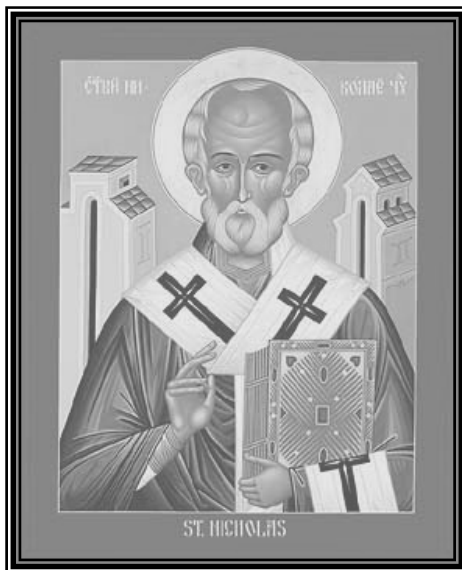


Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

APRIL, MAY 2011 Issue



Upcoming Events

April 10 - Pan Orthodox Vespers @ Holy Trinity (7:00 pm)

April 23 - Pascha Vigil and Liturgy (10:00 pm)

PLEASE SEE THE
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
ON THE CALENDAR

Regular Weekly Schedule:

Memorials	By Appointment
Moleben (Prayer Service)	Thursdays @ 11:00 a.m.
Vespers	Saturdays @ 5:30 p.m.
Confession	Saturdays following Vespers
Divine Liturgy	Sundays @ 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour following Divine Liturgy	
(September - May)	
Orthodox Education Adults	Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.
Children	after Liturgy

Father Andrew's Message

Believing is Beholding

Walt Whitman was once listening to an astronomer lecturing about the stars one evening. The hall was stuffy, the lecture dull. Finally, Whitman could take it no longer; he got up and went outside for a walk. As he stood out there under the night sky, he looked up and gazed at the stars themselves. "I was overcome", he said, "with breathless wonder."

There are people today, who approach faith in the same way that Whitman's lecturer approached astronomy. They invest all of their energy on the mechanisms of the faith without "walking the walk" and seeking out an experience of God in their own hearts. Our Sacred Tradition gives us many ways through which we can celebrate and experience God's grace in the world. However, these things are of no avail if our focus is solely on their proper "technical" execution. What we need is a heartfelt desire for that which these things have been given to us for in the first place: personal transformation through encountering God's grace.

As Orthodox Christians, we believe in the Holy Trinity -- that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This belief did not come as a result of academic discussion. It emerged from an experience of God as Trinity. Before articulating that doctrine of the Trinity, mankind experienced God the Father, the Creator of all, and experienced the God the Son, true God and true man incarnate for our salvation, and experienced the Holy Spirit, the Comforter and Spirit of Truth, sent to the world on Pentecost. Later on we gave words to this experience in our Trinitarian theology -- we did not make up something new, we expressed that which God had made known to us through the centuries.

An intellectual study of God is not enough. The heart, too, has needs, of which the intellect is unaware. We can know about God intellectually, but He becomes real when He is known in the heart personally. This is the knowledge spoken of in the Scriptures: an intimate personal encounter with the other. At the conclusion of the Gospel reading for the Paschal Divine Liturgy, after hearing about who Jesus is -- the Word of God, with the Father before the beginning of time and through whom all things were made -- we hear, "And we have seen His glory, as the Only-Begotten Son of the Father."

The lives of the great Saints of our Church show us, in concrete and colorful examples, that being an Orthodox Christian is far more than just being able to produce a baptismal certificate, or say the Creed by memory. Orthodox Christianity is rooted in a personal experience with Christ, living and reigning in our lives. It is inner peace and freedom, a new sense of direction and purpose in our lives through knowing Him who is the source of all of these things.

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Lenten Confessions

Members, please call the office to arrange a Lenten Confession sometime prior to Holy Wednesday evening.

First Confession for our 7-8 year olds will be done at 9:30 am just before the Lazarus Saturday Liturgy or after Vespers that same evening. Parents who are bringing their children for their first Confession are asked to let Father Andrew know in advance.

