

ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE AMERICAN CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

288 E. 10th Street, New York, NY 10009



Sunday Divine Liturgy: 10 AM

Pastor: Rev. Fr. William Bennett
Cantor & Choir Director: Nicholas Timko
Asst. Cantor: Reader Robert Zizik
Hours: Reader Alexander Ioukliaevskikh

Church Phone #: 212-254-6685

WELCOME, ALL ST. NICHOLAS FAITHFUL & VISITORS!

For Online Streaming Service: 10 minutes prior to service, visit our website (www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org) and scroll down and press play on our live service feed. If using a smartphone, use our YouTube Channel: "St. Nicholas of Myra Orthodox Church NYC"

At this time, we will livestream only for Lenten services, Saturday evening Vespers & Sunday morning Divine Liturgy.

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StNicholas10street / Follow us on Instagram: "10thSt.Orthodox"

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024: Martyr Menas & Theodore the Studite

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 **Gospel:** Luke 10:25-37 **Troparia:** p 45 (Tone 5)

99th Anniversary Edition Church Bulletin



99 YEARS AGO, our parish family was formed and 51 years ago, we began the Kermeš celebration we have come to know and love. This day, we give special thanks to God for blessing us to carry out a work in the ministry of Christ that long ago as a parish family. These days, we should be proud to

call ourselves a parish at work, both physically & spiritually. Today, we pause a lot of that work but for a moment to celebrate our love for Christ and the bountiful gifts He has granted us. May God continue to grant to all many happy & blessed years!

MASTER, BLESS! A special welcome to His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory, Ruling Hierarch of our Diocese, who has kindly accepted our invitation to help us celebrate this day before God. May God preserve him for His holy churches in peace, in safety, in honor, and in health for many years!



His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory



Office of the Metropolitan 312 Garfield Sweet 30knstown, PA 15906

NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE 2024

Protocol No. 6/2024

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Beloved Faithful Clergy and Laity of our God-Protected Diocese,

Today we see our world spinning out of control. Violence, poverty, hatred, drug overdoses, homelessness, theft and senseless killings are all increasing. We are at the brink of a World War with conflicts in Ukraine, the Holy Lands in the Middle East and other places around the planet raging. From the very beginning as God fearing people we have been praying for the Lord's help. In all of our Divine Liturgies additional petitions and prayers have been offered. And yet the struggle continues around the world. I believe we must intensify our prayers. If we are feeling like we are sinking because we are overwhelmed in our home life, work life, school life or even our social life (including social media and technology) we must be like Peter. He was walking on the water towards Jesus and when he became distracted by the winds and waves, he began to sink. Peter cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30) and Jesus Christ reached down and pulled him out of the stormy sea. We too are sinking and need to cry out "Lord, save me!"

As we once again enter the Season of the Nativity Fast, I ask you, actually I plead with you, the good faithful people of our Diocese, to join me on a journey to meet the new born King. During these 40 days leading to the Nativity of our Lord let us increase our efforts in church attendance, in prayer, in fasting, in scriptural reading, in almsgiving, in repentance and confession, in receiving the Eucharist. This is who we should be as active Orthodox Christians.

In the last nine years, I have challenged everyone, Clergy and Laity, to offer a special prayer for peace during evening prayers. The text of this prayer will be provided by the Clergy for distribution. Each household should have sufficient copies so that each young

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America
EXMENCEL PATRICIPATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

person that can read has one by their bed to use nightly and those who are too young to read may say the prayer with their parents before they go to bed. Of course, all the adults should also participate.

To assist with this challenge, a special web page has been created on the Diocesan Website, which contains downloadable texts of the special prayer. Other postings will be made on various social media outlets to encourage maximum exposure and participation.

With all of us united in prayer this Nativity Fasting Season, I am convinced that we will help to improve our lives and those of others throughout the world.

Working in His Vineyard with much love,

+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

This Archpastoral Letter is to be read in all new calendar parishes of the Diocese on Sunday November 10 prior to the beginning of the Nativity Fast (November 15) during the reading of the parish announcements and placed in your weekly bulletins. Old calendar parishes on the Sunday prior to November 28 (November 24).

His Emiscace, Metropolitan Gregory's - NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENCE 2024 -

To Be Project Every Evening of the Normery Ever

All-Merciful Savior, You are the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world, owns When You were born in a cave and placed in a manger, an angel announced this good news to the shepherds. Switch They came to adore You, the Good Shepherd Who lays down His life for the sheep, sweet, As we journey through those holy days of proparation to celebrate Your Nativity, we humbly implore You: Look with compassion upon our families, our churches, our country, and the whole world. When we stray from Your presence, lead us back to You. Gather us into one flock, and two Guide us to springs of living water and wipe away every tear from our eyes. du 113 Number us among the sheep at Your right hand who continually cry out: who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blossing and honor and glory and might forever and everl" as an AMEN.

