



**Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Bulletin
And Holy Transfiguration Chapel**
A Parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
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We would like to welcome all of our visitors and friends to Saint Nicholas Orthodox Parish. We would like to ask all of our new visitors to please sign our register so that we might be able to keep in contact with you about Parish celebrations and events. Through the intercession of Saint Nicholas we hope and pray that our community might continue to grow in numbers and in service to the Lord. Through your prayers and dedication of time, talents and donations, this can become a reality in all faith and in love.

In case of an emergency, please call Father Stephen day or night at the above telephone number.

February 11, 2024
Volume 17: Number 06
Celebrating our 17th Year of Serving the Lord
Schedule of Services and Activities

Sunday, February 11 – 36th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 3
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful – Father Gus

Sunday, February 18 – Sunday of Zaccheaus – Tone 4
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful – Father Stephen

Sunday, February 25 – Sunday Publican and Pharisee -- Tone 5
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful -- Father Gus

Fast Free Week

Sunday, March 3 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Tone 6
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful – Father Gus

Sunday, March 10 – Meatfare Sunday – Tone 7
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful – Father Stephen

A N N U A L M E E T I N G

SCRIPTURAL READINGS

36th Sunday after Pentecost – Matins: Mark 16:9-20; Liturgy: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1; Matthew 15:21-28; **Great Vespers:** Deuteronomy 1:8-11; 15-17; Deuteronomy 10: 14-21; Wisdom. (3:1-9)

Monday - Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs – Matins: John 10:9-16; Liturgy: Hebrews 13:7-16; Matthew 5:14-19; Day: James 2:14-16; Mark 10:46-52

Tuesday – James 3:1-10; Mark 11:11-23

Wednesday – James 3:11-4:6; Mark 11:23-26; **Great Vespers:** 1st Reading-Exodus 12:51-13:3; 10-12; 14-16; 22-29; Numbers 8:16-17; Leviticus 12:1-4; 6-8; Numbers 8:16-17. 2nd Reading – Isaiah 6:1-12; 3rd Reading Isaiah 19:1-5; 12, 16,19-21.

Thursday– Presentation of Our Lord - Matins: Luke 2:25-32; Liturgy: Hebrews 7:7-17; Luke 2:22-40; Day: James 4:7-5:9; Mark 11:27-33

Friday – 1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10; Mark 12:1-12

Saturday – 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23; Luke 17:3-10

37th Sunday after Pentecost – Matins: Luke 24:1-12; Liturgy: 1 Timothy 4:9-15; Luke 19:1-10

Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs

THREE HIERARCHS



On January 30 (February 12) we celebrate the memory of three great and very outstanding bishops, teachers, preachers and Fathers of the Eastern Church: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom. Among our people this feast is known as the feast of the "Three Saints." These three hierarchs-bishops were giants of faith, courage, holiness and learning. They handed down to us the pure faith of the Council of Nicea; they expounded the dogmas of the Holy Trinity, Christ's divinity and the Holy Eucharist. Because of their great merits, in her liturgy our Eastern Church calls them peers of the Apostles, instruments of the Holy Spirit, pillars of the Church and universal teachers of the whole world. All three lived in the fourth century-the golden age of the Christian faith. St. Basil and St. Gregory were sons of Cappadocia in Asia Minor, intimate friends of approximately the same age. St. John Chrysostom, an Antiochian, was younger than the other two by twenty years. Apostolic zeal for the holy faith and salvation of souls united them. .

The feast of the Three Hierarchs is one of the very recent feasts of the Greek Church. A great dispute in the second half of the eleventh century gave rise to the institution of this feast. This controversy arose among Christians over which of these three Saints contributed the most to the Church. Some thought St. Basil to be the greatest, others, St. Gregory the Theologian, still others, St. John Chrysostom. Those who were advocates of St. Basil were called Basilians, those of St. Gregory- Gregorians, and those of St. John Chrysostom-Joanites. This dispute was settled by the three bishops themselves. Each one separately, and later all three together, appeared to John, Bishop of the city of Echaïta (a suburb of Constantinople), who was known for his wisdom, learning and virtue, and said: "We, as you can see, are one before God and there is nothing between us that is contrary or controversial; each one of us, differently inspired by the Holy Spirit, taught that which was necessary for the salvation of man. Therefore, there is no first or second among us, but as you call one so shall the others be called. Arise, then, and command those who are arguing over us, not to divide themselves, for as during life, so too after death, our goal is to bring peoples from all comers of the earth to peace and unity. Institute, therefore, the celebration of our memory on the same day, as all three of us are of the same rank before God, and we shall help those to achieve salvation, who shall celebrate our memory."

In 1076, Bishop John did as the three bishops commanded him. However, because holy Church already celebrated the memory of each one separately, he designated the 30th of January as the day for their common feast. In addition to this, he had a sermon in their

honor, and composed troparions, canons and sticheras. Our chronicles at the end of 1076 mention the institution of this feast in Greece.

THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

The Gospel of St. Luke speaks of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple as follows: "When the days were completed for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord just as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord', and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate of the Law of the Lord" (Luke 2:22-24).