Criteria for Judging when a child is ready for Confession (THAT PARENTS MUST CULTIVATE IN THEIR CHILDREN)

- *When the child has a genuine personal relationship with God.
Before there can be any sin, God must be real to the child. The child must be aware of God's love and His invitation, and must be capable of offering God acts of thanksgiving and love.*
- *When the child has acquired a sense of sin:
Sin is the opposite of thanksgiving and love. For a child's misbehavior to be understood as a sin, he or she must be aware, at least vaguely, that his/her faults are a refusal to respond to an invitation from God. The child must be taught to understand that when he or she offends someone, this also affects his or her own relationship with God, as well as the offended person's.*
- *When the child understands that the sacrament is a meeting with God and not merely an acknowledgement of faults to an adult who represents the rules set by parents:
The child coming to Confession must feel that he or she is answering an invitation from God who wishes to give the child a sign of pardon and to form a closer friendship with him or her.*

If these three conditions are present, the child will probably come to confession *joyfully*, to celebrate the love of the Lord who always forgives us, *to face the future with renewed enthusiasm*. Such a dynamic orientation toward the future indicates also that the child does not come to confession only or primarily to relieve feelings of guilt, or in a mechanical fashion, but to deepen a relationship and to find the courage to make greater efforts toward growth in a relationship with God

(Adapted from - Francoise & Jean Paul Berube
Sacrament of Peace, Director's Guide)

The Basics of Putting Together a Paschal Food Basket

“PASCHA” - *the Paschal Bread, a special sweet yeast bread, golden-colored, rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself, Who is our true bread. It is usually a round loaf, baked with a golden crust, decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ, most often a cross made of dough. Sometimes a braid of dough is encircled on the top, giving a crowning effect.*

EASTER EGGS - *From ancient days, the egg has been a symbol of fertility, for new life emerges from it. Of all of the Paschal foods, none is as popular as the egg. Resurrection and new life are further symbolized by the presence of many beautiful and artistically decorated eggs, Pysanky. Some are real works of art, multicolored and elaborately decorated with many intricate symbolic designs.*

CHEESE - *A custard-type cheese shaped into a ball having a bland, yet sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians have in all things.*

HAM - *Popular as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Pascha. Veal and lamb are also used, well roasted so that all may enjoy the Feast.*

SAUSAGE (KIELBASA) - *A spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products, indicative of God’s favor and generosity.*

BACON - *a piece of uncooked (sometimes smoked) bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God’s mercy for us.*

HORSERADISH - *horseradish mixed with grated red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds,*

but sweetened with sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red-colored mixture reminds us of the suffering of Christ.

BUTTER - *Sometimes shaped into a figure of a lamb or a small cross us cut into a cup of butter. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have towards all things.*

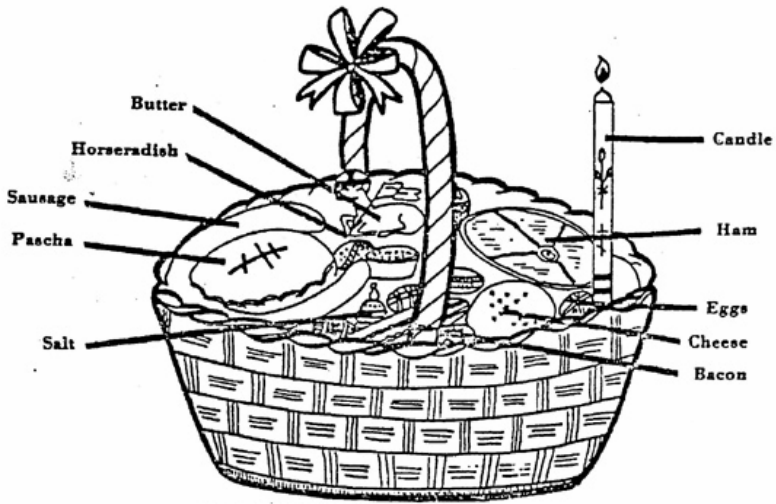
SALT - *a condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.*

Other foods may also be placed in the basket, as per family custom. Some place wine in the basket. Children may have their own basket with chocolate eggs, rabbits, or cookies to be blessed.

