

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

January 3rd, 2021

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5

Forefeast of the Theophany/ Sunday before Theophany

Holy Prophet Malachi (400 B.C.) | Martyr Gordius at Caesarea in Cappadocia
(4th c.) Ven. Genevieve of Paris (5th c.)

2 Timothy 4:5-8 | Mark 1:1-8

Blessed New Year to you all! May 2021 be filled with the fruits of your labors in love and prayer in 2020. The Service Schedule and Newsletter for January are in the back of the Church, as well as printed commemoration sheets for proskedia; if you would like someone, living or departed, to be commemorated weekly when the diskos is being prepared before liturgy, please fill it out and give it to me (if someone on the list is not orthodox, please indicate this by writing “non-orthodox” after their name).

In the back of the Church is a sign-up list for house blessings. It is a customary part of life in the Church to have one’s home blessed with the Holy Water of Theophany, thereby “renewing” it as a place wherein God is welcomed and dwells amongst its inhabitants. Far more than merely a pleasant tradition, this truly brings the acting grace of Christ’s saving Incarnation and baptism into our homes and our lives, driving out the powers of darkness. When parishes were made up of persons and families all living in more or less proximity to the Church, this customary blessing was undertaken by the clergy immediately after the Blessing of Waters on the day of the Feast itself, and it continued until all the homes in the village were blessed.

This year, I am suggesting we keep the house blessings short – there is no need to provide a meal or fellowship. The prayers and blessing should take about 15 minutes, and if you prefer me to wear a mask in your home while I bless it, I am willing to do so. For those fearful of exposure, it will be a short visit and will do you and your home good. But I am of course prepared to meet you at your comfort level; if you have qualms about me coming in person to do the house blessing, let me know and I may have a few options available.

Stay tuned for announcements regarding an outdoor river blessing, likely later in the month. The spot last year worked well, but for a number of reasons we will likely be trying it somewhere different.

There are a number of prayer ropes available downstairs in the hall, as a gift, for anyone who might want one to use for prayer. Simply take one; if you would like to donate to the cost, you can leave that for me in the candleroom, but I am not “selling” them – they are yours to have.

Prayer List Dec. 25th/27th

Mary Behanna – in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat

Natalie & Rob Montini – for health of Archie

Dimitri & Pauline Petro – Christ is born! Glorify Him! For health of Archie Montini / for health of son, Thomas, Christine & Alexandra, Kyra, Luke & Noah, Thomas & Shelley, Ted & Joceline, Natalie Rob & Stephanie, Nick & Nicholas, and Fr. Igor / in memory of grandmother, Pauline Drahushak / God’s blessings upon Fr. John, Mat. Nadia & baby Jonah / for health of all parishioners /

Vlad Kash – in memory of Margaret Hutchko

Sandy Klizas – in memory of Stephen, Helen, Frank & June Drake / birthday blessings for Rosellen

Eleanor Prystash – for departed husband, John / for departed Dzvonick Family / for departed Prystash Family / for departed sister, Betty Tabish (1st anniversary)

Jim Prystash – for departed Dad / health of mother

Sandy Carroll – for health of family

Offerings for 1/3/2021

-Altar Table Candles offered by Pauline Aitken in memory of mother.

-Analoï & Oblation Table candles offered by Ina and Ralph in remembrance of Mothers birthday, brother Joe's birthday and sister Eva's anniversary.

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tues. Jan. 5th

9:00am Royal Hours for the Feast of Theophany

6:00pm – Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil for the Feast of Theophany

Wed. Jan. 6th

9:30am Theophany of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ & Blessing of Waters

Sat. Jan 9th

4:30pm Great Vespers, followed by confession

Sun. Jan 10th

9:00am – “On the Incarnation” by St. Athanasius book study

10am – Divine Liturgy, hours @ 9:40

“Take the chotki (prayer rope) and use it while you repeat the prayer – whether you are standing, sitting, walking, or lying down, continue to repeat: “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me!”; do not be loud or rush the prayer, but without fail repeat it during each day.”

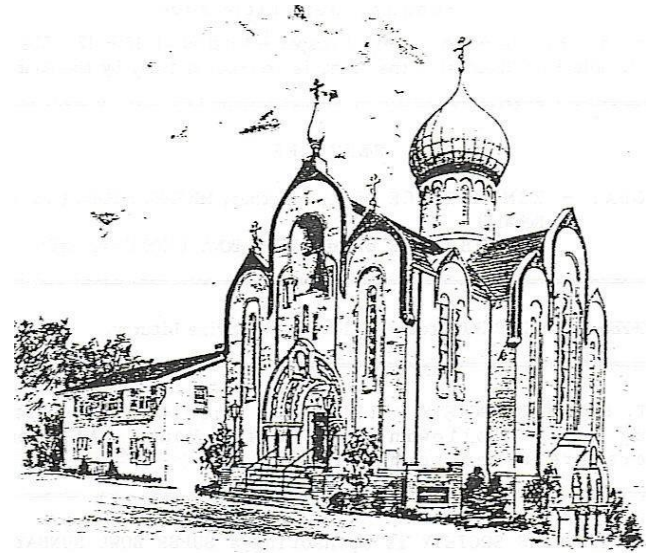
-From “The Way of a Pilgrim,” available in our library

Saintly Advice for a New Year

“The whole year will be fortunate for you, not if you are drunk on the new-moon [New Year’s Day], but if both on [that day] and each day, you do those things approved by God. For days come wicked and good, not from their own nature; for a day differs nothing from another day, but from our zeal and sluggishness. If you perform righteousness, then the day becomes good to you; if you perform sin, then it will be evil and full of retribution. If you contemplate these things, and are so disposed, you will consider the whole year favorable, performing prayers and charity every day; but if you are careless of virtue for yourselves, and you entrust the contentment of your soul to beginnings of months and numbers of days, you will be desolate of everything good unto yourself.” – **St. John Chrysostom**

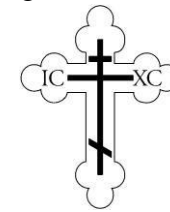
Chrysostom

“Let your demeanor, your dress, your walking, your sitting down the nature of your food, the quality of your being, your house and what it contains, aim at simplicity. And let your speech, your singing, your manner with your neighbor, let these things also be in accord with humility rather than with vanity. In your words let there be no empty pretense, in your singing no excess sweetness, in conversation be not ponderous or overbearing. In everything refrain from seeking to appear important. Be a help to your friends, kind to the ones with whom you live, gentle to your servant, patient with those who are troublesome, loving towards the lowly, comforting those in trouble, visiting those in affliction, never despising anyone, gracious in friendship, cheerful in answering others, courteous, approachable to everyone, never speaking your own praises, nor getting others to speak of them, never taking part in unbecoming conversations, and concealing where you may whatever gifts you possess.” – **St. Basil the Great**



“Desire and effort (to be saved) must come from you. God will provide the power and the result.”—St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

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