



**St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church Bulletin**  
**Special Holiday Edition**  
**Christmas and Theophany 2012**

Fr George Lardas, Rector – Telephone 203 / 209-9374

Web Site: [StNicholasStratford.org](http://StNicholasStratford.org)

**V Rev Fr George Lardas, Rector,  
 and Leo “Dexter” Peavy, Starosta,  
 with the entire Parish Council**

**Wish our parishioners and friends**

**A blessed Christmas  
 and a happy and prosperous  
 New Year!**

**о. Георгий Лардас, Настоятель,  
 и Лев Пиви, Староста,  
 со всем Церковно-Приходским  
 Советом**

**Сердечно приветствуем всех наших  
 прихожан и друзей**

**С Рождеством  
 Христовым,  
 и с счастливым Новым  
 Годом!**

**Troparion of Christmas,  
 Tone 4**

*Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, \* hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world, \* for thereby they that worshipped the stars \* were instructed by a star \* to worship Thee the Sun of Righteousness \* and to know Thee the Dayspring from on high, \*\* O Lord, glory be to Thee*

**Kontakion of Christmas,  
 Tone 3**

*Today the Virgin giveth birth to Him Who is transcendent in essence \* and the earth offereth a cave to Him Who is unapproachable \* angels with shepherds give glory \* with a star the Magi do journey: \* for our sakes is born a young Child \*\* Who is pre-eternal God.*

**Тропарь Рождества,  
 Гласъ 4**

*Рождество Твое, Христе Божие нашъ, \* возсия миру свѣтъ разума: \* въ немъ бо звездамъ служащии, \* звездою учахуся, \* Тебѣ кланятися Солнцу правды, \* и Тебѣ въдети съ высоты востока: \*\* Господи, слава Тебѣ.*

**Кондакъ Рождества,  
 Гласъ 3**

*Дѣва днесь Пресущественнаго раждаетъ, \* и земля вертепъ Неприступному приноситъ \* ангели съ пастырьми славословятъ, \* волсви же со звездою путешествуютъ: \* насъ бо ради родися Отроча младо \*\* Предвѣчный Бѣгъ.*

**Troparion of Theophany,  
 Tone 1**

*When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, \* the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, \* for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee \* that Thou art my beloved Son, \* and the Spirit in the form of a dove \* confirmed the certainty of that word. \* O Christ God, who wast made manifest, \* and dost enlighten the world, \*\* glory be to Thee.*

**Kontakion of Theophany,  
 Tone 4**

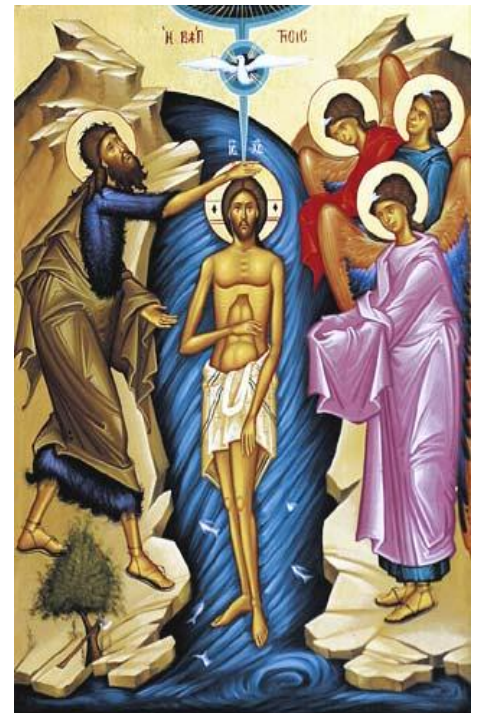
*Thou didst appear today unto the whole world, \* and the light of Thy countenance, O Lord, is signed upon us, \* who with knowledge cry unto Thee, \* Thou hast come, Thou hast appeared, \*\* O Light unapproachable.*

**Тропарь Богоявленія,  
 Гласъ 4**

*Во Иорданѣ крещаящася Тебѣ, Господи, \* Троическое явися поклонѣние: \* Родителевъ бо гласъ свидѣтельствоваше Тебѣ, \* возлюбленнаго Тя Сына именую, \* и Духъ въ видѣ голубинѣ, \* извѣствоваше словесе утверждѣние. \* явлейся Христе Боже \*\* и миръ просвѣщай, слава Тебѣ.*

**Кондакъ Богоявленія,  
 Гласъ 4**

*Явился еси днесь вселеннѣи, \* и свѣтъ Твой, Господи, знаменая на насъ, \* въ разумъ поубиихъ Тя: \* прииди еси, и явился еси \*\* Свѣтъ неприступный.*



# St Nicholas Parish Bulletin – January 2012

Fr George Lardas, Rector – Telephone: 203 209-9374

Web Site: [StNicholasStratford.org](http://StNicholasStratford.org)

## Announcements

**Verse:** *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. – Hebrews 13:8-9.*

**Грѣхъ:** *Иисусъ Христосъ, вчера и днесь, тоуже и во вѣки. Въ набоженїа странна и различна не прилагайтеся – Ко Еврѣ. 13:8-9.*

**Стихъ:** *Иисусъ Христосъ вчера и сегодня и во вѣки Тотъ же. Ученїями различными и чуждыми не увлекайтесь. – Ко Евреямъ 13:8-9.*



**Commentary:** The Orthodox Christian Church holds the Doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ unchanged since the Apostolic times. This is the Faith which once delivered unto the Saints (Jude 1:3), and is fixed on the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Door to Paradise. The Apostle Paul warns us not to be carried away by new and strange doctrines, for they are counterfeit and cannot save. Our Lord warns us that there will come false teachers to lead many astray, but we hold to the Faith given by the Babe that was born in a stable in Bethlehem, Whom the Wise Men came to worship.

### This Bulletin

**Christmas Donation Envelopes:** In case you may have forgotten from last month's Bulletin, this Bulletin again includes a special donation envelope for your annual Christmas Donation. Please be generous in your contribution. This donation is important since we have encountered unexpected expenses in the past year. *Your donations can be either mailed in or dropped into the collection basket when you come to church.*

**Special Services:** Included in this Bulletin is the schedule of special services for Christmas and Theophany as well as the schedule of blessing of homes with holy water. If you have not had your house blessed in the past and would like to be included, please contact Fr George before Theophany so that we may add your name to the list.

