

St Nicholas Parish Bulletin – January 2016

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Announcements

Verse: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. – Mark 1:9-11.

Стихъ: И гласъ бысть съ небесъ: Ты Сынъ Мой возлюбленный, въ Которомъ Мое благоволеніе. – **Отъ Марка гл̄ а, ст̄ 9-11.**

Стихъ: И гласъ былъ съ небесъ: Ты Сынъ Мой возлюбленный, въ Которомъ Мое благоволеніе. – **Отъ Марка 1:9-11.**

General Parish Meeting

This year's Annual General Parish Meeting will take place after the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday 7 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.



**** YOLKA ****

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

All parish children are invited to perform in the Yolka to be held during the Coffee Hour after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday January 10. Children can act in the Nativity play, join in singing Christmas carols, or perform individually on an instrument, recite a poem, sing a song or dance.

Please contact Kathy Callaghan if you or your children wish to participate: kakatherine@yohoo.com.

**SAVE THE DATE: CHILDREN'S YOLKA
PERFORMANCE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH**

This Bulletin

Christmas Donation Envelopes: This Bulletin contains a *Christmas Donation Envelope* and special *Schedule of Holiday Services*, so it will be sent out as hard copy by regular post as well as electronically to all readers of this Bulletin.

Please be generous in your contribution. This donation will help cover our unmet expenses during the past year, among which is our ongoing restoration project. *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 distributed electronically. Our Bulletin is also available for download from our website, www.StNicholasStratford.org.

A *limited number* of copies will be printed 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 and 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.

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.

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We are on the Internet: We wish to invite our readers to visit our Parish's Facebook and web pages at:

<http://www/StNicholasStratford.org>
<http://tinyurl.com/StNicholasFacebook>

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, 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.

Nativity Fast (Advent): The Nativity Fast continues until Christmas Day, Thursday 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* (Wednesday 6 January) and *the day before Theophany* (Monday 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.



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

Holy Innocents Killed by Herod: We will serve a brief prayer service (Moleben) at 6:30 pm Monday 11 January for the innocents killed by our society through abortion.

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 Wednesday 13 January. The Vespers will be followed by a moleben for the New Year. There will be no services on Tuesday morning 14 January.

Theophany Eve: Royal Hours for Theophany will begin at 9:30 am Monday 18 January. This day is a *strict fast day*.

Theophany: Vigil for Theophany will begin at 6:30 pm Monday 18 January, and Divine Liturgy will be at 9:30 am Tuesday

19 January.

Blessing of Waters: There will be two Blessings of Waters, the first during Vigil on Monday evening 18 January, and the other at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Tuesday 19 January.

Late Vigil: The last two Saturdays in January, the 23rd and the 30th, Vigil will begin at 6:30 pm to allow Fr George more time before the evening service to bless houses.

Blessing of Homes: Starting on Theophany Day, Tuesday 19 January, Fr George will be blessing homes with Holy Water. Because his teaching hours for Spring 2015 have not all been assigned, *the schedule of blessings will be announced after the New Year*.

Molebens: We will serve Molebens to mark the lesser holy days in January: Friday 15 January for *St Seraphim of Sarov*; on Wednesday 27 January for *St Nina*; and Friday 29 January for *St Antony the Great*; these Molebens are at 6:30 pm.

Chronicle

Saint Nicholas Celebration: On the feast of St Andrew the First-Called, His Grace Bishop Jerome served a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas Church. Accompanying His Grace from the Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God and Kursk-Root Hermitage in Mahopac NY, and serving with Fr George and Deacon Paul, were Priest George Temidis, Deacon Alexey Pnev, and Vasily Shevelchinsky. Also serving were Subdeacon Nektary Lukianov and David Dutkanicz. Nearly all our own Altar Boys served.

We had a full Choir, joined by a quartet from the Saint Petersburg Men's Ensemble. At the Little Entrance, with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, Fr Paul Giatas was elevated to the rank of Protodeacon.

Bishop Jerome delivered two sermons: in English, on the Gospel reading for the feast of the Holy Apostle Andrew; and a second in Russian, in honor of the parish's upcoming patronal feast day. Upon completion of the Liturgy, a short moleben was served, during which the newly-completed Icons of the Four Evangelists were blessed.

