

# Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

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

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Very Reverend Sergius Halvorsen, Ph.D., Attached

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Sun. Feb. 16, 2025 9:00am **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

## **TODAY'S READINGS:**

I Cor. 6:12-20

Luke 15:11-32

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR:**

Today:

### **Regular Fasting Week**

Installation of New Council, Chili Cookoff during Coffee Hour

Tue. Feb. 18 5:30pm

Daily Vespers

6:30pm

Diocesan Council Meeting

Thu. Feb. 20 5:00pm

OCF Vespers, Lovett Room Battell Chapel

Sat. Feb. 22 4:30pm

Memorial Saturday Memorial Service

5:00pm

Great Vespers, Confessions

Sun. Feb. 23 9:00am

### **Sunday of the Last Judgment**

I Cor. 8:8-9:2

Matt. 25:31-46

Welcome to all our visitors who join us for services!

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**Celebrations:** Birthdays: **Natalie** Asarisi 19<sup>th</sup>, **Vladimir** Zotkin, 20<sup>th</sup>. Many years!

**Pray for:** **Nancy** Muro who is at Artis Senior Living, Branford; **Tatiana** Oji is at Orange Care Center, **Maria** Scheirer at Elim Long-term care, Cheshire. **Carole** Rossick and **George** Jafferis, continue in cancer treatment.

**Orthodox Charity of the Month:** In February we will be supporting **Zoe for Life**. is a Christian ministry which affirms the value of all life by providing nonjudgmental, confidential support and education during and after an unplanned pregnancy. Please be generous. To donate by check, simply put "Charity of the Month" in the memo line.

## **Men's Reading Group:**

Continues weekly on Thursday mornings at 7:15am. We are currently studying St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Just click on the link [here](#) to join us.

Our second **Chili Cookoff**, will be today, **Sunday Feb. 16** (Superbowl Sunday) after Divine Liturgy. Non-competitors are asked to donate a can of soup/ food. All donations will go to the local 'Food Bank'. Monetary Donations are also welcome!

**Ascetical Fast Preparation:** Our church assists us in preparing for the upcoming ascetical fast that is an integral part of our Lenten journey. In brief, here is the schedule related to fasting for the coming weeks:

Week of Feb. 16: back to regular fasting Wednesday and Friday  
Sunday, Feb. 23: Meatfare Sunday, last day to eat meat, dairy products allowed all week  
Sunday, March 2: Cheesefare Sunday, last day to eat dairy products. **Forgiveness Vespers**  
Monday, March 3: Great Lent begins with Clean Week (Triodion, p. 35)

Please begin planning now for the beginning of Great Lent: **Forgiveness Sunday Vespers** will be celebrated on **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** after coffee hour. We begin the first week of the Great Lenten journey with the celebration of the Service of **Great Compline and the Canon of St. Andrew**. This service is integral to our entrance into Great Lent. Please make every effort to attend these services.

## **St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna:**

Is a pivotal figure in the early church: a disciple of St. John the Theologian who appointed him to Smyrna; who encountered St. Ignatius of Antioch who visited him; and who St. Irenaeus met as a child! "All the information we possess about Polycarp lauds him as a stellar exemplar of Christian faith, life, and death." *Polycarpus* means "much fruit". The prayer that Polycarp prays before his martyrdom is full of Biblical language. "Polycarp blesses God for having: 'thought me worthy of this day and this hour to be numbered among your martyrs in the cup of your Christ, for the resurrection of eternal life, of both soul and body, in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit. Among these may I be received today before you, in the sacrifice that is rich and acceptable.'" The author references the incorruptibility given through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit ascribed to the early martyrs, and "in the cup" both to the liturgical practice of the church and the death of Jesus embodied in the eucharistic cup." You can read further St. Ignatius' letter to Polycarp, the Martyrdom of Polycarp, and Polycarp's letter to the Philippians. Kenneth Howell, *Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna*, CH Resources, Zanesville, 2009.

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

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

Сегодня- Литургия - Притча о блудном сыне

[Первое Послание к Коринфянам 6:12-20 и от Луки 15:11-32]

Су 16:30 Панихида

17:00 Великая Вечерня, Исповедь

Воск. 9:00 Литургия: Неделя - Притча о блудном сыне

[Первое Послание к Коринфянам 8:8-9:2 и от Матфея 25:31-46]