



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 1, 2013

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**  
**St. Philaret the Merciful**  
 8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
 7:00p.m. Vespers

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. Alexander of New York**  
 9:00a.m. Molieben

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
 7:00p.m. Vespers

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**  
 8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
 5:00p.m. No Class  
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**  
 8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour

*"If but ten among us lead a holy life,  
 we shall kindle a fire which shall  
 light up the entire city."*

St. John Chrysostom

### READER SCHEDULE

**Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 Kathy Parrish  
**Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 Joanne Patrick



### A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us!

### The Feast of St. Nicholas

is held annually on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have Great Vespers Thursday at 7:00pm and the Divine Liturgy Friday at 9:00am. More information on St. Nicholas (the real Santa Claus) can be found on page 3. At the end of Thursday's Liturgy we will have a special prayer to St. Nicholas, and the children of the parish will be given gold (chocolate) coins in honor of the Saint's great charity.



### The Post-Communion Prayers / Chapel Cleaning

If not staying in the chapel to listen to the post-communion prayers, read during the veneration of the Cross, please make your exit as quietly as possible so as not to disrupt the service. Additionally, it is requested that only adults blow out the candles and clean-up the chapel, and only after the prayers are finished. Thank you!

### The December Calendar

may be found on page 4 of this bulletin. Please note that the schedule of services for Christmas does not include the Midnight service / festal meal this year; the reason is to make it easier for everyone to share in the high holy day.

### Donations Update – Many Thanks!

to those who donated towards our recent giving opportunities:

- International Orthodox Christian Charities: \$350
- Turkeys for the Needy: \$175

### Appreciation is Extended

to those who stay after on Sundays to help clean the chapel, hall, bathrooms, and grounds. Thank you and may God bless you!

### About Scheduling Confession Before Christmas

With all the hustle and bustle that revolves around Christmas preparations, let's not forget to prepare our innermost chamber for Christ.

### 2014 Calendars & Pocket Planners

The new calendars and pocket planners are available for pickup at the candle stand. Please earmark your payment "Bookstore". The calendars are \$5.00 and the pocket planners \$4.00.

### Safety First

Everyone is asked to be particularly attentive to safety, especially in the parking lot. Parents are asked to please stay with their children at all times or leave them in the supervision of another adult. First-aid boxes are available in both bathrooms.

CASH FLOWS THROUGH 10/31/13					CASH FLOWS IN NOVEMBER 2013					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 12/1		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Due 2/2014
57,480	49,986	41,042	25,089	+23,447	4,838	5,036	4,610	2,030	+2,382	+3,414	0	-4,263

## A MEDITATION: YEAR OF THE LORD, VOLUME 2

During the Christmas season God's love and His message of new hope comes to us through the beauty and peace of the incarnate Christ. Yet the Good News of God's love may be entirely missed, and Christmas may be an unfulfilled dream, amidst the hectic bustle of cleaning, shopping, writing, calling, decorating, banking and visiting. The basic reason for an unfulfilled Christmas is that we focus on ourselves, how to please each other, how to feel good and how to secure happiness with all the things we regard necessary. Yet only Christ can give us a true Christmas. Only His presence in our hearts can bring happiness, peace, joy, warmth and security. Cling to Christ ever more closely during the Christmas season. Take time to pray and to establish your spiritual and practical priorities. Let Christ come with you from home to school, from kitchen to shopping center, from Church to business office.



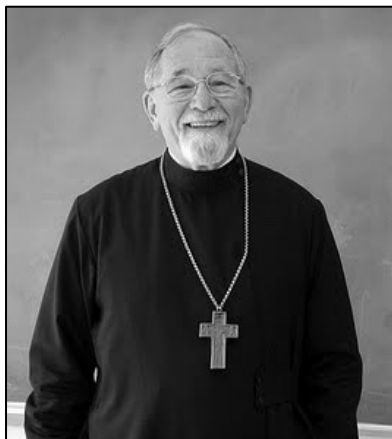
### ASK FATHER: 1 QUESTION / 1 ANSWER

**Question:** In the Gospel the Lord said that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. What does this mean? And do I have to literally give up all my possessions to enter Heaven?

**Answer:** While some say that the Lord is speaking here about the physical impossibility of a camel passing through the eye of a sowing needle, the 11th century saint, Theophylact of Bulgaria, says that the Lord here was referring to a certain gate in Jerusalem called the Needle's Eye, that was built so low that a camel could only pass if it entered kneeling and unencumbered with baggage. The lesson would then be that an eternal inheritance awaits those who unburden themselves of sin, and in particular, the things of this world.



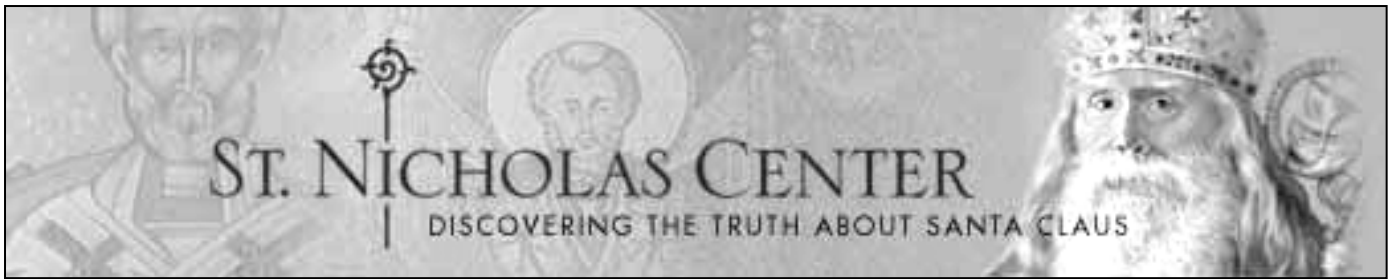
In the Old and New Testaments there have been many who had riches, yet attained the highest levels of sanctity. Their wealth was not an obstacle to their entrance into Heaven for five reasons: 1) they did not consider their possessions to be their own, instead they saw themselves simply as stewards of the Lord's goods, living only on what was necessary and using the rest to help those in need; 2) while they had wealth and possessions, they were able to use them dispassionately since they had given their heart entirely to the Lord and cared nothing for the world's deceits; 3) they, while grateful for the Lord's blessings, saw themselves unworthy due to their sins, and this allowed them to become "poor in spirit" even though they were given great wealth; 4) they trusted in the Lord alone, not their temporal riches or prosperity; 5) they were ever mindful of their death as the day in which they would have to give an account for what they had received.



### THE STANDARD OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

*By VRev. Thomas Hopko*

The norm for nonmonastic Christians is to be moderate in our possessions, to have only what is absolutely necessary, to give away more than we need in concrete acts of mercy, and thereby to be godly and spiritually free. The question, of course, is about what and how much are truly necessary. What do we really need? How much is enough? Each of us will have to decide for ourselves and our families, as well as our churches and nations. We can do this only by the Holy Spirit's power, with the guidance of Scripture, participation in the Church's liturgical and sacramental life, the reading of the lives of the saints, and the counsel of wise and loving pastors and elders in the faith.



## WHO IS ST. NICHOLAS?

*From The St. Nicholas Center, [stnicholascenter.org](http://stnicholascenter.org)*

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th (December 19 on the Julian Calendar).

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home—providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

Through the centuries St. Nicholas has continued to be venerated by Catholics and Orthodox and honored by Protestants. By his example of generosity to those in need, especially children, St. Nicholas continues to be a model for the compassionate life.

### DECEMBER CONGRATULATIONS!

#### Birthdays:

- 12/2 Isabella Georgiana Milite
- 12/3 Gregory Parsells
- 12/6 Camelia Milite
- 12/6 Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
- 12/11 Darrell Wilson
- 12/12 Alexander Parsells
- 12/16 Alexandru Bernatchi
- 12/23 Andra Bernatchi
- 12/27 Sophia Kokkinos
- 12/29 Fr. Daniel Hubiak

#### Namesdays:

- 12/4 *St. Alexander Hotovitsky*  
Alexander Parsells
- 12/5 *St. Sava the Sanctified*  
Sava Cook
- 12/6 *St. Nicholas*  
Nicholas Evanusa
- 12/13 *St. Lucy*  
Ana Lucia Hageman
- 12/17 *Prophet Daniel*  
Fr. Daniel Hubiak  
*St. Jacob the Patriarch*  
Jacob McFarland  
*St. Caleb*  
Caleb McFarland
- 12/20 *St. Ignatius of Antioch*  
Oscar Hageman
- 12/24 *St. Eugenia*  
Jane Koshutko
- 12/27 *St. Stephen*  
Bill Parrish  
Steven Parrish