Annual State Control of the Annual State Control of the Control

Available at the end of Divine Liturgy

TODAY: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24th:

HOLY MARTYR MENAS was Egyptian by birth and became a military officer under the Roman Empire. At the end of the 3rd century during his years of service, all within the Roman realm were ordered to offer worship to particular idols; further, those serving in the legions were ordered to capture Christians for persecution. St. Menas refused and threw down his rank, withdrawing to seclusion in a mountain, choosing instead to live out an isolated ascetical life. After several years, purged of passions and with clear sight of God, made the decision to follow the path of martyrdom. He came down and stood in the midst of idol worshippers at a great festival and rebuked them, proclaiming the One True God. This led to his capture, torment, and death. He is credited with responding to prayers, especially those for healing, from possession, and is a protector. A "Miracle of St. Menas" is recorded at the Battle of El Alamein, major turning point in World War II where St. Menas was seen coming out of the ruins of his ruined church, causing panic and retreat in what was a then-superior German army. Holy Martyr Menas, pray to God for us!

HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY will take place, led by His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory, ruling Hierarch of our Diocese and our special guest this weekend of our Kermeš. *Eis polla eti, Despota! Many years, Master!*

THE ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH CHOIR, led by Choir Director Nick Timko, will lead responses today during Divine Liturgy. Thanks be to God for the voices to lead and anyone wishing to join, head on upstairs!

HOLY COMMUNION will be distributed toward the end of Divine Liturgy for all repentant Orthodox Christian faithful who are prepared. *If you would like to make a bread offering for a Liturgy, please see Fr. William.*

FESTIVE ANOINTING (MIROVANIJE) & BLESSED BREAD will be offered after Divine Liturgy for all faithful and visitors after Divine Liturgy. *May God grant you all many happy & blessed years!*

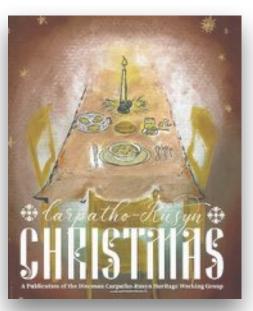
PANACHIDA will be celebrated after Divine Liturgy for all of the departed of St. Nicholas Church. The Sunday School children are all invited to come forward to hold candles with Fr. William as we pray this day.

ST. NICHOLAS KERMEŠ LUNCHEON! In honor of our 99th Anniversary as a parish, we are celebrating our annual Kermeš Luncheon downstairs after Liturgy, which we have customarily done the Sunday before Thanksgiving for many years. May God bless this parish as we continue to seek His will!

There will also be some activities, including a brief program where prayers and thanks are offered and attending parish children will be invited onstage to help lead the parish in a sing-along, and to regale the parish in a new dance. And don't forget to wear your 'Kroji'!

SPECIAL THANK YOU to Helena Gajdos, Danuta Horbal, Dawn Krzyzanowski, & Magda Matlak for all their hard work in preparation for this Kermeš; To Kim Busel, Tanya McAusland, Olga Gubinski, and all volunteers who worked hard to pull the meal together this morning; To Luboš Matlak and the men who pulled together all the drinks for the day; To those who brought in desserts for everyone to enjoy.





NEWLY RELEASED! Available for purchase for \$15 at the gift case today.

DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24th:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28th - ADVENT FAST BEGINS! This begins our march to the Nativity of our Lord, with increased fasting and prayer. Holy Confession will be specially available; make this an opportunity for repentance and baring our sins to God, rendering them powerless and forgiven.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30th - *No Divine Liturgy

- Dough Rolling @ 9 AM - 3 PM

- Great Vespers @ 6 PM

NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 2024:

HOLY COMMUNION will be distributed toward the end of Divine Liturgy for all repentant Orthodox Christian faithful who are prepared. *If you would like to make a bread offering for a Liturgy, please see Fr. William.*

VENERATION OF THE HAND CROSS & BLESSED BREAD will be offered after Divine Liturgy for all faithful and visitors after Divine Liturgy. *May God grant you all many happy & blessed years!*

COFFEE HOUR will take place after Divine Liturgy in the Main Hall, all will be invited downstairs! And a special thank you to everyone who makes it possible to have our coffee hour; our teams, our volunteers, all without fail. God grant them many years! *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

COOKIE WALK DOUGH ROLLING! It's that time. Join in during Coffee Hour!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Dawn's Confession Class will meet next week as scheduled with student families; for pre-Confession children, there will be a brief lesson available downstairs on the stage with Stephanie, as she is able.