After the Liturgy we had our annual St Nicholas Fish Dinner, attended by His Grace, the visiting clergy and guests, as well as our own parishioners. A quartet of the St Petersburg Men's Ensemble, Kirill Sokolov, Vadim Smantser, Sergey Shapinskiy and Anedrey Volikov provided the entertainment.

Many Thanks

St Nicholas Celebration: This would not have been so great a success, nor so wonderful an occasion without the hard work of many people, to whom we are grateful. We thank:

- The Sisterhood who decorated the hall and prepared the meal and made everyone so welcome. Special thanks to Ludmilla Chuknov who prepared the wonderful and abundant food for the clergy table and the Abud and Reilly families for the donation of wine. Everything was so festive, and so well organized. It was so good to see old friends and relatives.

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- The Brotherhood and others who prepared the church inside and outside, and special thanks to Deacon Paul and Andrew Warth for their tireless Altar, polishing, cleaning, arranging. The church looked so beautiful.
- Greg Romanovsky who brought the St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble to make the event more festive.
- The Choir and those who sang – how good the choir sounds when we have so many singers!
- The Altar Boys and their parents (especially the mothers), those who took care of the robes and brought their sons to serve.
- Those who helped clean up afterwards – not a small task!
- Those who donated time, money and other necessary things to make this work.

It was good to have Vladyka, and all our visitors, here with our own people so we could all pray together. Vladyka Jerome was also happy to be here, as were the visiting clergy and altar servers.

The parish is a spiritual family that prays together, and jointly partakes in the life of the Church, the life in Christ, and the Hierarchical Liturgy is the actualization of that spiritual reality, and we all felt it. We had the opportunity to express this unity in more tangible ways as well, as we all broke bread together as a family.

Altar Wine: We thank Andrew Warth for the donation of Altar Wine.

Incense: We thank Fr Paul for his donation of incense.

Coffee Urn: We thank Maria Hancin for her gift of a new, large coffee urn for our Coffee Hour.

Masonry Repair: We thank Nicholas and Larisa Nijelow for repointing the masonry on the front and side steps of the church.

Prospora: We thank Andrew Warth for helping bake prosporas on Saturday 5 December. We had enough for the month of December.

Our Parish



Christmas Flower Donations: In the remaining time of the Fast before Christmas we will keep the collection box in the middle of the church for flower (poinsettia) donations to make the church beautiful for Christmas.

Prospora Baking: We will need prosporas for Christmas and Theophany as well as for the rest of January. We will therefore hold a Prospora Baking Work Party on Saturday 2 January. We invite everyone who is willing and able to participate and to learn how to bake prosporas.

Administrative

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.

Choir

Come, Join the Choir: We need many voices for the 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.

On the Christian Life

House Blessings: It is good to have your house blessed each year, to rededicate it and the whole household to Christ for the coming year. For blessing a house with Holy Water at Epiphany, you will need to prepare the place where the prayers may be said, by your Icon Corner, or if you do not have one, then set one up: You will need a table, a white cloth on the table, a bowl to hold the Holy Water (many like to use crystal), sufficient Holy Water from the service of the Blessing of Waters (if you did not take any home Fr George will bring it), an Icon of our Saviour (of His Baptism if possible), a candle on a candestick and a match to light it. The Icon should be propped up on the table or hanging on the wall (at your Icon Corner), the bowl should be on the white cloth with the candlestick behind it.

When the priest arrives, you will lead him to the place where we will begin the prayers. We will light the candle and say the beginning prayers. When we come to the singing of the Troparion of the Feast (either in Slavonic or in English, When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord) we will go from room to room. Please sing along if you can. You will lead the way with the candle. If you have a child in the house, a son or daughter, they may carry the bowl ahead of the priest as he sprinkles each room with Holy Water. At every room we go to the Icons in the corner, which we sprinkle first, and then the rest of the room. The priest will go to whichever rooms you wish to be blessed.

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When we return to the table where we started, we will say the final prayers. If any in the household are sick, we will also read the prayers for the sick, and prayers for any other intentions you may have. At the end, at the Dismissal, we will sing many years to the members of the household, and each member comes one at a time from the eldest to the youngest to be sprinkled with Holy Water. The whole service should take no more than 15 or 20 minutes.

