

St. Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church

Stavropigia of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Very Reverend Bohdan Zhoba, Rector

Blessing of the Candles

Bulletin for Sunday, February 23, 2020



817 North 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123 - stnicholaseoc.org



Why Do We Bless Candles on the Feast Day of the “Meeting of the Lord”?



On the 40th day after the Nativity of our Lord, St. Simeon encountered Jesus in the Temple when He was presented – “offered” – to God. This Feast Day is called “The Meeting of the Lord” or the “Feast of the Presentation” and was celebrated this past Saturday, February 15. Another name for the Feast is “The Candles” because it is the custom to bless candles on this day. And Father Bohdan did just that – blessed our candles ~ on the Feast Day and then invited parishioners on Sunday, February 16, to take a blessed candle home. He instructed that the lighted blessed candle should be placed before a Holy Icon when we pray to God for His Divine protection in times of distress and need.

Father Bohdan was asked why candles are blessed on this Feast Day. The answer: when St. Simeon took the Child Jesus into his arms, he was inspired by the Holy Spirit and chanted a hymn referring to Jesus as the “Light to the Gentiles.” The hymn prompted the first Christians to carry a lighted candle in the procession that day, symbolizing the mystical presence of the “True Light” ~ Jesus.

Burning candles also creates a more prayerful feeling in church. They remind us that our prayers should come from a heart “burning” with love of God. Candles intensify our prayers; and the flame symbolizes the continuation of our prayers even if we are not physically in the church.

Father Bohdan’s Sermon – Sunday, February 16, 2020

Luke 15:11-32

Today is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. We have heard this Scripture reading of the father and his two sons many times. And I know some of you struggle with its spiritual message because this is a parable that we have personal experience with: The dutiful good child devotes his entire life to his father and family, sacrificing his independence. And then there is the brother or sister who strays from the family, doing his own thing, neglectful, disrespectful, could not care less about father, mother or family. And then returns home only to receive a joyous welcome....a party....a celebration!

The spiritual message is that if you have sinned and are truly repentant as the Prodigal Son was, you can return to God the Father and be accepted by Him with great joy no matter what you have done. And those who have not fallen should not resent those who come back. They should share in their Father's joy. But there is an additional lesson for you today: the Prodigal Son parable is written in the Bible. And if you believe the Bible is God’s word, then you should accept all that is written within. Do not debate the message. Do not struggle with the meaning. Simply believe the Bible...for THESE ARE THE WORDS OF GOD. AMEN.



Bulletin for Sunday, February 23, 2020

- **Saturday, February 22: Vespers, 5:00 PM**
- **Sunday, February 23: Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM – Meatfare Sunday; All Souls Panikhida**
- **Saturday, February 29: Vespers, 5:00 PM**
- **Sunday, March 1: Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM – Cheesefare Sunday; Forgiveness Vespers**



Pre-Easter Calendar

Sunday, March 1	Cheesefare – Forgiveness – Sunday (“Cheese Blintzes” Fellowship Lunch)
Monday, March 2	Great Lent Begins
Friday, March 6	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 pm
Friday, March 13	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 14	*Soul Saturday: Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am and Panikhida
Friday, March 20	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 21	*Soul Saturday: Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am and Panikhida
Friday, March 27	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 28	*Soul Saturday: Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am and Panikhida
Friday, April 3	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 pm
Friday, April 10	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00 pm
Saturday, April 11	SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY and lowering of chandelier
Sunday, April 12	Palm Sunday (“Potato Pancake” Fellowship Lunch)
Wednesday, April 15	Healing Service
Thursday, April 16	Holy Thursday
Friday, April 17	Holy Friday
Saturday, April 18	Holy Saturday; Blessing of Easter Baskets
Sunday April 19	PASCHA EASTER; Blessing of Easter Baskets
Monday, April 20	Bright Monday

***NOTE:** We are suggesting a donation of \$25 for the reading of the names of your beloved departed on all three Soul Saturdays. See Ellen in the Candle Room.

SOUL SATURDAYS: In addition to Panikhidas for individuals, there are also several days during the year that are set aside as special general commemorations of the dead, when all departed Orthodox Christians will be prayed for together (this is especially to benefit those who have no one on earth to pray for them). The majority of these general commemorations fall on the various **SOUL SATURDAYS**. During Great Lent, Soul Saturdays will be **March 14, 21 and 28**. The Divine Liturgy service will begin at 10:00 AM, followed by the Panikhida. Please leave the names of your beloved departed and your donation (we are requesting a \$25 donation) in the Candle Room for these special Panikhidas. We have on file the names submitted by parishioners last year, and the list is in the Candle Room. Please double check your names when you leave your donation. Bread and koliva will be offered during these Panikhidas.

Reminder!