According to the Law (Exodus 3:2) every first-born male of human or animal was sacred to God. When a woman gave birth to a son, she was considered ritually unclean for forty days; if a girl, for eight days. She could not enter the Temple or share in any religious ceremonies (Leviticus 12). At the end of that time she had to bring to the Temple a lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon as a sin offering. Since this was rather expensive for the poor, it was adjusted so that the two pigeons were acceptable. It was this "offering of the poor" that Mary brought.

The Gospel continues with Simeon. "This man was righteous and devout awaiting the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he should see the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the Law in regard to him, he took Him into his arms and blessed God, saying: 'Now Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You prepared in sight of all the people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.'"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to the following: Perihan Shammass, 2/15; Angela Katsimbris, 2/15 & Michael Previte, 2/17. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

REDNER FULL SALE SLIPS – are still being collected. Please save the whole slip.

READER MINISTRY:

February 11 – Margaret Perkins

February 18 - Subdeacon Kevin Minnich

February 25 - Kris Scholl

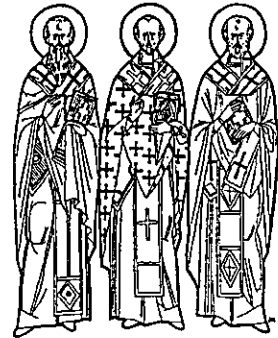
March 3 – Christina Mentis

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Father Geroge Bazylevsky, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Constantine Christo, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Mark Leisure, Father John Nakonachny, Father James Norton, Father Paul Pappas, Father John Perich, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Pani Matka Lilly Lemar, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Jamison, Mikey Arntz, Wakako Alexander, Theresa Barnes, Paul Calistor, Joe Chas, Rita Cook, Dmitra Cookson, Davis William Doty; Steve Forte, Thomas Holt, Dot Howell, Norma Husnick, Walter Katolic, Judith Kocinski, Kristina Koutsoudes, Olympia Koutsoudes, Gina Louk, Frederick McCarthy, Bruce McGloan, Patricia McGloan, Stephen McNulty, Chritina Mentis, Connie Mentis, John Moniodes, Olga Moniodes, Margaret Perkins, Barbara Perrigina, Natassia Perrine, Robert Perrine, Michael Previte, Sandra Ramondi,Carolynn Ritter; Jim Saturno, Clay Seman, Gail Sherman, Lorraine Sherman, Gerald Sovinski, Diane Staples, Nicholas Taylor, Kathy Theodorakos, Meryll Trader, Ralph Vurgich, Cheryl Zabowski, Edward Zabowski, Markos Zerefos.

Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs

F E B R U A R Y R I E P A T R I A R C H
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 G R E B A S L I O N C H I E R C H S I A

THE THREE HIERARCHS



ANTIOCH - St. John Chrysostom was born in Antioch, Syria in 344; **BASIL** - He is called St. Basil the Great because of his full dedication to the Church. His Divine Liturgy is celebrated 10 days in the year. **BISHOPS** - St. John, St. Gregory and St. Basil were great Bishops. **CONSTANTINOPLE** - ST. John Chrysostom became Patriarch of Constantinople. **CHRYSOSTOM** - By the time St. John became Patriarch, he was given this name which means "golden mouthed" because he was an eloquent preacher. **FEBRUARY** - This holy day fall on February 12th. **GOLDEN** - see Chrysostom. **GREGORY** - St. Gregory is called the "Theologian" because of the eloquent way he defended the great doctrines of the Church. **HIERARCHS** - Another name for Bishops. **HOSPITAL** - St. Basil founded the first hospital. **JOHN** - The greatest preacher of the Church; his Divine Liturgy is celebrate almost every Sunday and weekday. **LITURGY** - The divine service celebrated every Sunday. Liturgy means "Public service" **LUMINARIES** - The Three Hierarchs are called this meaning "lights". **MONASTIC** - St. Basil founded the rules and laws for being part of monastery. **NAZIANZEN** - Native city of St. Gregory. **PATRIARCH** - The lead Bishop of the Orthodox, Christian Church. **SAINTS** - Holy men and women who lived lives of love for Christ. **THEOLOGIAN** - see "Gregory"; scholar knowing theology.

HEROES OF THE EARLY CHURCH

In the Orthodox calendar, our Holy Church honors the memory of 3 of her greatest saints together: **BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN & JOHN CHRYSOSTOM.** These Holy Hierarchs are rightly referred to as “giants” of faith, courage, holiness and learning. They were well-known in the early Church as teachers, preachers, liturgists & administrators.

There is an interesting story behind why the Church elected to honor these 4th century saints on the same day. Up until the 11th century, a dispute existed among the faithful as to who was the greatest of these three Church Fathers. All three had unique qualities, and no one could agree on who deserved primacy of honor. By God’s divine providence,

however, the issue was finally resolved in a dream that Bishop John of Galatia had one evening in 1081 A.D. While deep in sleep, the bishop had a vision of Basil, Gregory and John together in all of their glory. In unison, they greeted Bishop John with these words: **“WE ARE ONE IN GOD, AND THERE IS NO DISPUTE AMONG US . . . NEITHER IS THERE A FIRST OR SECOND AMONG US.”**

Awaking from sleep, Bishop John viewed this as a sign that these three saints should be honored equally with one common feast. Thus ended centuries of controversy. From that day forth, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian & John Chrysostom were commemorated together, with all of their many accomplishments noted by the Church.