



HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH



A Parish of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate
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Potomac, Maryland 20854
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www.holyresurrection.com
www.facebook.com/groups/hroc25
YouTube: HROC Media

Very Rev. Peter Zarynow, Pastor
Protopresbyter John Fedornock
Subdeacons Anastasios Davis & Michael Vaporis Reader Stephen Sudik

16 February 2025

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**Righteous Symeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess
Venerable Nicholas, Enlightener of Japan**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Tone One

The Schedule of Divine Services for the Week is as Follows:

16 Feb (SUN) Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Chanting of 3rd Hour 9:15am

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am

Panachida: +Clara Marko by Joanie Wisnosky

Sunday School/Coffee Social to follow

19 Feb (Wed) 35th Wednesday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am

Coffee Social to follow

22 Feb (Sat) 1st All-Souls Saturday

Divine Liturgy & Panachida 9:30am

23 Feb (SUN) Sunday of the Final Judgement

Meatfare Sunday

Chanting of 3rd Hour 9:15am

Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 9:30am

Panachida: +Proto Andrew Hutnyan, by Pañi Jean & Family

Sunday School/Coffee Social/Cash Day to follow

Announcements:

Confessions be heard by appointment. Please contact Fr Peter to schedule. All faithful are encouraged to come to the Sacrament every 8-10 weeks, on average, to help maintain spiritual health.

Deepest sympathies are extended to Lind Antonishek & family on the falling asleep in the Lord of her mother +Clara Marko this past week. Funeral services were held at Sts Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Windber, PA yesterday, 15 February. Please continue to keep the Antonishek family in your prayers. *May God grant rest to the soul of His newly-departed handmaiden +Clara, and may her memory be Eternal!*

We will take a special collection through 16 February. Please hand in your gift through the offering basket in the rear of the church or through the PayPal button on the website. Funds collected for this purpose will be forwarded to IOCC. Thank you, in advance, for your kindness and generosity. If handing in a check, make it payable to HROC and we will combine all our parish gift into one check

The annual OCMC Dinner for the Washington Area will be held at Sts Peter & Paul Orthodox Church on River Rd on Saturday 22 Feb. Vespers are at 5pm; Social Hour 5:45; Dinner and program 6:30-8:30. RSVP by 15 Feb. Tickets are \$45/adult; \$25/ youth under 25. Remember we have an anonymous doner offering to cover the first 4 to see Fr to register. See the flyer that was distributed in the 02 Feb bulletin and on the bulletin board.

We will be needing coffee social hosts for the month of March. Please sign up for this vital ministry in the life of our parish! Never hosted a social before or you don't have the time or resources to think you can host? What about setting up a simple "Grab & Stay" social? We have all the ingredients here. The donations collected during a "Grab & Stay" go back into purchasing items for us to keep in stock. Or have you thought about maybe teaming up with one or two others so that you do not have to do everything yourself? All these are possible. Let us try to get some others into the rotation of hosts. Remember, the main idea of the coffee social is fellowship! What is served is secondary. Keeping it simple is best!

2025 Sponsorships for the Bulletin and the Parish website are now available. Please use the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board and hand in your sponsorship asap. Make sure you fill in the special intention column so that Father does not have to contact you last minute to fill it in. Thank you!



Thank you to Linda Taveira-DaSilva, Jeanne Delasko, Tamer Tabatadze and Mike & Chris Fallon for donations for wine for the Holy Eucharist. With these donations we will be able to get to Pascha and a little beyond. May God bless them for their kindness and generosity! *Many Years!*



CANDLE OFFERINGS

Eternal Light: in Memory of Clara Marko-Lois (*Memory Eternal!*) In loving memory + Pani Deborah Dahulich on her 52nd Anniversary of Repose-brother-in-law George (*Vicnaja Pamjat!*)

Vigil Candles Offered For the Living- (*Many Years! Mnohaja L'ita!*)

