

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 3, 2019

**2019 Blessing of Homes Season: January 7th thru February 28th
By Appointment**

SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 3

36th Sunday After Pentecost

St. Nicholas of Japan (+1912)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Scout Sunday; "Souper Bowl of Caring II"
Food Basket Sunday

TUESDAY/FEBRUARY 5

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to
St. Photios of Constantinople (+891)

SATURDAY/FEBRUARY 9

Leave-Taking of Meeting of the Lord

9:30a.m. Akathist to Theotokos; Confessions
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 10

Zacchaeus Sunday

St. Charalampus (+202)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; "Souper Bowl of Caring III"
12:00p.m. Annual Parish Meeting

"Sin is that which prevents us from believing. Not logic. For this reason, if you tell an unbeliever to live for six months according to the ethics of the Gospel, and he does it, he will become a believer without even realizing it."

Fr. Epiphanius Theodoropoulos



St. Nicholas of Japan, "Equal-to-the- Apostles" was a pioneer Christian missionary and founder of the Orthodox Church of Japan – "a faithful son of the Orthodox Church who unswervingly labored for good and gave himself totally to his apostolic service." A personage of uncommon charisma and dedication, he served as pastor, educator, linguist, ethnographer, and patron of the arts and was admired and venerated by Orthodox faithful and non-believers alike, both within Japan and beyond its shores. At the time of his repose in 1912, after 48 years in Japan, St. Nicholas left "1 cathedral, 8 churches, 276 chapels, 175 meeting houses, 34 priests, 8 deacons, 115 lay catechists and 34,110 Orthodox faithful.

Offerings Week of February 3

Relics candle: in memory of Ivanna; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalie, Anastasia and Ivanna; for the health of Mark; in honor of the Holy Theotokos.

Olive Oil: for the health of Stacey (birthday).

Wine: in thanksgiving to God for all blessings and for Mariana, Stefan, Simona, Gabriel, Kurt and Tabitha.

Flowers: in honor of St. Nichoals of Japan and for the health of Nicholas (Names Day); in memory of Andrey & Marfa Kalagov

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Feb. 03, 1929 Jonah Lasin

Feb. 04, 1973 Mary Bolash

Feb. 04, 1975 Pelagia Grishkivech

Feb. 05, 1958 Theodore Andreosky

Feb. 07, 1931 Basil Petrovsky

Feb. 07, 1970 Tatiana Gumenuk

Feb. 08, 1953 John Andreosky

Feb. 09, 1972 Fr. Nikifor Besmertnuk
(rector 1925)

Feb. 09, 1988 Anna Karel

Feb. 09, 2007 Vincent Chwat

Coffee Hour Schedule

Feb. 03 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Feb. 10 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina
& Sarchisian

Counters Schedule

Feb. 03 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.

Feb. 10 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

Ushers Schedule

Feb. 03 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Feb. 10 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Readers Schedule

Feb. 03 Austin K. / Feb. 10 Cameron P.

Scrip Fund-Raising Program

Is on-going. Speak with Pam Stone for cards: gas stations, restaurants, super-markets, department stores, etc. Lots of choices. Great for your own usage, or as gift cards.

Check On-Line Calendar on website

Feb. 13/20/27 Wed. Study Classes 7-8:30p.m.

Feb. 20 & 22 Fast Free Wed. & Fri.

Feb. 23/Sat. Memorial Saturday of Departed

Mar. 03/Sun. Meat-Fare Sunday

Mar. 10/Sun. Cheese-fare Sunday

Mar. 10/Sun. Forgiveness Vespers 12:30p.m.

Mar. 11/Mon. Great Lent Begins

Apr. 21/Sun. Western Easter

Apr. 28/Sun. Holy Pascha (Orthodox Easter)

June 1-2 Sat/Sun. Archbishop Michael Visitation

The Blessing of Homes Season for 2019

The season is from Jan. 7th thru Feb. 28th. Homes are blessed by appointment with Fr. James.

Inclement Weather Changes to Calendar

If it is necessary to cancel or change something on the parish schedule, this will be indicated through 1) the Parish E-Mail; 2) Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Face Book; 3) and on the Parish Website – www.sspoc.org

Holy Water Available All Year

The large Fount stored in the coatroom has blessed water for your usage all year. Bring a vessel and take the waters home.

Thanks for luncheon

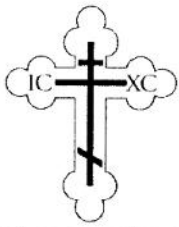
Thank you church school children and teachers for the very nice luncheon you served us last Sunday!