**Sponsor the Bulletin:** If you wish to sponsor any future issues in whole or in part, please contact our treasurer, Anastasia Milligan or ask at the Candle Desk. You may donate in memory of a departed relative, or for some milestone, a birthday, anniversary or other celebration. The cost of the Bulletin is approximately \$125.

**The Bulletin by Email:** It costs about \$1.25 each to produce

copies of the Bulletin. Please consider receiving the Bulletin by email, which costs nothing. If you wish to change to email, please contact [glardas@cs.com](mailto:glardas@cs.com). We also invite our readers to support this Bulletin by donations. **Do you wish to be taken off our mailing list?** Please contact us and we will remove your name from our monthly bulletin mailing.

**Weekly Announcements:** At the end of the Liturgy Fr George gives the weekly announcements from the Ambo. But not all are present when the announcements are made. If you wish to receive a weekly email copy of the Announcements, please send Fr George an email at [glardas@cs.com](mailto:glardas@cs.com), and your name will be added to the distribution. The Weekly Announcements include the hymns sung that Sunday and the Epistle and Gospel readings.

### General Parish Meeting

This year's Annual General Parish Meeting will take place after the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday 5 February**. We invite all our members to attend and participate. Please remember that those eligible to vote are those who have confessed and received Communion at least once in the past year and who are up to date in their dues. If you wish to participate, please be sure to fulfill your obligations.

**Annual Dues:** We ask our parishioners who are not current in their dues please see our Treasurer, Anastasia Milligan. These dues help maintain our parish and give us the privilege of voting and making our voice heard at the Annual Parish Meeting. Donations over and above the dues are also most welcome.

**Sponsor the Coffee Hour:** The Sisterhood is happy to hold the Coffee Hour every Sunday for the sake of fellowship and the community of our Parish. However, we find the same ladies working in the kitchen Sunday after Sunday. Since many of our Sisterhood are no longer so young and able, we are seeking volunteers to give the ladies in the Sisterhood a rest so that they may attend the Divine Liturgy in peace.

We need families or individuals (men can do this too!) to take responsibility for preparing and serving a meal on a rotating basis. Ideally this responsibility would not fall more than once every six weeks or so, and so it would not be a great burden. This is also an opportunity to showcase our culinary skills. It is a Christian duty to support the Parish, and there is much blessing in it. To sign up see Joan Hudobenko.

### Services

**Inclement Weather:** Winter sometimes brings stormy weather. We ask our parishioners to use good judgment and common sense not to drive when conditions are dangerous. As weather varies from place to place, it may be that services will be held as scheduled, despite the fact that conditions in your area are difficult. To find out whether services are cancelled or delayed,

## Announcements – January 2012

call 203 / 375-4793. If you hear the usual greeting, services will be held as scheduled. Otherwise the message will inform you whether services are cancelled or delayed. In general, if Fr George can arrive at the church, services will be held however many or few people are present. Weather advisories will also be posted on our Parish website, [www.StNicholasStratford.org](http://www.StNicholasStratford.org).

**Nativity Fast (Advent):** The Nativity Fast continues until Christmas Day, 7 January. During this time we abstain from meat, eggs and dairy products. On Wednesdays and Fridays we also abstain from fish, wine and oil. Some keep a strict fast Mondays. The fast becomes stricter on the day after Ss Spyridon and Herman, 25 December, after which we do not eat fish until Christmas Day.

**Strict Fast:** Please do not forget that the Nativity Fast continues up to Christmas. The day before Christmas (Friday 6 January) and the day before Theophany (Wednesday 18 January) are both strict lenten days, on which we abstain from meat, eggs, dairy products, and fish. The evening meal on Christmas Eve should be fully lenten.

**Holy Supper:** The traditional Holy Supper on Christmas Eve will be held at 5 pm before the Christmas Vigil on Friday 6 January in the Church Hall. Matushka Ann is organizing this and will have a signup sheet downstairs. Bring your favorite lenten dishes. We also need volunteers to help with cleanup.

**Christmas:** Vigil for Christmas will be at 6:30 pm Friday 6 January, and Divine Liturgy at 10 am on Saturday 7 January.

**Christmas Trapeza:** The Divine Liturgy on Christmas day will be followed by a festive meal and singing of carols and Christmas songs. Matushka Ann is organizing this meal and would be appreciative of help. Please see her if you would like to participate. Feel free to bring your favorite non-lenten dish!

**Saint Basil's Day and New Year:** Vespers for the Circumcision of our Lord and St Basil and the Old Calendar New Year will be at 6:30 pm Friday 13 January. The Vespers will be followed by a moleben for the New Year. There will be no services on Saturday morning 14 January.

**No Early Vigil This Month:** Although we usually serve Vigil early on the third Saturday of the month, this year Vigil will be at the usual time, 6:30 pm, so that Fr George can bless houses with Holy Water from the Epiphany service.

**Theophany:** Vigil for Theophany will begin at 6:30 pm Wednesday 18 January, and Divine Liturgy will be at 9:30 am Thursday 19 January.

**Blessing of Waters:** There will be two Blessings of Waters, the first during Vigil on Wednesday evening 18 January, and the second at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Thursday 19 January.

**Blessing of Homes:** Starting on Theophany Day, Thursday 19 January, Fr George will be blessing homes with Holy Water. The schedule of house blessings is attached to this bulletin.

**Molebens:** To mark the lesser holy days in January, we will serve a moleben at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> for the Holy Innocents Killed by Herod, with prayers for the innocents killed by our society through abortion. Other molebens: Friday 27 January

for St Nina, and Monday 30 January for St Antony the Great.

### Our Parish

**Christmas Flowers Collection:** During the Nativity Fast, up until Christmas, donations to the collection box in the middle of the church are for Christmas flowers, and for the decoration of the church for the Christmas season.

**Festival and Holiday Bazaar:** This year's fundraiser went well, and was well-visited. We thank all those who participated and helped make it a success. See the Chronicle section below.

**Lampada Sponsorship:** Offerings may be made to sponsor the lighting the lampadas at the Divine Liturgy, either in memory of loved ones, or in gratitude for blessings received, or for any other good intention. The sponsorship of the lampadas is \$25 for all the lampadas in the church. Register at the Candle Desk if you wish to sponsor the lampadas, in whole or in part, on a Sunday of your choice.