- 2-for health-love Mom & Dad
Jonathan & Lara; Stephanie
- 1-health of Melanie-love Alex
- 1-health of Alex-love Melanie
- 1-health & Special intention John & Marie Smith,
Georgene & Ray Ammon, Fr Peter & Pa i Bernadette,
Alex Zarynow, Marie Skasko, Fr John & Pa i Marge
Fedornock, Lois Erhard, Charlie & Debi Myers, Chris
Fallon, Barbara Homick, All parishioners of HROC-Carol
Miller
- 2-for health-Sheila
HROC parishioners; Family members
- 3-special intention-Sheila
*Fr. Peter & family; Diocesan Priests & their families;
OCMC Missionaries*
- 1-health of children & grandchildren-Tom & Amy
- 1-health of Chris Fallon-Michael, Kathleen, John & Anna
- 1-health of cousin George Hazuda-Greg & Debbie
Yakubik
- 2-special intention-brother George
Archbishop Michael; Barbara & Harold Harrington
- 1-special intention Metropolitan Gregory-George
Dahulich
- 13-for health-George Dahulich
*Archbishop Michael; Fr. Tom Kadlec; Fr. Jim Dutko;
Chris Fallon; Charlie Myers; Barbara Harrington; Pañi
Kathy Dutko; Alex Zarynow; Emily Dzubak; Katherine
Chow; Psa. Diana Acsente; Fr. John & Pañi Marie
Brancho; Georgia Wimberly*
- 5-happy birthday-George Dahulich
*Pam Bealo; Benjamin Davis; Amy Rosics;
Shanise Kent; Barbara Fitzgerald*
- 1-health of Savannah, Chloe, Caroline, Christopher,
Natalie, Cole-love Grandparents
- 16-health & special intention-John & Marie Smith
*Irene Dzubak; Melanie Samson; Carol Miller; Barbara
Homick; Marie Skasko; Georgene & Ray Ammon; Fr
Tom & Pañi Linda Kadlec; FrJohn & Pañi Marge
Fedornock; FrPeter & Pañi Bernadette; FrJohn & Pañi
Eleanor Pribish; Eleanor Breno; Charlie Myers; Lois
Erhard; FrJohn & Pañi Marie Brancho; Pañi Jean
Hutnyan; Chris Fallon*
- 1-safety & peace Ukraine & Israel and their people-John
& Marie Smith
- 6-special intentions-the Breno Family
*Breno Family; Fedornock Families; Peart Family;
Nakonecznyj Family; Zankey Family; Fabian Family*
- 1-happy birthday FrJohn-the Breno family
- 1-happy anniv Susan & Eric Peart-the Breno Family
- 2-specail intention-Mom & Dad
Brian, Angela & Dominic; Stephen
- 11-for health & special intention-Mark & Marie
*Nancy Shields; Mike Czap; Skeets & Beth; Irene
Dzubak; Carol Miller; Ray & Georgene Ammon;
Eleanor Breno; FrJohn & Pañi Marge; FrPeter & Pañi
Bernadette; Chris & Mike Fallon; Susan & Dan
Zelensky*
- 4-for health-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey
Skeets; Jessica; Carol Miller; Irene Dzubak
- 2-specail intention Jacob & Joey-love Mom & Dad
- 1-health & healing Hayley, Bob, Peggy and Bruce, Carol
Miller, Chris Fallon, AnneMarie, Pa i Jean, Ray Ammon,
Tom Delare, Irene Dzubak, JordanLNancy Hall-Lois
- 1-for health Savannah, Caroline, Natalie, Karen K,
Jeanne Delasko, Barbara Homick, Georgene, Debbie
Delare-Lois
- 1-sp int Linda Antonishek & Family-Lois
- 1-health and wellbeing of Artem-Olga Vovk
- 1-health and wellbeing of Andrey, Lidia and Tatiana,
Natalia, Konstantin, Eva, George, Michael, Lubov,
Anastasia, Maxim and Ivan-Olga Vovk
- 1-health and wellbeing of Sofia, Sergey, Eva, Matthew,
Tomothy, Yuliia, Alex, Dru, Irina and Dennis-Olga Vovk
- 4-for healing-Rose Plowchin
Carol Miller, Lois Erhard; Irene Dzubak
- 1-health of Alex & her new baby, Rylan Delare
Anderson-Rose Plowchin
- 1-special prayer-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 1-special intention all my children-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 1-in thanksgiving-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 2-for health-Pa i Marge Fedornock
Fr John on his birthday; all who are ill
- 1-safe trip Philip-Pa i Marge Fedornock
- 2-for health-Pa i Jean Hutnyan
Muhlenberg Family; Hutnyan Family
- 2-health & wellness Panfilov & Mazur families-Irina
Panfilov

Vigil Candles In Loving Memory: (*Memory Eternal! Vicnaja Pamjat!*)

- 1+in loving memory of Les-love Carol
- 1+in memory Mother & Father. Carol Miller
- 1+In loving memory of Chris Hudack, Grandparents,
Bettie Searfoss, Myrtle Miller, John Hudack,
John Hrapchak, John Homick, Marge Tomasevich-Carol
Miller
- 1+in loving memory of Tom, Ann & Chrysa Thear-Taina &
Craig
- 2+loving memory-the Fallons
*Bishop Matthias & Pañi Jeannette;
Anna & John Luchok*
- 1+in memory of parents Helen & Larry Rowland-Diane
- 1+in memory grandparents Helen & Peter Sedlar-Diane
- 1+Memory Eternal Parents/Grandparents-Koval Family
- 1+Memory Eternal Uncle George, Aunt Marge & Uncle
Tony- Koval Family
- 2+Memory Eternal-love Alex, Melanie
parents Michael & Elaine; parents John & Katherine
- 6+in memory-Sheila
*John; Dad Kraynok; Mom Kraynok; Charles Hrapchak;
Anna Hrapchak; Evelyn Hrapchak*
- 1+In loving memory of Metro-Love, Joan and Family
- 1+in loving memory of parents Peter & Ann Dahulich-
love son George
- 1+loving memory of Nikolai Mushegian-love Mom & Dad
- 1+loving memory of Vladmir, Irina, Sergey, Nina, Rafael,
Germina, Maxim, Anna, Irena, Lidia, Pavel, Tatiana,
Natalia, Olga-Olga Vovk
- 1+loving memory of Leonid, Anna, Izot, Natalia, Afanasii,
Anastasia, Lidia-Olga Vovk
- 1+in memory of Mom-Mark & Dorothy Sudik
- 2+in memory-Charlie, Debi, Jacob & Joey
Grammy; Aunt Dorothy
- 3+in memory-Pa i Marge Fedornock
Parents; Brother & Sister; Dn Jim
- 2+in memory-Pa i Jean Hutnyan
Fr Andrew; Mom & Dad
- 1+in loving memory Clara Marko-Rose Plowchin
- 1+in loving memory of Dad on his birthday-daughter
Rose



Flowers are donated this week by Iga Vovk for the health & wellness or her family

Many Years! Mn...a...a...!



The ACRY corner

Soup Sales for 2025: the final 2025 Soup Sale date is 09 March. All ACRY members, and any non-members who wish to help, are asked to make one (minimum) 5-quart batch of homemade soup. Quart containers are available in the ACRY closet in the parish hall. Please have your soup in the church kitchen fridge before Divine Liturgy on the morning of the sale.

