

St Nicholas Parish Bulletin – December 2015

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

Web Site: StNicholasStratford.org

Email: frglardas@gmail.com

Announcements

Verse: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. –Psalm 33 [34]:4.

Грѣхъ: ВОЗВЕЛИЧИТЕ ГОСПОДА СО МНОЮ, И ВОЗНЕЕМАХЪ ИМЯ ЕГО ВЪСШЕ. – **ΨΑΛΛΟΜΕΝ** ἄγ, ρτ̄ ἄ.

Стихъ: Величайте Господа со мною, и превозносимъ имя Его вѣмъстѣ. – **Псаломъ 33 [34]:4.**

ST NICHOLAS DAY CELEBRATION

On behalf of our Rector and the Parish Council, we ask all our parishioners to attend the Divine Liturgy, the Banquet, and all activities related to the visit of **Bishop Jerome** in honor of our Parish Saint, Nicholas of Myra in Lycia the Wonderworker, and our Parish Feast. We also ask you to invite as many of your family and friends as you can for this happy event.

We especially request our Altar Boys and Parish Council members to be present a half hour before the Meeting of the Bishop at 9:30 am.

We have included an article on the meaning of a Bishop's visit in this issue of the St Nicholas Bulletin. Please see below.

Schedule of Events

Sunday 13 December:

- 9:30 am – Meeting of the Bishop and Hours
- 10 am – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- 12:30 pm – Festive Banquet
- 12:30 pm – Concert – St Petersburg Men's Ensemble

Please RSVP – To properly plan for the meal, please RSVP to Maria Peavy, coordinator: mariaawpeavy@gmail.com. Requested donation \$15.

Donations Gratefully Accepted: Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted for the restoration and painting of icons in the church. Further information will be available soon.

This Bulletin

Christmas Donation Envelopes and Holiday Schedule: Please look for the Christmas Donation envelopes and schedule of Holiday Services in next month's Bulletin.

Please be generous in your contribution. This donation will help cover our unmet expenses during the past year. **Your donations can be either mailed in or dropped into the collection basket when you come to church.**

Electronic Distribution: The St Nicholas Parish Bulletin is now distributed electronically. Our Bulletin is also available for download from our website, www.StNicholasStratford.org.

We will continue to print a **limited number** of copies for parishioners who are **members in good standing** and do not have

email. Anyone else who wishes to receive a hard copy may take out a **subscription at the rate of \$20 per year.**

Please make out your check and send to:

St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church
Attn: Bulletin.
1 Honeyspot Rd
Stratford CT 06615

Or contact our Treasurer, Anastasia Milligan, or our Starosta, Dexter Peavy at dexpeavy@gmail.com.

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.

Do you wish to be taken off our mailing list? Please contact us (or email dexpeavy@gmail.com) and we will remove your name from our monthly bulletin mailing.

Submit an Article: We invite our parishioners, members of our greater community as well as all our readers to contribute to the St Nicholas Bulletin. We are looking for historical reminiscences, vignettes of notable personalities in our parish, celebrations, thoughts, joys and sorrows, notes and pictures. Your submission should be of general interest rather than strictly personal. All articles will be evaluated for appropriateness and subject to editing for length. Please submit your contributions by email to Fr George at his email address, frglardas@gmail.com, and put **Submission for the Bulletin** in the subject line.

We are on Facebook: We wish to invite our readers to visit our Parish's Facebook page. It can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Nicholas-Russian-Orthodox-Church/207173962814628>

Services

Time of Saturday Vigil: Now that the current phase of the iconography is finished, Vigil on Saturday night **will begin at the usual time, 5 pm.**

Nativity Fast (Advent): The Nativity Fast began on Saturday 28 November, and 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. If we have leftovers from Thanksgiving, we can put them in the freezer until after Christmas.

Entry of the Mother of God: This is one of the Twelve

Announcements – December 2015

Great Feasts of the Church. *Services will be at the Church of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple*, 5 Wheeler Terr here in Stratford, rather than at Saint Nicholas Church: Vigil at 7 pm Thursday 3 December, and Divine Liturgy at 9 am on Friday 5 December.

