

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN Sunday, Feb. 20th 2021
SUNDAY OF MEATFARE – Tone 3. Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of
Brooklyn (1915). Sunday of the Last Judgment.
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Luke 15:11-32

Please join us following Divine Liturgy downstairs for our Pre-Lenten Luncheon.

Tomorrow begins the Meat fast, with this week to consume dairy and eggs. Please take a copy of the Lenten schedule of services, stapled and stacked in the back. Also, please see a statement by Metropolitan Tikhon regarding the aggression in Ukraine. We will have vespers and a Moleben for the Appeasing of Discord and Strife, Wednesday evening, to pray for these people.

Great Lent begins next Sunday evening, March 6th. “Forgiveness Vespers” will be served that evening as a commencing of the season of repentance; all are encouraged to come and begin Great Lent in a spirit of mutual forgiveness and love.

The St. Nicholas society will have a meeting following Coffee hour on March 13th.

Services and events this week

Wednesday

6:00pm Vespers followed by Moleben for the Appeasing of Discord and Strife

Saturday

6:00pm Great Vespers, catechesis class: Final wrap-up discussion

Sunday

9:00am Bible Study

9:40 Hours; 10am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Prayer list Feb. 20th

Mary Behanna – in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat (Virgin Mary Kiot)

Donna Bucci – in memory of husband Louis Bucci

Fred & Caroline Ruev – in beloved memory of grandmother Xenia/ for all our sick and shut-ins, grant them a speedy recovery

Sandy Klizas – in memory of Stephen & Helen Drake/ in memory of Frank & June Drake/ special intentions/ belated birthday blessings for grandson, Kai/belated birthday blessings for Brigid Drake/ in memory of Ron Onufer/ health of Allan Boger

Tom & Elaine Backstrom – Special intentions/ memory of Mom & Dad/ God’s healing hand be upon sister Michele/ God’s blessings on grandchildren/ health of family. Safe trip for Rachel & Elaine

Vlad Kash – in memory of Fr. Igor Soroka

Dimitri & Pauline Petro – birthday remembrance of Uncle George Leandovich/ for health of Giada Montini/ for health of Christine & Alexandra/ for health of Natalie Rob/ for health of Tom & Russell/ for health & safe Travel of Ted, Joceline, Jonah & Catherine/ for health of Kyra & Adam/ in memory of Fr. Igor

Deacon Rodion & Mat. Sandy – birthday blessings for brother Ron Sethman/ health of Deacon Rodion, Christina & Nicholas/ health of Dennis Carroll & Vera Hays/special intentions

Sandy Carroll – safe travel for Kelly & Pete/ health of husband, Dennis

Sandy Aitken – in memory of brother Ethan, dad Lee, Becky Horan/ health of mother, Pauline, Aunt Bunnie, aunt Rosemary, Amanda, Natalie, John/ Special intentions

Rob & Natalie Montini – for health of niece, Giada

“I will show honor to a blind man, a leper, a madman, a nursling, a criminal, and a pagan as to the image of God. You shouldn’t care about their weaknesses and faults! Keep watch on yourself lest you should have lack of love.” – St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

Pray The Lord’s Prayer

(ctd on prayer from previous weeks)

First and foremost, we pray the Lord’s Prayer. People sometimes ask about “praying in our own words.” It is a curious turn of phrase: we never worry about talking in our own words.

I have grandchildren who are constantly talking to people in their own words. No one has any idea what they are saying. We call it babbling and we know that soon it will become language others can understand. In order for communication to be possible, a vocabulary must be acquired and a host of phrases mastered. Parent help by prompting their children with “What do you say?” when a “please” or “thank you” is called for. In other words, a script is provided.

Prayer is no different. It requires language appropriate to the occasion. Otherwise, we become like Peter on Mt. Tabor. The evangelists must hasten to excuse him: "he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid" (Mark9:6). If we begin by praying in our own words, we will at best, sound foolish. At worst, we may forget whom we are addressing and lapse into irreverence...

Praying from a script spares us the burden of originality. Originality is overrated – at least when it comes to prayer and theology. I've observed that in Christian theology the word "original" is invariably followed by the word "sin." Without the right script, prayer can degenerate into telling God what He already knows, and then telling Him what we think He should do about it.

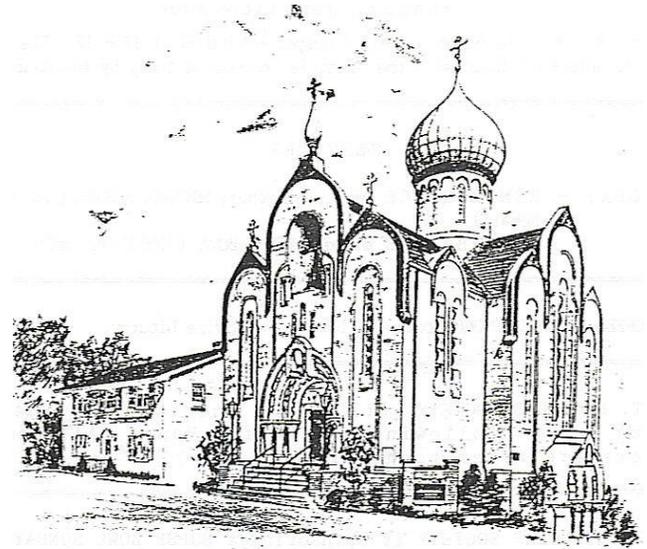
When Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked, "Lord, teach us to pray," He responded by giving them a script (or a rule): "When you pray, say: 'Our Father...'" (Luke 11:1, 2).

The earliest extrabiblical account of early Christian practice, *the Didache*, is equally direct: "Do not pray like the hypocrites, but rather as the Lord commanded in the gospel: Our Father in heaven...Pray this three times each day" (8:2-3).

This is a nod to the psalmist's "evening and morning and midday" (Ps. 54:18/55:17). We find the same schedule faithfully adhered to by the Prophet Daniel, even at the risk of his own life: "Now when Daniel learned that the decree [forbidding prayer for thirty days] was posted, he entered his house, where the windows facing Jerusalem were open to him in the upper rooms, and he knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks to his God, as he was doing before" (Dan. 6:11).

So, if you would pray, **pray the Lord's Prayer three times daily.**

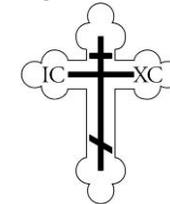
Joseph Letendre, "When you Pray"



"Leave all human injustices to the Lord, for God is the Judge, but as to yourself, be diligent in loving everybody with a pure heart." –St. John of Kronstadt

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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Organized 1916



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Dr. DIMITRI PETRO, Choir Director