

St Nicholas Parish Bulletin – February 2012

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Announcements

Verse: Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Стіхъ: Любы долготерпѣнѣтъ, милосердствуетъ: любы не завидѣнѣтъ: любы не превозношѣнѣтъ, не гордѣнѣтъ: ни безчинствуетъ, не ищетъ своѣа си, не раздражѣнѣтъ, не мыслѣнѣтъ зла: не радуетъ ѡ неправдѣ, радуетъ же ѡ истинѣ: всѣа покрываетъ, всемѹ вѣрѹ ѣмлетъ, всѣа ѹповѣаетъ, всѣа терпѣнѣтъ: любы николиже ѡтпадаетъ, ѡце же пророчествѣа ѹпразднѣнѣтъ, ѡце ли ѡзыцы ѹмолкнѹтъ, ѡце рѣзѹмъ ѹпразднѣнѣтъ. Вх Коринѹанѹмъ, Гл ГІ, ст 4-8.

Стихъ: Любовь долготерпитъ, милосердствуетъ, любовь не завидуетъ, любовь не превозносится, не гордится, не бесчинствуетъ, не ищетъ своего, не раздражается, не мыслитъ зла, не радуется неправдѣ, а сорадуется истинѣ; все покрываетъ, всему вѣритъ, всего надѣется, все переноситъ. Любовь никогда не перестаетъ, хотя и пророчества прекратятся, и языки умолкнутъ, и знаніе упразднится. – 1 Коринѹанамъ 13:4-8.

Commentary: This is one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible. We are reminded that the Christian life is rooted in love, and that we as members of Christ are His eyes and ears, His hands and feet, His voice and His agents, doing all that we do for the love of God and for the love of all our neighbors, whether Orthodox or not. And as our Saviour never harmed anyone, but rather healed and comforted, and gave everything, including His very life for us, so we must do as representatives of Christ. Our speech and our bearing must be kind at all times, patient, enduring, and full of joy and hope. Love is the greatest gift and the greatest virtue, greater even than faith and hope.

This Bulletin

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. 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, 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 19 February** during *Bliny*. 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.

Council Meeting: A meeting of the Parish Council in preparation for the General Meeting will take place on **Sunday 5 February**. We ask all Parish Council Members to attend.

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.

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.

Election of Parish Officers: This will take place at the Annual General Parish Meeting on Sunday 19 February. Please let Dexter Peavy (203-387-8744) know if you would like to join the church council. A list of candidates will be posted at the church door before the election.

Inauguration: The inauguration of the Parish Officers will take place the following Sunday, 26 February. This is also Forgiveness Sunday. All Parish Council Members should prepare by Confession and Communion on that day.

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

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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

Daylight Time Begins: Please remember that Daylight Time begins at 2 am Sunday 11 March. Please set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday evening 10 March, so as not to be late for church!

Change in Time of Vigil: We are considering a change in the time of Vigil on Saturday nights. Instead of beginning at 6:30 pm on most Saturdays, and at 3 pm on the third Saturday of the month, it is proposed that we serve Vigil at 5 pm every Saturday. While the times of the services is a pastoral matter and at the discretion of the Rector as he deems best for the ministry, Fr George is open to the input of our parishioners. Weeknight services will not be affected, and will begin at 6:30 pm as before.

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, 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.

Work Schedule: Fr George is working as a Tutor in Mathematics and Physics at the University of New Haven again this term. His hours are from 4 to 9 pm on Mondays, and from 9:30 am to 2 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On alternate Wednesdays beginning on Wednesday 1 February he will be working from 5 to 10 pm. The term will end on 13 May. Although it is possible for him to trade hours with someone else if needed, this is difficult. Accordingly, Fr George is unavailable for services public or private at those times. The schedule of services in this and following Bulletins will reflect this.

Blessing of Homes: The blessing of homes with Holy Water began on Theophany Day, 19 January. Fr George will continue blessing homes with Holy Water in February. The blessing of homes should be completed on or before Friday 24 February, since it is not usual to bless homes after the beginning of Great Lent. If you still wish your house blessed with Holy Water, and you were not visited in the scheduled time, please contact Fr George, and a time can be arranged.

Funeral: Due to unusual circumstances no Funeral was served for *Neila Kriston* (Neonilla in Baptism), who reposed on Friday 20 January in Houston and was buried on Tuesday 24 January in Stratford, a Funeral in absentia will be held for her at 10 am Monday 6 February. Those who knew her may attend and pray for the repose of her soul.

