

## ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8. Sunday of Orthodoxy

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 | John 1:43-51

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God bless you as you keep the fast! Pre-sanctified Liturgy is every Wednesday night at 6pm. Singers are needed. Also this Thursday is **the Annunciation**, a major feast of the Theotokos. All who can be there are encouraged to.

**The Inter-parish book study** will be on Tuesday nights at 7pm via Zoom. The Sunday morning book study is also meeting prior to liturgy throughout Lent. Both studies are reading “Hymns of Repentance” by St. Romanos. All are welcome. Another good way to spend the Lenten season is to read a holy book; feel free to check out a book from the library downstairs.

During the Lenten season, I encourage you to attend the services outside Sundays. If you have not done so for some time, make plans to prepare for and to give confession, and to receive holy Communion.

### Services and events this week

#### Wednesday

5pm music rehearsal

6:00pm – Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy;

#### Thursday

**The Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin**

9:30am – Vespertal Liturgy

#### Friday

6:00pm – General Panikhida

#### Saturday

Great Vespers @ 4:30pm, followed by confessions

#### Sunday

9:00am – “Hymns of repentance” book study

10am – Divine Liturgy

### Prayer list Feb. Mar. 14th

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

*Dimitri & Pauline Petro* – God’s blessings upon Joceline on her birthday / 40<sup>th</sup> day remembrance of Phillip Kaluponov / for health of Kyra and newborn son Will Ethan / for health of Jacque Rugh / for health of Bill Priatko / for health of Jim & Vera Hays / for health of Fr. Igor / for health of Luke & Noah / for health of Christine & Alexandra / for health of Shelley & Rachel / for health of Natalie & Rob

*Tom & Elaine Backstrom* – for special intentions / memory of Mom & Dad / God’s healing hand be upon sister Michele / God’s blessings on grandchildren Sydney, Luke, Freddy & Madison

*Sandy Carroll* – health of mother-in-law / health of Fred Ruv / special intentions

*Vladimir Kash* – for newly departed Margaret Gargus / in memory of departed brother, Phillip Kash

*Pauline Aitken* – in memory of departed son, Kevin, grandson, Nicholas, & husband Lee / for special intentions / for health of sister, Bunnie

*Ralph & Ina Prystash* – for health of Ina & Diana / for health of Jacque

*Mark Soroka* – for health of Fr. Igor

*Igor Soroka* – in blessed memory of Mat. Irene

*Nick & Christine Milchovich* – God’s blessings on Kyra and newborn nephew Will / health of Fr. Igor / special intentions

**Altar Candles 3/20 offered by Eleanor & James Prystash in memory of husband and father, John**

**Altar & Analoi candles 3/21 offered by Denise Ricci in memory of mother, Julia’s 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of falling asleep in the Lord**

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### Selections from Vespers

Grace and truth have shone forth.

The predictions of old have been clearly fulfilled.

Behold, the Church adorns herself with the form of Christ incarnate!

The icons of the new creation transcend the adornments of the old.

As the Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God,  
so now the icons reveal the presence of the One we adore.

By honoring them we will never go astray.

It is our glory to fall down and worship Christ in the flesh.

Come, O faithful, venerate His image and cry out://  
O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

—

Advancing from false doctrine to true faith,  
illumined with the light of knowledge,

let us clap our hands and offer grateful praise to God in song!

With due honor let us venerate the holy icons of Christ,  
of the all-pure Virgin, and of all the saints,  
depicted on walls or panels or sacred vessels,  
rejecting the godless teaching of the heretics!

For as Saint Basil says: “The honor shown to the image passes to its prototype.”

By the prayers of Thy pure Mother and of all the saints, //  
we beseech Thee, O Christ our God, to grant us great mercy!

## Image and Likeness

Then God said, "let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness: let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Gen. 1:26)

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we celebrate the restoration of the Holy Icons. From Matins we hear: "O people of God, come and let us celebrate a day of joy: the heaven now makes glad, and earth with all the hosts of angels and the companies of mortal men, each in their different orders, keeps the feast."

Two weeks ago, we heard in the Gospel these words from the parable of the Last judgment: "Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt. 25:40). By feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, taking in strangers, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison — **we are serving Christ by serving others.**

But, most importantly, on the Sunday of Orthodoxy we celebrate and confirm that **we are all Icons of God.** We, created in the image and likeness of God, serve each other with love as Christ Himself loved each of us. Let us not relegate our understanding of icons to only the images in our homes and churches, but to our living and breathing neighbors.

### **We are obligated to hasten to Repentance**

Our concern for salvation must be without delay due to the impending danger to our soul's salvation. He who is unconcerned about the salvation of his soul is at risk of twofold danger: he may either be unexpectedly snatched by death or abandoned by the grace of God. In both cases the harm is immense, because the outcome is the death of the soul. This is why St. John Chrysostom instructs us by saying: "Do not delay returning to the Lord, nor wait from one day to the next, lest you are crushed as you wait. The time of death is unknown; and it is unknown for this reason: so that you may always be vigilant. This is why the day of the Lord comes in the same manner as "a thief in the night," not to steal but to make us more secure. For, he who anticipates the thief with vigilance has his lantern lit, and is always awake. Similarly, having lit the light of the faith and the proper way of life, also hold on to the candles cheerfully in the continual wakefulness. Since we do not know when the Bridegroom comes, it is necessary to be prepared always, so that when He comes, He may find us vigilant..."

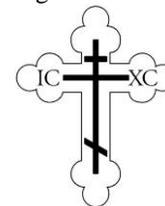
**--St. Nektarios of Aegina, On Repentance & Confession**



*" 'Yet even now,' declares the Lord, 'Return to Me with all your heart—with fasting and weeping and mourning.' " Joel 2:12*

## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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