A Word to Parishioners That be Ill, Going for Surgery; Having a Medical Procedure; Being Hospitalized or In Rehabilitation Centers; Or Shut-In in Their Home

The Prayers and sacramental ministries of the Church are offered, as our Lord Jesus Christ is the Physician of souls and bodies. We ought to avail ourselves of the spiritual means of healing, along with medical means. Be sure your priest is aware of your particular needs in a timely way.

Names Day Greetings

St. Nicholas/Feb. 3rd: Nicholas Torrisi, Many Blessed Years!



St. Nicholas

Equal to the Apostles ❖ Archbishop of Japan

On August 2, 1836 in Smolensk Province, Russia, Ivan Dmitriyevich Kasatkin was born to a poor deacon, Dimitry, and his wife. Ivan's mother died when he was only five years old. Because Ivan was very intelligent and succeeded greatly as a student he was trained in excellent theological schools: Smolensk Seminary and the famous St. Petersburg Theological Academy.

In 1860 the path to be a missionary to Japan was opened for St. Nicholas. Because of his remarkable talents in his scholarly endeavors, the rector of the St. Petersburg Academy wanted him to teach seminarians. In that same year, there was a request for a priest to serve the Russian consulate in Japan. Without hesitation Ivan expressed his desire to be a missionary: "I have a strong resolution in my heart to preach Christianity and enlighten the foreign people."

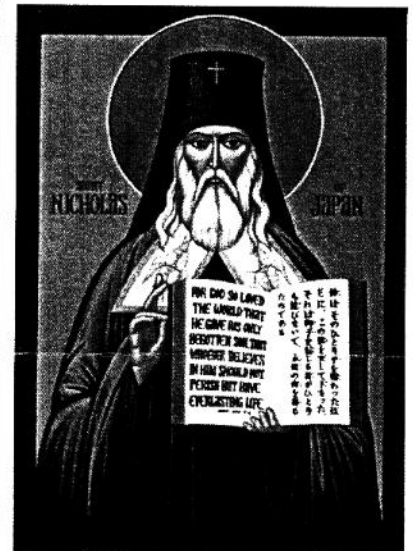
June 1860 became a life-changing month for Ivan. He took monastic vows, was tonsured with the new name Nicholas, was ordained deacon as well as priest and started his journey to Japan.

The 6000 mile voyage was long and difficult. Leaving in June 1860 it took until July 2, 1861 to arrive in Hakodate, Japan. Taking along the icon of the Smolensk Mother of God, he traveled by horse and carriage over the Ural Mountains and the Siberian Desert. Due to winter weather he was delayed in Nikolaevsk.

What a glorious interruption! It was in Nikolaevsk that he met Bishop Veniaminov (St. Innocent, Apostle of America and Siberia). This venerable missionary taught Nicholas all that was necessary to do mission work as an Orthodox believer. St. Innocent told Nicholas to first learn Japanese and translate the Bible. He said that Nicholas would face struggles, disappointments, despair and loneliness but that he must persevere. After much study, he assured the young man, the unfamiliar customs and language of the people would one day become Nicholas' own.

Nicholas later revealed that he dreamed a lot about his Japan. He knew that "the Japanese of that time regarded foreigners as beasts and considered Christianity to be a vicious church to which only notorious evildoers and magicians could belong." He also recollected, "I imagined it (Japan) to be like a bride waiting for me with a floral bouquet in her hands. When news of Christ flooded through its darkness, everything would be renewed. How disillusioning it was for me to arrive in Japan and see something the complete opposite of what I had imagined! I arrived, looked around and saw that my bride was asleep, and was not even thinking about me."

For the first eight years of his missionary life Nicholas did much studying of the Japanese: their language, culture, history, **mythology**, literature, religions (Confucianism, Shintoism, Buddhism). He tried to understand the mind of the Japanese. He translated service books, prayer books, **catechism** books and scripture. In 1871 he published a special Russian-Japanese Orthodox theological dictionary, and in 1877 he began several publications including the Orthodox Herald and a women's literary magazine.



Quote

I have a strong resolution in my heart to preach Christianity and enlighten the foreign people.

St. Nicholas

Date Born

August 1, 1836 in Berezovsky, Volsk district, Smolensk Province, Russia

Date Died

February 3, 1912

Place Buried

Yanaka Cemetary, Tokyo, Japan

Commemoration Date

February 3rd



St. Nicholas' method of evangelization is a true model of Orthodox missionary effort. He concentrated on the family, respected the people and loved them as persons.

Nicholas persevered, and the Orthodox grew in numbers in Japan. There were times of struggle. In 1871 the Christians in Japan were persecuted. Then there was a change and the church grew. In 1880 Nicholas was consecrated bishop in Russia and went to Tokyo where he built Holy Resurrection Cathedral lovingly called Nicholai-do meaning the house that Nicholas built.