Moleben: We mark lesser holy days in February with mole-

bens. The moleben to *St Xenia* will be at 2:30 pm Monday 6 February. This will be early due to Fr George's work schedule.

Presentation of our Lord in the Temple: Since this is the feast day of our sister parish of the Presentation, there will be no Vigil at St Nicholas for the Feast. Instead we encourage our parishioners to attend Vigil at 6:30 pm Tuesday 14 February at the Church of the Presentation of our Lord at 5 Wheeler Terrace in Stratford. Divine Liturgy will be the following day, 9:30 am Wednesday 15 February at Presentation Church. We congratulate the Presentation Church and parishioners with their Parish Feast.

Early Vigil: Once a month we serve Vigil at 3:00 in the afternoon so that those who cannot drive at night, but wish to attend the evening service, may do so. This is an opportunity for those people to pray and confess and prepare for Holy Communion the following day. This month the early service will be on Saturday the 18th.

General Pannychida: The Saturday before Meat Fare Sunday is a general commemoration of the dead. The General Pannychida for the repose of all souls that have died in the Lord will be at 12:30 pm Saturday 18 February. We will read the names of the reposed from all the Commemoration Books (*Pomjanniki*) at the Candle Desk. If you wish to add any names to the commemoration of the reposed, please leave your list at the Candle Desk the Sunday before, 12 February.

Forgiveness Sunday: Forgiveness Vespers will be immediately after the Divine Liturgy on Forgiveness Sunday 26 February. This is our opportunity to ask each other's forgiveness for any offence knowing or unknowing that we may have committed over the past year, and so to begin Great Lent with a clean slate. The service is not very long, and for those that have difficulty standing through two services, it is permissible to come to the Liturgy late that day. Those that cannot kneel should not feel obliged to do so; those that can should.

Great Lent: This year Great Lent begins on Monday 27 February. During Lent we abstain from meat, eggs, dairy products, and fish. On weekdays we also abstain from wine and oil. Let us also abstain from every sin, and increase our efforts for spiritual growth. We should increase prayer, attendance at the special Lenten services, almsgiving and other deeds of mercy. Lent is given to us to cleanse our hearts and souls in preparation for our Lord's Resurrection.

First Day of Lent: We will serve the entire service of the First Day of Great Lent, Monday 27 February, exactly as done at Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville. The Midnight Office (Nocturnes) begin at 7 am, followed immediately by Matins. The Lenten Hours begin at 10 am followed immediately by Vespers. The services will include readings from the Fathers as appointed by the Typicon. The service should end about 2 pm. The entire service will be in English, and visitors from other parishes are welcome to attend. Due to the length of the service, no one is expected to stay from the very beginning to the very end. A light, completely Lenten repast will be held at the end of the services.

Great Canon: The Great Canon of Repentance of St Andrew of Crete are appointed to be read at Great Compline on the first four days of Great Lent (in four parts). However, due to Fr

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George's work schedule he is not available on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Therefore we will serve the Great Canon at 6:30 pm Tuesday 28 February and Thursday 2 March. The entire canon will be repeated at Matins on Wednesday evening of the fifth week of Great Lent, 28 March. This canon sets the tone for the rest of Lent, and is worth attending and paying attention to the words.

Presanctified Liturgy: On Wednesdays of Lent it is customary to serve the Presanctified Liturgy. The first Presanctified Liturgy this Lent will be at 3:30 pm Wednesday 29 February. The schedule of Presanctified Liturgies will be posted in the March Bulletin. The times depend on Fr George's work schedule, and days when he can trade with another tutor.

Those wishing to receive Holy Communion should prepare by prayer, fasting and confession. Confessions will begin half an hour before the start of the Presanctified Liturgy.

Acathist and Lenten Tea: At 6:30 pm on Fridays 2, 9, 16 and 23 March, we will serve the Acathist Hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos. Each of those days we will sing a quarter of the Acathist to the Most Holy Mother of God with Small Compline. On the fifth Friday, 30 March, we will serve the entire Acathist service with Matins. The Acathists will be followed by tea and a spiritual discussion.

St Theodore: To commemorate the miracle of the kollyva by St Theodore Tyro on the first week of Lent during the reign of Julian the Apostate, we will bless kollyva at 5 pm on Saturday 3 March, just before Vigil.

Sunday of Orthodoxy: A short moleben to celebrate the Triumph of Orthodoxy and the Restoration of the Icons will immediately follow the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, 4 March.

Soul Saturdays: The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturdays of Great Lent are appointed for general commemoration of the dead. Accordingly, a General Pannychida will be served on Saturdays 10 and 24 March, at 4:30 pm, and at 12:30 pm on Saturday 17 March.