The Pascha Bread, the Eggs, meats and other dairy foods represent not only food to be eaten but also symbolize the very presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with His beloved people.

During the Paschal meal, the decorated candle is placed in the middle of the table. Jesus is the True Light Who brightens the whole world through the radiance of His Holy Resurrection.

Ideally, the basket is brought to the church to be blessed following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. We first break our Fast with the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. After the receiving of the Eucharist, only then are we fully to enjoy the bounty of the Paschal Table! For it is Christ Whom we celebrate and honor and glorify on this Feast of Feasts!!



Greeters

April Jason & Connie Burnett

May Open

June Open

Parishioner News

St. Nicholas mourns the loss of one member of our parish. Stephan Gosheff fell asleep in the Lord on February 4, 2011. Memory Eternal!

Congratulations to Pete and Brandi Krleski in the Baptism of their son, Ryder. Ryder was baptized on February 27th. Many Blessings!



Women's Guild News

Our chairs arrived on February 17, 2011. Very special thanks to those who unpacked the chairs. I would also like to thank Blagoy and Vasilka Nanchoff, Christine Demetre and Maria Juillerat for the latest donations. With the addition of our new chairs, our social hall has really changed in appearance. Please remember that these chairs and tables are for sitting and dining only.

The Lenten Retreat with Father Peter Gillquist and the Pan Orthodox Vespers were great successes. Thanks to all who donated their time and baking skills. As Otets says anything is possible when we work together.

I will be taking orders for fillo @\$2.75 per package till April 10, 627-2880.

Coloring of the Easter Eggs will be April 21, 2011 at 11:00. Please bring paper towels for drying the eggs and a Lenten dish for lunch.

Our next meetings will be April 10 and May 1.

...Continued from page 2

In one of our Paschal hymns we sing, "Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus..." The resurrection is real, but to comprehend this reality at a personal level we need to experience it in our own lives. Only those who see the resurrection of Christ personally -- with their own eyes -- are able to truly worship the Lord Jesus, and to fully partake in the life-changing grace that He offers. We need to experience the power of Christ to resurrect us from their own dead hopes, dead dreams, dead lives, from the deadness of sin, to a new life, a life of glory and peace and hope and joy.

Through the services of Holy Week and the Paschal season this year, and through the presence of our loved ones, our friends, and all the faithful gathered with us, may Christ touch each of our lives. May we behold the Risen Lord in our hearts. And may our Paschal celebration fill us with joy, strength and a deeper love for Christ and His Church -- and a deeper more personal experience of His love for us.

God bless,
+otetz

Prayer List

The following people are in need of our prayers this month:

Popadia Marilyn Nedelkoff	Stephanie Papagiannis
Luba Evans	Tom Lebamoff
Maria Bliznoff	Nina Kowton
Christine Demetre	Victor Berko
Stephanka Gosheff	George Ognenoff
Ed Roth	Nick Bellio
Andrea Skimos	Victor Kowal
Ewgenia Kowal	Zoya Kowal
Susan Kiproff	Cliff Racz
Violet Christoff	Mike Panchev
Chris Stavreti	

Please contact the office if you have an illness or hospitalization and would like a visitation or to be placed on the Prayer List. The hospital and other sources are not consistent so please contact us directly.

Coffee Hour

The Coffee Hour Hosts scheduled at this time are:

April 3 - Open

April 10 - Charity & Benevolence Lenten Soup Fundraiser

April 17 - Carl & Marge Lebamoff, Tom & Dorothy Stephanoff and George & Rosie Lebamoff for good health of the family

April 24 - Open

May 1 - The Miller & Spahiev Families in memory of Marianne Miller, one year

May 8 - The Markovski, Popovski and Skimos Families in memory of husband & father, Dimitar Markovski, 2 years

May 15 and 22 - Open

May 29 - Maria Tschebykin for family health

If you would like to host a coffee hour please see the available dates on the sign up sheet on the main bulletin board or contact the office (484-2277), Donna Tigulis (672-8147) or www.saintnickschurch.com

Many thanks to those who host a coffee hour and the support given to Charity and Benevolence through the free will offerings collected. Your generosity is needed and appreciated.

