

## ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> 2021

35<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. St. Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus on the Hellespont (4<sup>th</sup> c.).

1 Timothy 1:15-17; Matthew 15:21-28

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**God-willing next Sunday** we will be visited by His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek. Please join us in welcoming our beloved hierarch on his archpastoral visit. We will host an informal coffee hour gathering downstairs following liturgy, for any who wish to attend.

**Thanks to all** who came and helped prepare hoagies this weekend. Everything went smoothly.

**The Wednesday night Inter-parish book study** continues on Wednesday evening. Ask father how to join in. Newcomers are always welcome.

Our **parish library** is always available to those interested; simply write down the title you're checking out and the date so Fr. John can keep track of what goes where.

### SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

#### Wed. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>

**6:30pm** – Compline & Reading of Lives of the Saints

**7:00pm** – Zoom book Club (email Fr. John for link, or call to ask for the call-in number if you are participating via phone)

#### Fri. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>

**6:30pm** – Compline & Reading from the Lives of the Saints

#### Sat. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

**4:30pm** – Great vespers, followed by confession

#### Sunday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>

**9:00am** – On the Incarnation book study

**10am** – Divine Liturgy, hours @ 9:40

### Prayer List Jan. 31st

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

*Sandra Klizas* – in memory of Stephen & Helen Drake / in memory of Frank Dimitri & Pauline Petro – for health of Philip Kaluponov / in memory of Becky Horan / in memory of cousin Roxanne Drake / in memory of Agnes Vukich / for health of Christine and Alexandra / for health of Kyra, Luke & Noah / for health of Shelley, Tom & Russell / for health of Natalie & Rob / for birthday of Joyce Champagne / for health of Matthew Soroka / for health of Fr. Igor / for special intentions

*Mat. Sandy* – for health of deacon Rodion

*Mike Horan* – memory eternal to my loving wife, Rebecca (2 yrs), may you have a wonderful anniversary in heaven / for health of Cindy / for health of sister-in-law Janine & a very happy birthday  
*Mr. Vladimir Kash* – in memory of Mat. Olga Govru(sp?) / health of Bill Priatko / God bless brother, Philip and family  
*Sandy Carroll* – health of deacon Rodion  
*Bill Mullen* – in memory of wife Lorraine  
*Isabella Mullen* – in memory of Grandmother, Lorraine

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### *Repentance & Confession*

*“Confession is the life-saving medicine for society because it is capable of saving many souls from destruction...Confession from a moral standpoint is the greatest benefaction of the Church to society. The spiritual father is the moral physician of society. He alone is capable of intercepting all the bad things that afflict society today...This is what confession is from a moral standpoint, which we unfortunately have not realized and have abandoned. This is why many bad things exist, which afflict society.” – St. Nektarios of Aegina*

### *Love Could Not Bear That...*

*After his experience of the tortures of hell, and after God's prescription for him, “Keep thy mind in hell, and despair not,” it was particularly characteristic of St. Silouan to pray for the dead suffering in the hell of separation from God.... I remember a conversation between him and a certain hermit, who declared with evident satisfaction: “God will punish all atheists. They will burn in everlasting fire.”*

*Obviously upset, the Saint said: “Tell me, supposing you went to paradise, and there looked down and saw somebody burning in hell-fire, would you feel happy?”*

*“It can't be helped. It would be their own fault,” said the hermit.*

*The Saint answered him with a sorrowful countenance: “Love could not bear that,” he said. “We must pray for all.”*

## ***Humility must be our goal***

*God loves man very much; He knows very well the problems of each one of us, and wishes to help us before we ask Him to do so. Since God is omnipotent, there are no difficulties which He cannot overcome, except one. The difficulty God faces is that He “cannot” help us when our soul is not humble.*

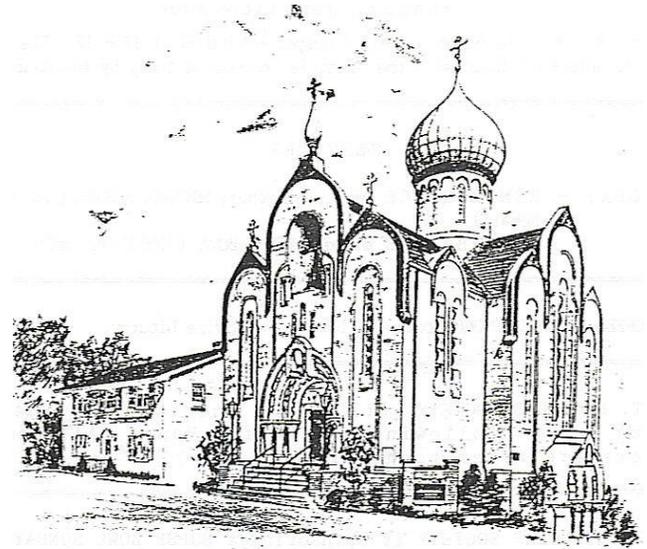
*Whatever happens to man, depends absolutely on his humbleness. For instance, we see a man striving and finally being subdued by one of his passions (Vices). God allows this to happen for only one reason: because his soul is filled with conceited thoughts and pride. Perhaps this man hates this specific passion and fights really hard to get rid of it. He will not achieve anything, however, because God does not help him; and He will not help him unless he humbles himself. Although the man hates this specific passion, he is subdued by pride, which is the passion that introduces man to all other passions. “Pride is the cause of every passion,” St. John of the Ladder.*

*Man wants to progress spiritually and asks God to give him love, prayer, obedience and all virtues. We should be aware that God will not give us what we are asking for, no matter how hard we try, unless we humble ourselves. If our only aim is humility, then God will give us everything for free. God wants and desires only one thing from us: our humbleness. He does not need anything else; just to humble ourselves, so He can actually make us partakers of His divine grace, which was granted to us through the mystery of Holy Baptism. He is only asking from us to humble ourselves. Thus, divine grace, which abides in us, will be activated and function accordingly. It will make us love God and get to know Him; it will do everything for us, if we only humble ourselves and allow for it to act. The only obstacle to the energy of God’s grace is our pride, our lack of humility...*

*St. Peter helps us clearly understand our fault and tells us what we should do: “Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you” (1Pt 5:5-7).*

*If we concentrate solely on our struggle for humility, then everything will be granted to us by God as a blessing. When we take care of everything else except our humbleness, then we will never achieve anything good; even if we did, we wouldn’t be able to keep it for long. We need only one thing: the humbleness of our heart, which will give rise to the Kingdom of God’s grace.*

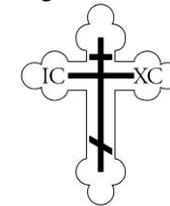
*- “Saint Paisios of the Holy Mountain”*



*“Speak less, pray more.”—St. Porphyrios*

# **St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**

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