

St. Nicholas Newsletter

February 2024

Schedule for The Presentation of our Lord



Thursday, Feb 1st - 5pm Festal Orthros;
6pm Festal Liturgy followed by *Dinner Outing*

On the fortieth day following our Lord Jesus Christ's birth on December 25th, we celebrate His Presentation at the temple on February 2nd.

In St. Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph took the infant Christ to the Temple in Jerusalem. He was received into the arms of the elder Simeon, who then prayed, "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace...for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation."

Often referred to as The Meeting of the Lord, or, sometimes, Candlemas, this feast includes the blessing of candles that will be used by the community in the temple and at home.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 4:6

If you would like to have candles blessed to be used during prayer at home, please bring them to the Festal Liturgy on Feb 1st.

[Click for more information](#)

Celebrations

God grant you many years!

Birthdays

Samuel Bell - Feb 1st
Nancy Scherer - Feb 1st
James Strickland - Feb 2nd
Georgeta Galbraith - Feb 4th
John Bailey - Feb 7th
Tom Salem - Feb 7th
Anthony Albert - Feb 10th
Violet Strickland - Feb 10th
Mark King - Feb 11th
Sonia Loy - Feb 13th
Megan Paunov - Feb 18th

Namedays

Janna Strickland - Feb 1st St. Brigid of Ireland
Rich Ratliff - Feb 7th St. Richard of Wessex
Leo Hale - Feb 18th St. Leo

Wedding Anniversaries

Bryan & Alaina Yurchak - Feb 10th
Scott & Janna Strickland - Feb 12th
Jason & Kristin Potoski - Feb 27th

based on returned 2024 stewardship & membership forms

2024 Stewardship & Membership Forms

2024 Stewardship & Membership forms are currently available. Please prayerfully consider what you are willing and able to financially contribute to the operation and functioning of our growing parish community to support its various ministries and services. This is an annual responsibility of everyone in our parish!

Access the print or online form by clicking the image below.



*Make your
Financial
Pledge Here*

**Stewardship
2024**

St. Nicholas of Japan

Equal to the Apostles

February 16th



Icon by Aidan Hart

Saint Nicholas, Enlightener of Japan, was born Ivan Dimitrievich Kasatkin on August 1, 1836 in the village of Berezovsk, Belsk district, Smolensk diocese, where his father served as deacon. At the age of five he lost his mother. He completed the Belsk religious school, and afterwards the Smolensk Theological Seminary. In 1857 Ivan Kasatkin entered the Saint Peterburg Theological Academy. On June 24, 1860, in the academy temple of the Twelve Apostles, Bishop Nectarius tonsured him with the name Nicholas.

On June 29, the Feast of the foremost Apostles Peter and Paul, the monk Nicholas was ordained deacon. The next day, on the altar feast of the academy church, he was ordained to the holy priesthood. Later, at his request, Father Nicholas was assigned to Japan as head of the consular church in the city of Hakodate.

At first, the preaching of the Gospel in Japan seemed completely impossible. In Father Nicholas's own words: "the Japanese of the time looked upon foreigners as beasts, and on Christianity as a villainous sect, to which only villains and sorcerers could belong." He spent eight years in studying the country, the language, manners and customs of the people among whom he would preach.

In 1868, the flock of Father Nicholas numbered about twenty Japanese. At the end of 1869 Hieromonk Nicholas reported in person to the Synod in Peterburg about his work. A decision was made, on January 14, 1870, to form a special Russian Spiritual Mission for preaching

the Word of God among the pagan Japanese. Father Nicholas was elevated to the rank of archimandrite and appointed as head of this Mission.

Returning to Japan after two years in Russia, he transferred some of the responsibility for the Hakodate flock to Hieromonk Anatolius, and began his missionary work in Tokyo. In 1871 there was a persecution of Christians in Hakodate. Many were arrested (among them, the first Japanese Orthodox priest Paul Sawabe). Only in 1873 did the persecution abate somewhat, and the free preaching of Christianity became possible.

In this year Archimandrite Nicholas began the construction of a stone building in Tokyo

which housed a church, a school for fifty men, and later a religious school, which became a seminary in 1878.

In 1874, Bishop Paul of Kamchatka arrived in Tokyo to ordain as priests several Japanese candidates recommended by Archimandrite Nicholas. At the Tokyo Mission, there were four schools: for catechists, for women, for church servers, and a seminary. At Hakodate there were two separate schools for boys and girls.

In the second half of 1877, the Mission began regular publication of the journal "Church Herald." By the year 1878 there already 4115 Christians in Japan, and there were a number of Christian communities. Church services and classes in Japanese, the publication of religious and moral books permitted the Mission to attain such results in a short time. Archimandrite Nicholas petitioned the Holy Synod in December of 1878 to provide a bishop for Japan.

Archimandrite Nicholas was consecrated bishop on March 30, 1880 in the Trinity Cathedral of Alexander Nevsky Lavra. Returning to Japan, he resumed his apostolic work with increased fervor. He completed construction on the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Tokyo, he translated the service books, and compiled a special Orthodox theological dictionary in the Japanese language.

Great hardship befell the saint and his flock at the time of the Russo-Japanese War. For his ascetic labor during these difficult years, he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop.

In 1911, half a century had passed since the young hieromonk Nicholas had first set foot on Japanese soil. At that time there were 33,017 Christians in 266 communities of the Japanese Orthodox Church, including 1 Archbishop, 1 bishop, 35 priests,



Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Japan

6 deacons, 14 singing instructors, and 116 catechists.