Readers Saturday Vespers & Sunday Hours

The Epistle reader is in bold

April 2&3 - Michael Baldea and **Carl Reuter**

April 9&10 - Carl Reuter and **Lisa Weaver**

April 16&17 - Lisa Weaver and **Bruce Griffey**

April 23&24- Bruce Griffey and **Steve Underwood**

April 30/May 1- Steve Underwood and **Michael Baldea**

May 7&8 - Michael Baldea and **Carl Reuter**

May 14&15 - Carl Reuter and **Lisa Weaver**

May 21&22- Lisa Weaver and **Bruce Griffey**

May 28&29 - Bruce Griffey and **Steve Underwood**

June 4&5 - Steve Underwood and **Michael Baldea**

Prosphora

The bread for Holy Oblation will be prepared by:

April 3 - Rosy Ridenour in memory of mother, Slavka Tsintsaroff,
brother, George V. Tsintsaroff and brother-in-law Carl Evanoff

April 10 - Open

April 17 - Milka Skembos in memory of parents, Tamy & Olga
Vangov and sister, Ilinka

April 23 - Roza Minga for family health

May 1 - Roza Minga for family health

May 8 - Open

May 15 - Jason Burnett for Connie's birthday

May 22 - Rosie Lebamoff in memory of parents George (34 years)
and Linka (50 years) Tsiguloff

May 29 - Jessica Keathley for Alexandra's birthday and
graduation

*If you would like to prepare bread please
contact Connie Burnett 489-1371. You may also schedule online at
www.saintnickschurch.com. Please give the bread to the Clergy
before Vespers on Saturday evening. If baker is unable to attend
Vespers it may be left in the mailbox prior to Vespers.*

DONATIONS RECEIVED IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

We wish to thank our members and friends for their donations made to St. Nicholas during the past two months. We apologize for any errors/omissions. Please call the office for corrections.

Holy Tetrapod Candles

- *Mike & Shirley Panchev in memory of father, Charles S. Popoff, 28 years and baba, Dina Popoff, 36 years*
- *Gloria Shamanoff in memory of father, George, mother, Christine and brother, Tommy Shamanoff*
- *Maria Juillerat in memory of Orville Juillerat, 9 years and Alex's 60th birthday*
- *Nina Bondarenko in memory of son, Sergei Bondarenko, 11 years since his death on March 13*
- *The Papagiannis Family in memory of Pete Papagiannis, 6 months*

In Loving Memory of:

***Bobby Eshcoff, Luben Lazoff and Jim Demetre - Chris & Ruth Traycoff
Wendel Hicks, 40 days - Dianne Hicks***

Chris & Dorothy Stavreti

Diane Tsiguloff - George & Rosie Lebamoff

Helen George - Mr. & Mrs. Chris Stavreti

Hope Corson

Tom, Erin, Anesa, & Elena Lazoff

Nick & Virginia Tsuleff

Jerry & Jan George

Dorothy Lazoff

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Panchev

Luben Lazoff - Dorothy Lazoff

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Stavreti

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Panchev

Hope Corson

Tom, Erin, Anesa and Elena Lazoff

Nick & Virginia Tsuleff

Chris Naumcheff (67 years) killed in action in WWII 1/28/1944 - Chris Freehill

Rev. Father George Nedelkoff - Suzanne Dunn

Florence Spahiev

Stefie & Stephan Kantardjieff

Bill & Anthoula Skimos

Miguel Topalov, M.D.