WEEKLY POST-CONFESSION SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS @ 7 PM! Students will meet in the evening next week online with Fr. William for a 30-minute session with an activity and a lesson. Fr. William sent out an invitation to all parish families with students by email. If you did not receive that invitation, please contact Fr. William immediately.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WE ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE FLEMINGTON AREA FOOD PANTRY! With the help and arrangement of Elizabeth Krzyzanowski, we are donating our food collection going forward toward the food pantry in Flemington, NY. The parish will continue to make a dedicated push, please look to purchase something extra on your next grocery trip and bring it to our food bin in the #2 Hall.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES PRAYER LIST WAS RESET! There is a birthday/anniversary form in the back of the church for the current church attending and their families. Please fill one out for you and your family to be prayed for in the Divine Liturgy each week when the special occasion comes around. The list was officially reset last Pascha Sunday, May 5th. Submit a copy to the office or hand directly to Fr. William, if you haven't yet.



WELCOME TO COOKIE WALK 2024!

LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY! The Cookie Walk is just around the corner. Preorders are available again this year – the order form is attached to the bulletin. Plus, if you are working the CW on Saturday, come early to fill your own box(es) before the event (from 9:30 – 10:00 am). You get the best selection.

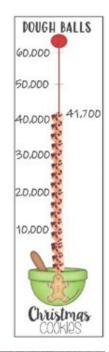
COOKIE WALK VOLUNTEER PAGE USING <u>SIGNUP.com</u> Please visit <u>https://signup.com/go/PuApRaz</u> to view the CW online volunteer sign-up page. This handy tool gives a quick overview of what will be done and makes it much easier to track who is helping each day. Thank you.

Baking Week is Dec 9-13th. Bogdan and John Busel will be reaching out about helping during Baking Week (or use the online tool above). There are three shifts each day and baking from 9 am – 9 pm. No experience in baking is needed. Lunch will be provided each day.

Can't make it during baking week but want to help? We would greatly appreciate 8oz water bottle 12-packs/case, 2-liter soda bottles (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Ginger ale), and snacks of any kind. See Helenka or Kim if you can contribute.

Thank you to everyone who brought empty paper towel rolls. We are using them every day now. Each roll represents about 35-40 cookies. We can always use more.

Will you be at the Cookie Walk on Dec. 14th and 15th to help? You can let us know two ways – sign-up online (details above) or there is a sign-up sheet in the Main Hall. If we know you will be there, we will have a job for you to do. If we do not know you are coming, I cannot guarantee that there will be something to do immediately. We have limited areas and they can get very crowded (especially the stage). Please sign-up, the sooner the better! Thank you.





ON LOVE FOR ENEMIES

An extract of the writings of St. Silouan the Athonite (1866-1938), in honor of this Sunday's Gospel of the Good Samaritan.

The soul should be filled with such insatiable love of God that the mind in all its strength dwells continually in God, captive only to Him.

The man who has come to loathe sin has mounted the first rung of the heavenly ladder. When he is not tempted in his heart to sin his foot is already on the second rung; while the man who through the Holy Spirit has come to know perfect love of God has reached the third step of the ladder. But this rarely happens.

If we wish to love God we must observe all that the Lord commanded us in the Gospels. Our hearts must brim with compassion and not only feel love for our fellow men but pity for every creature - for every thing created of God.

That green leaf on the tree which you needlessly plucked: it was not wrong, only rather a pity for the little leaf. The heart that has learned to love feels sorry for every created thing. But man is a supreme creation, and therefore if you see that he has gone astray and is bringing destruction on himself pray for him and weep

for him if you are able, or at least sigh before God for him. And the soul that acts after this fashion is loved of the Lord, for she is like unto him.

If you think evil of people, it means you have an evil spirit in you whispering evil thoughts about others. And if a man dies without repenting, without having forgiven his brother, his soul will go to the place where lives the evil spirit which possessed his soul. This is the

"Where there is pride there cannot be grace..."

law we have: if you forgive others, it is a sign that the Lord has forgiven you. But if you refuse to forgive, then your own sin remains with you.

The Lord wants us to love our fellow-man; and if you reflect that the Lord loves him, that is a sign of the Lord's love in you. And if you consider how greatly the Lord loves His creature, and you yourself have compassion on all creation, and love your enemies, counting yourself the vilest of men, this is a sign of abundant grace of the Holy Spirit in you.

