

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN
Sunday, September 23, 2018
Conception of St. John the Baptist
Tone 8 / Epistle, 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1 / Gospel, Luke 5:1-11

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR will be held today, following the Divine Liturgy.

ST. NICHOLAS ETHNIC FOOD FAIR will take place on Saturday, October 20, from 1 ½ a.m. to 5 p.m. Please spread the word to your friends and relatives.

ALTAR TABLE CANDLES (7) offered by Pauline Aitken and Family (Birthday remembrance of departed son, brother and uncle, Kevin, 9/23). Memory Eternal!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FOOD DRIVE to assist the needy. You can drop off non-perishable food items and supplies in the box that has been placed in our Church Hall.

VIGIL OFFERINGS – Sunday, September 23, 2018

ANN O'BRIEN and MARY BEHANNA (Virgin Mary Kiot) – In memory of parents, Andy and Petrina Gernat (2)
HEATHER MOLINA – For health of father, Paul Zolak / For special intentions (2)
BOB and MARY BEHANNA – For health of daughter, Debra / For health of nephew, David (2)
OLGA BOGAN – For health of family / For safe travel for Marsha and Keith / For health of Becky Horan (3)
MARSHA REIDMILLER – For health of Lorrain Mullen / For health of Becky Horan (2)
SANDY CARROLL – For health of aunt, Connie Myers
SANDY KLIZAS – For health of John Klizas / In memory of Stephen and Helen Drake / In memory of Frank and June Drake / God's blessings on newlyweds Ryan and Meredith Drake (4)
SANDY AITKEN – In memory of dad, Lee / In memory of godson, Nicholas / For health and well-being of mother, Pauline / Birthday blessings for nephew, Ian / God's blessings for Aunt Bunny and Uncle Ron Campayno on their anniversary / Special intentions / For health of Fr. Igor (7)
VLAD KASH (3)
DEBBIE and DAN PRIATKO – In memory of our beloved mom / In memory of sister-in-law, Dottie / God's blessings upon niece, Michela on her birthday (9/19) / For health of uncle, John Dutka / For health of cousin, Don Pollock / For health of all parishioners / For health of Fr. Igor / God's blessings upon our church (8)
DEBBIE PRIATKO – Special intentions (2)

BILL PRIATKO – God's watchful hand be with all of our troops who are in harm's way / God's healing hand be with all the afflicted in our parish / God's healing hand be with brother-in-law, John Dutka / Blessed Memory Eternal to my beloved Katrinka / God's blessings to granddaughter, Michela Priatko on her 20th birthday (5)
DR. DIMITRI and PAULINE PETRO – God's blessings upon grandson, Luke on his third birthday / For health of Priscilla Kaluponov / For health of daughter, Christine and granddaughter, Alexandra (2) / For health of daughter, Kyra and grandson, Luke (2) / For health of Fr. Igor (7)
MIKE HORAN – For health of wife, Becky
MICHAEL and CINDY HORAN and FAMILY – For health of Nana
ERIKA and LOGAN – For health of Nana
JIM and VERA HAYS – For health of Rebecca Horan / For health of Fr. Igor / For health of Carolyn Harker / For health of Ralph and Dolores Veschio / For health of Kay Joseph (5)
MARK SOROKA – For health of father, Fr. Igor / In memory of mother, Matushka Irene (2)
FR. IGOR SOROKA – In loving and blessed memory of departed Matushka Irene / In blessed memory of departed sister, Alexandra (2)

We Are Also Called to be Fishers of Men

As simple Orthodox Christians, we are also called to catch men for Christ. Consider, for a moment, the state of the world around us. Consider this city we are in, and the cities and towns nearby. Consider the frightful nature of the world, of the overflowing cup of evil all around us. Consider the huge numbers of confused and frightened people, darting this way and that, like frightened fishes in a great dark sea. Some, though perhaps not all, would doubtless find peace and joy if they could but find Christ, in the fullness in which we find Him in Orthodox Christianity. We need only lower our nets, as Christ bids us, and we can catch them for Him. How do we do this?

We can do it by witnessing for Christ through the lives that we lead. If we are kind, patient, and generous towards our neighbors, that in itself is the beginning of our witness. If we are models of Christian piety in our lives, praying, keeping the fasts, attending Liturgy, and remaining close to the Church, that too is a witness and will attract a larger catch. Finally, we must not be ashamed of Christ's Church by hiding it from those around us. If neighbors or friends or acquaintances have no religious life, or if they are dissatisfied in their current religion, we can invite them to attend Liturgy and introduce them to Orthodox Christianity. Some people believe that Orthodoxy is only for Greeks, Russians, Romanians, and so forth. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Orthodox Christianity is not a collection of tribal Churches, it is the universal Church, the Church of all mankind.

So, let us not be apprehensive in sharing the beauty of Orthodoxy with others. Let each of us strive to follow in the footsteps of Sts. Peter, James, and John, by becoming catchers of souls for Christ. Let each of us also put aside all those things that distract us from our real purpose in this life, let us leave those things, as the Gospel says, and, like the Apostles, follow Christ.