All Departed Souls for All Souls Day March 5th 2011 - Dave & Millie Phillips

Stephan Gosheff, 40 days - Mike & Shirley Panchev

George & Rosie Lebamoff

Mr. Dusan Mitrevski

Slavko Baloski - Olga & Lupka Baloski

For The Good Health of:

Tom Lebamoff - Carl & Marge Lebamoff

All the Family for Vodici - The Cvetkoski Family

All the family - The Minga Family

Ethan Jovevski & Lydia Knuth - Dedo Mendo, Baba Cheryl, Jason & Nickoline Langston

Family Health - Vlade & Anica Jovevski

The Fedoriw Family - William & Elizabeth Fedoriw

Mike Panchev - Mike & Shirley Panchev

For:

Kosmas' 80th birthday - Kosmas & Milka Skembos

Memorials for Stephan Gosheff

Sam & Deb Parkison

Don & Dorie Reynolds

Vlade & Anica Jovevski

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Swinford and family

Carl & Marge Lebamoff

Alan & Vicky Ver Planck

Radoslav & Donna Jovevski

Papagiannis Family

Michael Frank & family

Gary Lambroff

Dr. Gloria Shamanoff

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Stavreti

Jim & Zivka Arman

Mr. & Mrs. George Mangos

Blagoy & Vasilka Nanchoff

Curtis & Linda Blake

Boris & Vesna Gosheff

Stephanka Gosheff

Dorothy Lazoff

Vangel & Lupka Baloski

Paunko & Danka Krleski

Bill & Anthoula Skimos

Helen Pandoff Family

Ron & Connie Slyby

Tom & Dorothy Stephanoff

Nick & Virginia Tsuleff

Lube & Lenka Cvetkoski

Ratka Jovevski

Mike & Shirley Panchev

Mrs. Vasilca Lovely & Steve

Mr. Dusan Mitrevski

Goce & Darka Trajceviski

Virginia Surso

Metodija & Cheryl Jovevski

Petar Najdeski

Jim & Nina Skimos

Dragan Jovevski and family

Olga Baloski

Steve & Sheila Underwood

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sarakinis

Kent & Amy Litchin

Dan & Julie Replogle

Dan & Susan Reid and family

Marc & Nancy Schmidt

Chris & Dina Pentsos

George Bellio

Mitrevski Family

Suzanne Dunn

John Bellio & family

Chris Freehill

Gregorios Mangos

George & Karen Shiriaev

Jeanette Thompson

Mr. & Mrs. George Pappas

Mr. Athanasios Pappas

Mr. & Mrs. Eddie York

Carl & Jaci Reuter

Lonnie & Roza Minga

Steven & Constance Ross
Judy Choker
Carl & Freida Lazoff
Ben & Rosy Ridenour
Anita Choka
Tim Gosheff Family
Nina Bondarenko
Hope Corson
Chris & Ruthie Traycoff
Melanie, Joe & Mark Jr. Pappas
Florence Spahiev
Nick & Tina Litchin
Infinia Business Technology
Mr. & Mrs. Zoran Popovski
Tom & Luba Lebamoff
John & Patricia Sarantis
Nick & Donna Tigulis
Jim & Karen Pappas
William & Ellen Mitchell
Ken & Tina Rodewald
Andrea Alusheva
Susan Wells
Barbara & Donald Johnson
Kathy Bailey
Christy & Nada Spoa
George & Donna Gosheff

Stephanka Gosheff
Rodna Ivanovska
Danko & Adelina Kitani
Steve & Lenka Bercot
Damian, Jenny, Josie & Katie Gosheff
Kevin Demetroff
Ruza Markovska
Caroline J. Demetroff
Pando & Maria Pappas
Mr. George Rongos
Mila & Barda Nanchoff
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Pentosos
Vasili & Helen Pliastos
Carl & Fran Kuzeff
Cathy Tapp
Joe & Thomai Mattingly
Mike Pappas & family
John & Carole Pappas
Michael Topalov & family
Istocki Family
Aphroditi Skembos
Marika (Skembos) Short
Laura Bowser
Jeff Pappas & family
Mark Furman
Tom & Brenda Zauha



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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APRIL/MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER