 ALDEN AVENUE NEW HAVEN, CT 06515 (203) 397-9682 www.holytransfigurationnh.org

The Very Reverend Michael Westerberg, Rector

phone (203) 387-3882 *fax* (203) 387-3043 *email frwesterberg@sbcglobal.net*

Rectory and Parish Mailing address: 25 Kohary Drive New Haven, CT 06515-2418

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017 ***Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost***

Today's readings are:

Ephesians 5:9-19 and Saint Luke 18:18-27

Weekly calendar:

Today				church school and coffee hour
Dec.	4	Mon	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Dec.	5	Tue	**6:00pm**	**Great Vespers with Iytia**
Dec.	6	Wed	**9:00am**	**Divine Liturgy- *Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia*** (+345) [Hebrews 13:17-21 and Saint Luke 6:17-23]
			5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Dec.	7	Thu	5:00pm	OCF at Yale – Vespers in the Lovett Room of Battell Chapel
Dec.	8	Fri	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Dec.	9	Sat	4:30pm	choir rehearsal
			5:00pm	**Great Vespers and Confessions**
Dec.	10	Sun	**9:00am**	**Divine Liturgy- *Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*** [Ephesians 6:10-17 and Saint Luke 17:12-19] church school and coffee hour

Pledges for 2018 can be returned any Sunday in December and placed in the offering basket.

The Ladies Auxiliary is coordinating our annual gift project for veterans at the West Haven VA Hospital. Each year we provide small gifts for hospitalized vets, especially for those who otherwise might receive no gift at the holiday season. Since we provide special gifts for special needs, monetary gifts in any amount are best. See Alex Oji to offer your help.

Adopt-a-family gifts are to be brought to church by next Sunday, December 10th.

The parish council is beginning preparations for the 2018 annual parish meeting, which will be on Sunday, February 4th. Committees will be appointed at the December parish council meeting. If you would like to serve on the budget committee, the nominations committee or the by-laws committee, speak to council president Alex Oji or to Father Michael.

As you make your list and check it twice, finding the right gift, either for one person or for a dozen, think about a special gift for your parish at Christmastime. Make it an expression of thanks for blessings beyond number.

Be mindful that our preparations for Christmas need to include more than shopping, parties and cooking. As we prepare to receive God in the flesh, let us make our hearts clean and prepared through our lenten efforts: fasting- from sin even more than from food, almsgiving- good works done in secret, and repentance- including the holy and saving mystery of Confession.

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A WORD ON LOVE AND SELF-LOVE *–from Saint Nicholas of Zicha*

The Lord Jesus Christ visited the earth in power and humility, in order to teach men to love God and man. Men are powerless in themselves; love for God fills them with power. Men are proud in themselves; love for mankind fills them with humility. Love for man comes from love for God. Humility comes from a sense of divine power. All love for men without love for God is false, and all oth3er power but that of God is proud and powerless. But men have chosen a third thing, that is neither love for God nor love for men – they have chosen self-love, and this is a barrier that separates them from God and from men, leaving them completely isolated.

Loving only himself, a man loves neither God not his fellow men. He does not even love the man that is in himself; he loves only his thoughts about himself, his illusions about himself. Were he to love the man in himself, he would at the same time love God's image in him, and would quickly become a lover of God and man, for he would be seeking man and God in other men, as objects of his love. Self-love is not love, but is rejection of God and contempt for men, whether open or concealed. Self-love is not love but sickness, a serious illness that inevitably brings other illnesses in its train. A pox inevitably produces fever throughout the body. A man full of self-love is full of envy and anger in the whole body. A man full of self-love is full of envy of those who are better than he is, or richer, more learned or more respected by men. With envy there always goes anger, like flame with fire; a concealed anger, that flares out at times and, in so doing, reveals all the ugliness of the man's sick heart, that has been poisoned with the poison of self-love.

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At this time of the year we are assaulted with Christmas messages– usually in the form of endless advertisements and encouragement/temptation to buy something. This is, of course, presented as the way to enjoy the feast, the 'spirit of the season.' But the Holy Church is also giving us messages– messages of joy and hope and boundless love, messages of giving in the self-donation of the Creator to his creation. On Tuesday evening, at the vespers for Saint Nicholas, we will sing:

> Triumph, O Zion! Rejoice, O Jerusalem, city of Christ our God! Receive the Creator contained within a cave and a manger. Open the gates to me. I will enter to see a child wrapped in swaddling clothes who upholds the creation in the palm of his hand, whose praises the angels sing with unceasing voice: the Lord and Giver of life who saves mankind.

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Сегодня- 26-я Неделя по Пятидесятница
[Послание к Ефесянам 5:9-19 и от Луки 18:18-27]

Втор. 6:00чв Великая Вечерня с Литей

Сред. 9:00чу Литургиа- *Святителя Николая, Архипископа Мирликийского, Чудотворца* (+345)
[Послание к Евреям 13:17-21 и от Луки 6:17-23]

Субб. 5:00чд Великая Вечерня и Исповедь

Воск. 9:00чу Литургиа- 27-я Неделя по Пятидесятница
[Послание к Ефесянам 6:10-17 и от Луки 17:12-19]