You may offer the priest refreshments, but please bear in mind that he is usually on a schedule and must hurry off to the next house. It is also a customary to give the priest a gift in consideration of the costs in time and travel to bless your house.

On the Use of Holy Water

– by Andrew Warth

Every year we bless new Holy Water on the feast of Theophany (Epiphany), twelve days after Nativity. As St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco proclaimed, “At the rite of blessing, the waters which are thereby sanctified are transformed; they become incorruptible and retain their freshness for many years. Everyone can see this—both believers and unbelievers, both the wise and the ignorant. Whence do the waters acquire this property? It is the action of the Holy Spirit. Those who with faith drink these waters and anoint themselves with them receive relief and healing from spiritual and bodily infirmities. Homes are sanctified by these waters, the power of demons is expelled, God’s blessing is brought down upon all that is sprinkled with these waters.”

And every year, many rush to the temple to bring home a bottle of the New Year’s water. How wonderful it is to see new faces, or to renew old acquaintances, in connection with this ancient tradition. And yet, it is rather puzzling that we do not see more of these faces return to our regular weekly Liturgies. For as St. John said, it is those *who with faith* drink these waters who truly benefit—and Orthodox faith is expressed, in part, through active participation in Church life, including weekly observance of the Lord’s Day (according to our ability). Otherwise, what right do we have to expect Holy Water to work miracles? It is not magic. Yes, its *power* is objectively real, independent of individual beliefs. Perhaps even an atheist who consumed the water for superstitious reasons could be helped by it, through the Lord’s mercy. But generally, our attitudes—our *receptivity* to this power—these do make a real difference, because the Lord respects our free will. Thus, we believers should strive to use blessed objects mindfully, with prayer, as a channel for drawing closer to Christ, Who is the true source of spiritual cleansing and refreshment.

The following prayer may be used when consuming Holy Water and prosphora (in the morning, before other foods):

O Lord my God, may Thy holy gift and Thy holy water be unto the enlightenment of my mind, unto the strengthening of my spiritual and physical powers, unto the health of my soul and body, unto the taming of my passions and weaknesses, according to Thy limitless mercy, through the prayers of Thy Most-pure Mother and of all Thy Saints. Amen.

Although all the waters on Earth are blessed on Theophany, the special water which has been set aside and blessed for religious purposes should be treated with respect. Thus, if you have leftover Holy Water which you wish to discard, then it should not be poured down a sink leading to the sewer. Rather, pour it in the garden, or into a flower pot, or among trees and bushes, where the water may at least readily contribute to mundane life.

Sources:

- St. John Maximovitch. “A Sermon on the Day of Theophany,” from *Man of God: Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco*. Ed. Archpriest Peter Perekrestov. Richfield Springs, NY: Nikodemos Orthodox Publication Society, 2012.
- *Prayer Before Consuming Prosphora and Holy Water* (traditional). Translation from website of the Cathedral of St. John the Forerunner in Washington, DC.

http://www.stjohndc.org/Russian/what/WhatE/e_Bread.htm

On the Art and Music of the Lord’s Nativity

– by Andrew Warth



The silver star under the Altar of the Nativity marks the spot where Christ was born

Orthodox iconography is not mere decorative artwork, but a visual medium for communicating truths of our Holy Faith. Thus, although icons made by different artists will naturally differ in some respects, they are governed by certain rules and based on ancient patterns, to ensure agreement with other elements of Holy Tradition. Observe the icon of Christ’s Nativity, containing many details which could be overlooked if our veneration is too brief. Constantine Cavernos describes its elements beautifully:

A rocky mountain, with herbs and shrubs here and there, and at the center a cave. Inside the cave, there is an oblong, box-like manger, in which lies the Infant Christ swaddled, with a halo around his head. Close to the infant are an ox and a donkey or a horse, which look at the Child and provide warmth for Him with their breath. In front of the manger, at the opening of the cave, is the Theotokos, reclining on a mattress. The expression on her face is calm, gentle, meditative, showing that she gave birth to the Child in a supernatural manner, free of pain. Above the mountain is shown the heavenly vault, in the form of a semicircle, as in the icon of the Annunciation. From there descends a ray of divine light, which extends to the head of the infant Christ. At about its midpoint the ray expands into the form of a star.