On February 3, 1912, Archbishop Nicholas departed peacefully to the Lord at the age of seventy-six. The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified him on April 10, 1970, since the saint had long been honored in Japan as a righteous man, and a prayerful intercessor before the Lord.



The Grave of St. Nicholas of Japan in the Yanaka Cemetery, Tokyo, Japan



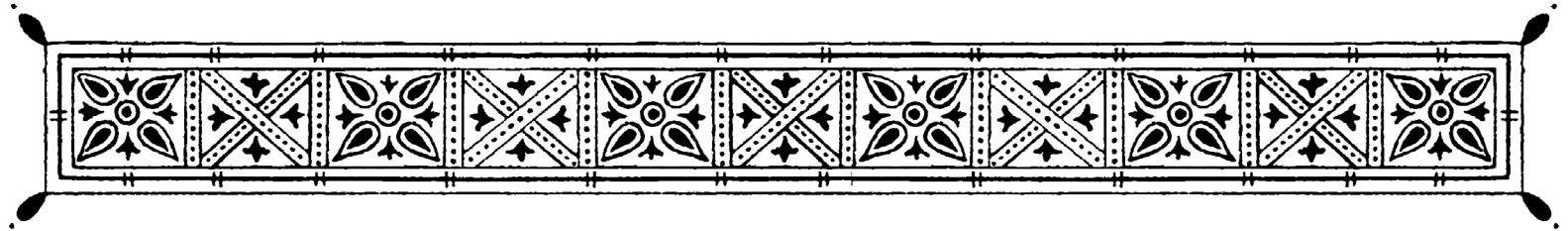
General Parish Assembly

Sunday, February 4th

Please join us after Liturgy for our annual General Parish Assembly on Sunday, February 4 as we review the previous year and highlight our many ministries and services in 2024.

We will hold elections for Parish Council, vote on the 2024 Operational Budget, and discuss the recent Parish Growth Presentation.

This meeting is open to all, but only Orthodox Christians in good standing are eligible to vote. Any questions, please contact Fr. Paul.



Parish Community Growth Presentation

Following Liturgy on Sunday, January 14, some members of our community stayed to participate in a video call presentation with architect Baker Galloway. The discussion highlighted the current needs and the future growth of our parish community.

We were presented with a plan of phases for expanding and constructing new facilities on our existing campus - including some plans for the placement of a new temple on our property. You can access the video presentation and supplementary slideshow through the provided links below.



Property Planning Study

For: St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Springdale, AR
By: Galloway Studio, LLC
14 January 2024

[Click above](#) to view the slideshow presentation containing potential future site plans.

EXISTING PARKING:
42 (2 NEXT PHASE)
NEW PARKING:
+18 NEXT PHASE
+47 W/ TEMPLE
TOTAL
123 X 225
277 PEOPLE ON SITE

Temple pushed to front of site

NORTH

Opportunities:

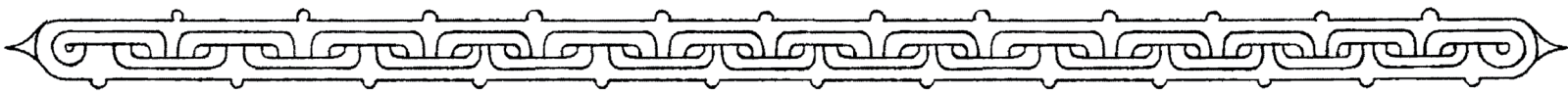
- High Visibility to Community
- Temple positioned as most important building

Challenges:

- Architectural Aesthetic must go with both current buildings

[Click above](#) to watch the presentation given to our community by architect Baker Galloway.

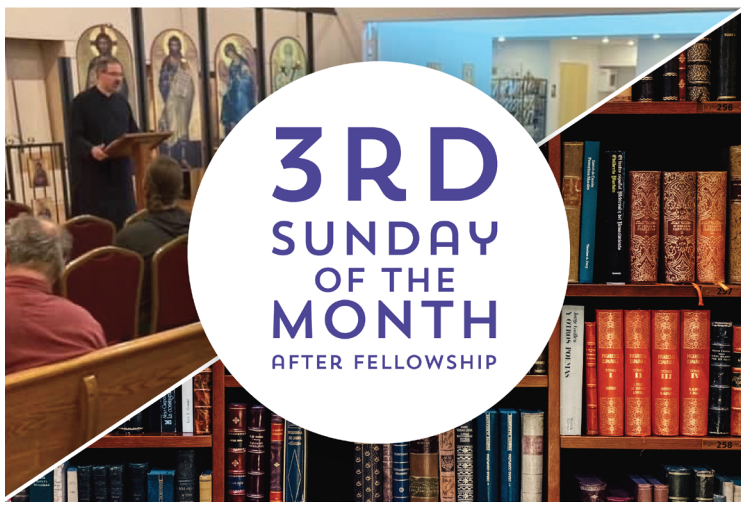
We encourage you to reach out and share your thoughts with our parish leaders!



We will offer an **Adult Education Class** on Sunday, February 18th following Fellowship Hour (approx. 12:30p).



SESSIONS WITH FR. PAUL



All are welcome to attend this monthly Q&A session with Fr. Paul, and all inquirers should participate!

Ministry & Organizational Leaders,

If there is any announcement or advertisement that you would like published in the St. Nicholas Newsletter, please contact Brea Hale. brehale00@gmail.com

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