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy: His Grace, *Bishop Jerome* of the Kursk-Root Hermitage in Mahopac NY, will serve with us on *Sunday before St Nicholas Day, 13 December* in honor of our Parish Feast. The Meeting of the Bishop will be at 9:30 am, followed by the beautiful service of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10 am. Bishop Jerome will be our guest of honor at the Festive Trapeza to follow.

St Nicholas Day: Although Bishop Jerome's visit to honor our St Nicholas Parish Feast is on Sunday 13 December, we will also hold services for St Nicholas on the actual day of his commemoration. Vigil with Litya will be at 6:30 pm Friday 18 December; and Divine Liturgy for the Feast will be at 9:30 am Saturday 19 December

Ss Herman & Spyridon: Services will be announced some time before that day, Wednesday 25 December (secular Christmas).

Molebens: We will serve a moleben for the rest of the lesser holy days in December: *St Catherine* – 6:30 pm Monday 7 December; *Kursk Root Icon* – 6:30 pm Thursday 10 December; and *St Barbara* – 6:30 pm Thursday 17 December.

Our Parish

Annual St Nicholas Day Fish Dinner: This will follow the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday 13 December. We invite all our readers to come and enjoy this repast. The suggested donation is \$15. In order to plan appropriately, we ask that you *RSVP to Maria Peavy* at mariaawpeavy@gmail.com. Please see the attached *Flier*.



Christmas Flower Donations: Please make note of the collection box in the center of the church; It is being used for flower donations to make the church beautiful for Christmas.

Food Drive: We collected ten bags and one crate of food for the Sterling House Food Pantry. These were 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.

Iconograph Finished: The work on the iconography was finished on Saturday 21 November. Our iconographer, Oleg Trofimenko installed the new icons of the Four Evangelists in the pendentives under the dome in our church on Saturday 3 October. Since then he had been working on the ornamental borders in the corners of the pendentives, which were done by hand. The scaffolding will be taken down before the beginning of this month, and we will have an unobstructed view of our church's new ceiling.

Lampada Sponsorship: Offerings may be made to sponsor the lighting of 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.

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

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.

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 also have an introductory rate for students.

Brotherhood

21st Annual Brotherhood Roast Beef Dinner: This was a good success, despite short notice. We thank the Brotherhood for a delicious dinner and their service to the church.

Choir

Come, Join the Choir: We need many voices for the bishop's visit coming soon and for feast of our Lord's Nativity! We ask all those who can sing to come join us! It takes three people per part to give the choir the rich sound that our traditional Russian Orthodox music deserves. We especially need altos and basses. Rehearsals times will be announced.

St Herman Conference

With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, and of His Eminence, Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and All Canada and Chairman of the St Herman's Executive Committee, the annual St Herman of Alaska Youth Conference will be held from Tuesday 22 through Saturday 26 December in *Toronto* Ontario (Canada) at the *Nativity of the Mother of God Russian Orthodox Church* in *Albany NY*. Speakers will include Fr. John Whiteford who will speak on the topic "Answering Atheists" and Clinical Psychologist Nadezhda Sexton whose talk is "Grant Me a Chaste Vision". A trip to Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville NY is scheduled along with great workshops, round table discussions, social activities and of course, beautiful services with a youth choir.

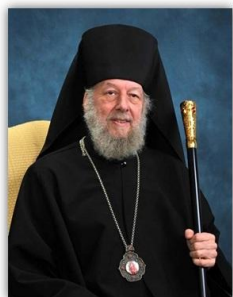
The Conference is open to people from ages 16 through 80. Registration is at discounted rate of \$275, and lodging is \$400 for a double room prior to the November 20th deadline and includes meals, and local transportation. Limited scholarships are available. After November 20, the registration will increase to \$300. For further information and registration, please visit the website at

www.sthermanconference.com

Registration is already open. We would like to see all our youth from St Nicholas in Stratford participate in this event.

On the Christian Life

When a Bishop Visits



Bishop Jerome (Shaw)

For most parishes, a bishop's visit is something unusual: perhaps an annual occurrence, or perhaps happening only once every few years. A bishop's visit is naturally a festive occasion, drawing many extra visitors, often coinciding with a parish feast, anniversary, banquet, or other special event. With so much happening, it is easy to become distracted from the spiritual significance of such a visit: who a bishop is, and what is the meaning of various signs and

symbols that distinguish the bishop and his role in church services.