Outside the cave are depicted Angels proclaiming the Good News to the shepherds, and the journey of the Magi. As Rev. Constantine Callinicos writes: “The veneration of the Magi was

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ever considered as the first step of the pagan world towards Christ, and the veneration of the shepherds was the first step of the Judaic world towards their Master...” We also see the righteous St. Joseph, St. Mary’s betrothed. Sometimes midwives are depicted bathing the infant Christ, but this element is historically controversial (those interested in the details should consult Cavarnos’ book, listed below). For the most part, these elements reflect the narratives of our Lord’s Nativity in the Gospels of Ss. Matthew and Luke, with additional information from other traditional sources.

The same emphasis on “substantial meaning” is found in Orthodox music. Consider the *kontakion* of the Nativity (“Today the Virgin giveth birth...”), which we shall chant in the temple on Christmas, and which can be found in any Orthodox prayerbook. This hymn is famous as the miraculous first composition of St. Romanus the Melodist, which he spontaneously chanted on Christmas in fifth-century Constantinople. The hymn that we usually chant is actually only one part of a much longer work. In Byzantine hymnography, the *kontakion* is a poetical form consisting of many paragraphs, each following a pattern and ending with a common refrain. We are told that St. Romanus composed over a thousand of these complex works. But his concerns ran deeper than aesthetic form.

Orthodox music is not mere entertainment, something to stimulate the senses of believers and unbelievers alike in a concert setting; rather, authentic Christian chant is nourishment for the minds and hearts of the faithful. St. Romanus used his kontakia, in part, to reinforce the victories of Orthodox truth over heretical falsehood. He lived shortly after the Third Ecumenical Council (in Ephesus, 431), which condemned the errors of the heretic Nestorius, who falsely claimed that St. Mary cannot be called the Theotokos (Birth-giver of God). Nestorius complained, “I cannot describe as God, an infant of two or three months.” But we Orthodox know that Christ was, in fact, divine from the moment of his conception, and the Nativity kontakion repeatedly emphasizes this point. Each section, including the first which we are accustomed to chanting, ends with the refrain: *A little Child, God before the ages.*

Sources:

- Rev. Constantine Callinicos. *Our Lady the Theotokos*. Trans. George Dimopoulos. Philadelphia: West End Press, 1987. p. 76.
- Constantine Cavarnos. *Guide to Byzantine Iconography: Volume 1*. Belmont, MA: Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, 2010. pp. 130-141.
- Egon Wellz. *A History of Byzantine Music and Hymnography*. Second edition. London: Oxford University Press, 1961. pp. 179-189.
- A translation of the full Nativity kontakion by St. Romanus may be found online at: http://jbburnett.com/resources/romanos_nativity.pdf

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 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.

Gold: After the leave-taking of the Feast of Theophany, Wednesday 27 January, we change the altar cloths and vestments to gold. They remain gold until Vespers on Forgiveness Sunday, 13 March, when the cloths are changed to black.

Milestones

Ordination: On Sunday 13 December, with the blessing of Metropolitan Hilarion and the Holy Synod of the Russian Church Abroad, and in view of his 31 years of service to the Church, Bishop Jerome elevated *Deacon Paul Giatas* to the rank of *Protodeacon* at the Divine Liturgy.

Eternal Memory: On Monday 21 December, our one time parishioner, *Wera K Pagliaro*, aged 82, of Margate FL, formerly of North Haven and Cheshire, reposed in the Lord after a long illness. As of this writing her Funeral will be held at Beecher & Bennett Funeral Services, 2300 Whitney Ave, Hamden, at 10 am Monday 28 December. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven.

May the Lord receive her into His heavenly habitation, where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting. May her memory be eternal, and may the Lord console her grieving families and friends.

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:

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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, and Mitered Archpriest Victor Potapov.

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. 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, Nicholas, Andrés, Benjamin, and Geoffrey.

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: Wera Pagliaro (40th Day: Friday 29 January)

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.