**Become a Member:** If you attend services but are not a member, would you please consider joining? The cost is not great - \$150 per adult, or \$300 for families with two adults and any number of children. This amounts to about \$12.50 a month per person. We have an introductory rate for students.

**Consider the Church in Your Will:** Please consider including St Nicholas Church in your will. There are many advantages in making the Church one of your beneficiaries. It is possible to structure the bequest so that there is little loss to the estate. Please contact our Starosta, Dexter Peavy, for more information.

**Utilities:** Please remember that on the *first Sunday* of each month there is a special collection for *utilities*.

### Candle Desk

**Candle Desk Duty:** We need people to watch the Candle Desk, handle donations, light candles, and ring the bell during services – one person for Vigil and two for the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately, Walter Wolog, who handles the sign-up sheet, is not able to find people for all positions.

### Sisterhood

**Pelmeni Dinner and Work Party:** The annual *pelmeni* dinner will be held after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday 22 January. **The Pelmeni work party will be on Saturday morning 21 January.** Please support the Sisterhood fundraiser by attending the dinner. If you cannot attend, frozen *pelmeni* can be purchased in the church hall. This Dinner will coincide with our Children's Christmas Party (Yolka).

**Bliny:** Our annual *Bliny* luncheon will be after the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Meat Fare at the beginning of Cheese-Fare Week (*Maslenitsa*), 19 February. Please support the Sisterhood by attending and participating in this delicious meal.

**Coffee Hour Supplies:** The Sisterhood again is in need of donations of supplies for our Coffee Hour. We need paper plates, Styrofoam soup bowls, cups, and paper napkins. We also need food supplies and willing hands to help prepare, set things up and clean up. Please see Joan Hudobenko if you wish to help.



## Our Children

**Children's Christmas Party (Yolka):** A short traditional Russian Yolka will be held in our parish on Sunday 22 January 2012 after the Sisterhood *Pelmeni* Dinner. All children of our parish are invited whether they are in the Church School or not. We are expecting a visit from *Djed Moroz* (Father Frost) with presents for the children. Please write the names of the children that will attend, and their ages, on the signup sheet at the Candle Desk, so that we know how many to expect. If your child would like to perform in a skit, or simply prepare a poem, song, or dance at home and perform it in the Yolka, please see Masha Peavy or Kathy Callaghan. The children will sing the Troparion. We invite everyone to sing carols with us afterward.

**Food Drive:** Our children collected four bags of food for the Sterling House Food Pantry during October and the first part of November. These will be delivered the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We thank all our parishioners who participated, and we plan to continue collecting food for the unfortunate through the winter holiday season.

## Chronicle

**Church School Hosts Coffee Hour:** Our Church School children prepared and served a Lenten Coffee Hour complete with fasting borscht on Sunday 4 December. We thank all the children who participated, and the mothers and teachers of the Church School who helped in preparing the dinner. The Ladies of the Sisterhood appreciated their day of rest that Sunday, and hope that the young ladies will in their turn join the Sisterhood and their brothers join the Brotherhood when they are old enough!

## Visit of the Icon of the Mother of God Quick-to-Hear (Скоропослушницы)



*We magnify thee, O All-Holy Virgin, and we honour thy holy image whereby thou pourest forth healings upon all that with faith have recourse to thee.*

*Величаемъ тя, Пресвятая Дѣво, и чтимъ образъ твой святой, имже точишии исцѣления всѣмъ съ вѣрою притекающимъ*

On Saturday 10 December, the Feast Day of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God, Patroness of our Russian Church Outside of Russia, the same day our Metropolitan Hilarion concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Synodal Cathedral of Our Lady of the Sign, with His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah of the OCA and Metropolitan Justinian Exarch of the Moscow Patriarchate in America, our Saint Nicholas Parish was blessed with a rare visit of the Wonder-Working Icon of the Mother of God Quick-to-Hear. The first official concelebration at the episcopal level of all three churches descending from the pre-Revolutionary Russian Mission in North

America was followed with a concelebration on the local level.

This Icon of the Mother of God Quick-to-Hear was gifted to the newly-founded Monastery of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk in New Canaan, Pennsylvania a hundred years ago from the Docheiariou Monastery on Mount Athos, where the original Icon of which this is a copy resides. The Icon given to the Saint Tikhon Monastery contains the relics of several saints inside the riza, and it is usually kept in the iconostasis of the main church of the Monastery.

The visit was arranged by Very Reverend Archpriest John Perich of Saint Herman of Alaska Parish (OCA) in Gradyville, Pennsylvania, the Curator of the Relics and Museum of Saint Tikhon's Monastery. The Icon was accompanied by the Feodorovskaya Icon of the Mother of God, which had been in the personal chapel of Tsar Martyr Nicholas in Tsarskoe Selo, and is also accounted to be Wonder-Working, as well as the vestments of Saint Innocent Metropolitan of Moscow, and mitre and vestments of Saint Nicholas of Zhicha (Velimirovich), one-time Rector of Saint Tikhon's Seminary, and the personal effects of Confessor Saint Alexis Toth, and the relics and icons of the following saints: Saint Nicholas of Myra in Lycia our Patron, Saint Patrick Enlightener of Ireland, Saint Theodosius of Chernigov, Saints Cyril and Methodius Teachers of the Slavs, Grand Prince Saint Alexander Nevsky, Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk, Saint Innocent of Irkutsk, Saint Nectarios of Pentapolis, Saint Theophan the Recluse, Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco, Saint Innocent of Moscow, Saint Nicholas of Enlightener of Japan, Saint Nicholas of Zhicha, Saint Raphael of Brooklyn, Confessor Saint Tikhon of Moscow, Hieromartyr Januarius, Hieromartyr Haralampus, New Hieromartyr Vladimir of Kiev, Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon, Great Martyr Barbara, Great Martyr Catherine, New Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth, New Martyr Nun Barbara, Saint Alexius Man of God, Saint Sergius of Radonezh, Saint Seraphim of Sarov, Saint Herman of Alaska, Saint Ambrose of Optina, Saint Silouan of Mount Athos, Saint Anastasia Mother of Saint Sabbas of Serbia, and Saint Alexius Toth.