What is a Bishop? Simply put, bishops are the successors to the Apostles. The word *apostle* means *sent forth*, and the Apostles, properly speaking, are those disciples of Christ who were chosen and sent forth by Him to proclaim the Gospel, to baptize believers, to establish new church communities, and to govern established churches (in matters of doctrine and practice). These Apostles include the Eleven mentioned in the Gospel texts (the twelve minus Judas Iscariot); Matthias, who was chosen to replace the traitor; St. Paul, the great Apostle to the Gentiles; and others mentioned in the book of Acts. Naturally, these men would have been overwhelmed by the scope of this mission, if they did not choose others to help them. Different men were called to help in different ways, and with different levels of authority. These include presbyters (*elders*, whom we usually call *priests*) and deacons (*servers*) who serve defined roles in church communities. But some were chosen for a larger role, that of *episcopos* (*overseer*), which we call *bishop*, with a power and authority equal to those of the Apostles themselves.

The Work of a Bishop: Regarding the work of a modern bishop, consider the following summary written by Bishop Augoustinos of Florina (in Greece):

In addition to the services that a priest celebrates, the bishop has other duties that belong only to his rank. They include the ordination of the clergy. He alone ordains all the orders except for the order of bishop, for which at least two bishops are needed... Consecration of churches is also the work of a bishop. His work is to oversee and administer all of the churches, chapels, and shrines within his diocese. No church can be built without the permission of the bishop. His work is also that of reconciling people, particularly spouses who for various reasons come into conflict with each other and whose marriage is in danger of breaking up...

The bishop, then, must be the guardian and protector of the

Christian family. His work includes the punishment of clergy who scandalize the people of God, not only the clergy but the laity who commit public sins and scandalize the people as well...

Moreover, his job is to excommunicate heretics who, in spite of all his efforts, persist in their errors and try to pass them on to others. Additionally, it is his job to protect widows and orphans and every person who is wronged by the world.

Of all his duties the most important one to which the bishop should be dedicated is the preaching of the Bible. The bishop has to preach not only on Sundays and Holidays, but if possible, every day, to teach, to instruct, to rebuke...

The bishop, in short, is the source and center of church authority in his diocese. He is, and he has to be, a spiritual sun to light and warm and revitalize all of his diocese. (Orthodox House of Worship, pp. 182-184)

The Orthodox Church is the only so-called *Church* with an unbroken line of Apostolic Succession: that is, our bishops were ordained by true bishops who were ordained by other true bishops, and so on, going all the way back to the Apostles themselves.

In the secular society, the princely descendents of mighty kings are held in high esteem for no other reason than blood relation, a tenuous association to worldly wealth and power. How much more so, in Christian society, should we honor our bishops, who are spiritual descendents of Saints Peter and Paul and those other Apostles who gave their very lives to the service of Christ.

We must accord honor to our appointed leaders, out of respect for the grave office that they have been chosen to fill. As St. Ignatius the God-bearer wrote, *Where the bishop is, there should the people also be, just as where Jesus Christ is, there is the catholic Church.* Remember this when the bishop walks through the temple doors, and recall the joy which St. Paul expressed at visiting parish churches and meeting his flocks face-to-face.

The Bishop as High Priest: A bishop is also called a hierarch, or *high priest*, and the hierarchical services at which a bishop officiates are marked by special solemnity, made visible through various ritual signs and symbols. Even before the bishop enters, the arrangement of the temple may have been altered to accommodate the bishop's seat (called *kathedra* in Greek, whence comes our word cathedral, for a bishop's temple) On this subject, Bishop Augoustinos writes:

From early times the bishop was given a prominent place in the church. His seat did not have the lavishness which today's bishop's thrones have. It was, however, higher than the other seats, not to flatter him but because they wanted it seen that from this higher seat the bishop could oversee everything that is going on in the Church...

The bishop, as an ancient book of the Church says, is like the captain of a ship. And just as the captain of a ship stands at a higher place than others on a bridge and from there perceives from afar the seas and oceans and directs the way of the ship, in the same way the bishop has to stand on high and from his seat, as from the bridge of a ship, look upon all those Christians who are on board this spiritual ship which is called the Orthodox Church.