Mark Your Calendar

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

Sunday 7 February – General Parish Meeting

Sunday 6 March - Bliny

Sunday 13 March – Forgiveness Sunday

Sunday 13 March – Daylight Time begins

Monday 14 March – Lent begins

Monday 15 February – Presentation Parish Feast

Saturday 16 April – Children’s Lenten Retreat

Sunday 17 April – Children’s Communion Breakfast

Sunday 24 April – Palm Sunday

Friday 29 April – Good Friday

Sunday 1 May – Pascha



RETROSPECTIVE 2015

In the year 2015 we had eight baptisms, seven funerals, and two one-time parishioners were buried elsewhere, and one elevation to protodeacon.

The year began with four winter storms that postponed the Yolka, affected the house blessing schedule (some were cancelled), and necessitated a make-up date for the Sisterhood’s *Bliny*. We celebrated a shared Acathist on the Third Friday of Lent at St Nicholas in Bridgeport, but few attended due to a severe winter storm. We participated in the Greater Bridgeport Pan-Orthodox Vespers, and hosted them at St Nicholas on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Fr George and Matushka Ann attended the Diocesan Lenten Pastoral Retreat at St Alexander Nevsky Church in Howell NJ.

At the request of our ailing parishioner, Valentina Zimbalkin, Galina Rakov obtained a hand-painted icon of St Luke of Simferopol and Crimea, the new Unmercenary Healer. This icon is in the window sill nearest the icon of St Nicholas. Our youth participated in the Three Saints Vacation School and St Seraphim’s Camp this summer, and in the St Herman’s Youth Conference held in Albany NY in December.

This fall our Bulletin became primarily electronic, distributed by email. A marker was finally placed and a memorial was served at our parishioner, Alexander Maluga’s grave; he reposed in 2002.

The restoration of our church continued with the placing of the icons of the Four Evangelists under the dome in October and November. Services continued in our church in spite of the scaffolding.

Fr George and our parishioners participated in the celebration of St Nectarios in Southbury.

Bishop Jerome served the celebration of our parish feast on the Sunday before St Nicholas, during which he blessed the new icons.

The Brotherhood held a work party and picnic to clean up the garage; they took care of the mowing, and did repairs and preparations in advance of our St Nicholas celebration. They held their annual Roast Beef Dinner in November.

The Sisterhood continued their quiet but well-appreciated work; they held a picnic to begin the Church School year, and they hosted the St Nicholas Dinner and all our guests.

Baptisms: *Anna* (Jazlyn), daughter of Anastassia and Lance Delisser; *Larisa* (Lara), daughter of Sergey and Mariamna (Marianna) Osadchy; *Sophia* and *Anastasia*, twin daughters of Alexandra (Sasha) and Keith McCabe; *Alexander*, son of Marina Bongiorno and Edo Dostal; *Madalynn*, daughter of Kathryn and Matthew Bruder; *Katherine*, daughter of Dmitry Melnikov and Svetlana Biserova; *Leon*, son of Sergei Larkin and Elizaveta Shaposhnikova;

Ordinations: Protodeacon – *Fr Deacon Paul Giatas*; Reader – *Peter Romanovsky*.

Graduations: Master of Divinity - *Reader Peter Romanovsky*

Funerals: *Martin Hudobenko*, *Mary Colello*, *Zinaida Kuskin*, *Valentina Zimbalkin*, *Galina Penchuk*, *Mildred Harko*, *Wera Pagliaro*; Funerals elsewhere – *Angelina Schneider* and *Galina Baranov*.



Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

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*

Тропарь Рождества, Гласъ 4

*Рождество Твое, Христѣ Божє нашѣ, * возсия мiрови свѣтъ разума: * въ немъ бо звѣздамъ служащии, * звѣздою учахуся, * Тебѣ кланяются Солнцу правды, * и Тебѣ вѣдети съ высоты востока: ** Господи, слава Тебѣ.*

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.*

Тропарь Богоявленія, Гласъ 4

*Во Иорданѣ крещаяоущся Тебѣ Господи, * Троицеское явися поклоненіе: * Родителевъ бо гласъ свидѣтельствовааше Тебѣ, * возлюбленнаго Тя Сына именуя, * и Духъ въ видѣ голубинѣ, * извѣст-вовааше словесѣ утверждѣніе. * явлѣйся Христѣ Божє, ** и мiръ просвѣщѣй слава Тебѣ.*

St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church Bulletin
Special Holiday Edition

