



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 1, 2019

A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all our visitors! It is good to have you with us!

Parish Council Meeting

The 4th quarterly meeting will take place today, Sunday, Dec. 1st. We will be looking at the 2020 budget, next year's council membership, and other items in preparation for our annual meeting. All are welcome to attend this meeting which will be held after coffee hour!

The Feast of St. Nicholas – Dec. 6th

We will have Great Vespers on the 5th at 7:00pm and the Divine Liturgy at 9:00am on the 6th. At the end of the 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.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

24th Sunday of Pentecost

8:40am Hours
 9:00am Div. Liturgy; Coffee Hour
 Parish Council Meeting
No Orthodoxy 101 Class

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

7:00pm Great Vespers

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

8:40am Hours
 9:00am Div. Liturgy

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

5:00pm Bible Study
 6:00pm Great Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

25th Sunday of Pentecost

8:40am Hours
 9:00am Div. Liturgy; Coffee Hour
 Orthodoxy 101 Class



Orthodoxy 101 Class – Resumes Next Week – Dec. 8th

A 30-minute class is being offered during the end of coffee hour on Sundays, from November through January, which covers the basics of Orthodox Christianity. All are invited to attend!

Choir Rehearsal – Tuesday, Dec. 17th

There will be a choir practice on 12/17 @ 6:30pm to prepare for the Nativity services and for Christmas caroling. This practice is open to everyone.

About Christmas

With all the hustle and bustle that revolves around Christmas and with all the temptations to spend the day "doing our own thing", let's not forget that Christmas is a Holy Day and belongs to the Lord Jesus; family, work, travel, entertaining, cooking, presents, etc., all come second to God. Bad habits? Break them and start new ones.



Helping a Needy Family

This month you are invited to donate to help buy Christmas presents for the family we will adopt this year. If you would like to donate, please earmark "Christmas Family".

Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Give them a call. See how they are doing. Let them know that you not only miss them but also care enough to see if everything is okay. A kind word can go a long way.



Prayer Lists

If you would like to submit names read in the litanies during the services, please do so at the candle desk. For the commemoration in the Proskomedia, our email list, or private prayers, please speak with Fr. John. If you have submitted names, please let Fr.

John know when that person should be removed from the list. Thanks!

O Everlasting King, Thy will for our salvation is full of power. Thy right arm controls the whole course of human life. We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercies, seen and unseen. For eternal life, for the heavenly Joys of the Kingdom which is to be. Grant mercy to us who sing Thy praise, both now and in the time to come. Glory to Thee, O God, from age to age!

Akathist of Thanksgiving

✝	OPERATING			EARMARKED			ACCOUNTS		READER SCHEDULE	
	THRU 10/31	LAST MONTH	THIS YEAR	THRU 10/31	LAST MONTH	THIS YEAR	OPERATING			
INCOME	91,324	7,129	98,453	18,176	0	18,176	OPERATING	4,049	12/1	Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia
EXPENSE	92,610	9,261	101,871	8,665	0	8,665	EARMARKED	13,680	12/8	Megan Wilkinson
NET	-1,286	-2,132	-3,418	+9,511	0	+9,511	SAVINGS	12,000	12/15	Rdr. George Kaloroumakis
							BUILDING	5,000	12/22	Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones



WHO IS ST. NICHOLAS?

From *The St. Nicholas Center*, 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.

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
Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
- 12/11 Darrell Wilson
- 12/12 Alexander Parsells
- 12/21 Margaret Juliana LoGerfo
Marten Hill
- 12/27 Sophia Kokkinos
- 12/29 Fr. Daniel Hubiak

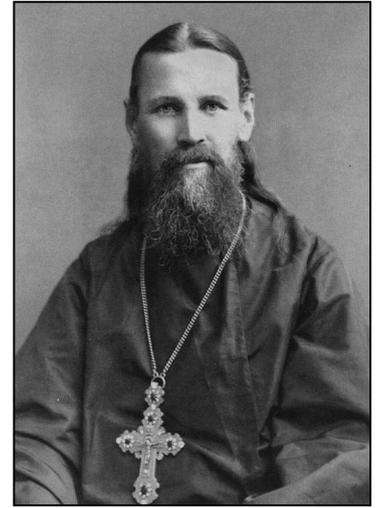
Namesdays:

- 12/4 *St. Alexander Hotovitsky*
Alexander Parsells
St. Barbara
Ginny Borodulia
Barbara Kaloroumakis
Kathleen Barbara Moss
- 12/5 *St. Sava the Sanctified*
Sava Cook
- 12/6 *St. Nicholas*
Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia
Nicholas Evanusa
- 12/13 *St. Lucy*
Ana Lucia Hageman
- 12/17 *Holy Forefathers*
Fr. Daniel Hubiak
Daniel Moss
Jacob McFarland
Caleb McFarland
- 12/18 *St. Sebastian*
Sebastian Klimitchev
- 12/20 *St. Ignatius of Antioch*
Oscar Hageman
- 12/21 *St. Juliana of Nicomedia*
Margaret Juliana LoGerfo
- 12/22 *St. Anastasia of Rome*
Diaconisa Nancy Hall
- 12/27 *St. Stephen*
Dn. Stephen Hall
Bill Parrish
Steven Parrish

FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. JOHN OF KRONSTADT

Commemorated December 20th

- ❖ The enemy of our salvation especially strives to draw our heart and mind away from God when we are about to serve Him, and endeavors to adulterously attach our heart to something irrelevant. Be always, every moment, with God, especially when you pray to Him. If you are inconstant, you will fall away from life, and will cast yourself into sorrow and straightness.
- ❖ Prayer is a golden link connecting the Christian man, the wanderer and the stranger upon earth, with the spiritual world of which he is a member, and, above all, with God the source of life. The soul came forth from God, and to God may it ever ascend through prayer.
- ❖ Watch yourself continually, in order that the spiritual life and spiritual wisdom should not be dried up within you. Meditate oftener upon what you read, or sing, or hear in church, or sometimes at home. Live as the saints lived: by their prayers, wisdom and virtues; in meekness, humility, and gentleness, not sparing yourself, but renouncing yourself, your rest, ease and enjoyment for the love of God and your neighbor, in patience, courage and struggle - have their faith, hope, and love. "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding." (Luke 12:35-36)
- ❖ The tree firmly fixed in the earth by its roots grows and brings forth fruit. The soul of a man firmly fixed in God by faith and love, as by spiritual roots, also lives, grows spiritually, and brings forth the fruits of virtue pleasing to God, through which the soul lives now and shall live in the future world. The tree, when uprooted from the ground, ceases to live by the life which it received from the heart through the roots. Similarly, the soul of the man which has lost faith and love to God and does not dwell in God, in Whom alone it can live, spiritually dies. What the earth is to the plants, God is to the soul.
- ❖ Begin to fulfill the commandments relating to small things, and you will come to fulfill the commandments relating to great things: small things everywhere lead to great ones.



FOR CONSIDERATION

From the Prologue of Ochrid

Fear of God drives all fear from the hearts of men. In every great hierarchy of the Orthodox Church, we see meekness and fearlessness wonderfully united. St. Nicholas grabbed the sword of the executioner and pulled it away so that innocent men would not be beheaded. St. Chrysostom reproached the Empress Eudoxia for her misdeeds without consideration for the unpleasantness and danger to his own life, to which he was exposed as a result. And there are many, many other examples similar to this: Emperor Valentinian the Elder, upon hearing of Ambrose's stern criticism of him, said: "I knew of your fearlessness; that is why I helped you to be chosen as bishop. Correct our faults as the Law of God teaches, and heal our unrighteousness."

Once, when a riot occurred in Thessalonica, at which time about seven thousand people were beheaded by the decree of Emperor Theodosius the Great, St. Ambrose became so enraged at the emperor that, when the emperor visited Milan and wished to enter the church, the saint forbade him. The emperor said to Ambrose: "Even David sinned and was not deprived of God's mercy." To this the bishop replied: "As you have imitated David in sin, imitate him also in repentance." The emperor was ashamed, turned back and repented bitterly of the sin he committed.