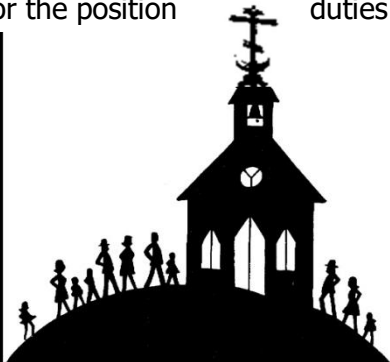
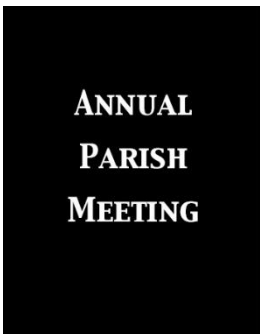


LAST CALL: Sr ACRY Annual Cash Day: Cash Day will be held on Meatfare Sunday, 23 February 2025. Tickets are now available from Nick Dzubak during Coffee Social. Tickets are still \$10 each. All 300 tickets need to be sold for Cash Day to work. Sign up for the Coffee Social/cash Day Luncheon is posted on the bulletin board.

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 16, 2025

Once a year the parish has an Annual Meeting to review the past year and plan for the future. Be at the 2025 Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 16 from 11:30 to 12:30 to participate in making plans for 2025! In preparation for the meeting, this is a request for nominations for the election of officers.

Election of Officers: This year the following Council officer positions will be elected. Vice President, Financial Secretary, Curator, Trustee, and two Auditors. Please refer to the flyer, "Serving on the Church Council 2025," for the position duties and eligibility requirements. If you would like to nominate yourself to be a candidate or have questions, please talk with Tim Dzubak, Nominating Chair.



Requests for Reports: Presidents of the Junior and Senior ACRY and Chairs of committees and ministries are asked to submit a written report summarizing their activities in 2024 and plans for 2025. Please email your report to Fr. Peter **no later than February 16.**

Suggestions for Agenda Topics: If you would like to have a certain topic discussed at the meeting, please give your suggestion to Marie Sudik, Council Secretary. We welcome them!

Prayer For The Priesthood

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our **Metropolitan Gregory**, and our spiritual fathers who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Remember also, O Lord, our priests and deacons, especially **Fr Edward Pehanich, Fr John Pribish, Fr Deacon Art Steinstra and our Diocesan Seminarians & Graduates: Dn. Peter Sodini, Sbdn. Nicholas Worobey, Dn Seamus Murry, Reader Samuel Loposky, Nicholas Laliberte, Ignatios Leonardo, an Alexander Hartsellers.** Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God who loves us, and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.



Orders for Easter Chocolates from Sarris Candies is open until **midnight 13 April**. Place your order online and your order will be shipped directly to you. Shipping is now at \$7.00 per order. Ground shipping is free for orders over \$100. Orders usually ship within 72 hours

Go to: www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com and click on line ordering. Go to Easter Fundraising. All items on the website, if available, are also eligible for this program.

Make sure that you give our full name:
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church

Our customer number is 10-2493.

Proceeds from the sale goes to benefit our Camp Transportation Fund.



FINAL WEEK TO SCHEDULE!!

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING OF HOMES

Call or email FrPeter to make an appointment to have your home blessed.



Before the Priest arrives at your home, here are a few reminders on how to prepare:

- ❖ In the main room of the home, usually the kitchen or dining room, have placed on the table a white cloth, a candle and/or an Icon or cross. You may place a small container of Holy Water on the table as well. [Note: Father will bring water with him]
- ❖ Turn off TV's, radios, computers, etc. so as to keep focused on the blessing service
- ❖ Please make sure that pets are heeled or restrained so as not to get underfoot while Father goes through the home.
- ❖ If you have any items to be blessed (Icon, Cross, etc.), put them on the table where the blessing takes place.
- ❖ When the Priest arrives, have everyone in the home gather around the table and join in the blessing. Participation is important!
- ❖ Invite friends or neighbors to participate and witness the beauty of this Tradition.
- ❖ If you need to discuss a personal matter with Father, this is the time to do so. Time is made between appointments for this reason.

This year the Blessing of Homes will take place from Sunday 19 January to Saturday 22 February. Please schedule an appointment with Father as soon as possible. Please allow for changes due to Father's schedule or inclement weather.

Remember, the invitation to the priest to come and bless your home is an invitation to ask for the mercy of God upon the household. The sprinkling of the Holy Water is a sign of God's presence in the home as an extension of His Holy House, the Church. It is a time to renew our commitment to God as we begin another year in His mercy and love for mankind.

