

Newsletter of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church



1160 Bridge Street
Manchester, NH 03104



Father Tom Fitzgerald, Parish Priest

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When we were children, we were told the story of the first Thanksgiving Day at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. There, the Pilgrims gathered to give thanks to God for the fall harvest, which they shared with the local Indian tribe. The Pilgrims had a strong belief that God had provided for them during the many difficulties they faced during their travels to the New World and during the establishment of their new colony. Their life was not easy. Yet, they were still thankful to God.

As followers of Christ, we are called to be a people of thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving Season is a special time when we can be more conscious of the blessings we have received from God and which we sometimes take for granted!

Our Lord has blessed us with family members, friends and neighbors who enrich our lives with their love and care. We have been blessed with the parish of St. Nicholas, filled with many good and caring people. We have been blessed with the opportunity to receive love from others and to offer love to others.

During these days, there are relatives, friends and neighbors who may be experiencing difficult times. We can be God's instruments to help them. God can act through us! We can be the expression of God's presence and love in the lives of others. We can respond to the needs of others in the name of Christ. Our sense of thanksgiving can strengthen our spirit of generosity.

One way we do this in our parish is through our Thanksgiving and Christmas collection of food for the needy. Please bring your offerings to the church in the coming weeks. By sharing your blessings with others, you are also giving thanks to Our Lord for his care and generosity.

May you have a Blessed Thanksgiving,

Fr. Tom

Newsworthy Notes From St. Nicholas

Collections for those in Need



Sundays, before Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are collecting donations of canned goods and household items for those less fortunate. We do this as followers of the Lord and in the spirit of St. Nicholas. Our collection is an important way that we can join together as the parish of St. Nicholas to show our compassion for those in need, just as Jesus did.

St. Nicholas Feast Day Celebration

On December 6, we will observe the Feast Day of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of our parish. We hope that all the members of the parish will make a special effort to participate in the celebrations surrounding this Feast Day. For all of us, it is a good time to make a renewed commitment to our Parish and its important ministries.

December 5, Thursday Evening

Service of Great Vespers @ 7:00 PM immediately followed by our traditional coffee hour sponsored by the George family.

December 6, Friday Morning

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

December 8, Sunday Morning

Divine Liturgy at 10 AM followed by our Parish Feast Day Luncheon Meal

See the Last page of this bulletin for the story of our Patron Saint, St. Nicholas, The Wonder Worker

News-worthy Notes From St. Nicholas

Cont.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 FROM 11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Our first annual Live Auction & Bake Sale!

We are trying something new this year as a fund raiser.

We will hold a bake sale featuring everyone's favorite Greek delicacies, however we are adding a live auction to the mix.

We hope to see you all there and also hope you share the event details with your friends and family.

Come ready to bid on some classy, fun and exciting items!

If you have questions about what the live auction entails, reach out to any of the committee members who will gladly provide questions to your answers.



Karen Rheaume

Alexis Britton

Barbara George



And of course Michael Poullos who always has an answer for you!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

The coffee hour is being sponsored by the George family in celebrating the memory of their Dad, Bill George who passed on November 30, 33 years ago.

Some of Bill's favorite foods will be served...not traditional fare by any means but a few of his standbys.

The George family cordially invites one and all to partake in the celebration immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

GIFT CARDS

Instead of buying your holiday gift cards at the mall, why not buy them from St. Nicholas where a portion of the proceeds go to the church. For example, purchase a \$25 Olive Garden gift card at St. Nicholas. Through that \$25 purchase, the church will make \$2. Just let Michael know what gift cards you need, and he will order them for you. Please allow up to 7 business days for the gift cards to arrive. The complete list of participating retailers can be found at

<https://www.shopwithscrip.com/shopwithscrip-retailers>

General Assembly

The parish will be holding its Annual General Assembly on Sunday, November 17. This is a very important meeting for the parish where we discuss the health and future of St. Nicholas. This is an open forum, so please bring your questions, concerns and comments.

This is also the meeting where we elect the parish council for 2020.

Being a part of the council is a great way to become more involved.

If you're interested in being on the council, please see Michael

ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

We know little about the early life of St. Nicholas. Tradition says that he was born into a wealthy family in the seaport town of Patara in Asia Minor. As a young man, he was imprisoned and tortured for refusing to denounce his Christian faith during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian (AD 285-305). Among many prisoners, he was released under Emperor Constantine, who later became the first Christian Emperor.

As a faithful follower of Christ, Nicholas was subsequently elected as the bishop of Myra, located now in Turkey as the city of Demre. As a bishop, he became known for his piety, generosity and concern for the needy. He showed special concern for poor children. He also participated in the First Ecumenical Council in the city of Nicaea in AD 325. This important Council defended the faith against the teachings of Arius and produced the first Nicene Creed.

Following his death on December 6, about the year 350, the body of Nicholas was buried at the cathedral of Myra. As an expression of his holiness, his body began to exude a sweet-smelling ointment which proved to be a remedy against many sicknesses. In the year 1087, the crusaders took the relics of the saint to Bari, Italy. The cathedral became an important center of pilgrimage. Over time, St. Nicholas quickly became a beloved saint in many parts of the world and especially in Greece, Russia and Scandinavia. He came to be honored as the patron saint of children and sailors. Today, the Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church and some Protestants churches honor him as a saint and celebrate his feast day on December 6th.