We will read the names of the reposed from all the Commemoration Books (*Pomjanniki*) at the Candle Desk. If you wish to add any names to the commemoration of the reposed, please leave your list at the Candle Desk.

Our Parish

Memorial: After the Liturgy on Sunday 12 February, the Rudins and Papov families invite all parishioners to a pannychida for Leonid Rudins, and also to commemorate *Matushka Evdokia*, *Archpriest Fr Platon*, and *Fr Protodeacon Vladimir Papov*. The Pannychida will be followed by a dinner in their memory downstairs in the Church Hall.

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.

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.

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*.

Sisterhood

Bliny: Our annual *Bliny* Dinner 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 enjoying this delicious meal. This will be the same day as our Annual General Parish Meeting, so we ask all our parishioners to stay after the 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

Forgiveness Sunday: Sunday 26 February, Church School will be shortened so that the children and their teachers may attend Forgiveness Vespers immediately at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Sunday of Orthodoxy: Our Church School will participate in a short moleben at the end of the Divine Liturgy on 4 March, the First Sunday of Great Lent. This celebrates the Triumph of Orthodoxy and the Restoration of the Icons. This replaces the regular classes of that day.

Food Drive: The Food Drive for the Sterling House Food Pantry will resume during Lent. Our Church School will lead this effort. We ask the parents in our parish to help out by sending food, canned goods and hygienic supplies with their children when they come to church. More information will be posted in the March Bulletin.

Orthodox Neighbors

The Pew: Please join the Orthodox Clergy Association of Greater Bridgeport as it launches a new program to reach out and teach those interested in the Orthodox Faith. The Pew will have a "talk show" look and feel to it with clergy discussing various topics that affect us all. A short question and answer session will follow the presentation. The Pew will take place at St Dimitrie's Romanian Orthodox Church, 504 Sport Hill Rd in Easton on Sunday 12 February at 5 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers: Every year the Greater Bridgeport Orthodox Clergy Association sponsors a series of

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Lenten Vespers held at various Orthodox churches in the Bridgeport area. The Vespers are held every Sunday afternoon during Lent. This year's schedule is as follows. *All services are at 4 pm:*

1st Sunday: 4 March, *St John the Baptist Church*, 384 Mill Hill Ave, Bridgeport

2nd Sunday: 11 March, *St John the Baptist Church*, 1240 Broadbridge Ave, Stratford

3rd Sunday: 18 March, *St George's Albanian Church*, 5490 Main St, Trumbull

4th Sunday: 25 March, *St John the Baptist Church*, 600 Silver Lane, Stratford

5th Sunday: 1 April, *OCA Connecticut Deanery* Unction Service, Three Saints Church, 26 Howard Ave, Ansonia.

A *Lenten Coffee Hour* is held after Vespers, so that parishioners may meet and be acquainted with Orthodox Christians and clergy from other parishes. The speaker at the first Lenten Vespers on the Sunday of Orthodoxy at St John the Baptist Church on Mill Hill Ave will be Abbot Sergius of St Tikhon's Monastery in Pennsylvania. He will bring with him the Wonder-Working Icon of St Anna that resides at the Monastery.

Liturgical Notes

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.

Blue: On the eve and on the day of the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord, Tuesday and Wednesday 14 and 15 February, the altar cloths and vestments are blue.

Gold: On the day after the Feast of the Presentation, Thursday 16 February, we return to gold altar cloths and vestments.

Black: We change all the altar cloths and vestments to black during Forgiveness Vespers, which are held immediately after the Liturgy on Sunday 26 February. The black cloths will have been placed under the gold ones ahead of time. We use black from Sunday nights through Friday afternoons of Lent. While the black cloths are used, the red ones are hidden underneath for the next Lenten weekend services.

Dark Red or Purple: The altar cloths and vestments are red from Friday evenings through Sunday evenings of Lent, purple vestments may be used as well. While the red cloths are used, the black ones are hidden underneath for the next Lenten weekday service.

On the Christian Life

Petition: *A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgement seat of Christ, let us ask.*

Response: *Grant this, O Lord.*

End of Life: We offer the above petition at every major Divine Service in the Orthodox Church (Divine Liturgy, Vespers and Matins), but how much thought have we put into this small petition? Let us consider our lives. We are born, we grow up, and we die. At each major passage we ask the Church's blessing: at

birth – Baptism; when we settle down to raise a family – Matrimony; and when we die – Funeral of Christian Burial. Of these passages, perhaps the last is the most important, and, considering the theme of death in this issue of the Bulletin, it is this one we wish to discuss here. Even the pagan philosophers knew this and said to call no man blessed before his death. Why? Because death summarizes life and completes it.

In any serious illness we should take care to call for the Priest to hear our Confession and give us Holy Communion. We should also ask for Holy Unction: *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him* (James 5:14-15). Thus, whether we recover or not from our bodily sickness, we have taken care of the needs of our soul, and received strength for that final journey.

When our time comes to die, the Priest can read the Order of Prayer Before the Departure of the Soul from the Body. After we die, it is also desirable to have the Order of Prayer After the Soul Has Departed (the First Pannychida) read over us, and so we shall be accompanied by the prayers of the Church at that awful and dread moment.

The body is then prepared for burial: It is washed and clothed. If at all possible we should avoid embalming because the blood contains the Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, and it should not be poured into an unclean place. If the departed was baptized as an adult, it is desirable for him to be clothed in his baptismal garment as a sign of his faithfulness to the vows of Baptism, otherwise any good set of clothes will do. A Deacon or a Priest is buried in his vestments. The body is then laid out in church, and the Psalter is read over him continuously, day and night, by the faithful in turns, until the service begins. If the departed is a Priest, the Gospel is read over him.

It is appointed to serve the Vigil for the Departed (Vespers and Matins) the night before, and the Divine Liturgy of the Departed on the day of Burial. Thus the Bloodless Sacrifice of the Eucharist (Communion) can be offered on behalf of the departed.

The Funeral Service then follows (Отпѣваніе), in which we offer prayers for the departed and ask for the forgiveness of his sins, and for the mercy of God as he is being judged. Then he is taken for burial preceded by the Cross and censer to the singing of Holy God (the Trisagion). At the cemetery a short Litya is served and the coffin is lowered into the grave with the final prayer: *The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the compass of the world and they that dwell therein.* And the faithful take turns scattering earth on the grave.

After the Burial we pray for the dead especially at the Divine Liturgy, if possible daily, for the forty days counting the day of death as the first. We serve a Pannychida especially on the Third Day, the Ninth Day, and the Fortieth Day, and annually thereafter. When we pray, *Memory Eternal*, we do not mean that we entrust them to human memory which is short. No, we entrust them to God's memory which is everlasting.

The foregoing is the ideal state of affairs. Usually death comes on people unexpectedly and so the prayers of the departed are not offered. And rarely does the family of the departed think to ask for the Divine Liturgy, so the usual course of events

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is that only the Funeral is served, and occasionally a memorial service.

Since some of us have children who have drifted away from the Faith of Christ and from the Orthodox Church, and they might not know what is expected for a Christian ending to life and a proper burial, it is important to have a will in which we spell out in detail what we want done when we die. First of all we desire a Christian burial. And that means that, despite the higher cost of a burial as compared with cremation, we must insist on burial. We must ask in our will and in our instruction to our children and executors, that memorial should be made, and the proper prayers be said.

The Orthodox Church does not permit its members to be cremated. In fact, if the body of the departed is cremated, it is the standing policy of the Church that **no funeral, and no memorial whatsoever may be served** on account of disobedience to the will of the Church, and on account of the disrespect to the body of the faithful. Why does the Church insist on burial? Because since the Apostolic times cremation was deemed a vile, pagan custom (used by the ancient Romans). And also, the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and must be treated with reverence and respect. Indeed the body should be treated as the relic of a Saint, which is what we are supposed to become.

Visiting Shut-Ins: When we are young we do not give thought to what our lives will be when we grow old. We marry, we have children, we send them to school, and perhaps later to college. They move out of our house and we then have only our spouse. We work, we have our activities and hobbies. Time inexorably passes. We retire, we grow old, and we grow weak and sick. The things we used to do, we can no longer do, and we are dependent on others. It becomes quiet in our house, and perhaps our spouse dies, and we are alone. Our children and grandchildren are busy with their own lives and do not visit us often, and perhaps our children grow old and sick too. Our friends die, and nobody comes to see us.

We are alone in our house, where we have been for years, and everything that was once fresh and new becomes shabby and old. Perhaps we even have to go into a nursing home. We have nothing else to do but await death. And it is years and years in coming. Perhaps, for some reason, God has not blessed us with children, or perhaps our children are far, far away, and cannot come frequently.