CONFESSIONS will be heard on:

- **FRIDAYS at 6:00 pm during Pre-Sanctified Liturgy;**
 - **SATURDAYS at 5:00 PM at Vespers;**
 - **SOUL SATURDAYS at 9:30 AM before Divine Liturgy; and**
- **SUNDAYS at 9:00 AM before Divine Liturgy**

Please remember our
homebound parishioner:
Ms. Anna Kuliasha
St. Martha Rehabilitation Center
470 Manor Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335
Tel: 610-873-8490

- **Sisterhood Annual Dues for 2020: \$10 (please see Barbara Latsios or Diane Kavchok)**
- **Annual Dues for 2020: \$150 for individuals; \$300 for families (please see Ellen Hanavin)**

**Payment is easy: cash, check, credit card (in person or online through our Church website – stnicholaseoc.org – DONATE tab).
THANK YOU!**

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!



Four members of our Church family celebrated birthdays this past week:
Oksana Petriv, Eve Edwards, Phil Hanavin and Michael Kuchmiak
Many Happy and Healthy Years!



THINKING AHEAD: Because the gift basket raffle at our Pierogi Festival last year was such a success, parishioner Renee Murphy had an idea how to make this year's raffle *even better*. She is collecting your unwanted gifts and/or gift cards that you wish to donate to the Church. Then, over the next several months, Renee will create attractive gift baskets for our **Pierogi Festival 2020 (November 7-8)**. She is already soliciting businesses for gift card donations! **Please drop off your unused items in the Church Office.**



Donations to the Building Fund 2020

- In Memory of Victoria Patterson from Diane Kavchok, Renee Murphy, Vicki Borriello, and Gail Osborn

**Our Journey to Pascha:
Meatfare Sunday**

Today is the last day to eat meat and meat products until Easter. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

fast and pray

CLERGY

Very Reverend Bohdan Zhoba, Rector

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Email sneoc100@gmail.com to contribute information to this Bulletin. Info must be received by **WEDNESDAY** to be published in the Sunday Bulletin.
Publisher: Susan Guz; Editor: Fr. Bohdan



CHURCH COUNCIL

- Thomas J. Hanney, President
- Susan Guz, Vice-President
- Ellen Hanavin, Treasurer
- Frank Borriello, Secretary

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

- Thomas J. Hanney
- Frank Borriello
- Susan Guz
- George Latsios
- Serge Loginow

SUNDAY VIGILS

LIT TODAY

Altar Candles: \$35; Analoï Candles: \$25
Sunday Vigils: \$2; Annual Vigils: \$100

SUNDAY VIGILS

1. For the health of our sister/ Aunt Gail Osborn on her birthday, love Renee, Frank, Alex and Matt
2. For the health of our sister/ Aunt Karen Niehoff on her birthday, love Renee, Frank, Alex and Matt
3. For the health of our niece, Nicole Niehoff, on her 40th birthday, love Aunt Renee, Uncle Frank, Alex and Matt
4. In memory of our mother/ mom-mom, Lillian Fox, on her birthday, love Renee, Frank, Alex and Matt
5. In memory of infant Peter, on his birthday, love Renee, Frank, Alex and Matt
6. In memory of our Aunt, Joan Lex, on the first anniversary of her passing, love Renee, Frank, Alex and Matt
7. For the health of my sister, Karen Niehoff, on her birthday, Love, Gail
8. In memory of my nephew, infant Peter Niehoff, Love, Aunt Gail
9. For the health of my niece, Nicole Niehoff, on her 40th birthday, Love, Aunt Gail
10. For the health of Gail Osborn on her birthday, offered by Diane Kavchok
11. For the health of Tom Hanney, on his birthday, Love, Judy, Alexandra, Lloyd, Aidan, Anastasia and Kirk
12. For the health of Gail Osborn, on her birthday, from the Sisterhood
13. For the health of Tamara Fedec-Thornton, on her birthday, from the Sisterhood
14. For the health of Oksana Petriv, on her birthday, from the Sisterhood
15. For the health of our daughter, Dawn Healey, and for a successful surgery, Love, Mom and Dad



*Father Bohdan blessed the
David Rocco Art Gallery in
Center City Philadelphia,
1001 Locust Street,
on Tuesday,
February 18, 2020*



*"O God our Savior, the True Light, Who was baptized *in the Jordan by the Prophet John, and Who did deign to enter under the roof-tree of Zacchaeus, bringing salvation unto him and unto his house: do You, the same Lord, keep safe also from harm those who dwell herein; grant to them Your blessing, purification and bodily health, and all their petitions that are unto salvation and Life everlasting; for blessed are You, as also Your Father Who is from everlasting, and Your All; Holy, Good and Life; creating Spirit, both now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen."*



**David Rocco
invited
Father
Bohdan to his
Art Gallery
to receive
Father's
Blessings.**



An icon of Saint Olga was presented to David Rocco, who was eager to display it in his Gallery. Saint Olga is the patron saint to those who embrace and convert to the Orthodox faith.