The bishop's throne, as people call it, is a symbolic repre-

sentation that does not so much show the honor which belongs to the bishop as the responsibility that he has for the administration of the Church. What is more, everyone who finds himself inside that spiritual ship which is called the Orthodox Church is obligated to obey the bishop so long as he teaches in an Orthodox way and performs his duties according to Holy Writ and the Sacred Tradition of the Church. Sailors obey their captain; Christians should obey their bishop. That is what the bishop's throne teaches us. (Orthodox House of Worship, pp. 128-129)

The Kathedra and the Orlets: Not only does the bishop have a special place to sit, but also a special place to stand: a round rug, marked with an eagle, called an orlets. The recently-glorified St. Sebastian (Dabovich) described it so:

Whenever you see those round carpets, or mats, with the imprint of a bird upon them, placed before the Altar and in other parts of the temple, then you know that the Bishop will be present, either to pray with us or to conduct the services himself.

The walls and turrets of the city which you see on the carpets signify the jurisdiction of a Bishop over which he stands, and the eagle with out-spread wings above, flying in the air, reminds us of the example we have in the purity and the height of the doctrine which the Bishop offers us. From the earliest days, the Church has shown the eagle as an emblem for the deep, or rather the high theology of St. John the Divine, and the Disciple of Love.” (The Holy Orthodox Church, pp. 16-17)

The Bishop's Staff: The bishop's presence may also be indicated by his staff or crosier. (If you ever arrive late to Liturgy and see a staff leaning against the iconostasis outside the Royal Doors, then a bishop is probably inside the Altar.) Archpriest D. Sokoloff describes its meaning:

The Crosier or pastoral staff is nowadays used by all bishops in token that they are shepherds of Jesus' flock and should care for it as a father for his children. For this reason the crosier is also called paterissa (from the Greek word pater, 'father'). The episcopal crosier has a double crook on top and above that—a Cross. The crook is usually made like serpents' heads at both ends, in memory of the Saviour's words: Be wise like unto serpents.

As the serpent is renovated yearly, casting off its old slough and forcing its way through thorny plants, so the bishop, while guiding his flock, must follow himself and lead others along the path of enlightenment and renovation, in despite of sorrows and sufferings. Below the crook, a piece of some kind of handsome cloth is tied, usually silk, as an ornament, and to make it pleasanter to the hand to hold the staff. (Manual of the Orthodox Church's Divine Services, pp. 33-34)

The Bishop's Vestments: Not only his staff, but seemingly everything worn or wielded by the bishop has a mystical significance, including each separate part of his vestments, which is why so much attention is given to vesting the bishop, with accompanying prayers, after his formal entrance. (Ordinary priests also say prayers when donning their vestments, but this is usually done privately, inside the altar, long before a Liturgy begins.) The “brilliant whiteness” of the bishop's tunic or sticharion “reminds him that the grace of the Holy Spirit covers him as with a

garment of salvation and joy, and invests him with beauty.”

Next comes the stole or epitrachelion, which hangs from the neck covering both shoulders, and symbolizes “the grace of the Holy Spirit which like a river richly falls and waters souls through the holy mysteries.” The bishop's belt reminds him to “contain his evil desires and control his passions.” The cuffs (maniples) indicate that “a minister of the Church must hope, not in his own strength, but in the help of God;” they also represent the shackles worn by Christ and so many Christian martyrs.

The square piece of cloth hanging below the bishop's waist (*palitsa*) signifies the “spiritual sword, the Word of God” with which bishops must “smite all that is impure and vicious.” Some of these vestments are also worn by ordinary priests or deacons, and some are given to priests as awards.

The Saccos and Omophorion: There are also two vestments truly proper to bishops: the outer tunic, called a *saccos* — meaning *sackcloth*, traditionally associated with penitence — which signifies humility; and over this, the *omophorion*, wrapped around the bishop's neck as a shepherd would carry a lamb, calling to mind the Parable of the Lost Sheep. (Manual of the Orthodox Church's Divine Services, pp. 29-33; Orthodox House of Worship, pp. 152-154)

Washing of Hands: Not only is the bishop's vesting done more publicly than that of an ordinary priest, but also his ritual ablution. As St. Sebastian writes:

At Divine Service, the ministers wash their hands, but the Bishop does this before the whole congregation, that all may know how we must be prepared to partake of or administer the most pure mysteries, with a purified conscience and holiness of purpose. When the Bishop prays over the water, brought to him by two subdeacons (or, in their place, two readers), he says: Thou, O Lord, our God, Who blest the streams of Jordan, send down also upon this water the Grace of Thy Holy Spirit and bless it for the sanctification of Thy people... (The Holy Orthodox Church, p. 17)

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy: From the congregation's standpoint, the structure of a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy is similar to the ordinary Liturgies that we are accustomed to, but there are certainly some differences, including a few which invite further participation. At various points during the service, the bishop will bless the congregation with candlesticks. The *dikirion*, with two candles, symbolizes the two natures of Christ (divine and human); the *trikirion*, with three candles, symbolizes the Holy Trinity. When receiving a blessing with candles, we bow without making the Sign of the Cross.

A common chanted response to these blessings is a Greek phrase: Εἰς πολλὰ ἔτη Δεσποτα (*Eis polla eti Despota*), which means, *Many years, Master!* As the bishop prays for us, so we pray for him. His bodily presence makes more vivid the litanies during which we pray for the hierarchy, as well as our prayers for the episcopate after the consecration of the Eucharistic gifts.

Christ Himself is Present: It should hardly need to be added: Let no one forget that the most important person in the temple is not the bishop, but rather Christ Himself, Who is present *whenever two or three are gathered in His name* (Matthew 18:20).

Announcements – December 2015

Christ is no less present in our temple, and the Eucharist is no less real, on those days when the bishops are serving elsewhere. But according to the good order established in Christ's Orthodox Church, there is no celebration of the Eucharist that occurs independently of a bishop's authority, and it is right to be glad on those special occasions when such authority is visibly present. May our attention to the details of the bishop's appearance and actions help to deepen our understanding and involvement in the divine services.

Compiled by Andrew Warth

Sources:

St. Sebastian Dabovich. *The Holy Orthodox Church, or the Ritual, Services, and Sacraments of the Catholic and Apostolic Church*. Toronto, ON: St. Nectarios Church, 1993.

Bishop Augoustinos (Kantiotas) of Florina. *Orthodox House of Worship: Informative and Interpretive Homilies on Liturgical Themes*. Trans. Asterios Gerostergios. Belmont, MA: Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, 2002.

Archpriest Michael Pomazansky. *Orthodox Dogmatic Theology: A Concise Exposition*. Third ed, trans. Seraphim Rose. Platina, CA: St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, 2009.

Archpriest D. Sokoloff. *A Manual of the Orthodox Church's Divine Services*. Jordanville, NY: Printshop of St. Job of Pochaev, 2001.

Liturgical Notes

We include this section so that Fr George may have help changing the altar cloths and vestments at the appropriate times. This is a lot of work, but goes much more easily with a few helping hands.

Red: On Friday afternoon, 27 November, the altar cloths and vestments are changed to Red for the beginning of the Nativity Fast. They remain until the eve of the Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, Thursday 3 December.

Blue: For the feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, we use blue for all altar cloths and vestments from the eve of the Feast, Wednesday 3 December, until the leave-taking of the Feast on Tuesday 8 December. We also use blue for the Kursk-Root Icon, Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 December.

Red: On Friday 11 December we change all altar cloths and vestments to Red for the continuation of the Nativity Fast. The red remains until Christmas Eve, 6 January.

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

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

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 yours 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 husband, John. 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), Archbishop Nikon (OCA), Mitered Archpriest Andrei Semyanko, Mitered Archpriest Theodore Shevzov, Mitered Archpriest Stavros Rousos, Mitered Archpriest Victor Potapov, Archpriest Justin McFeeters (Antiochian).

Ailing Parishioners: Emilia Hramov, Kiril (Charles) Nettle, Vera Peebles and her daughter Janet, Elena and Ludmila Skorik, Denis Zimbalkin.