Christmas and Theophany 2016

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

Web Site: 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. Георгии Лардас, Настоятель,
и Лев Пиув, Староста,*

со всем Церковно-Приходским Советом

Сердечно приветствуем всех наших прихожан и друзей

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



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 – January 2016

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 27 (Dec 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) <i>Secular New Year 2016</i> Fast day	2 (20) Vigil 5 pm Fast day
3 (21) Sunday before Christmas, 31 st after Pentecost Tone 6 Liturgy 10 am Fast day	4 (22)	5 (23)	6 (24) Christmas Eve Royal Hours 9:30 am Vigil with Litya 6:30 pm Strict Fast	7 (25) CHRISTMAS Liturgy 10 am Festive Trapeza 12 noon	8 (26) Synaxis of the Theotokos No Liturgy	9 (27) Vigil 5 pm
10 (28) Sunday after Christmas, 32 nd after Pentecost Tone 7 Liturgy 10 am Children's Christmas Party	11 (29) Holy Innocents Moleben 6:30 pm	12 (30)	13 (31) Vespers with Litya and Moleben for the New Year 6:30 pm	14 (1 Jan 2016) Circumcision of our Lord St Basil the Great Old Calendar New Year 2016 No Liturgy No fast	15 (2) St Seraphim of Sarov Moleben 6:30 pm	16 (3) Vigil 5 pm
17 (4) Sunday before Theophany, 33 rd after Pentecost Tone 8 Liturgy 10 am	18 (5) Theophany Eve Royal Hours 9:30 am Vigil with Blessing of Waters 6:30 pm Strict Fast	19 (6) THEOPHANY Liturgy 9:30 am Blessing of Waters 12 noon Blessing of homes begins	20 (7) Synaxis of St John the Baptist No services Fast day	21 (8)	22 (9) Fast day	23 (10) <i>Late service:</i> Vigil 6:30 pm
24 (11) Sunday after Theophany, 34 th after Pentecost Tone 1 Liturgy 10 am Sisterhood Pelmeni Dinner 12 noon	25 (12)	26 (13)	27 (14) St Nina Moleben 6:30 pm Fast day	28 (15)	29 (16) Moleben for St Antony 6:30 pm Fast day	30 (17) St Antony the Great <i>Late service:</i> Vigil 6:30 pm
31 (18) 35 th Sunday after Pentecost Tone 2 Liturgy 10 am	1 Feb (19 Jan)	2 (20)	3 (21) Fast day	4 (22)	5 (23) Moleben for St Xenia 6:30 pm Fast day	6 (24) St Xenia <i>Late service:</i> 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 7 February – General Parish Meeting
Sunday 6 March – *Bliny*
Sunday 13 March – Daylight Time begins
Sunday 13 March – Forgiveness Sunday
Monday 14 March – Lent begins
Monday 15 February – Presentation Parish Feast

Saturday 16 April – Children's Lenten Retreat
Sunday 17 April – Children's Communion Breakfast
Sunday 24 April – Palm Sunday
Friday 29 April – Good Friday
Sunday 1 May – Pascha

Свято-Николаевская Русская Православная Церковь

Календарь – Январь 2016 г.

