

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

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

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The Very Reverend Steven Voytovich, D.Min., Rector, e-mail: voyts90@gmail.com

Sun. Mar. 19, 2023 9:00am Third Sunday of Great Lent, **Veneration of the Precious Cross**

TODAY'S READINGS:

Heb. 4:14-5:6

Mark 8:34-9:1

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Today:

4:00pm

Coffee Hour

Mission Vespers, Holy Trinity Church, Bridgeport

Tue. Mar. 21 5:30pm

Daily Vespers

Wed. Mar. 22 5:00pm

Confessions

6:00pm

Presanctified Liturgy

Fri. Mar. 24 5:00pm

Confessions

6:00pm

Presanctified Liturgy, Feast of Annunciation

Sat. Mar. 25 5:00pm

Great Vespers, Confessions

Sun. Mar. 26 9:00am

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, **Leavetaking of Annunciation, Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel**

Heb. 6:13-20

Mark 9:17-31

Heb. 2:11-18 (Theotokos) Luke 1:24-38

4:00pm

Mission Vespers, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville

Welcome to all our visitors who join us for services!

Celebrations:, **Trevor** Vaccino, Chrismation ann. (19th); **Dn. Mark** birthday (20th), Maria Papademetris, name's day Annunciation Feast. Many Years!

Pray for: **Tatiana** Oji at Orange Care Center, **Maria** Scheirer is at Civita Care Center, Milford.

Orthodox Charity of the Month: In March we will be supporting **ONE Stewards**, supporting diocesan programs above and beyond the operational budget, including youth and seminarians. Please be generous! To donate by check, simply put "Charity of the Month" in the memo line.

Youth Rally Save the Date: August 7-12, 2023. **Church School:** April 29.

Orthodoxy 101: On Wednesdays after Presanctified Liturgy, we will be offering a series on an introduction to Orthodoxy. All are welcome, and if you have questions you would like addressed, please forward to Fr. Steven!

Men's Reading Group: A weekly **Men's Reading Group** is continuing on Tuesday mornings at 7:15am. We are currently studying the Gospel of St. Mark. Just click on the link [here](#) to join us.

Church School: Older youths are gathering bi-weekly on Fridays at 6:30pm.

Confessions: Please arrange for confession soon, as confessions will not be heard during Holy Week, except for those traveling to be with us.

Cleaning the Church: Please watch for more details in preparing to clean the church for Pascha near the end of March, beginning of April.

Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Matins Canon of this feast includes a marvelous dialogue between the Theotokos and the Archangel Gabriel. Here is a sample of this dialogue:

The Theotokos said: "You bring me good tidings of divine joy, that the immaterial light, in His abundant compassion, will be united to a material body; and now you cry out to me: 'O All-Pure, blessed is the fruit of your womb.'"

The Archangel said: "Hail, O Lady, hail, O most pure virgin; hail, vessel wherein God is contained, hail candlestick of the Light, the restoration of Adam and the deliverance of Eve, holy Mountain, shining Sanctuary and Bridal Chamber of immortality."

The Theotokos said: "The descent of the Holy Spirit has purified my soul and sanctified my body: it has made of me a Temple that contains God, a Tabernacle divinely adorned, a living Sanctuary, and the pure Mother of Life."

The Archangel said: "I see you as a Lamp with many lights and as a Bridal Chamber made by God. As an Ark of gold, O spotless Maiden, receive now the Giver of the Law, who through you has been pleased to deliver the corrupt nature of mankind." "Most Holy Theotokos, save us!"

St. John of Climacus: Is usually commemorated on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent. Due to the Annunciation Feast, this year St. John's commemoration is transferred. St. John "lived in the seventh century, and realized in his own life the ideal of penitence on which we should fix our eyes during Lent." ... The Church ... proclaims that asceticism has neither sense nor value if it is not an expression of love, and, again at vespers, it addresses these words to the saint: 'This is why you entreat us: Love God so that you may live in his eternal goodwill, and let nothing be set higher than this Love.'" *A Year of Grace of the Lord*, A Monk of the Eastern Church, SVS Press, 1980, p.125.

Храмовые службы теперь благословляются дважды в неделю. Щелкните [здесь](#), чтобы запросить посещение церковной службы.

(Видеозаписи домашних вечерних служб доступны [здесь](#) на нашем сайте.)

Сегодня- 9:00 Литургия - Третье воскресенье Великого поста: Почитание Креста

[Послание к Евреям 4:14-5:6 и от Марка 8:34-9:1]

16:00 Миссионерская вечерня, Святая Троица, Бриджпорт

Ср 17:00 Исповедь; 18:00чд Литургия Преждеосвященных Даров

Пя 17:00 Исповедь; 18:00чд Литургия Преждеосвященных Даров, Праздник Благовещения

Су 17:00 Великая Вечерня и Исповедь

Воск 9:00 Литургия – Неделя - Третье воскресенье Великого поста: Почитание Креста

[Послание к Евреям 6:13-20 и от Марка 9:17-31]

[Послание к Евреям 2:11-18 и от Луки 1:24-38]

16:00 Миссионерская вечерня, Святые Кирилл и Мефодий, Терривилль