Ailing Orthodox: Reader John, Uliana Drobot, Nadezhda Jakovenko, Helen Raduk, Yvette (Eve) Girard, Andrea Picard, Sophia, Peter Nelson, Desislava Dimitrova, Margaret, Theophan, and also the servants of God Velitchka and for Sophia Michaels, and for the servant of God Natalia (cancer). Prayers are also asked for child Taras.

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

Other Requests, Clergy: Archpriest Alexander Fedorowsky at Novo-Diveevo Convent (facing a frivolous, but expensive lawsuit).

Other Requests, Orthodox: Reader Paul, Reader Vladimir, Anatole, David, Ambrose, Matthew, and Nicholas, Andrés, Benjamin.

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

Soldiers, Orthodox: Nicolas, Jesse, Andrei, Michael, Timothy, James, and Sarah.

Soldiers, Non-Orthodox: John and Geoffrey.

Newly Departed: Mildred Harko (40th Day: Monday 14 December); Galina Penchuk (40th Day: Saturday 5 December).

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.

Announcements – December 2015

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:

Thursday 7 January – Christmas

Sunday 10 January – Yolka, Children’s Christmas Party
Monday 18 January – Theophany Eve, 1st Blessing of Waters
Tuesday 19 January – Theophany, Blessing of Waters
Sunday 24 January – Pelmeni Dinner
Sunday 7 February – General Parish Meeting
Sunday 6 March - Bliny
Sunday 13 March – Forgiveness Sunday
Monday 14 March – Lent begins
Sunday 1 May - Pascha



Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

1 Honeyspot Road --- Stratford, CT 06615

Telephone 203 209-9374

Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

V. Rev. George Lardas, Rector

St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

Calendar – December 2015

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 29 (Nov 16) 26 th Sunday after Pentecost Tone 1 Liturgy 10 am Fast day	30 (17) Fast day	1 Dec (18 Nov) Fast day	2 (19) Fast day	3 (20) Vigil with Litya at Presentation Church, 7 pm Fast day	4 (21) Entry of the Theotokos Liturgy at Presentation Church 9 am Fast day Fish permitted	5 (22) Vigil 5 pm Fast day
6 (23) 27 th Sunday after Pentecost Tone 2 Liturgy 10 am Fast day	7 (24) St Catherine Moleben 6:30 pm Fast day	8 (25) Fast day	9 (26) Fast day	10 (27) Kursk Root Icon of the Theotokos Moleben 6:30 pm Fast day	11 (28) Fast day	12 (29) Vigil 5 pm Fast day
13 (30) 18 th Sun St Andrew, T 3 Meeting of the Bishop 9:30 am Liturgy 10 am St Nicholas Day Dinner 12 pm Fast day	14 (1 Dec) Fast day	15 (2) Fast day	16 (3) Fast day	17 (4) St Barbara Moleben 6:30 pm Fast day	18 (5) Vigil with Litya 6:30 pm Fast day	19 (6) St Nicholas – Parish Feast Day Liturgy 9:30 am Vigil 5 pm Fast day
20 (7) 29 th Sunday after Pentecost Tone 4 Liturgy 10 am Fast day	21 (8) Fast day	22 (9) Fast day	23 (10) Fast day	24 (11) Secular Christmas Eve Schedule to be announced Fast day	25 (12) Secular Christmas Ss Spyridon & Herman No services Fast day	26 (13) Vigil 5 pm Fast day
27 (14) Sunday of the Forefathers, 30 th after Pentecost Tone 5 Liturgy 10 am Fast day	28 (15) Fast day	29 (16) Fast day	30 (17) Fast day	31 (18) Fast day	1 Jan 2016 (18 Dec 2015) Secular New Year Fast day	2 (20) Vigil 5 pm Fast day

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

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

Thursday 7 January – Christmas

Sunday 10 January – Yolka, Children’s Christmas Party

Monday 18 January – Theophany Eve, 1st Blessing of Waters

Tuesday 19 January – Theophany, Blessing of Waters

Sunday 24 January – Pelmeni Dinner

Sunday 7 February – General Parish Meeting

Sunday 6 March - Bliny

Sunday 13 March – Forgiveness Sunday

Monday 14 March – Lent begins

Sunday 1 May - Pascha

Свято-Николаевская Русская Православная Церковь

Календарь – Декабрь 2015 г.

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

Воскресенье	Понедельник	Вторник	Среда	Четверг	Пятница	Суббота
Ноя 29 (Ноя 16) 26 ^{ая} Неделя по Пятидесятнице Глас 1 Литургия 10 ч День постный	30 (17) День постный	1 Дек (18 Ноя) День постный	2 (19) День постный	3 (20) Всенощная в Сретенской Церкви 7 ч веч День постный	4 (21) ВВЕДЕНИЕ ПРЕСВ БОГОРОДИЦЫ Литургии в Сретенской Церкви 9 ч утра День постный Разрешается рыба	5 (22) Всенощная 5 ч веч День постный
6 (23) 27 ^{ая} Неделя по Пятидесятнице Глас 2 Литургия 10 ч День постный	7 (24) Св Вмчц Екатерины Молебен 6:30 ч веч День постный	8 (25) День постный	9 (26) День постный	10 (27) Курско-Коренная Икона Пресв Богородицы Молебен 6:30 ч веч День постный	11 (28) День постный	12 (29) Всенощная 5 ч веч День постный
13 (30) 28^{ая} Нед, Св Андрея Гл 3 Встреча Архиепископа 9:30 ч уг Литургия 10 ч у Праздничный Обед 12 рп День постный	14 (1 Дек) День постный	15 (2) День постный	16 (3) День постный	17 (4) Св Вмчц Варвары Молебен 6:30 ч веч День постный	18 (5) Всенощная с литией 6:30 ч веч День постный	19 (6) Свят Николая Пристольный праздник нашего прихода Литургия 9:30 ч День постный Всенощная 5 ч веч
20 (7) 29 ^{ая} Неделя по Пятидесятнице Глас 4 Литургия 10 ч День постный	21 (8) День постный	22 (9) День постный	23 (10) День постный	24 (11) Расписание объявляется День постный	25 (12) Гражданское Рождество Свв Спиридона и Германа Богослужений нет День постный	26 (13) Всенощная 5 ч веч День постный
27 (14) Неделя Свв Працев, 30 ^{ая} по Пятидесятнице Глас 5 Литургия 10 ч День постный	28 (5) День постный	29 (16) День постный	30 (17) День постный	31 (18) День постный	1 Янв 2016 (18 Дек 2015) Гражданское Новолетие День постный	2(20) Всенощная 5 ч веч День постный

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

Отметьте эти наступающие события в вашем календаре:

Четверг 7 Января – Рождество Христово

Воскресенье 10 Января – Детское Ёлка

Понедельник 18 Января – Навечерие Богоявления, 1^{ая} Водоосв

Вторник 19 Января – Богоявление, Вел Водоосвящение

Воскресенье 24 Января – Пельмени

Воскресенье 7 Февраля – Годовое Общее Приходское Собрание

Воскресенье 6 Марта - Блины

Воскресенье 13 Марта – Прощенное Воскресенье

Понедельник 14 Марта – Начало Великого Поста

Воскресенье 1 Мая - Пасха

St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church
Schedule of Services
December 2015

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

<i>Day</i>	<i>New Style</i>	<i>Old Style</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>
Nativity Fast - Saturday 28 (15) November to Wednesday 6 January (24 December). Abstinence from meat, eggs and dairy products; on Wednesdays and Fridays we also abstain from fish, wine and oil. Fast is stricter after Ss Spyridon & Herman, 25 (12) December.				

ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS – Services at Presentation Church, 5 Wheeler Terr Stratford; not at St Nicholas

Thu	3 Dec	20 Nov	7:00 pm	Vigil with Litya
Fri	4 Dec	21 Nov	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy

27th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 2

Sat	5 Dec	22 Nov	5:00 pm	Vigil
Sun	6 Dec	23 Nov	9:30 am	Hours and Confessions
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy

St Catherine

Mon	7 Dec	24 Nov	6:30 pm	Moleben
-----	-------	--------	---------	---------

Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God

Thu	10 Dec	27 Nov	6:30 pm	Moleben
-----	--------	--------	---------	---------

28th Sunday after Pentecost, Apostle Andrew the First-Called, Tone 3; Celebration of St Nicholas, Pastoral Visit by His Grace Bishop Jerome

Sat	12 Dec	29 Nov	5:00 pm	Vigil
Sun	13 Dec	30 Nov	9:30 am	Meeting of the Bishop
			10:00 am	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
			12:00 pm	St Nicholas Day Fish Dinner
				Concert by St Petersburg Men's Ensemble

St Barbara

Thu	17 Dec	4 Dec	6:30 pm	Moleben
-----	--------	-------	---------	---------

St Nicholas, our Parish Feast

Fri	18 Dec	5 Dec	6:30 pm	Vigil with Litya
Sat	19 Dec	6 Dec	9:00 am	Hours and Confessions
			9:30 am	Divine Liturgy

29th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 4

Sat	19 Dec	6 Dec	5:00 pm	Vigil
Sun	20 Dec	7 Dec	9:00 am	Hours and Confessions
			9:30 am	Divine Liturgy

Ss Herman & Spyridon – Secular Christmas

Thu	24 Dec	11 Dec		<i>Service to be announced</i>
Fri	25 Dec	12 Dec		No Liturgy

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, 30th after Pentecost, Tone 5

Sat	26 Dec	13 Dec	5:00 pm	Vigil
Sun	27 Dec	14 Dec	9:30 am	Hours and Confessions
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy

Свято-Николаевская Русская Православная Церковь
Расписание Богослужений
Декабрь 2015 г.

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

<i>День</i>	<i>Новый Стиль</i>	<i>Старый Стиль</i>	<i>Время</i>	<i>Служба</i>
-------------	--------------------	---------------------	--------------	---------------

Рождественский Пост – С Пятницы 27 (14) Ноября до Четверга 7 Января (25 Декабря): Постимся от мяса, яиц и молочных продуктов; разрешается рыба кроме в среду и пятницу. Пост становится строже после Свв Спиридона и Германа, 25 (12) Декабря.

ВХОД ПРЕСВЯТЫЯ БОГОРОДИЦЫ – Богослужения все в Сретенской Церкви, а не в Никольской Церкви

Чет	3 Дек	20 Ноя	7:00 ч веч	Всенощная с литией
Пят	4 Дек	21 Ноя	9:00 ч утра	Бож Литургия

27^{ая} Неделя по Пятидесятнице, Глас 2

Суб	5 Дек	22 Ноя	5:00 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	6 Дек	23 Ноя	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Бож Литургия

Св Великомученицы Екатерины

Пор	7 Дек	24 Ноя	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
-----	-------	--------	------------	---------

Курско-Коренной Иконы Пресв Богородицы

Чет	10 Дек	27 Ноя	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
-----	--------	--------	------------	---------

28^{ая} Неделя по Пятидесятнице, Св Ап Андрея Первозванного, Глас 3; Празднование Св Николая, Посещение Епископа Иеронима

Суб	12 Дек	29 Ноя	5:00 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	13 Дек	30 Ноя	9:30 ч утра	Встреча Архиерея
			10:00 ч утра	Бож Литургия
				Архиерейским Чином
			12:00 ч дня	Праздничный Обед с рыбой, Выступление
				Скт Петербургского Ансамбля

Св Великомученицы Варвары

Чет	17 Дек	4 Дек	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
-----	--------	-------	------------	---------

Свят Николая Чудотворца, наш Пристольный Праздник

Пят	18 Дек	5 Дек	6:30 ч веч	Всенощная
Суб	19 Дек	6 Дек	9:00 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			9:30 ч утра	Бож Литургия

29^{ая} Неделя по Пятидесятнице, Глас 4

Суб	19 Дек	6 Дек	5:00 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	20 Дек	7 Дек	9:00 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			9:30 ч утра	Бож Литургия

Свв Германа и Спиридона – Гражданское Рождество

Сре	24 Дек	11 Дек		<i>Объявляется</i>
Чет	25 Дек	12 Дек		Литургии нет

Неделя Свв Праотец, 30^{ая} по Пятидесятнице, Глас 5

Суб	26 Дек	13 Дек	5:00 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	27 Дек	14 Дек	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Бож Литургия