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

Воскресенье	Понедельник	Вторник	Среда	Четверг	Пятница	Суббота
27 Дек (14 Дек) Неделя Свв Праоцев, 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) <i>Гражданское Новолетие</i> День постный	2 (20) Всенощная 5 ч веч День постный
3 (21) Неделя пред Рождеством, 31 ^{ая} По Пят Глас 6 Литургия 10 ч утра День постный	4 (22) День постный	5 (23) День постный	6 (24) Навечерие Рожд Царские Часы 9:30 ч утра Всенощная с литией 6:30 ч Строгий пост	7 (25) РОЖДЕСТВО ХРИСТОВО Литургия 10ч ут Праздничный стол 12 ч дня	8 (26) Собор Пресв Богородицы Литургии нет Поста нет	9 (27) Всенощная 5 ч веч
10 (28) Неделя по Рождестве, 32 ^{ая} по Пят Глас 7 Литургия 10ч ут Детская Ёлка	11 (29) Свв Младенцев Молебен 6:30 ч веч	12 (30) День постный	13 (31) Вечерня с литией и Молебен за Новый Год 6:30 ч веч Поста нет	14 (1 Янв 2016) Обрезание Господне Свят Василия Великого Новый Год 2005 Старого Стиля Литургии нет Поста нет	15 (2) Преп Серафима Саровского Молебен 6:30 ч веч Поста нет	16 (3) Всенощная 5 ч веч
17 (4) Неделя пред Просвещением, 33 ^{ая} по Пят Глас 8 Литургия 10 ч утра	18 (5) Навечерие Богоявления Царские Часы 9:30 ч утра Всенощ и Вел Водоосвящение 6:30 ч веч Строгий пост	19 (6) БОГОЯВЛЕНИЕ Литургия 9:30 ч утра Вел Водоосвящение 12 ч дня Начинается освящение домов	20 (7) Собор Иоанна Крестителя Богослужений нет День постный	21 (8) День постный	22 (9) День постный	23 (10) <i>Освящение домов: Поздняя служба</i> Всенощная 6:30 ч веч
24 (11) Неделя по Просвещению, 34 ^{ая} по Пят Глас 1 Литургия 10 ч утра Пельмени 12 ч	25 (12) День постный	26 (13) День постный	27 (14) Св Равноап Нины Молебен 6:30 ч веч День постный	28 (15) День постный	29 (16) Молебен Преп Антонию 6:30 ч веч День постный	30 (17) Преп Антония Великого <i>Освящение домов: Поздняя служба</i> Всенощная 6:30 ч веч
31 (18) 35 ^{ая} Неделя по Пятидесятнице Глас 2 Литургия 10 ч	1 Фев (19 Янв) День постный	2 (20) День постный	3 (21) День постный	4 (22) День постный	5 (23) Молебен Блаж Ксении 6:30 ч веч День постный	6 (24) Св Блаж Ксении <i>Освящение домов: Поздняя служба</i> Всенощная 6:30 ч веч

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

Отметьте эти наступающие события в вашем календаре:

Воскресенье 7 Февраля – Годовое Общее Приходское Собрание

Понедельник 15 Февраля – Сретение Господне

Воскресенье 6 Марта - Блины

Воскресенье 13 Марта – Начало летнего времени

Воскресенье 13 Марта – Прощенное Воскресенье

Понедельник 14 Марта – Начало Великого Поста

Суббота 16 Апреля – Детское Великопостное Гование

Воскресенье 17 Апреля – Детское Завтрак

Воскресенье 24 Апреля – Вербное Воскресенье

Пятница 29 Апреля – Великий Пяток

Воскресенье 1 Мая – Пасха

Holiday Schedule - Christmas and Theophany – January 2016

Day	New Style	Old Style	Time	Service
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Sunday before Christmas, 31st after Pentecost, Ancestors of Christ, Tone 6

Sat	2 Jan	20 Dec	5:00 pm	Vigil
Sun	3 Jan	21 Dec	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy



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

Wed	6 Jan	24 Dec	9:30 am	Royal Hours, <i>Christmas Eve – Strict fast</i>
			6:30 pm	Vigil with Great Compline and Litya
Thu	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, 32nd after Pentecost, Ss Joseph, James and David the King, Tone 7

Sat	9 Jan	27 Dec	5:00 pm	Vigil
Sun	10 Jan	28 Dec	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
			12:30 pm	<i>Children's Christmas Party (Yolka)</i>

Holy Innocents, the Children killed by Herod

Mon	11 Jan	29 Dec	6:30 pm	Moleben, prayers against abortion
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Circumcision of our Lord, St Basil the Great and Old Calendar New Year 2015

Wed	13 Jan	31 Dec	6:30 pm	Vespers with Litya and Moleben for the New Year
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St Seraphim of Sarov

Fri	15 Jan	2 Jan	6:30 pm	Moleben
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Sunday before Theophany, 33rd after Pentecost, Tone 8

Sat	16 Jan	3 Jan	5:00 pm	Vigil
Sun	17 Jan	4 Jan	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy



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

Mon	18 Jan	5 Jan	9:30 am	Royal Hours, <i>Eve of Theophany – Strict fast</i>
			6:30 pm	Vigil with Great Compline, Litya and Great Blessing of Waters
Tue	19 Jan	6 Jan	9:00 am	Hours
			9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
			11:30 am	Great Blessing of Waters, Blessing of homes begins