The Icons arrived at 2:30 pm Saturday December 10, and was preceded into the church by the vestments of Saint Innocent and Saint Nicholas Velimirovich accompanied by the ringing of bells. The Icons of the Mother of God Quick-to-Hear and the Feodorovskaya were brought into the church accompanied by clergy in blue vestments, after which followed a festive moleben. The concelebrating clergy were: Of the Russian Church Abroad: Archpriest George Lardas, Rector of Saint Nicholas Church; Priest Vadim Pismenny of the Kursk-Root Hermitage in Mahopac; and Priest Constantine Semyanko of the Presentation of Our Lord Parish in Stratford. Of the OCA: Archpriest John Perich; and Archpriest Dennis Swencki, Chief Financial Officer of Saint Tikhon's Seminary; and Deacon Paul Giatas. Also present were: Archpriest Dennis Rhodes of Saint George's Albanian Church in Trumbull CT; and Priest George Coca of Saint Dimitrie's Romanian Church in Easton CT, both of the OCA. The moleben was sung by the combined choirs of Saint Nicholas, Presentation, and Saint John the Baptist Carpatho-Russian Parishes.

At the conclusion of the moleben, Fr. John gave a moving sermon about his own connection to our St. Nicholas parish and how, even when the OCA and ROCOR were not concelebrating, we were united through Saint Tikhon. He then presented both

## Announcements – January 2012

Archpriest George Lardas and Priest Constantine Semyanko of the Presentation of Our Lord Parish with a Relic of St Nicholas for their respective parishes. Father John also presented Father George with an icon of Saints Tikhon of Moscow and Tikhon of Zadonsk, patrons of the Saint Tikhon Monastery, a commemorative of the centennial of the Monastery. The choirs spontaneously sang the troparion to Saint Nicholas and Father John intoned a festive “Mnogaya Leta,” which the choirs joyously sang.

The All-Night Vigil was concelebrated by Fathers George and John, and Deacon Paul, and the service was to the Mother of God Quick-to-Hear, including a Litya and Polyeleos.

The Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning December 11, was concelebrated by Fathers George Lardas, John Perich and Dennis Swencki, and Deacon Paul, and followed by a short moleben, and veneration of the Icons and Relics. Communion was from the Chalice that belonged to Saint Innocent of Moscow, who had been missionary here in America. In his sermon after the Gospel, Father John spoke about the Icon, about his student days when he attended Saint Nicholas, and about the connection of our Parish with Saint Tikhon’s Monastery, since our first Rector, Archimandrite Panteleimon, had been a novice at Saint Tikhon’s, as had his assistant Monk Joseph, and both later founded Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville. In his sermon, Father Dennis spoke about Saint Tikhon’s Seminary.

At 3 pm Sunday, an Acathist to the Icon of Our Lady Quick-to-Hear was served with Fathers George and John and other visiting clergy. The Acathist concluded with the festive departure of the Icons to the ringing of bells and the singing of many hymns to the Theotokos. Adding to our joy, Archpriest Theodore Shevzov of our Saint Nicholas Parish, who is recovering from surgery, was able to greet the Icons and the faithful outside the church (as he cannot yet climb the stairs).

In connection with the visit of the Icons, we held our Annual Holiday Festival and Bazaar. Father John supplied the materials and items for sale, assisted by Tanya Guba. Parish council members and volunteers from Saint Nicholas parish sold food from a tent outside. Monks Roman and Stephen represented Saint Tikhon’s Bookstore, and had honey, books, icons and videos for sale.

The visit of the Wonder-Working Icons, and the concelebration with the visiting clergy is a service of healing, for it united those that were separated when our Saint Nicholas Parish came to the Russian Church Outside of Russia from the OCA in 1984. And for the first time since then, those that were separated were again able to pray together at Saint Nicholas Church.

We thank Father John Perich for his kindness and generosity, for all the effort he put into making this visit a success, and for serving with us. We especially thank him for the gift of relics of our patron saint! We thank his assistants Subdeacon Paul and John for their help and for bringing the vestments. We thank Tanya Guba for her donation of the flowers, and her all-night effort of decorating the church and the Icons, and for her tireless and ever-diligent attention to our Holiday Festival. We thank Monks Stephen and Roman for bringing the Icons from Saint Tikhon’s Monastery. We thank the visiting clergy for serving with us. We thank Abbot Sergius of Saint Tikhon’s Monastery for permitting us to host this visit and to let the Icon depart from the Monastery. We thank His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah for

blessing Father John to bring the Icons and Relics to our Parish and to serve with us. We thank our own beloved Metropolitan Hilarion for blessing this concelebration and visit of so many holy things. We thank Matushka Ann for directing our Choir, and John Galpin for directing the visiting choir from Saint John’s Church, and Irina Stepanoff from the Presentation Parish for providing and leading the singing of troparia in Church Slavonic. We thank our Assistant Starosta Kathy Callaghan for coordinating with Father John and obtaining the foods ordered from New York; our Treasurer Anastasia Milligan for handling the financial aspect of this event and for her volunteer work outside in the cold and elements; our Senior Sister Ann Sharog and our Sisterhood and Parish Council for making the arrangements for Father John to visit us and bring these holy things. And we thank all our visitors, Orthodox and non-Orthodox who came to our church to pray before the Icons and to patronize our Festival.

### Our Diocese

**Heads of the Two Churches Concelebrate:** On Saturday 10 December, the feast of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God, the First Hierarchs of the Russian Church Abroad and of the Orthodox Church in America concelebrated the Holy Eucharist together for the first time. The festal and hierarchical Divine Liturgy was concelebrated by our *Metropolitan Hilarion*, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad, and *Metropolitan Jonah*, First Hierarch of the Orthodox Church in America, at the Synodal Cathedral of the Mother of God of the Sign in New York. A description and pictures of this historical event can be found on the Synod’s website,

[http://russianorthodoxchurch.ws/synod/eng2011/20111213\\_eurocorocaliturgy.html](http://russianorthodoxchurch.ws/synod/eng2011/20111213_eurocorocaliturgy.html) (English)

[http://russianorthodoxchurch.ws/synod/2011/20111213\\_rocorocaliturgy.html](http://russianorthodoxchurch.ws/synod/2011/20111213_rocorocaliturgy.html) (Russian)

### Liturgical Notes

**Red:** The altar cloths and vestments remain red until Christmas Eve, Friday 6 January.

**Decorations:** On Christmas Eve, Friday 6 January we decorate the church with poinsettias and lights.

**White:** On Christmas Eve, Friday 6 January we change all altar cloths and vestments to white.

**Gold:** After the leave-taking of the Feast of Theophany, Friday 27 January, we change the altar cloths and vestments to gold. They remain gold until Vespers on Forgiveness Sunday, 26 February, when the cloths are changed to black.

**White:** On Christmas Eve, Friday 6 January we change all altar cloths and vestments to white. The white remains until the Apodosis (Leave-Taking) of Theophany, Friday 27 January.

### Prayer Requests

**Reminder:** If you need a hospital visit or wish Fr George to visit a sick relative, please call and let us know. Hospitals no longer give out information to non-relatives without express permission, so if you want the priest to know your or your loved

## Announcements – January 2012

one's condition you must inform the hospital or nursing home in writing.

**Pray for our Soldiers:** Although we do not have any parishioners of St Nicholas Church on active duty now, our parishioner, Vera Peebles asks prayers for her granddaughter's fiancé, John, who is stationed in a troubled zone in the Middle East. There are also many Orthodox Christians in the Armed Forces and serving in the War. Please keep them and all our soldiers in your prayers.

**Asking Prayers:** Please remember the following names in your prayers:

**Ailing Clergy:** Archbishop Paul (Pavlos) of Astoria (Greek Old-Calendar), Bishop Nikon (OCA), Protospriest Theodore Shevzov, Protospriest Laurence Girard (on hospice care), Reader Vladimir, Monk Laurence

**Ailing Parishioners:** Tamara Dimitruk, Emilia Hramov, Martin Hudobenko, Galina Kanonik, Kiril (Charles) Nettle, Matushka Katherine Papov, Olga Paradiso, Vera Peebles and her daughter Janet, Galina Penchuk, child Viacheslav Rakov, Galina Rudins, Angelina Schneider, Michael Shigalkowski, Elena Skorik, Irina Stettinin, Denis Zimbalkin, Tatiana Sergievsky.

**Ailing Orthodox:** Uliana Drobot, Nina Boldyreff, Nadezhda Jakovenko, Helen Raduk, Yvette (Eve) Girard, Sophia, Peter Nelson, Desislava Dimitrova, and Margaret, and Galina Rudins' daughter-in-law Elizabeth (Lori), and also the servant of God Velitchka. Prayers are also asked for child Taras, and infant Matvey.

**Ailing Non-Orthodox:** Veronica Wlodarski, the daughter of Elizabeth Wlodarski, and Sophia Sallitan, the daughter of Tatiana Sergievsky.

**Other Requests, Orthodox:** David, Ambrose, Matthew, and Nicholas, Andrés.

**Other Requests, Non-Orthodox:** Ken, and Daniel.

**Soldiers, Orthodox:** Michael.

**Soldiers, Non-Orthodox:** John.

**Is Anyone Sick?** "Let him call the presbyters," as it says in the Epistle of St James. If you know anyone who needs attention please let Fr George know. Call 203 209-9374 and leave a message. **Is Anyone Better?** If you have submitted any names for the list of prayers for the sick and that person has recovered, please let us know so we can keep the list a manageable length.

### Administrative

**Deadline for Submissions:** Notices from parishioners or parish organizations must be submitted to Fr George by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the next Bulletin.

### Mark Your Calendar

**Please mark** these events of the coming months in your calendar:

**Sunday 5 February** – General Parish Meeting

**Sunday 19 February** – *Bliny* Dinner

**Sunday 26 February** – Forgiveness Sunday

**Monday 27 February** – Lent begins

**Saturday 31 March** – Church School Lenten Retreat

**Sunday 1 April** – Children's Liturgy

**Sunday 8 April** – Palm Sunday, Fish Dinner

**Sunday 15 April** - Pascha



## RETROSPECTIVE 2011

**In the year 2011**, for the first time in decades, our St Nicholas Church hosted the pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers. Fr George attended the Lenten Pastoral Retreat at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Washington DC, and participated in the Palm Sunday Holy Unction in Nyack. We took up a collection for the earthquake in Japan, and held a food drive for the Sterling House Food Pantry, and a clothing drive for Big Brothers / Big Sisters. We had a visit from Bishop Jerome for our secondary Feast Day. Fr George found a part-time job tutoring at the University of New Haven. We weathered Hurricane Irene, and October's freak snowstorm with no damage to the church. We were blessed by the visit of the Wonder-Working Icon of Our Lady Quick-to-Hear, accompanied by the Feodorovskaya Icon and the Relics of many Saints, and for the first time concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with clergy of the OCA. On the same weekend we held our annual Holiday Festival. And Fr George participated in the Pan-Orthodox Holy Unction at St George's Albanian Church in the presence of the Wonder-Working Kursk Root Icon. We had four baptisms and two funerals.

**Baptisms:** *Aiden Nikolai*, the son of Martin and Yulia Wittig; *Aleana Alexandra*, the daughter of Alessandro and Anna Stefanzuk; *Aleksei*, the son of Valery and Daria Ryabchenko; *Nancy (Anna) Qian*, daughter of Shie Qian and Jun Lou; *Alexander Zachary*, the son of Dimitry and Daria Shurba; Congratulations to the parents and sponsors. Many years! *Mnogaja ljeta!*

**Funerals:** At St Nicholas – *Valentina Nashu*; and *Mary Nettle*. Buried elsewhere – *Olga Peck*; *Walter Hudobenko*; *Vera Akowchek Waronka*; *Elizabeth Zarna*; *Carrie Penchuk*; and *Tatiana Ippolitovna Petry*. Eternal be their memory! *Vechnaja pamjat'*.

*St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church  
Bulletin*

*Special Holiday Edition  
Christmas and Theophany 2012*

*Fr George Lardas, Rector – Telephone: 203 / 209-9374  
Web Site: StNicholasStratford.org*

*Сербично нпуеменемем есех нммух нпухожкан и друзеву  
С Рождеством Христовым,  
и с счастьем Навым Годом!*



***Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church***  
1 Honeyspot Road, Stratford, CT 06615  
Church: 203 375-4793; Priest: 203 209-9374  
**Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**  
**V. Rev. George Lardas, Rector**

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# St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

## Calendar – January 2012

Fr George Lardas, Rector – Telephone: 203 / 209-9374

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Jan 2012</b> <i>(19 Dec 2011)</i> Sun before Christmas, 29 <sup>th</sup> after Pent, T 4 <i>Secular New Year 2012</i> Liturgy 10 am Fast day	<b>2 (20)</b>  Fast day	<b>3 (21)</b>  Fast day	<b>4 (22)</b>  Fast day	<b>5 (23)</b>  Fast day	<b>6 (24)</b>  Christmas Eve Royal Hours 9:30 am Holy Supper 5 p Vigil with Litya 6:30 pm Strict Fast	<b>7 (25)</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS</b>  Liturgy 10 am Festive Trapeza 12 noon Vigil 6:30 pm
<b>8 (26)</b> Sunday after Christmas, 30 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost Tone 5 Synaxis of the Theotokos  Liturgy 10 am	<b>9 (27)</b>  Fast day	<b>10 (28)</b>  Fast day	<b>11 (29)</b>  Holy Innocents  Moleben 6:30 pm	<b>12 (30)</b>  Fast day	<b>13 (31)</b>  Vespers with Litya and Moleben for the New Year 6:30 pm	<b>14 (1 Jan 2012)</b>  Circumcision of our Lord, St Basil the Great Old Calendar New Year 2012 No Liturgy Vigil 6:30 pm
<b>15 (2)</b> Sunday before Theophany, 31 <sup>st</sup> after Pentecost Tone 6 St Seraphim of Sarov  Liturgy 10 am	<b>16 (3)</b>  <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	<b>17 (4)</b>  Fast day	<b>18 (5)</b> Theophany Eve Royal Hours 9:30 am Vigil with Blessing of Waters 6:30 pm Strict Fast	<b>19 (6)</b>  <b>THEOPHANY</b>  Liturgy 9:30 am Blessing of Waters 12 noon Blessing of homes begins	<b>20 (7)</b>  Synaxis of St John the Baptist  No services Fast day	<b>21 (8)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday – Note: Evening service is at the regular time so that Fr George can bless houses  Vigil 6:30 pm
<b>22 (9)</b> Sun after Theophany, 32 <sup>nd</sup> after Pent, Tone 7 Liturgy 10 am Sisterhood Pelmeni Dinner Children's Christmas Party 12 noon	<b>23 (10)</b>  Fast day	<b>24 (11)</b>  Fast day	<b>25 (12)</b>  Fast day	<b>26 (13)</b>  Fast day	<b>27 (14)</b>  St Nina  Moleben 6:30 pm Fast day	<b>28 (15)</b>  Vigil 6:30 pm
<b>29 (16)</b>  Sunday of Zacchaeus, 33 <sup>rd</sup> after Pentecost Tone 8  Liturgy 10 am	<b>30 (17)</b>  St Antony the Great  Moleben 6:30 pm	<b>31 (18)</b>  Fast day	<b>1 Feb (19 Jan)</b>  Fast day	<b>2 (20)</b>  Fast day	<b>3 (21)</b>  Fast day	<b>4 (22)</b>  Beginning of Triodion Vigil 6:30 pm

*Note: Dates in parentheses are Old Style (Julian Calendar).*

**Please mark** these events of the coming months in your calendar:

**Sunday 5 February** – General Parish Meeting

**Sunday 19 February** – *Bliny* Dinner

**Sunday 26 February** – Forgiveness Sunday

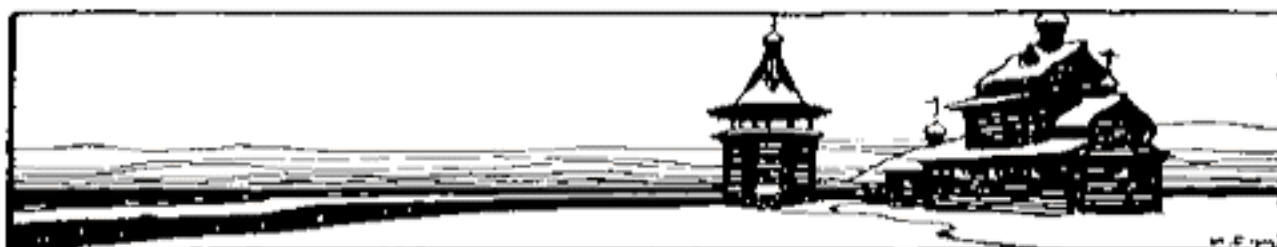
**Monday 27 February** – Lent begins

**Saturday 31 March** – Church School Lenten Retreat

**Sunday 1 April** – Children's Liturgy

**Sunday 8 April** – Palm Sunday, Fish Dinner

**Sunday 15 April** - Pascha





# Свято-Николаевская Русская Православная Церковь

## Календарь – Январь 2012 г.

О. Георгий Лардас, Настоятель – Телефон: 203 / 209-9374

Воскресенье	Понедельник	Вторник	Среда	Четверг	Пятница	Суббота
<b>1 Янв 2012</b> (19 Дек 2011) Нед пред Рожд, 29 <sup>ая</sup> по Пят, Гл 4 <i>Гражданский Новый Год</i> Литургия 10 ч утра День постный	<b>2 (20)</b>  День постный	<b>3 (21)</b>  День постный	<b>4 (22)</b>  День постный	<b>5 (23)</b>  День постный	<b>6 (24)</b> Навечерие Рожд Царские Часы 9:30 ч утра Постный Ужин 5 ч веч Всенощная с литией 6:30 ч Строгий пост	<b>7 (25)</b> <b>РОЖДЕСТВО ХРИСТОВО</b>  Литургия 10ч ут Праздничный стол 12 ч дня Всенощная 6:30 ч веч
<b>8 (26)</b> Нед по Рожд, 30 <sup>ая</sup> по Пят Собор Пресв Богородицы Глас 5  Литургия 10 ч	<b>9 (27)</b>  День постный	<b>10 (28)</b>  День постный	<b>11 (29)</b>  Свв Младенцев  Молебен 6:30 ч веч	<b>12 (30)</b>  День постный	<b>13 (31)</b>  Вечерня с литией и Молебен за Новый Год 6:30 ч веч	<b>14 (1 Янв 2012)</b> Обрезание Господне Свят Василия Великаго Новый Год 2005 Старого Стиля Литургии нет Всенощ 6:30 ч в
<b>15 (2)</b> Неделя пред Богоявление, 31 <sup>ая</sup> по Пят Глас 6 Преп Серафима Саровского Литургия 10 ч утра	<b>16 (3)</b>  <i>Гражданский праздник Martin Luther King Day</i>	<b>17 (4)</b>  День постный	<b>18 (5)</b> Навечерие Богоявления Царские Часы 9:30 ч утра Всенощ и Вел Водоосвящение 6:30 ч веч Строгий пост	<b>19 (6)</b> <b>БОГОЯВЛЕНИЕ</b> Литургия 9:30 ч утра Вел Водоосвя- щение 12 ч дня Начинается освящение домов	<b>20 (7)</b> Собор Иоанна Крестителя  Богослужений нет День постный	<b>21 (8)</b> Зья Суббота – Замеч: Вечерняя служба в обыч- ное время так что о. Георгий освящает дома Всенощная 6:30 ч веч
<b>22 (9)</b> Неделя по Богоявление, 32 <sup>ая</sup> по Пят Глас 7 Литургия 10 ч утра Детская Ёлка и Пельмени 12 ч	<b>23 (10)</b>  День постный	<b>24 (11)</b>  День постный	<b>25 (12)</b>  День постный	<b>26 (13)</b>  День постный	<b>27 (14)</b>  Св Равноап Нины  Молебен 6:30 ч веч День постный	<b>28 (15)</b>  Всенощная 6:30 ч веч
<b>29 (16)</b> Неделя о Закхее, 32 <sup>ая</sup> по Пятидесятнице Глас 8  Литургия 10 ч	<b>30 (17)</b> Преп Антония Великаго  Молебен 6:30 ч веч	<b>31 (18)</b>  День постный	<b>1 Фев (19 Янв)</b>  День постный	<b>2 (20)</b>  День постный	<b>3 (21)</b>  День постный	<b>4 (22)</b>  Начало Триоди Всенощная 6:30 ч веч

**Замечание:** Все даты в скобках по старому стилю (по юлианскому календарю).

Отметьте эти наступающие события в вашем календаре:

**Воскресенье 5 Февраля** – Годовое Общее Приходское Собрание

**Воскресенье 19 Февраля** – Масленица, Блины от Сестричества

**Воскресенье 26 Февраля** – Прощенное Воскресенье

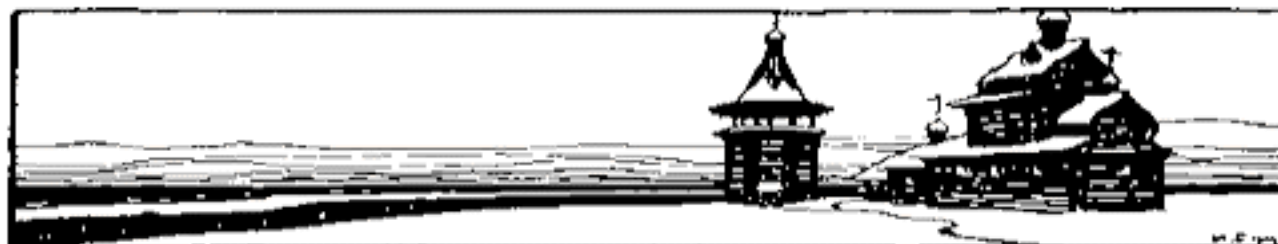
**Понедельник 27 Февраля** – Начало Великого Поста

**Суббота 31 Марта** – Детское Великопостное Говение

**Воскресенье 1 Апреля** – Детская Литургия

**Воскресенье 8 Апреля** – Вербное Воскресенье, Рыбный Обед

**Воскресенье 15 Апреля** – Пасха



## *Holiday Schedule - Christmas and Theophany – January 2012*

<i>Day</i>	<i>New Style</i>	<i>Old Style</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
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**Sunday before Christmas, 29<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost, Ancestors of Christ, Tone 4, Secular New Year 2012**

Sat	31 Dec	18 Dec	6:30 pm	Vigil
Sun	1 Jan	19 Dec	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy



### **CHRISTMAS – The Nativity of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ**

Fri	6 Jan	24 Dec	9:30 am	Royal Hours, <b>Christmas Eve – Strict fast</b>
			5:00 pm	Holy Supper in the Church Hall (lenten)
			6:30 pm	Vigil with Great Compline and Litya
Sat	7 Jan	25 Dec	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
			12:00 noon	Festive Trapeza,

**Nativity Season – The Twelve Days of Christmas:** From Christmas Day to the Eve of Theophany we do not fast on Wednesday and Friday. However, the Eve of Theophany, 18 January (5 January), is a strict fast, like Great Lent.

**Sunday after Christmas, 30<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost, Synaxis of the Theotokos, Tone 5**

Sat	7 Jan	25 Dec	6:30 pm	Vigil
Sun	8 Jan	26 Dec	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy

**Holy Innocents Killed by Herod**

Wed	11 Jan	29 Dec	6:30 pm	Moleben
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**Circumcision of our Lord, St Basil the Great and Old Calendar New Year 2012**

Fri	13 Jan	31 Dec	6:30 pm	Vespers with Litya and Moleben for the New Year
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**Sunday Before Theophany, 31<sup>st</sup> after Pentecost, St Seraphim of Sarov, Tone 6**

Sat	14 Jan	1 Jan	6:30 pm	Vigil
Sun	15 Jan	2 Jan	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy



### **THEOPHANY – The Baptism of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ**

Wed	18 Jan	5 Jan	9:30 am	Royal Hours, <i>Theophany Eve – Strict fast</i>
			6:30 pm	Vigil with Litya and Blessing of Waters
Thu	19 Jan	6 Jan	9:00 am	Hours
			9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
			11:30 am	Great Blessing of Waters
			2:00 pm	Blessing of homes begins (see attached schedule)

**Sunday after Theophany, 32<sup>nd</sup> after Pentecost, Tone 7**

Sat	21 Jan	8 Jan	6:30 pm	Vigil
Sun	22 Jan	9 Jan	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
			12:30 pm	Sisterhood <i>Pelmeni</i> and Children's Christmas Party (Yolka), visit from <i>Djed Moroz</i>

**St Nina**

Fri	27 Jan	14 Jan	6:30 pm	Moleben
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**Sunday of Zacchaeus, 33<sup>rd</sup> after Pentecost, Tone 8**

Sat	28 Jan	15 Jan	6:30 pm	Vigil
Sun	29 Jan	16 Jan	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy

**St Antony the Great**

Mon	30 Jan	17 Jan	6:30 pm	Moleben
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**Note: Weekday services, apart from major Holy Days, subject to change depending on Fr George's work schedule.**

## Расписание Богослужений – Рождество и Богоявление – Январь 2012 г.

День Новый Старый Время Служба  
Стиль Стиль

Неделя пред Рождеством, 29<sup>ая</sup> по Пятидесятнице, Свв Богоотец, Глас 8, Гражданское Новолетие 2012

Суб	31 Дек	18 Дек	6:30 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	1 Янв	19 Дек	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия



### РОЖДЕСТВО Господа Бога и Спаса нашего Иисуса Христа

Пят	6 Янв	24 Дек	9:30 ч утра	Царские Часы, <i>Навечерие Рожд</i> – <i>Строгий пост</i>
			5:00 ч веч	Постный ужин в церковном зале
			6:30 ч веч	Всенощная с Великом Повечерием и литией
Суб	7 Янв	25 Дек	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия
			12:00 ч дня	Праздничный стол, колядки

**Рождественские Святки:** От Рождества до Навечерие Богоявления поста по средам и пятницам нет. Но Навечерие Богоявления, 18 Янв (5 Янв), строгий пост, как Великий Пост.

Неделя по Рождеству, 30<sup>ая</sup> по Пятидесятнице, Глас 5

Суб	7 Янв	25 Дек	6:30 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	8 Янв	26 Дек	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия

Свв Младенцев от Ирода в Вифлееме избивенных

Сре	11 Янв	29 Дек	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
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Обрезание Господне, Свят Василия Великого, Новый Год 2012 Старого Стиля

Пят	13 Янв	31 Дек	6:30 ч веч	Вечерня с литией и Молебен на Новый Год
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Неделя пред Богоявлением, 31<sup>ая</sup> по Пятидесятнице, Преп Серафима Саровского, Глас 6

Суб	14 Янв	1 Янв	6:30 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	15 Янв	2 Янв	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия



### БОГОЯВЛЕНИЕ – Крещение Господа нашего Иисуса Христа

Сре	18 Янв	5 Янв	9:30 ч утра	Царские Часы, <i>Навечерие Богоявления</i> – <i>строгий пост</i>
			6:30 ч веч	Всенощ с литией и Освящ воды
Чет	19 Янв	6 Янв	9:00 ч утра	Часы
			9:30 ч утра	Божественная Литургия
			11:30 ч утра	Великое Водоосвящение
			2:00 ч дня	Начинается освящение домов (см приложение для расписания)

Неделя по Богоявлением, 32<sup>ая</sup> по Пятидесятнице, Глас 7

Суб	21 Янв	8 Янв	6:30 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	22 Янв	9 Янв	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия

12:30 ч дня Пельмени от Сестричества и Детская Ёлка, колядки, и визит от Деда Мороза

Св Равноап Нины

Пят	27 Янв	14 Янв	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
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Неделя о Закхее, 33<sup>ая</sup> по Пятидесятнице, Глас 8

Суб	28 Янв	15 Янв	6:30 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	29 Янв	16 Янв	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия

Преп Антония Великого

Пон	30 Янв	17 Янв	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
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Замечание: Богослужения будных дней могут перемениться зависая от расписания работы о. Георгия.

**St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church – Blessing of Homes, Theophany 2012**

*This is a **tentative** schedule. Contact Fr George at 203 / 386-9516 if any changes need to be made.  
The following list is in order of visitation with **approximate** times. If there are any last-minute changes,  
call Fr George on his cell phone (203 / 209-9374).*

**Thursday 19 January**

**Theophany**

***Stratford (South)***

2:00 pm Paradiso  
3:00 pm Brockert  
3:30 pm Kanonik  
4:00 pm Skorik  
4:30 pm N. Bludevich  
5:00 pm Peebles  
5:30 pm St. DeBiase  
6:00 pm Trostonoff  
6:30 pm Lardas

**Saturday 21 January**

***Stratford (North)***

10:00 am M. Bludevich  
10:30 am Harko  
11:30 am Blude  
12:00 pm Pcolka  
1:00 pm So. DeBiase  
1:30 pm Papov  
2:00 pm Rudins

**Sunday 22 January**

***Milford (Woodmont)***

2:00 pm Jurgot  
2:30 pm Penchuk  
3:30 pm Schneider  
4:00 pm Stettinin  
4:30 pm Zimbalkin

**Saturday 28 January**

***West Haven, Orange and Hamden***

11:00 am Sergievsky  
12:00 pm V. Shurba  
1:00 pm Wolog  
2:00 pm Hramov  
3:00 pm Rakov

**Sunday 29 January**

***Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport,  
Norwalk and Stamford***

2:00 pm Milligan  
2:30 pm Tilley  
3:00 pm Viner  
5:00 pm Coroneos  
6:00 pm D. Shurba

**Saturday 4 February**

***Shelton, Trumbull, Ansonia***

10:00 am J Kendall  
10:30 am Paschalidis  
11:00 am Callaghan  
12:00 pm Smykowski  
1:00 pm Curran  
2:30 pm Dutkanicz  
4:00 pm Hudobenko

**By Appointment**

*Please contact Fr George*

Abud  
Ambrose  
Bruder  
Cole  
Colello  
J. Denisevich  
Hildreth  
Kallaur  
Licamele  
Mace  
Ostrinski  
Peavy  
Podoltsev/Sakharova  
Rakov  
Shevzov  
P. Shurba  
Tumeniuk  
Von Voight  
L. Wologodzew

*If your house is missed on your  
scheduled day, the visit can be  
rescheduled for a weeknight following  
the appointed day.*

*If your name has been overlooked,  
please contact Fr George to be added  
to the schedule.*

Note: ***If your name does not appear on this list*** and you wish to have your house blessed, or if you are on this list and are not able to receive the blessing at the scheduled time, please call Fr George (203 209-9374) as soon as possible so that other arrangements can be made.

The times shown are **approximate**. The actual times of visitation may vary by up to two hours depending on last minute additions or cancellations, and on weather conditions.