Another time of struggle was during the Russo-Japanese War of 1905. During this period Bishop Nicholas did not serve public Divine Services at which prayers for Japanese victory would have had to be offered. But he counseled the people to do what they needed to and found a way to help the Russian prisoners of war. Because of his remarkable efforts during this time he was consecrated archbishop. He continued his saintly work until February 1912 when he peacefully departed to the Lord.

On April 10, 1970 the Church of Russia headed by Patriarch Alexis I of Moscow *glorified* the Holy Hierarch as a saint. He is venerated in Japan as a great righteous one and prayerful intercessor before God. St. Nicholas is buried in the Yanaka Cemetary, Tokyo, Japan and is commemorated on February 3.

Troparion (Tone 4)

O holy Saint Nicholas
The enlightener of Japan,
You share a dignity and the throne of the Apostles;
You are a wise and faithful servant of Christ,
A temple chosen by the Divine Spirit,
A vessel overflowing with the love of Christ.
O hierarch equal to the Apostles,
Pray to the Life-Creating Trinity
For all your flock and for the whole world.

References

- "St. Nicholas, Equal of the Apostles and Archbishop of Japan,"
OCA- Feasts and Saints: Life of a Saint, Orthodox Church in America.
http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsLife.asp?FSID_100419

Key Terms

Mythology - a collection of traditional stories presented as historical.

Glorify - to honor, bless a person to be called a saint.

Catechism - religious doctrine.



OCA REJECTS RECOGNITION OF UKRAINIAN SCHISMATIC CHURCH, CONTINUES TO SUPPORT, RECOGNIZE ONLY MET. ONUPHRY

Syosset, New York, January 29, 2019

Photo: oca.org

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) released an archpastoral letter yesterday, January 28, concerning the Ukrainian crisis. The letter, signed by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon of All America and Canada and the rest of the bishops of the Holy Synod, seeks “to provide our clergy and faithful with some direction and perspective in dealing with the impact that these global issues are having on our local communities in North America,” while noting that it is the Ukrainian faithful who are suffering, first and foremost, and who are in need of our prayers.

The bishops support the call for a pan-Orthodox solution to the problem that has been made by so many other Churches, and express the hope that such a process will be initiated by Patriarch Bartholomew.

In particular, the Synod denies recognition of the Ukrainian schismatic church and continues to recognize only the canonical Church headed by His Beatitude Metropolitan Onuphry of Kiev and All Ukraine.

The Synod begins by noting that the immediate cause of the present crisis is the recent events in Ukraine, but that underlying disagreements about ecclesiology, territorial jurisdiction, and canonical principles are the broader cause.

The bishops also note that a solution to these problems can only come “from the conciliar and synodal process present in the Church’s tradition, a process that, in the face of the Ukrainian situation, has been advocated by others throughout the Orthodox Church and which our Holy Synod wholeheartedly endorses.”

The letter then recalls the jurisdictional and canonical problems present in America as well while noting that the canonical tradition should not be used as a weapon “wielded for conquest but a remedy to be applied for the healing of human souls.” Further, such disputes should not be resolved legally or by government interference, the Synod writes, but “in the spirit of humility and meekness offered by our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Synod also recalls and reaffirms its support for Met. Tikhon's letter of September 26 in which he also stressed the need for dialogue in resolving the Ukrainian crisis. Since then, as the letter notes, there have been significant developments: the Moscow Patriarchate's breaking of communion with Constantinople, the creation by Constantinople of a new church "consisting of two schismatic groups," and the granting of a tomos of autocephaly.

The bishops express their "deep sorrow and distress" over these developments, especially the rupturing of communion, and their "hope and fervent prayer" that a path to the restoration of communion will be found. Committed to unity, the bishops intend to maintain communion with all the Local Orthodox Churches, call on their clergy and faithful to pray for the suffering Ukrainian faithful, and express the hope that Constantinople will initiate a Church-wide discussion on primacy and synodality in union with the primates of the Orthodox Churches.

Further, "With respect to the Church in Ukraine, the Holy Synod of Bishops has determined at this time:

- To continue to recognize and support Metropolitan Onufry as the canonical head and Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church;
- To withhold, with several of our sister Churches, recognition of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine;
- That no changes be made to the diptychs, noting that the Orthodox Church in America has not been formally requested to make such changes;
- That communion between clergy and faithful of all canonical Orthodox jurisdictions in North America be maintained and that any specific questions concerning the concelebration of clergy be directed to the local diocesan bishop; and
- That our clergy and faithful preserve an attitude of sobriety and restraint in any public discussions of these matters."

The letter concludes by decriing the presence of schisms in the Church and calling for all the faithful to greatly value and defend the unity of the Church that the Lord calls us to.

**The Letter of the Holy Synod you may read on the OCA website
www.oca.org or Diocese of NY-NJ www.ocanynj.org or Face Book,
Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church**