Please pray for the following: Metropolitan Gregory; Fr. Frank & Pañi Connie Miloro; Pañi Betty Jean Baranik; Fr Michael Rustik; Fr. Mark Leasure; Fr. John Fencik; Fr. Paul Stoll; Fr. Robert & Pañi Peggy Teklinski; Dn. Peter Skoog & family; Fr James & Pañi Kathy Dutko; Fr. Gregory Allard; Pañi Linda Barriger; Fr. James Gleason, Fr. Luke Mihaly; Fr. Ted & Pañi Marjorie Mozes; Hieromonk Michael; Fr Thomas Kadlec; Fr Stephen Krivonak; Fr David & Pañi Donna Smoley; Pañi Annamarie Slovesko; Pañi Patricia Duranko; Fr John & Pañi Cindy Zboyovski, Fr. Jonathan & Pañi Marsha Tobias, Pañi Sharon Holowaty; Pañi MaryMargaret Conjelko; Fr John & Pañi Eleanor Pribish; Fr John Mikitish; Pañi Karen Miklos; Pañi Marie Brancho; Pañi Jean Hutnyan; Fr David & Pañi Paula Kossy; Fr Edward Pihanich; Pañi Betty Baranik; SGT Joey Myers; SPC Alexander Zarynow; Beth & Ed 'Skeets' Williams; Carol Miller; Irene Dzubak; Dorothy Mastronicola; Tony Zankey; Justin Popek; Florence Gregoric, James & Melody Peyton; Carol Blum, Alexi Williams, Missy Johns, Susan Buckley, Constance Amey, James Lazor, Debbie Dell; Grace Yoon; Michael Dinneen; Joan Detwiler; Joan Kondratick; Barbara Homick; Jim David & Jeanne Delasko; Melanie Samson; Laura Gary; Richard & Wendy Sulich; Wendy Taylor; James Durachko; Randi Calle, Hayley Marshall, Jon Green, MaryJane, Kyle & Rosie Brant, Alicia, Lisa Chernob, Stephen Brancho; Emily; MaryMargaret; Leslie Perez; Thomas & Deborah Delare; Diana Hannan; Bridget Myers; Devan Merrill; Bob Fitzurka; Olga Vovk; Lela; Carly; Robert; Vic Fitzwater; Taina Ferguson; Olya Romanova; Luke Griffith; Richard Durachko; Jennifer Haire; Mary, Simon, Alla; Artem Vovk; Charles Arnhold; Danielle V; Debbie Aumen; David Bulko; Bill Finken; Angelo Taveira-DaSilva, Andrew S.; Natalie Z; Stephen Hutnyan; Barbara Drilllock; Dayton Naugle; Cassidy Riselvato; Phillip Trivett; Camila Bonilla; Hilary Soperak; Robert Knowlton; Ray Rushnak; Christine Sakmar; Joel F, Frank, Jordan, Ruth Moore; Hudson Kennedy, Maria H & baby

May Our Lord Jesus Christ Touch Them with His Healing Hand!!



Did you know that the parish has a grocery gift card program? If you shop at Giant grocery stores, you can assist the parish, too. Every time you purchase a gift card our parish receives 5% of the proceeds. See Marie or Mark

Sudik after Divine Services to purchase cards. The cards are available in increments of \$20, \$50 & \$100

CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER CAMP 2025

The time for Summer Camp is Rapidly Approaching!!! The clock is ticking!!

Dates for the Summer Camping Program

Week 1: Sunday, July 20 ó Saturday, July 26, 2025 ó Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic, Washington D.C., and Tri-State Deaneries

Register Online Starting March 1, 2025 @ 6pm (EDT)

Register at ó campnazareth.org

Registration for Camp will be on a First-Come First-Serve Basis!! Once capacity for a given week is filled, all other campers will be put on a waiting list.

Cost for Camp ó Diocesan \$370/child, Non-Diocesan \$420/child

\$20 Early Bird Discount Per Child!!!!

(one-time only, not per week)

No child should be prevented from attending Camp because of cost. If a campership is needed, please contact Fr Peter

Must Register & pay by May 1, 2025!!!!

Online Registration MUST be complete AND payment must be submitted by May 1 in order to qualify for the Early Bird Discount.

Registration will close on June 15, 2025 @ 12pm!

Native Plant of the week:

Foamflower *Tiarella cordifolia*

Foamflower is one of the showiest spring wildflowers, native to the woodlands and forests of the eastern United States. A beautiful addition to the shade garden, the starry white flower spikes are often accented with a tinge of pink. Evergreen in the southern parts of its range, the handsome lobed foliage stays attractive all summer and turns hues of red and bronze in the fall. The dense foliage hugs the ground and flower spikes rarely exceed one foot. Foamflower is not aggressive but it will form a nice groundcover in time.

Tiarella cordifolia requires a rich soil that is well-drained, with consistent moisture. Lite shade or dappled light is best. It looks great massed along a border, and also combines well with other shade-loving plants. Plants can be divided in early fall.



ALL SOUL SATURDAYS

The All Soul Saturdays for 2025 will be observed on 22 February, 22 March and 7 June. *If there are any additions to make to your family list (or if you need to begin a family list),*

contact Fr. Peter as soon as possible. Please come and pray for the departed of your family and our parish family. Divine Liturgy and Panachida will be at 9:30am on each of these Saturdays. (Note: This year we are observing 3 of the 5 All-Souls Saturdays in the *hope of boosting attendance* at these Divine Services)



O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who has conquered death and destroyed Satan and has granted life to Your world: O Lord, rest the souls of Your departed

servants in a serene, luxuriant and peaceful place where all pain sorrow and lamentation are absent. As a gracious God Who loves mankind, forgive all transgressions committed by them by word, deed or thought, for there is no one living who does not sin, you alone are without sin, Your truth is truth in eternity and Your word is truth.

For You are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Your departed servants, who have fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and we give glory You together with Your eternal Father, and Your all-holy, gracious, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Second Sunday of the Lenten Triodion

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to %come to ourselves+as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being %a a far country+far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only %arise and go,+confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that %home+where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn %By the Waters of Babylon.+It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times. On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT January 2025

January 2025 Treasurer's Report

Non-Designated Fund Balance, 12/31	\$ 121,906.38
Income	28,065.52
Expenses	25,210.55
Non-Designated Fund Balance, 01/31	\$ 124,761.35
GAIN in January:	\$2,854.97

CUMULATIVE Year to Date

Income	\$ 28,065.52
Expenses	25,210.55
GAIN Year to Date	\$ 2,854.97



Thanks for Sharing Your Time and Talents

- Coffee Social hosts: Fred Malloy, Arcady Mushegian & Irina Sorokina, Melanie & Alex Krinitsky
- Christmas coffee social: Faith Breno for coordinating all the potluck dishes and everyone who helped, set up, brought food and cleaned up afterwards
- Shoveling sidewalk snow for Christmas services: Dan Breno, Fred Malloy, Eric & Susan Peart
- Undecorating the Christmas tree in church: Jr. ACRY and Sarah Hetzler