ANNUAL VIGILS

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1. +The Repose of the soul of Carol Dantine, offered by David Dantine, Jr. and Family. exp. 11/1/21
2. +The Repose of the souls of George and Barbara Wohar, offered by Barbara McMonigle and Family. exp. 11/1/20
3. +The Repose of the souls of John and Helen Guz, and John and Mary Dzwonczyk, offered by daughters/granddaughters Patricia Walker and Susan Guz. exp. 12/31/20
4. +The Repose of the souls of Helen and Michael Zaruba, and Christina and Christopher Natale. May Their Memory Be Eternal. Offered with love by Daughter/Sister/Aunt, Marcia O'Connor. exp. 10/1/20
5. +The Repose of the souls of the Kucheruk Family, Matrona, Constantine, George, William, Anthony, Anna, John "Whitey" and Helen Horbacz. exp. 7/1/20
6. +The Repose of the souls of All Members of the Sisterhood Fallen Asleep in the Lord, offered by the Sisterhood of the Pokrova. exp. 10/13/20
7. +The Repose of the souls of the Boljarevich Family, Anastasia (Nancy) Yarosh, Helen Kon, Helen and John "Whitey" Horbacz, Harry Mason, Sophie Gamble, Michael Zaruba and John Martin. PERPETUAL
8. +The Repose of the soul of my beloved husband, our devoted father and grandfather, Jack Kavchok. May his memory be eternal! Offered with love, Diane, John, Michael, Melissa, Makenzie, Riley and Kylie. exp. 8/1/20
9. +The Repose of the souls of Emil and Helen Levchenko offered by daughter, Ellen Hanavin. exp. 12/31/20
10. +The Repose of the souls of Irina and Michael Sierp, Konstantin, Olga, Lydia and Juris Teterski, Richard Boswell, and the health of all living members of the Teterski, Sierp, Boswell and Lis Families, offered by Susan Lis. exp. 9/18/20
11. +The Repose of the soul of our mother and grandmother, Helen Marx, offered by Victoria, Frank, Christopher, Stephanie, Julia, Nicholas, Krissy, Nathan and Morgan Borriello. exp. 4/19/20
12. +In memory of John and Susan Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/20
13. +In memory of Paul Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. Exp. 12/31/20
14. +In memory of Vera, Richard and Paul Wienckowski, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/20
15. +In memory of Evelyn Atlee, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 12/31/20
16. +In memory of Nadia Borriello, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 5/31/20
17. +In loving memory of our mother Lillian Fox, offered by Renee, Gail, Karen & Families, exp. 8/1/20
18. +The Repose of the souls of the Kowal Family: Andrew, Paraskeva, Andrew, Catherine, Susan, John, Nionila, Anna, David, Franklin Shultz and Edward Barrett, offered by Drew Kowal. exp. 11/1/20
19. For the health of Mykhailo, Tetiana, David, Svitlana, Vitality, Marina, Viktor, Ilona, Bogdan, Oleksandra, Volodymyr, Halyna, Victoria, Mykola, Father Bohdan Zhoba and his family, and in memory of Mykhailo, Yaroslav, Anna, Petro, Bohdan, newly-departed Anna, Veronika, Tetiana, Oleksander, Diana, Olga, Hrustyna, Dimitriy and Diana, offered by Michael, Tetiana and David Kuchmiak. exp. 12/31/20
20. For the health of Dmitry, Olga, Denis, Anna, Aetyom, Ludmila, Vladyslav, Tatiyna, Sofiya, Konstantin, Vladimir, Natalia, Ludmila, and in memory of Boris, Evdokiya, Nina, Oleg, Anna, Raisa, Leonid, Valerii, Zinaida, offered by Denis and Anna Bivoino. exp. 3/1/20
21. +In memory of Vladimir, offered by Denis and Anna Bivoino. exp. 3/1/20
22. +The Repose of the soul of Andrej Cebotarev (+July 2018), offered by brother Zlatko Plese. exp. 4/1/20
23. For the health of Olga, Albina, Pavel and Elizaveta, offered by Olga Fitzgerald. exp. 5/1/20
24. +In memory of my beloved parents, Nadejda and Carlos Davidyan, and for the health and protection of my son, Karlos, offered by Era Carter. exp. 6/1/20
25. For the health of Vasyl, Maria, Anna, Mykhailyna, Viktor, Oksana, Volodymyra, Anna-Diana, Olga, Mykola, Olga, Marianna, Oksana, Volodymyra, Olga, Roman, Volodymyr, Iryna-Olesia, Bohdan and Angelina, offered by Oksana and Victor Voloshnovskyy. exp. 9/1/20
26. +The Repose of the souls of Stephen and Helen V. Sameruck, offered by Barbara Latsios, Judy Hanney and families. exp. 10/25/20

THE SCRIPTURE READING FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEATFARE)



PRIEST: Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

READER: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon in the 3rd Tone: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

CHOIR: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

READER: Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

CHOIR: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the Corinthians.

PRIEST: Let us attend!

READER: Brothers...But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. **(1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2)**

PRIEST: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

READER: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! **CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

READER: In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope. Let me not be put to shame!
Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

PRIEST: Let us attend. When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. **(Matthew 25:31-46)**

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

You Are Invited To A
CHEESEFARE SUNDAY BRUNCH
in our Church Hall

Sunday, March 1, 2020
following Church Services

serving
CHEESE BLINTZES
from Bell's Market

with a variety of jams and jellies

A St. Nicholas Church Tradition

