

**Russian Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ**
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Nativity Services
Christmas Eve,
Tuesday, Jan. 6, 6:30 PM
Christmas Day
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 10 AM

Schedule for the Week of December 14 - 20, 2008

Святитель Николай,

Архиепископ Мир Ликийских, чудотворец

Святитель Николай родился в городе Патаре в Малой Азии (ныне – территория Турции). И был единственным сыном благочестивых родителей Феофана и Нонны. С детских лет он преуспевал в чтении Божественного Писания и молитве, став впоследствии священником, а затем – и епископом города Мир Ликийских.

Житие святителя Николая сохранило для нас множество описаний не только его чудес, совершаемых благодатной силой Божией, но и его необычайного милосердия к людям, стремления помочь им. Чудесным образом он спасал утопающих в море, избавлял невинно осужденных от смерти, помогал нуждающимся и скорбящим.

После его праведной кончины (около 345-351 годов по Рождестве Христовом) святые мощи угодника Божия сохранились нетленными и источали чудесное миро, от которого множество людей получало исцеление. В 1087 году в связи с угрозой нашествия мусульман мощи святителя Николая были перенесены в город Бар (Бари) в Южной Италии, где они почивают и поныне.

Опыт православного благочестия свидетельствует о том, что и в наши дни святитель Николай предстательством своим совершает множество чудес в помощь молящимся ему; не случайно он – любимейший святой русского народа.

Saint Nicholas

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him.

The first Russian Christian prince Askold (+ 882) was baptized in 866 by Patriarch Photius (February 6) with the name Nicholas. Over the grave of Askold, St. Olga

Sunday Dec 14	Prophet Nahum
Thursday Dec 18	Vigil for St. Nicholas 6:30 PM Service
Friday Dec 19	St. Nicholas 9:00 AM Service
Saturday Dec 20	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Dec 21	St Patapius of Thebes 8:30 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Liturgy / Литургия

Притча о Безумном Богаче (беседа на Лк. 12,16-21)

Обращаясь к человеку, который задумал свое богатство хранить, словно оно неотъемлемо от него, Христос говорит: «Безумный, в эту ночь твою жизнь потребуют от тебя обратно – и что тогда?»

За плечами каждого из нас стоит смерть, и об этом напоминает нам Евангелие на каждом шагу. Но напоминает нам не для того, чтобы испугать смертью, а чтобы придать жизни новую, иначе совершенно недостижимую глубину. Мы живем поверхностно, мы живем бесконечным количеством вещей, которые слишком мелки даже для нашего человеческого сердца, даже для человеческого ума. Сколько у человека за один день его жизни проходит мыслей пустых, бесцельных, бесплодных. Сколько чувств чередуется друг за другом в душе, не оставляя никакого глубокого следа, просто так, проходят напрасно, как тучи по летнему небу. Это все слишком мелко для человека, то есть для каждого из нас, и Господь нам постоянно напоминает и в Своем Евангелии, и жизнью, что смерть так удивительно близка, и только она может поставить вещи на место. (Мит. Антоний Сурожский)

(July 11) built the first temple of St. Nicholas in the Russian Church at Kiev. Primary cathedrals were dedicated to St. Nicholas at Izborsk, Ostrov, Mozhaïsk, and Zaraïsk. At Novgorod the Great, one of the main churches of the city, the Nikolo-Dvorischensk church, later became a cathedral.

Famed and venerable churches and monasteries dedicated to St. Nicholas are found at Kiev, Smolensk, Pskov, Toropetsa, Galich, Archangelsk, Great Ustiug, Tobolsk. Moscow had dozens of churches named for the saint, and also three monasteries in the Moscow diocese: the Nikolo-Greek (Staryi) in the Chinese-quarter, the Nikolo-Perervinsk and the Nikolo-Ugreshsk. One of the chief towers of the Kremlin was named the Nikolsk.

Many of the churches devoted to the saint were those established at market squares by Russian merchants, sea-farers and those who traveled by land, venerating the wonderworker Nicholas as a protector of all those journeying on dry land and sea. They sometimes received the name among the people of "Nicholas soaked."

Many village churches in Russia were dedicated to the wonderworker Nicholas, venerated by peasants as a merciful intercessor before the Lord for all the people in their work. And in the Russian land St. Nicholas did not cease his intercession. Ancient Kiev preserves the memory about the miraculous rescue of a drowning infant by the saint. The great wonderworker, hearing the grief-filled prayers of the parents for the loss of their only child, took the infant from the waters, revived him and placed him in the choir-loft of the church of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) before his wonderworking icon. In the morning the infant was found safe by his thrilled parents, praising St. Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Many wonderworking icons of St. Nicholas appeared in Russia and came also from other lands. There is the ancient Byzantine embroidered image of the saint, brought to Moscow from Novgorod, and the large icon painted in the thirteenth century by a Novgorod master. Two depictions of the wonderworker are especially numerous in the Russian Church: St. Nicholas of Zaraïsk, portrayed in full-length, with his right hand raised in blessing and with a Gospel (this image was brought to Ryazan in 1225 by the Byzantine Princess Eupraxia, the future wife of Prince Theodore. She perished in 1237 with her husband and infant son during the incursion of Batu); and St. Nicholas of Mozhaïsk, also in full stature, with a sword in his right hand and a city in his left. This recalls the miraculous rescue of the city of Mozhaïsk from an invasion of enemies, through the prayers of the saint. It is impossible to list all the grace-filled icons of St. Nicholas, or to enumerate all his miracles.

St. Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

Light Bulb

Cartoonists often picture people who have ideas as having light bulbs over their heads. When someone suddenly understands what was previously a mystery to him, we say that he has "seen the light." And that's just what God's word does for us. The "light of the glorious Gospel of Christ" illuminates our lives (2 Cor. 4:4). It helps us understand why people act and react the way they do. God's word actually turns on a light in our hearts and minds, giving us understanding of heavenly truth.

We understand ourselves better because we see our weaknesses and strengths, our foibles, our needs outlined in God's word. The Psalmist specified that God's word gives light to all (Ps. 119; 130). "The entrance of Thy words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." It is a comfort to know that the Bible was not written only for intellectuals or for scholarly people or for theologians, but also for those who are quite average and look to God's word for enlightenment.

Many of us would like to do great things in our lives; whereas, all that God requires of us is that we do the best we can, where we are, with what we have. He asks not success but faithfulness.

Christmas Flower Donation

Please consider a donation for flowers to adorn the church for the Nativity celebration.

In memory/honor of _____