This problem has become far more acute in our times than it ever has been in the past because our society has become atomized, that is to say, individualized. Personal interaction has become rare, and we must work harder and harder to maintain a high standard of living. In our electronic age, the face-to-face meeting has become rare. And the elderly do not always participate in the electronic age. People do not live with their families as they used to, and they do not care for their parents in their own homes as used to be the case. We might pay others to do this for us.

For many elderly and sick, the greatest source of suffering is loneliness and a feeling of abandonment. Part of the Priest's pastoral responsibility is to visit the sick. But that can only be a drop in the ocean compared to the empty hours faced by many of the elderly. It is our Christian duty not to forget the aged and infirm. We are told this in the Gospel of St Luke, in the Parable of

the Sheep and the Goats, which is read on Meat-Fare Sunday. It is also mentioned by St Paul when he gives Timothy charge to care for those that are "widows indeed," and have no living relatives. In the ancient times this was part of the ministry of the Diaconate, as mentioned in the Book of Acts, and it is part of the ministry of the Sisterhood. But it is also the duty of every Christian, not just the clergy or the Sisterhood to care for those less fortunate than us.

Won't you consider adopting a shut-in or two of our Parish, and making a point of visiting them? It would be a blessed thing, and you will gain great, great reward in heaven for doing this. It does not have to be burdensome. Any attention is better than no attention at all. All we ask is to visit them. After a few times we begin to know what they need, what they like. And we should pray for them, as they should pray for us. And after we draw our last breath we will hear from our Saviour Himself, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

We may say, "I am not used to doing this." That is all right – it is not that difficult. Perhaps, we say, "I do not like being confronted with sickness, suffering and depression." Pay it no attention. Bring cheer. Bring a present. Perhaps your first visit will be short. This is not about you, this is about the one you are visiting.

"I do not have the time," you say. Perhaps that is so, but perhaps some time opens up in your busy schedule. There is no commitment here. Bring a friend along. Some people have a knack for this sort of thing, and we will learn when we observe how they do it. Also, think about this: Someday that sick person could be you. Think about how you might someday appreciate receiving a visit from a friend when you are lonely and sick.

Not all shut-ins are elderly. Sometimes young people spend time in the hospital, and being young, they are not used to being alone with nothing to do.

A visit from a fellow parishioner is different from a visit by a Priest because a Priest brings the Sacrament; the Priest is there because of an emergency; the Priest is there to hear a Confession; or is there for any number of other reasons. But a visit from a friend, from a fellow parishioner – this is special, and cheers the heart. It does not take any special talent. You have given the greatest gift you can give: your time. And you do it out of love.

If you do not have time to visit in person, or can only visit rarely, a telephone call is the next-best thing. It is more personal than email, and can be done at any time. It is a good idea, however, to choose a regular time to call.

If you wish to visit a shut in, see Fr George. He has a list and can direct you. He would be glad of your help. Just try it once or twice. Who knows, perhaps you see how good it feels to help another, and make it a habit.

Milestones

Eternal Memory: We ask prayers for *Archpriest Laurence Girard* of Clearwater, Florida, who reposed in the Lord, aged 72, on Friday 13 January after a long illness. He and his family were good friends with Fr George and Matushka Ann for many years. His Fortieth Day will be Tuesday 21 February.

On Friday 20 January, our one-time parishioner *Neila Kriston* (Neonilla in Baptism), reposed in the Lord in Spring, Texas, after a long illness. She moved from Fairfield in 2007 to assisted living in the Boston area, but was lately in Texas near family.

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She received Holy Unction from Priest Lubomir Kupec of St Vladimir's Church in Houston and Holy Communion from Priest John Whiteford of St Jonah's Church in Spring, Texas, in December, and was buried at St John's Cemetery in Stratford, with Archpriest Peter Paproski officiating on Tuesday 24 January. Her Fortieth Day will be on Tuesday 28 February. A funeral *in absentia* will be served at 10 am Monday 6 February at St Nicholas Church.

On Thursday 26 January, **Tillie Kodnia** (Tekla in Baptism) of Milford CT, and long-time faithful parishioner of St Mary's Orthodox Church in Yonkers (Carpatho-Russian Diocese) reposed in the Lord in Milford after a long illness. Due to the unavailability of a priest at her home parish, her funeral was held by request at St Nicholas Church on Monday 30 January, served by Archpriest George Lardas, Rector. She is buried at Oaklawn Cemetery in Yonkers NY. Her Ninth Day will be Friday 3 February, and her Fortieth Day will be Monday 5 March.

We pray for the repose of their souls and for those that grieve and seek the consolation of God. *Vjehnjaja Pamjat'!*

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 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), Protopriest Theodore Shevzov, 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.