Sunday after Theophany, 34th after Pentecost, Tone 1

Sat	23 Jan	10 Jan	6:30 pm	<i>Late Vigil – House blessings during the day</i>
Sun	24 Jan	11 Jan	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
			12:00 pm	Sisterhood <i>Pelmeni</i> Dinner



St Nina

Wed	27 Jan	14 Jan	6:30 pm	Moleben
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St Antony the Great

Fri	29 Jan	16 Jan	6:30 pm	Moleben
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35th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 2

Sat	30 Jan	17 Jan	6:30 pm	<i>Late Vigil – House blessings during the day</i>
Sun	31 Jan	18 Jan	9:30 am	Hours and Confession
			10:00 am	Divine Liturgy

Расписание Богослужений – Рождество и Богоявление – Январь 2016 г.

День Новый Старый Время Служба
 Стиль Стиль

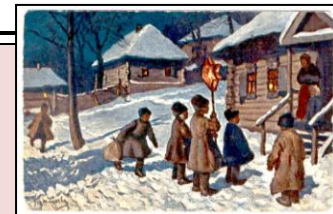
Неделя пред Рождеством, 30^{ая} по Пятидесятнице, Свв Богоотец, Глас 5

Суб	2 Янв	20 Дек	5:00 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	3 Янв	21 Дек	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия



РОЖДЕСТВО Господа Бога и Спаса нашего Иисуса Христа

Сре	6 Янв	24 Дек	9:30 ч утра	Царские Часы, <i>Навечерие Рождества – Строгий пост</i>
			5:00 ч веч	Святий Вечер, постный ужин в церковном зале
			6:30 ч веч	Всенощная с Великом Повечерием и литией
Чет	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 Навечерия Богоявления поста по средам и пятницам нет. *Но Навечерие Богоявления, 18 Января (5 Января) – строгий пост, как Великий Пост.*

Неделя по Рождеству, 32^{ая} по Пятидесятнице, Свв Иосифа, Иакова и Давила Царя, Глас 7

Суб	9 Янв	27 Дек	5:00 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	10 Янв	28 Дек	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия
			12:30 ч дня	<i>Детская Ёлка</i>

Свв Младенцев от Ирода в Вифлееме избивенных

Пон	11 Янв	29 Дек	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
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Обрезание Господне, Свят Василия Великого, Новый Год 2015 Старого Стиля

Вто	13 Янв	31 Дек	6:30 ч веч	Вечерня с литией и Молебен на Новый Год
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Преп Серафима Саровского

Чет	15 Янв	2 Янв	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
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Неделя пред Просвещением, 33^{ая} по Пятидесятнице, Глас 8

Суб	16 Янв	3 Янв	5:00 ч веч	Всенощная
Вос	17 Янв	4 Янв	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия



БОГОЯВЛЕНИЕ – Крещение Господа нашего Иисуса Христа

Пон	18 Янв	5 Янв	9:30 ч утра	Царские Часы, <i>Навечерие Богоявления – Строгий пост</i>
			6:30 ч веч	Всенощ с Великим Повечерием, литией и Великим Водоосвящением
Вто	19 Янв	6 Янв	9:00 ч утра	Часы
			9:30 ч утра	Божественная Литургия
			11:30 ч утра	Великое Водоосвящение; Начинается освящение домов

Неделя по Просвещении, 34^{ая} по Пятидесятнице, Глас 1

Суб	23 Янв	10 Янв	6:30 ч веч	<i>Всенощная, Поздняя служба – Освящение домов днем</i>
Вос	24 Янв	11 Янв	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия
			12:00 ч дня	Пельмени от Сестричества



Св Равноапостольной Нины

Сре	27 Янв	14 Янв	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
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Преп Антония Великого

Пят	29 Янв	16 Янв	6:30 ч веч	Молебен
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35^{ая} Неделя по Пятидесятнице, Глас 2

Суб	30 Янв	17 Янв	6:30 ч веч	<i>Всенощная, Поздняя служба – Освящение домов днем</i>
Вос	31 Янв	18 Янв	9:30 ч утра	Часы и исповедь
			10:00 ч утра	Божественная Литургия