The man who has the Holy Spirit within him, in however slight a degree, sorrows day and night for all mankind. His heart is filled with pity for all God's creatures, and more especially for those who do not know God or who resist Him and therefore are bound for the fire of torment. For them, more than for himself, he prays night and day, that all may repent and know the Lord. Christ prayed for those who were crucifying Him: 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.' St Stephen prayed for those who stoned him, that the Lord 'lay not this sin to their charge'. And we, if we wish to preserve grace, must pray for our enemies. If you do not feel pity for the sinner destined to suffer the pains of fire, it means that the grace of the Holy Spirit is not in you, but an evil spirit lives in you. While you are still alive, therefore, strive by repentance to free yourself from this spirit.

The Lord taught me to love my enemies. Without the grace of God we cannot love our enemies, but the Holy Spirit teaches love, and then even devils rouse our pity because they have fallen from good, and lost humility and love of God.

I beseech you, put this to the test. When a man affronts you or brings dishonour on your head, or takes what is yours, or persecutes the Church, pray to the Lord, and say: 'O Lord, we are all Thy creatures. Have pity on Thy servants, and turn their hearts to repentance,' and you will be aware of grace in your soul. To begin with, constrain your heart to love her enemies, and the Lord, seeing your good will, will help you in all things, and experience itself will show you the way. But the man who thinks with malice of his enemies has not God's love within him and does not know God.

If you will pray for your enemies, peace will come to you; but when you come to love your enemies-know that a great measure of the grace of God dwells in you, though I do not say perfect grace as yet, but sufficient for salvation. Whereas if you revile your enemies it means there is an evil spirit living in you and bringing evil thoughts into your heart, for, in the words of the Lord, out of the heart proceed evil thoughts or good thoughts.

If you cannot love, then at least do not revile and curse your enemies, and things will already be better; but if a man curse and abuse his enemies it is plain that an evil spirit abides in him, and when he dies he will go to the abode of evil spirits. May the Lord preserve every soul from such adversity!

Understand me. It is so simple. People who do not know God, or who go against Him, are to be pitied: the heart sorrows for them and the eye weeps. Both paradise and torment are clearly visible to us: we know them through the Holy Spirit. And did not the Lord Himself say: "The kingdom of God is within you"? Thus eternal life has its beginnings here in this life; and here it is that we sow the seeds of eternal torment.

Where there is pride there cannot be grace, and if we lose grace we also lose both love of God and assurance in prayer. The soul is then tormented by evil thoughts and does not understand that she must humble herself and love her enemies, for there is no other way to please God...

...When the Lord was on His way to Jerusalem and the Samaritans did not receive Him, His disciples John and James were ready to call down fire from heaven to consume them; but the Lord in His mercy said: 'I am not come to destroy but to save'. Thus should we have but one thought: that all should be saved. The soul

sorrows for her enemies and prays for them because they have strayed from the truth and their faces are set towards hell. That is love for our enemies. When Judas bethought him to betray the Lord, the Lord was stirred to pity and showed him what he was doing. Thus must we too be gentle with those who err and stray, and we shall be saved by God's mercy.

Love is made known through the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit the soul knows through peace and the sweet savour of the Lord. O how we should render thanks to God for His great love towards us! Consider, my beloved brethren: the Lord bestows His Holy Spirit on the "...she (the soul) must humble herself and love her enemies, for there is no other way to please God..."

sinful soul and gives her to know His mercy. And to know God we have no need of riches: we need only love our neighbour and be lowly in spirit, sober and obedient, and for these virtues the Lord allows us to know Him. Could any thing in the world be more precious than this knowledge? To know God, to know how He loves us and enlightens our spirits in the way they should go?

(Taken from Wisdom from Mount Athos: The Writings of Saint Silouan)



THE NATIVITY FAST BEGINS! As we approach the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord by fasting from foods, use this time to slow things down, to fast even more from sin, and give special attention to your daily prayers to God while creating more time with Him and reflection.

SCHEDULE YOUR CONFESSION: Make time for Holy Confession with Fr. William. There can be no growth in the Orthodox Faith without Confession, and it is necessary for your membership in God's Holy Church. These past couple years have been difficult to maintain participation together but the Church is open and the time is now. Father will be available before every Divine Liturgy, you can come early, or at Saturday Vespers services.



Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita! God grant him many years!



Many Blessed Years to Bogdan Horbal, awarded the John Mihalsky Award last week!



The Cookie Walk sign is officially up! Bless the men!



ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, please contact Fr. William directly: <u>fr.william.bennett@gmail.com</u>

CONTINUOUS: Matuska Olga Andrejuk, David Bulko, Kim Busel, Peter & Maria Ceselka, Tony Ceselka, Stephanie Downes, Mary & Tommy Fackovec, Gia Fazio, John Geida, Julius Gontkovsky, Olga Gubinski, Diana Hannan, Todd Henderson, Priest Joseph Hoffmann, Noah Homyak, Aleksandra Horbal, Luke Iera, Magdalena Ilanovska, Jana Johnson-Plutchok, Michael Kerr, Paul Koehler, Joanna Kolaczko, Maria Koneval, Michael Kormanik, Alex & Holly Marchak, Luboš Matlak, Richard McCullough, Christine Merriam, Sean Merriam, Christine & Rick Martines, Lucia Matišinova, Troy Oset, Nadežda Bulikova Petrikova, Deacon Michael Pirich, Gregory Rydzyk, Rastislav Salon, John Salony, Mary Seewald, George & Ondrej Sikorjak, Paul Sikoryak Sr, Toni Sikoryak, George Sipko, Michael Slavkovsky, Miroslav Strenk, Katherine Tam, Teri Upton, Tim Upton, Marek Vattek, Ann Vislocky, Bill Vislocky, Sandy Wagner, Cathryn Walker, Dennis & Cathy Walsh, and Reader Bob & Debbie Zizik.

CATECHUMENS:

Ricardo Sullivan Nathan Deutsch John Stutts Daniel Lai Rachel Soh Young Yi Maryam Gueye

DIOCESAN CLERGY:

DEANERY CLERGY:

Priest David Mastroberte Priest Luke Mihaly Protodeacon Emil Gulick Priest Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh (NY, NY)
Priest David Kossey (Yonkers, NY), for his Health and Salvation
Priest Andrew Gromm (Seaford, NY)

<u>SEMINARIANS:</u> Seamus Murray, Ignatios Leonardo, Nicholas Fong, Nicolas Laliberte, & Alexander Hurtsellers. The newly-graduated Nicholas Worobey & Samuel Loposky! *That God may grant them many more blessed years, and for more vocations to the Priesthood!*

COLLEGE STUDENTS: May God bless all of our parish college students both near & far, and members of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), especially the NYU OCF & Rutgers OCF. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

<u>BIRTHDAYS:</u> May God grant many more happy & blessed years to those celebrating their birthdays this week, especially to Pani Ileana Bennett & Alex Strenk! *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

SPECIAL INTENTIONS:

For the newly-added servant of God George Sikorjak, for his health and salvation. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!* For the newly-added servant of God Troy Oset, for his health and salvation. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!* For the servant of God John Petrick, for his health and salvation. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!* For +All Departed Servants of God of St. Nicholas Church. *Vičnaja Jim Pamjat!*

O HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!



CHURCH SERVICE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Note from Fr. William: If you would like anyone remembered or prayed for during the course of the week or would like someone remembered in a memorial service, please see Fr. William or simply email: fr.william.bennett@gmail.com

NOV - DEC 2024

*Shaded areas indicate days of fasting

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
NOV 24 ST. NICHOLAS KERMEŠ Hierachical Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM Reponses led by St. Nicholas Choir Panachida for +All Departed St. Nicholas faithful Kermeš Celebration	25	26 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM	27 *No Vespers	28 Thanksgiving - Nativity/ Advent Fast Begins!	29	30 *No Divine Liturgy - CW Dough Rolling @ 9 AM - 3 PM - Great Vespers @ 6 PM
DEC 1 Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM - CW Dough Rolling	2	3 Vespers & Divine Liturgy @ 6 PM	FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS - Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6:30 PM	5	6 CW Dough Rolling @ 6 - 9 PM	7 Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM, St. Mary's, 7th St CW Dough Rolling @ 9 AM - 3 PM - Great Vespers @ 6 PM
DEC 8 Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM - CW Dough Rolling	CW BAKING WEEK	CW BAKING WEEK	11 Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM CW BAKING WEEK	CW BAKING WEEK	CW BAKING WEEK	14 Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's) - ST. NICHOLAS COOKIE WALK @ 11 AM - 4 PM - Great Vespers @ 6 PM

TRZASKA FUNERAL HOME, INC.

ALEXANDER MARCHAK, JR. – Licensed Funeral Director & Owner Services available whenever and wherever needed 1275 - 65th St (Corner of 13th Ave), BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11219 Family Owned & Operated since 1924 Large Parking Area 718-748-4860



FOLLOW THE DIOCESE ONLINE:

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese Twitter: http://twitter.com/acrodnews YouTube: https://youtube.com/acroddiocese

