

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Diocese of New England ❖ Orthodox Church in America

February 16, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON — Tone 2. St. Nicholas, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Japan (1912).

Martyrs Pamphilius—Presbyter, Valens—Deacon, Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius, Julian, Theodulus, Elias, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel, and Daniel, at Cæsarea in Palestine (307-309). St. Maruthas, Bishop of Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (422). Persian Martyrs in Martyropolis in Mesopotamia (4th c.).



In Memory of

Archbishop Nikon (9/1/2019)

Matushka Elizabeth Bacon (01/15/2020)

For the Health and Well-being of:

Archpriest Joseph

Abdullah (*brother of Tony*)

Anne (*cancer, friend of Dolores*)

Anleye (*stroke, mother of Banchi*)

Charles (*brother of Emilie*)

David (*homebound*)

Dolores

Elena (*recovering from surgery*)

Galina

Gregory (*father of Tanya*)

Helen (*mother of Emilie*)

Irina (*eyes*)

Len

June (*sister of Rick*)

Mat. Myra

Paul (*father of Fr. Tristan*)

Rick

Svetlana (*mother of Tanya*)

Vladimir Y

Vladislav

Upcoming Services

TodayDivine Liturgy with Fr. John Kreta.....9:30 am

Sat. Feb 22.....Reader's Vespers3:30 pm

Sun. Feb 23Divine Liturgy with Fr. Mark Sherman9:30 am

Sat. Feb 29Reader's Vespers3:30 pm

Sun. Mar 01Divine Liturgy in Salisbury, CT9:30 am

*with Fr. John Kreta and Metropolitan Tikhon
followed by Pot Luck Luncheon and Forgiveness Vespers*

Readings:

Today

Next Week

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 1 Corinthians 8:8 - 9:1

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32 Matthew 25:31-46

Next Week Readers and Hosts

HoursIrene

EpistleYani

Coffee HourOksana

2020 Annual All Parish Meeting: Today!

Please Welcome Fr. John Kreta, our Diocesan Chancellor and friend, who is serving Divine Liturgy with us today. Fr. John will also preside at the All Parish Meeting after a brief Coffee Hour.

Church Services Next Week: Fr. Mark Sherman, a retired priest from New Hampshire will serve with us next Sunday. Fr. Mark has been with us before!

Movie Night: Saturday, February 22nd at 3:30pm: Please come for movie Reader's Vespers, pizza / light refreshments, and games. The movie is "Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie", a 2002



American computer-animated Christian musical comedy adventure film. It is the first feature-length film in the VeggieTales series. The themes for the film are compassion and mercy, using two stories as illustrations. We need help — see Tanya for details.

Today: Sunday of the Prodigal Son: 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 "in 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. *from* OCA.org

February Charity: The Elizabeth Freeman Center, which provides services for families and children suffering from domestic and sexual abuse. According to their website they reach over 5,000 people annually in Berkshire County.

Wintry Weather: We hope you will use caution if snow/ice conditions make for dangerous driving. We will always post Cancellation announcements on the home page of our website! Please check there for cancellations before driving to church. stnicholaspittsfield.org

Stewardship Update:

To date, we have received 19 pledges (23 family members). So far pledges comprise only 67.3% of our proposed budget. Note that **5 pledges** comprise **67.3%** of the total pledges and **47.2%** of our total proposed budget. This is somewhat disheartening.

And of the approximately 30 adult parishioners who regularly attend services and receive communion, 20% have not yet pledged.

We urge you to please send in your pledges as part of your gifts to our Lord for the incalculable gifts that we receive from Him.

Stewardship Pledges 2020



Total Pledges	<u>21</u>
# of Individual Family Members	<u>25</u>
# of Current Active Communicants	30
Average Individual Pledge	\$2,566
Average Family Pledge	\$3,055
Pledge Totals	\$64,150
Fair Share Pledges	\$1,575
Total	\$65,725
Proposed Budget	\$89,400
Deficit	\$23,675
% of Proposed Budget	73.5%
Top 5 pledges comprise % total pledges and % of our total proposed budget	64.2% 47.2%
% of all active communicants who pledge	83.3%
% of all active communicants who don't pledge	16.7%

Stewardship Appeal and Annual Parish Meeting Today

Please return your Stewardship Pledges
if you haven't already

February Birthdays

02/04.....Paula
02/07Irina P
02/15.....Sofia M.
02/21Elanor