Attendance & Communicants January 2025:

05 Jan: 70/57	12 Jan: 57/44	26 Jan: 60/49
07 Jan: 62/58 (NativityLSnow)	19 Jan: 52/43	

**EVERY MAN SHALL GIVE AS HE IS ABLE, ACCORDING TO THE
BLESSINGS OF THE LORD YOUR GOD WHICH HE HAS GIVEN YOU**

Deuteronomy 16:17

RIGHTEOUS SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER & ANNA THE PROPHETESS

Commemorated 03/16 February

Righteous Simeon the God-Receiver was, according to the testimony of the holy Evangelist Luke, a just and devout man waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him (Luke 2:25). God promised him that he would not die until the promised Messiah, Christ the Lord, came into the world.

Ancient historians tell us that the Egyptian pharaoh Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-247 B.C.) wished to include texts of Holy Scripture in the famous Library at Alexandria. He invited scholars from Jerusalem, and the Sanhedrin sent their wise men. The Righteous Simeon was one of the seventy scholars who came to Alexandria to translate the Holy Scriptures into Greek. The completed work was called *The Septuagint*, and is the version of the Old Testament used by the Orthodox Church.

Saint Simeon was translating a book of the Prophet Isaiah, and read the words: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a Son* (Is 7:14). He thought that *virgin* was inaccurate, and he wanted to correct the text to read *woman*. At that moment an angel appeared to him and held back his hand saying, *You shall see these words fulfilled. You shall not die until you behold Christ the Lord born of a pure and spotless Virgin.*

From this day, Saint Simeon lived in expectation of the Promised Messiah. One day, the righteous Elder received a revelation from the Holy Spirit, and came to the Temple. It was on the very day (the fortieth after the Birth of Christ) when the All-Pure Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph had come to the Temple in order to perform the ritual prescribed by Jewish Law.

When Saint Simeon beheld their arrival, the Holy Spirit revealed to him that the divine Child held by the All-Pure Virgin Mary was the Promised Messiah, the Savior of the world. The Elder took the Child in his arms and said, *Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel* (Luke 2:29-32).

There is a Christian epigram (Number 46) in *The Greek Anthology* which is addressed to Saint Simeon. It tells the righteous Elder to receive the Child Who was born before Adam, and Who will deliver Simeon from this life and bring him to eternal life. A similar idea is expressed in the *Aposticha* (Slavic use) for the Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord (December 24/January 6). There the Mother of God refers to her Son as *older than ancient Adam*.

Simeon blessed the All-Pure Virgin and Saint Joseph, and turning to the Mother of God he said, *Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed* (Luke 2:34-35).

The holy Evangelist continues: *And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Aser. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband for seven years from her virginity and she was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not leave the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming at that very hour, also gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption at Jerusalem* (Luke 2:36-38).

The holy righteous Simeon the God-Receiver died at a great age (Tradition says he was 360). His holy relics were transferred to Constantinople in the sixth century

According to Saint Luke's Gospel, *And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Aser. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband for seven years from her virginity and she was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not leave the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming at that very hour, also gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption at Jerusalem* (Luke 2:36-38).



SAINT NICHOLAS, ENLIGHTENER OF JAPAN

Commemorated 03/16 February

Saint Nicholas (Kasatkin) Equal of the Apostles, Missionary, Founder of the Orthodox Church in Japan, honorary member of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society.

Saint Nicholas (in the world John Kasatkin) was born on August 1, 1836 in the village of Berezovsky Pogost, Belsky District, Smolensk Province into the family of a deacon. He graduated from the Belsk Theological School and the Smolensk Theological Seminary (1857). Among the best students he was recommended for the St. Petersburg Theological Academy, where he studied until 1860, when, at the personal request of Metropolitan Gregory (Postnikov) of St. Petersburg, he was given the post of rector of the church at the Russian consulate in the city of Hakodate (Japan), and was also awarded a Ph.D in Theology without having to submit an appropriate qualifying essay.

On June 23, 1860, he was tonsured by the rector of the Academy, Bishop Nektarios (Nadezhdin), and named for Saint Nicholas of Myra. On June 30 he was ordained a Hieromonk.

He arrived at Hakodate on July 2, 1861. During the first years of his stay in Japan, on his own he studied the Japanese language, culture and way of life.

The first Japanese person to convert to Orthodoxy, despite the fact that conversion to Christianity was forbidden by law, was the adopted son of a Shinto cleric, Takuma Sawabe, a former samurai who was baptized with two other Japanese in the spring of 1868.

During his half-century of service in Japan, Father Nicholas left only twice: in 1869-1870 and in 1879-1880. In 1870, through his intercession, a Russian ecclesiastical mission was opened in Japan with its center in Tokyo. On March 17, 1880, by the decision of the Holy Synod, he was assigned as vicar of Reval, then vicar of the Diocese of Riga. He was consecrated as a Bishop on March 30, 1880, in Holy Trinity Cathedral at Alexander Nevsky Lavra.

In the course of his missionary work, Father Nicholas translated the Holy Scriptures and other liturgical books into Japanese. He established a theological seminary, six theological schools for girls and boys, a library, a shelter and other institutions. He published the Orthodox journal Church Herald in Japanese. According to his report to the Holy Synod, by the end of 1890 the Orthodox Church in Japan numbered 216 communities with 18,625 Christians in them.

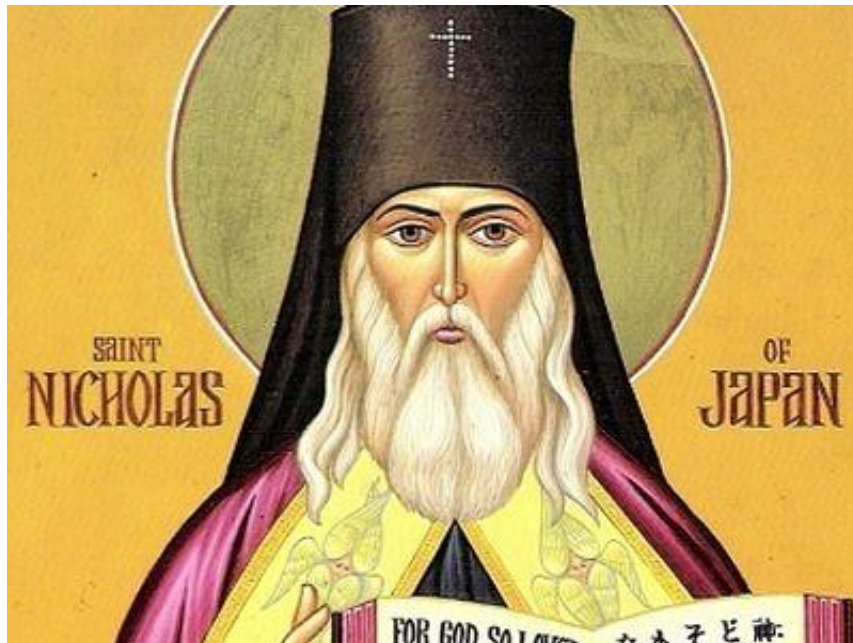
On March 8, 1891, the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Tokyo, called Nikorai-do (ニコライ堂) by the Japanese, was consecrated. During the Russo-Japanese War, he remained with his flock in Japan, but did not take part in any public services. because according to the rite of worship (and the blessing of Japanese Christians to pray for their country's victory over Russia. Bishop Nicholas said: "Today, according to custom, I serve in the cathedral, but from now on I will no longer take part in the public services of our church... Hitherto I have prayed for the prosperity and peace of the Empire of Japan. Now, since war has been declared between Japan and my country, I, as a Russian subject, cannot pray for Japan's victory over my own homeland. I also have obligations to my country, and that is why I will be happy to see that you fulfill your duty in relation to your country."

When Russian prisoners of war began to arrive in Japan (their total number reached 73,000 people), Bishop Nicholas, with the consent of the Japanese government, formed the Society for the Spiritual Consolation of Prisoners of War. For their spiritual guidance, he selected five priests who spoke Russian. The prisoners were provided with icons and books. Vladyka repeatedly addressed them in writing (he himself was not allowed to see the prisoners).

On March 24, 1906, he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop of Tokyo and All Japan. In the same year, the Kyoto Vicariate was founded. In 1911, when half a century of Saint Nicholas' s missionary work was completed, there were already 266 communities of the Japanese Orthodox Church, which included 33,017 Orthodox laymen.

Archbishop Nicholas, the Enlightener of Japan, fell asleep in the Lord on February 3, 1912 at the age of 76. After the Hierarch's repose, the Japanese Emperor Meiji personally gave permission for him to be buried within the city, at the Yanaka cemetery. In Japan, Saint Nicholas is revered as a great righteous man and a special intercessor before the Lord.

He was canonized on April 10, 1970, by the decision of the Holy Synod of the Moscow Patriarchate.



Preparing for the Greatest Journey

Archpriest Stephen Rogers



As the sharp edge of winter cuts across February and early March with its long shadows and long cold nights, Orthodox Christians know that this time of year is the herald of Great Lent, that solemn but beautiful 40-day journey to the

death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With anticipation we look forward to that Lenten journey and what awaits us at the end of our spiritual travels — the “feast of feasts,” that great day of Pascha in which we proclaim, “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death.” We celebrate that Christ has transformed death from a horrible finality to a wonderful passage into eternal life. Great Lent is that great gift given to us by the Church to help us prepare ourselves, to make ready, for the joy which is to come.

Great Lent is a time to prepare. So how does the Church aid us in our preparation? It gives us a time to prepare to prepare! The series of Sundays leading up to Great Lent instructs us on what we must take with us on our Lenten journey. The gospel teachings for the four Sundays leading to Great Lent tell us what we must carry in our “spiritual luggage” if we hope to experience all that the Lenten journey can show and teach us.

Our preparation begins with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. The gospel lesson (Luke 18:10-14) tells of two men who went up to pray. One, a Pharisee, is quite proud of his religiosity, making a great show of his piety. The second man, a tax collector, would not even look up as he prayed, but beat his breast asking God to forgive him, a sinner. Christ assures us it is the tax collector, not the religious man, who goes home justified. What is it the tax collector possesses that the Pharisee does not? What are we being taught is necessary for our Lenten journey? The answer is *humility*. Our Lenten fasting, almsgiving and church attendance will mean nothing if we engage in them in a spirit of pride. If we humble ourselves before God, we will be exalted during Great Lent; if we exalt ourselves before men, we will go home at the end of our Lenten journey worse than we began.

On the second Sunday of our Lenten preparation, we hear the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). The beautiful story of the ungrateful son who takes what he thinks is his, leaves the love and security of his father’s house, and finally squanders all he has through profligate living. All the while, his loving father waits and watches for the return of his son. Living like an animal, the son comes to his senses and returns to his father’s house. His father receives, forgives and restores him, a perfect example of unconditional love. In coming to his senses, the son repents of his sin and returns to his father.

