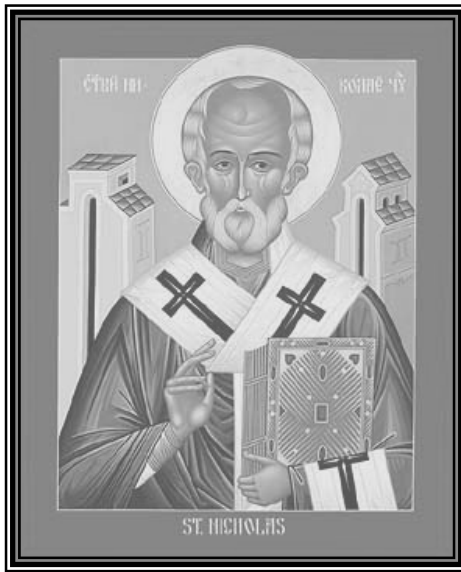


# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2011/2012 Issue



## Upcoming Events

- December 4 - Saint Nicholas Banquet
- December 23 - Nativity Vespers (7:00 pm)
- December 24 Christmas Eve Vespers Divine Liturgy (7:00 pm)
- January 5 - Theophany Vespers Liturgy (6:30 pm)
- January 8 - House Blessings begin
- February 1 - Presentation of Our Lord Vespers Liturgy (6:30 pm)

## 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	
<b>(September - May)</b>	
Orthodox Education Adults	Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.
Children	after Liturgy

[www.saintnickschurch.com](http://www.saintnickschurch.com)

## **Father Andrew's Message**

### **As the year draws to a close....**

As the year draws to a close and Advent, the pre-Christmas Fast, is upon us, it is good to take time to reflect upon the spiritual health of our parish, our homes, and our hearts. Have we made a sincere effort this year to follow God's two great commandments -- to love Him with all our heart, mind and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves? Have we taken time to pray at home and to take part in church services, following the calendar of feasts and fasts to the best of our ability? Have we engaged in acts of service and compassion to those in need? Have we been intentional in supporting our parish with our time, talents and monetary offerings? Are we doing as much as we can, or have we gotten comfortable, choosing the easy path, rather than the "road less traveled" -- the way of spiritual struggle and growth?

It is fitting that we should take this inventory as we approach the feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus' birth gave the world a new hope, restoring a balance in the cosmos that was lost since the fall of humanity. It is the task of each believer to take this cosmic gift and personally embrace it as our own. But this does not happen automatically; it is the result of dedicated effort. It is not that we "earn" God's blessings, but that we open our hearts to them; that act of opening the heart does not happen without a deliberate and sincere effort.

The other question we have to ask ourselves is, "Why am I doing these things? What motivates me in the Christian life?" (OK, that was two questions.) Our Christian discipleship must be motivated by the right reasons. We reach out to God through liturgy, prayer, fasting, ministering to those in need, and supporting the work of Christ's Church, not in a perfunctory way, and never-ever as a means of self-glorification. All this work must be motivated by selfless love, and above all be for the glory of the most-holy Trinity.

It isn't easy to faithfully live out a Christian life in our modern world -- the fact is, it has never been easy. However, the good news is that it is never too late to accept the loving, life-giving grace of God. The Lord has given us the great gift of repentance -- literally the "change of mind" or "change of direction" -- that allows us to start out afresh every time we falter or fail.

God embraced all Creation when He became man, born in a manger in Bethlehem. He is born in the manger of our hearts whenever we embrace Him and His Good News "with reverence for God, in faith and love." The first steps in embracing Christ are to take an honest look at ourselves, and to put in the effort to set aright that which is out of place with the help of God's grace and mercy.

Have a blessed Advent season and a joyous Nativity Feast.

In Christ,

Fr. Andrew (+otets)

# Coffee Hour

*The Coffee Hour Hosts scheduled at this time are:*

*December 4 - Saint Nicholas Banquet*

*December 11 - The Gosheff Families for the birthdays of  
Stephana and Josie*

*December 18 - The Bliznoff Family*

*December 25 - No Services*

*January 1 - Open*

*January 8 - Maria Tschebykin*

*January 15 - Open*

*January 22 - Tom Tsiguloff in memory of Diane Tsiguloff, 2 years*

*January 29 - Open*

***Please note: when scheduling a Coffee Hour in memory of someone if you would like a Memorial Trisagion you must also call the office to schedule that as well. Memorials are not automatically done when a Coffee Hour is scheduled.***

*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.*

## Monthly Luncheon Get Together

St. Nicholas hosts a monthly Get Together on the first Thursday of the month. Parishioners and friends are invited to bring a dish to share for a luncheon potluck and fellowship with different activities.

The potluck begins @11:30 am.

All are welcome to come @ 11:00 am for the Moleben Service. The next potluck will be Feb. 2. Call Dorothy Lazoff @ 625-4509 or Rosie Lebamoff @ 485-2696 if you have any questions.



**Fellowship**

Busy Needles is new ministry at St. Nicholas. It is open to anyone who would like to join us. We will be making items for Parkview Hospice patients. They are in need of bears at this time and we would like to make 10-15 bears a month for them. You do not have to know how to sew, there are other things you can do such as cutting, stuffing, ironing, and hand stitching.

We will be getting together on Thursday Dec. 1 after the luncheon to finish the bears that have been started. If you have any new fabric, yarn, thread, ribbon and polyfill that you are not using, we would greatly appreciate them. There is a container in the coat room where the items can be placed. In January we will meet on Thursday the 5th from 10AM to 2PM. For any questions call Judy Choker at 637-1482

Judy Choker-co-ordinator



## *Women's Guild News*

Thank you to all who so graciously donated to our 41<sup>st</sup> Macedonian Ball. The attendance was one the best in recent years. It was pure joy to watch the younger generations' dance the night away and caring on our traditions.

The Chicago bus trip was a great success and we will be planning one for next year.

Our annual Christmas party will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Chop's. We will not have a December meeting. Our next meeting will be January 8, 2012.

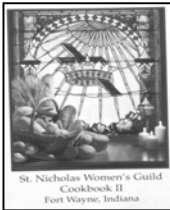
In 2012, the Women's Guild will have a spring Rummage and Bake Sale in May. We will be accepting all items one week prior to the sale. Please keep saving you items till then. We will also have the election of officers to the Guild.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving; we have so much to be thankful for. May you have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully,  
Shirley Panchev



Please remember to keep using our Paper Gator Bin for you office paper, junk mail, newspapers, books etc. Tell your friends. Accepted items are labeled on the bin. The more people who use our bin the better!



### Still Need an Idea for Christmas?

The Women's Guild still has cookbooks available.

Books are reasonably priced at \$15.00 plus shipping and are available by calling the church.

House Blessings will begin on January 8th, 2012. Please plan to sign up on the sheets in the hall under your zip code for a convenient time or call the office to schedule a time.



### *Prayer List*

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

Bishop-Elect Alexander  
Father Peter  
Popadia Marilyn Nedelkoff  
Luba Evans  
Maria Bliznoff  
Christine Demetre  
Stephanka Gosheff  
Ed Roth  
Ewgenia Kowal  
Susan Kiproff  
Violet Christoff  
Chris Stavreti

Stephanie Papagiannis  
Tom Lebamoff  
Nina Kowton  
George Ognenoff  
Nick Bellio  
Zoya Kowal  
Cliff Racz  
Mike Panchev  
Tina Rodewald  
Ron Weaver  
Vangel Baloski

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.

# Prosp'hora

The bread for Holy Oblation will be prepared by:

- December 4 - Barbara Evans in memory of Betty Evans, and for Eugene Evans 80th birthday  
December 11 - Zivka Arman in memory of Olga Arman  
December 18 - Jessica Keathley in honor of the season  
December 24 - Roza Minga for family health  
January 1 - Roza Minga for family health  
January 8 - Open  
January 15 - Open  
January 22 - Rosie Lebamoff in memory of Diane Tsiguloff, 2 years  
January 29 - Open

If you would like to prepare bread please contact Connie Burnett 489-1371. You may also schedule online at [www.saintnickschurch.com](http://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.

## Readers Saturday Vespers & Sunday Hours

The Epistle reader is in bold

- December 3&4 - Bruce Griffey and **Carl Reuter**  
December 10&11 - Carl Reuter and **Michael Baldea**  
December 17&18 - Michael Baldea and **Steve Underwood**  
December 24 - Steve Underwood and **Bruce Griffey**  
December 31 /January 1 - Bruce Griffey and **Carl Reuter**  
January 7&8 - Carl Reuter and **Michael Baldea**  
January 14&15- Michael Baldea and **Steve Underwood**  
January 21&22 - Steve Underwood and **Bruce Griffey**  
January 28&29 - Bruce Griffey and **Michael Baldea**

## Greeters

December ♦ The Phillips and the Franks

January ♦ Open

February ♦ Open

## DONATIONS RECEIVED IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

*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

- *Suzanne Dunn in memory of my parents Anna Todoran, Eli Todoran*
- *The Jovevski Family in memory of Radoslav Jovevski*

### In Loving Memory of:

*Pete Papagiannis, one year memorial - Chris & Ruth Traycoff*

*Chris Freehill*

*Christine Demetre*

#### ***Boris "Jim" Angeloff -***

*Helen Geroff*

*Mary Spirou*

*Jim & Zivka Arman*

*Cyril Laycoff*

*Ken & Tina Rodewald*

*Chris Stavreti*

*Dorothy Lazoff*

*George & Rosie Lebamoff*

*Tom & Luba Lebamoff*

*Tom & Dorothy Stephanoff*

*Nick & Virginia Tsuleff*

*Mike & Shirley Panchev*

*Mr. /Mrs. Mark Hesterman*

*Joe Christoff*

*Chris Freehill*

*Saralyn Saylor*

*Nicole, Dennis & Clifton*

*Hayes*

#### ***Danica Mitrevski one year memorial -***

*Jim & Nina Skimos*

*Mitrevski Family*

*Dusan Mitrevski*

*Gordana & Risto*

*Sekulovski & family*

*Zijad & Cvetanka Cacan*

*Zalato, Jasmine &*

*Isabella Markovski*

*Bill & Anthoula Skimos*

*Rodna Ivanovska*

*Boris & Vesna Gosheff*

*George & Donna Gosheff*

*Popovski Family*

*Mila, Dencho, Barda*

*Nanchoff and family*

***Juanita Demetre - Diane Hicks***

***Slavko Baloski - The Baloski Family***

*George & Donna Gosheff*

### For the Good Health of:

***Nick Bellio, good recovery - Chris Pentsos***

***Tommy Lebamoff - Ken & Tina Rodewald***

***Family - Bill & Anthoula Skimos***

***Aunt Zivka Arman - Mr. & Mrs. Mike Swinford and family***

***Vangel Baloski - The Baloski Family***

### For:

***Our 50th wedding anniversary - Ben & Rosy Ridenour***

***1st birthday of Elijah Knuth - Andy, Julie, Kayla and Lydia Knuth***

***Romeo's birthday - The Minga Family***

***Marriage of niece, Jasmine Ivanovska to Edis Sakinovic - Zijad & Cvetanka Cacan***

*Zlatko, Jasmine & Isabella Markovski*

***Roberto and Julie Mitrevski's 18th wedding anniversary - Dusan Mitrevski***

**∞ St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**  
Orthodox Church in America (OCA)

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