Notices

Samovar: Silver samovar for sale by Bridgeport resident, purchased in Moscow in 1982. Has several stamps dating to the early 20th Century. Contact Gary Quinlan at his telephone 203 525-1642, or by email at gquinlan76@yahoo.com.

Administrative

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

Mark Your Calendar

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

Saturday 31 March – Church School Lenten Retreat

Sunday 1 April – Children's Liturgy

Sunday 8 April – Palm Sunday, Fish Dinner

Sunday 15 April - Pascha



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

St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

Calendar – February 2012

Fr George Lardas, Rector – Telephone 203 / 386-9516 Rectory; Emergency: 203 / 209-9374

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Jan (16 Jan) Sunday of Zacchaeus, 33 rd after Pentecost Tone 8 Liturgy 10 am	30 (17) St Antony the Great No service	31 (18)	1 Feb (19 Jan) Fast day	2 (20)	3 (21) Fast day	4 (22) Vigil 6:30 pm
5 (23) Beginning of Triodion, Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, Tone 1 Liturgy 10 am Parish Council Meeting 12:30 p	6 (24) St Xenia Moleben 2:30 pm Fast-Free Week	7 (25) Fast-Free Week	8 (26) Fast-Free Week	9 (27) Fast-Free Week	10 (28) Fast-Free Week	11 (29) Vigil 6:30 pm
12 (30) Sunday of the Prodigal Son Tone 2 Three Hierarchs Liturgy 10 am	13 (31)	14 (1 Feb) Vigil of Presentation at Presentation Church 6:30 pm No services at St Nicholas	15 (2) PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD (Candlemas) Liturgy at Presentation Church 9:30 am No service at St Nicholas, Fast day	16 (3)	17 (4) Fast day	18 (5) Soul Saturday, General Pannychida 12:30 pm 3 rd Saturday: <u>Early Service:</u> Vigil 3 pm
19 (6) Meat-Fare Sunday (Last Judgement), last day of meat before Lent, T 3 Liturgy 10 am <i>Bliny</i> 12 noon General Parish Meeting 12:30 p	20 (7) Cheese-Fare (<i>Maslenitsa</i>) <i>Presidents' Day</i>	21 (8) Cheese-Fare	22 (9) <i>Washington's Birthday</i> <i>Secular Ash Wed</i> Cheese-Fare	23 (10) Cheese-Fare	24 (11) Cheese-Fare	25 (12) Cheese-Fare Vigil 6:30 pm
26 (13) Cheese Fare (Forgiveness) Sunday, Tone 4 Liturgy 10 am Forgiveness Vespers 12 pm	27 (14) Clean Monday Service of the First day of Great and Holy Lent 7 am to 2 pm Fast day	28 (15) Clean Tuesday Great Canon II 6:30 pm Fast day	29 (16) Clean Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy 3:30 pm Fast day	1 Mar (17 Feb) Clean Thursday Great Canon IV 6:30 pm Fast day	2 (18) Clean Friday Acatist I 6:30 pm Fast day	3 (19) St Theodore Saturday Blessing of Kollyva 5 pm Vigil 6:30 pm Fast day

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

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

Saturday 31 March – Church School Lenten Retreat

Sunday 1 April – Children's Liturgy

Sunday 8 April – Palm Sunday, Fish Dinner

Sunday 15 April – Pascha

23-24 April – Blessing of Graves

Thursday 24 May – Ascension Day

Saturday 26 May – Russian Festival (tentative)

Sunday 3 June – Pentecost

6-9 June – Diocesan Pastoral Conference

Monday 11 June – Apostles' Fast begins

Свято-Николаевская Русская Православная Церковь

Календарь – Месяц 201х

О. Георгий Лардас, Настоятель – Телефон 203 / 386-9516 Церковный Дом; Сетовой: 203 / 209-9374

Воскресенье	Понедельник	Вторник	Среда	Четверг	Пятница	Суббота
29 Янв (16 Янв) Неделя о Закхее, 32 ^{ая} по Пятидесятнице Глас 8 Литургия 10 ч	30 (17) Преп Антония Великого Богослужений нет	31 (18)	1 Фев (19 Янв) День постный	2 (20)	3 (21) День постный	4 (22) Всенощная 6:30 ч веч
5 (23) Начало Троицы Постной, Нед о Мытаре и Фарисее, Свв Новомучч Росс, Глас 1 Литургия 10 ч Зас Прих Совета 12:30 ч дня	6 (24) Св Бл Ксении Молебен 2:30 ч дня Сплошная седмица – Поста нет	7 (25) Сплошная седмица – Поста нет	8 (26) Сплошная седмица – Поста нет	9 (27) Сплошная седмица – Поста нет	10 (28) Сплошная седмица – Поста нет	11 (29) Всенощная 6:30 ч веч
12 (30) Неделя о Блудном Сыне, Трех Святителей Глас 2 Литургия 10 ч	13 (31)	14 (1 Фев) Всенощная в Сретинской Церкви 6:30 ч веч Богослужений в Николаевской Церкви нет	15 (2) СРЕТЕНИЕ ГОСПОДНЕ Литургия в Сретинской Церкви, 9:30 ч у Богослужений в Ник Церкви нет День постный	16 (3)	17 (4) День постный	18 (5) Родительская Суббота Общая Панихида, 12:30 ч д 3 ^{ья} Суб месяца: <u>Ранняя служба</u> Всенощ 3 ч дня
19 (6) Мясопустная Нед (о Страшном Суде), последний день мяса, Г 3 Литургия 10 утр Блины 12 ч дня, Год Прих Соб, Выборы	20 (7) Масленица <i>Гражданский праздник</i>	21 (8) Масленица	22 (9) Масленица <i>День Вашингтона</i>	23 (10) Масленица	24 (11) Масленица	25 (12) Масленица Всенощная 6:30 ч веч
26 (13) Сыропустная (Прошёная) Неделя, Глас 3 Литургия 10 ч утр Прошёная Вечерня 12 ч	27 (14) Чистый Понедельник Служба Первого дня Великого Поста 7 ч утра до 2 ч дня Вел Канона нет День постный	28 (15) Чистый Вторник Великий Канон II 6:30 в День постный	29 (16) Чистая Среда Литургия Преждеосвященных Даров 3:30 ч утра Вел Канона нет День постный	1 Mar (17 Feb) Чистый Четверток Великий Канон IV 6:30 в День постный	2 (18) Акафист I (по-английски) 6:30 ч веч Великопостный Ужин 7:30 ч веч День постный	3 (19) St Theodore Saturday Blessing of Kollyva 5 pm Vigil 6:30 pm Fast day

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

Отметьте эти наступающие события в вашем календаре:

Суббота 31 Марта – Детское Великопостное Гование

Воскресенье 1 Апреля – Детская Литургия

Воскресенье 8 Апреля – Вербное Воскресенье, Рыбный Обед

Воскресенье 15 Апреля – Пасха

23-24 Апреля – Освящение Могил

Четверг 24 Мая – Вознесение

Суббота 26 Мая – Русский Фестивал (уточнить)

Воскресенье 3 Июня – Пятидесятница (Троица)

6-9 Июня – Епархиальное Пастырское Совещание

Понедельник 11 Июня – Начало Петрова Поста

**St Nicholas
Russian Orthodox Church
Schedule of Services
February 2012**

Fr George Lardas, Rector
Telephone 203 / 386-9516 Rectory; Emergency: 203 / 209-9374

Day	New Style	Old Style	Time	Service
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, Beginning of Triodion, Holy New Martyrs of Russia, Tone 1				
Sat	4 Feb	22 Jan	6:30 pm	Vigil
Sun	5 Feb	23 Jan	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
			12:30 pm	Parish Council Meeting

St Xenia

Mon 6 Feb 24 Jan 2:30 pm Moleben

Fast Free Week – No fasting during the week of 5-11 Feb (Old Style 23-29 Jan); Wednesday and Friday are fast-free.

Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Three Hierarchs, Tone 2

Sun 11 Feb 29 Jan 6:30 pm Vigil
Mon 12 Feb 30 Jan 9:30 am Hours and Confession
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

PRESENTATION of our Lord in the Temple – Parish Feast of our Sister Parish, Presentation of the Lord, 5 Wheeler Terr

Tue 14 Feb 1 Feb 6:30 pm Vigil at Presentation Church, no service at St Nicholas
Wed 15 Feb 2 Feb 9:30 am Divine Liturgy at Presentation Church, no service at St Nicholas

Soul Saturday (Commemoration of All the Dead)

Sat 18 Feb 5 Feb 12:30 pm General Pannychida

Meat Fare Sunday (the Last Judgement), Tone 3, Early Vigil

Sat 18 Feb 7 Feb 3:00 pm Vigil – early service
Sun 19 Feb 6 Feb 9:30 am Hours and Confession
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
12:00 pm Sisterhood *Bliny*
12:30 pm Annual General Parish Meeting

Cheese-Fare Week – During the week of 20-26 Feb (Old Style 7-13 Feb) we abstain from meat only, all other foods are permitted even on Wednesday and Friday.

Cheese Fare Sunday, Tone 4, last day of meat before Pascha, 24 (11) April

Sat 26 Feb 13 Feb 6:30 pm Vigil
Sun 27 Feb 14 Feb 9:30 am Hours and Confession
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Great and Holy Lent - Starting Mon 7 Mar (22 Feb) we abstain from meat, eggs and dairy products until Pascha, Sun 24 (11) Apr, wine and oil permitted on Saturdays and Sundays.

1st Week of Great and Holy Lent

Mon 27 Feb 14 Feb 7 am-2 pm Matins, Hrs, & Vespers
Tue 28 Feb 15 Feb 6:30 pm Great Canon, Part II
Wed 29 Feb 16 Feb 3:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
Thu 1 Mar 17 Feb 6:30 pm Great Canon, Part IV
Fri 2 Mar 18 Feb 6:30 pm Sm Compline & Acathist Pt I

St Theodore Saturday

Sat 3 Mar 19 Feb 5:00 pm Blessing of Kollyva

**Свято-Николаевская
Русская Православная Церковь
Расписание Богослужений
Февраль 2012 г.**

О. Георгий Лардас, Настоятель
Телефон 203 / 386-9516 Церковный Дом; Сетевой: 203 / 209-9374

День	Новый Стиль	Старый Стиль	Время	Служба
Неделя о Мытаре и Фарисее, начало Триоди Постной, Свв Новомучеников Российских, Глас 1				
Суб	4 Фев	22 Янв	6:30 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	5 Фев	23 Янв	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Бож Литургия
			12:30 ч дня	Заседание Прих Сов

Св Блаж Ксении,

Пон 6 Фев 24 Янв 2:30 ч дня Молебен

Сплошная Седмица – В этой недели, 5-11 Фев (Ст Ст 23-29 Янв), поста нет; Среда и Пятница разрешаются все пиши.

Неделя о Блудном Сыне, Свв Трех Святителей, Глас 2

Суб 11 Фев 29 Янв 6:30 ч веч Всенощная
Вос 12 Фев 30 Янв 9:30 ч утра Часы и исповедь
10:00 ч утра Бож Литургия

Сретение Господне – Пристольный праздник Сретенского Прихода, 5 Wheeler Terr в Стратфорде

Вто 14 Фев 1 Фев 6:30 ч веч Всенощ в Сретенской Церкви, в Никольской Церкви службы нет
Сре 15 Фев 2 Фев 9:30 ч утра Бож Лит в Сретенской Церкви, в Никольской Церкви службы нет

Родительская Суббота

Суб 18 Фев 5 Фев 12:30 ч дня Общая Паннихида

Мясопустная Неделя (о Страшном Суде), Гл 3, Ранняя служба

Суб 18 Фев 5 Фев 3:00 ч дня Всенощная (заранее)
Вос 19 Фев 6 Фев 9:30 ч утра Часы и исповедь
10:00 ч утра Бож Литургия
12:00 ч дня Блины от Сестричества
12:30 ч дня Годовое Общее Приходское Собрание

Масленица, - В этой недели, 20-26 Фев (Ст Ст 7-13Фев), воздержание только от мяса, все остальные пиши разрешаются и в среду и пятницу.

Мясопустная Неделя (о Страшном Суде), Глас 7, последний день мясоеда до Св Пасхи, 24 (11) Апреля

Суб 26 Фев 13 Фев 6:30 ч веч Всенощная
Вос 27 Фев 14 Фев 9:30 ч утра Часы и исповедь
10:00 ч утра Бож Литургия

Великий Пост - начинается в Пон 7 Мар (Ст Ст 22 Фев); отныне до Пасхи не едим мяса, яиц, и молочных продуктов, а по воскресеньям и субботам разрешаются вино и елей.

1^{ая} Седмица Великого Поста

Пон 27 Фев 14 Фев 7 ч ут-2ч д Служба 1^{го} Дня Поста
Вто 28 Фев 15 Фев 6:30 ч веч Великий Канон, Часть II
Сре 29 Фев 16 Фев 3:30 ч дня Лит Преждеосвящ Даров
Чет 1 Мар 17 Фев 6:30 ч веч Великий Канон, Часть IV
Пят 2 Мар 18 Фев 6:30 ч веч Акафист, Часть I

Феодоровская Суббота

Суб 3 Мар 19 Фев 5:00 ч веч Освящение Колливы