And so, the Church teaches us of the second piece of “spiritual luggage” necessary for our Lenten journey *repentance*. Each year Great Lent presents itself as a time for us to repent and return to our Father’s house. Like the son in the story, in our arrogance we try to lead our lives apart from our heavenly Father’s house and it ultimately leads to destruction. The unrepentant heart, the heart with no desire to return to its father’s house, cannot receive the blessings of the Lenten journey.

On the third Sunday of preparation, we come to the Sunday of the Last Judgment. In the gospel (Matthew 25:31-46) we hear of that great and terrible day when Christ will return in His Glory and the righteous and unrighteous shall be separated and given their just reward for better or worse. What divides those bound for eternal glory from those bound for eternal punishment? Christ tells us: “For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.”

Those under judgment ask: “When did we see you and do these things?” Christ responds: “In as much as you did it to the one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me.” At the heart of the Christian message is love — *incarnate love*. Christ’s love for us is incarnate. In His love for us, He took on flesh and loved us by doing those things necessary for our salvation. So too, our love must be incarnational. We cannot love our brethren simply through words, but we must love through our actions towards them. Incarnational love — this is what we carry with us throughout our Lenten journey.

Finally, on the day preceding Great Lent, we come to the Sunday of Forgiveness. In the gospel reading (Matthew 6:14-21) we are warned by Christ that, if we withhold forgiveness from others, we ourselves will not be forgiven. The final act in our preparation for Great Lent is *forgiveness*. Hence, the actual entrance into Great Lent is Forgiveness Vespers on the eve of Great Lent. In this beautiful service we are called to forgive our brothers and sisters, so that we might embark on our Lenten journey unencumbered. For if we fail to forgive, our journey will take us nowhere.

Humility, repentance, incarnational love and forgiveness — these are what we must carry within us on our Lenten journey if we wish to receive all the joy and blessing of our Paschal destination.

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Be The Candle!

Fr. Gabriel Bilas, St Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church, Fenton MI

“O Almighty God, Pre-Eternal God, Who didst command Thy servant Moses to make ready a preparation of purest oil to be a light before Thy presence: Do Thou mercifully pour out the grace of Thy blessing upon these candles, that they might bring brightness to the people outwardly, as by Thy gift the brightness of the Holy Spirit shines inwardly in our thoughts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom is due all glory, honor, and worship, together with Thee, O Father without beginning, and Thy Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.” –Orthodox Prayer for the Blessing of Candles

Let’s all shut our eyes for a minute and remember a time when we were sitting with our family in the living room or at the dinner table during a big storm that was raging outside. The lights in the house began to flicker and everyone stopped what they were doing to look around at this temporary break from normalcy. We shrugged it off and then continued to go about our business until we heard: “bzzt!” The lights all went out, leaving our families to freeze in their tracks.

Before the invention of flashlights on our phones, what did we do? The kids would scream while the adults stretched out their hands to try and gain an idea of where they were at in the room. Bruised knees were practically a given as we slammed into the coffee table, trying to remember where we kept the matches and the candles. Once we found them, and with a quick “swatch” of the match against the box, the small flame

illuminated our entire room. We then quickly found a large candle so that the light could continue to shine until full power had been restored.

This is the primary purpose candles serve, isn’t it? They help us to keep light in the midst of darkness...to bring clarity in the midst of chaos. If a small flame can do that in the middle of a dark room, how much more can our Savior...the True Light...illuminate the dark recesses of the world which we find ourselves in?

On the feast of the Presentation of our Lord, it is the custom to bless candles in the Church. One of the

things that I am reminded of this day is how similar our own spiritual life is to a candle. The flame...the Light and Love of Christ...is ignited within us at Chrismation, providing within us a natural illumination to protect us from the darkness.

St. Nikolai of Zica once said:

“Candles remind us that before anything else, the Creator of the world created light, and after that, everything else in Order: “And God said, let there be light: and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). And so it must be so also at the beginning of our spiritual life...so that before anything else, the light of Christ’s truth would shine in us. From this light of Christ’s truth, subsequently, every good is created, springs up, and grows in us.

This past year, how many times have we either experienced or heard stories of those who have been driven to the brink of despair, shrouded in darkness, and seemingly absent of hope? As difficult as things have been for us Orthodox Christians, imagine how much more difficult it must be to those who do not have the light of Christ in their lives...who have been bumping into the proverbial “coffee tables” and searching for the “matches of meaning” where they can’t be found. It is our calling as bearers of Christ’s Light to illuminate not just our own lives, but all of those who are searching for that gentle presence of Christ in the midst of chaos.

Great and Holy Lent will soon be upon us. Now is the time to put forward our best efforts to test the purity of our inner candles that hold the Light of Christ. If there is a vice or impurity that we have allowed to plague us during the past year, wipe it away with tears of repentance. If the foundation of our spiritual life has melted away, let us strengthen it with spiritual reading, fasting, and prayer. Keep the flame of God brightly burning with us, allowing His Life to shine from our souls, illuminating not just us, but all those who are searching for meaning in the midst of chaos.



Nurturing the Art of Seeing: On the Presentation of Christ to the Temple

Very Rev. Antony Hughes, St Mary Orthodox Church, Cambridge, MA



This is the third Winter Feast of Light. The Nativity of Christ, Theophany and the Presentation of the Lord are all about the revelation of God, the one true Light, to the world. So, let me begin with a quote from Dr. Jung that, I think is most apropos. %With a truly tragic delusionō theologians fail to see that it is not a matter of proving the existence of the light, but of blind people who do not know that their eyes could see. It is high time we realized that it is pointless to praise the light and preach it if nobody can see it. It is much more needful to teach people the art of seeing.+ Carl Jung

Simeon and Anna had nurtured the art of seeing over their long lives. The scripture tells us that they had been preparing for this moment. Of Simeon St. Luke writes: %Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, *looking for the consolation of Israel*, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord\$ Christ.+He had been looking and because of his devout vigilance the Holy Spirit let him in on a secret. He would see the Lord\$ Christ before he died.

Of Anna, Luke writes: %She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to *all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem*.+She, too, had been looking. She had been vigilant and watchful like Simeon, preparing herself to see and receive the Messiah.

The ability to see does not come overnight. It must be nurtured and practiced as we see here, sometimes for a very long time. Eighty-four years for Anna. For us, how long? The practice of seeing is known as watchfulness, vigilance, or mindfulness. It is the fundamental practice of an authentic spiritual life. Without it the spiritual life is anemic. The soul grows weak. In Greek the word is *nepsis* and we read often of saints called %the neptic fathers+or the %unsleeping ones.+ These are saints who developed the art of mindfulness to the degree that even when they slept they were conscious and aware. It is not that they never went to bed, but that their awareness was unaffected by sleep.

Watchfulness, vigilance and mindfulness is the way we train ourselves to see what is before us without attachment or resistance, neither trying to hold on to what is good or push away what is not. It is to see every moment as a gift from God, rich in blessings, unrepeatable and absolutely necessary for our benefit, to know that everything is always changing and to accept that fact with open hearts. It is to see things as they really are, not as we believe them to be, or want them to be, but as they are. This is a practice that calls for great faith. Only those who trust completely in God can embrace life mindfully, as it is and with thanksgiving.

In the anaphora we specifically ask that God will grant us the gift of vigilance. It is a divine virtue, a gift from the %God of Israel who neither slumbers nor sleeps.+ It is the oil that filled the lamps of the Five Wise Virgins who took seriously the call to be ready to greet the Bridegroom who comes in the middle of the night. %Blessed is the one whom He shall find awake!+It is what the Lord asked of his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, %Could you not watch and wait with me one hour?+

Professor Jacob Needleman found in his fascinating book LOST CHRISTIANITY that the Church in our day has grown weak because it has forgotten mindfulness and so has left behind the mystical reality of direct experience of God for the purely rational, moralistic and ethical. Jean Claude Barreau in his introduction to the Olivier Clement\$ masterpiece THE ROOTS OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM comments that people are leaving Christianity for Eastern religions because they can no longer find in the Church the very things that were at the heart of Christianity from the very beginning. They are still in the heart of the Church. They have never left. We have simply forgotten.

I believe these commentators are correct. We have forgotten the art of *nepsis*, of being awake, of being able to see clearly and respond wisely and therefore we have lost the vital connection with God that can only come through the conscious experience of union and communion. We must teach again, and to all who want to learn, the art of seeing.

One might compare, wrote Thomas Merton, *the journey of the soul to mystical union, by way of pure faith, to the journey of a car on a dark highway. The only way the driver can keep to the road is by using his headlights.* I am afraid that most of the time our headlights are turned off. The practice of mindfulness is turning on the headlights so that we can see the road in front of us. As I tell people all the time, the will of God rolls out before us like a carpet one little step at a time, but if we are not paying attention (being vigilant) to the step we are making, then we will miss it and veer off into either the past or the future and make a royal mess of things.

Simeon and Anna show us what mindfulness, vigilance and watchfulness is. They watched and waited. How long their journey of stripping away the layers of skin from their spiritual eyes . skins of sin, desire, fear, self-centeredness and unconsciousness . took before they were prepared to see the infant Messiah is told by the years of their lives. It is significant that only two among the crowd in the Temple that day were able to see him. Only a few take the narrow path of vigilance it seems, but it is open to all of us.

That is why *nepsis* has been so highly valued in the Christian tradition of spirituality. It produces great fruit. It is a prerequisite to deep repentance because it brings self-knowledge. It brings peace to the heart and calm to the mind. People are being drawn to the practice in droves outside the Church because we have failed to practice it ourselves. If the Church will not teach it, people will look for it elsewhere. The Holy Spirit will always find a way to reach those who hunger and thirst for deeper things.

Simeon and Anna show us what can happen when the virtue of watchfulness is practiced consistently and patiently. Sooner or later when God wills (for it is always a gift, never automatic) and we are able at last to see, the revelation that Christ and his kingdom are present here and now will dawn in our hearts as dramatically and powerfully as the Second Coming.

CONFESSION



THE SINS OF THOSE WHO
ASK FOR PARDON ARE FORGIVEN

OUR MEANS OF RECONCILING WITH GOD

From the time Adam and Eve exercised their free will to choose to disobey God, man has had the need for forgiveness. We all have fallen short of the high expectations that the Lord has for all of His children, allowing sin to overcome us again and again. Sin separates us from our Heavenly Father, but fortunately, He has provided us with a means of reconciling with Him through the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Since Confession is such an important part of the Lenten season, let us take a closer look at this Mystery of the Church.

Confession entails much more than merely listing and expressing some degree of sorrow for our sins. Before coming to Confession, it is necessary for us to examine our conscience – we must sincerely search our souls and determine where we have strayed from the path God has

charted for us. Our confession must be an honest attempt to admit the many ways we have transgressed God's Laws. Certainly, our All-Knowing God cannot be fooled! For the Grace of God to truly enter us through the Sacrament of Confession, however, we must experience a real feeling of REPENTANCE. Repentance literally means "to change." Confession must bring about a change in our lifestyle. Confessing our sinful ways is one thing . . . casting aside and walking away from our sinful deeds is another matter entirely!

During the Great Fast, may we all avail ourselves to the wonderful opportunity the Church gives us to "make things right" with the Lord, through the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Seek out the spiritual help this Sacrament provides.

Icon by Austin Kachek - Marville, NJ