

**Russian Orthodox Church of the  
Resurrection of Christ**

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**Schedule for the Week of December 20 - 26, 2009**

Sunday Dec 20	St. Ambrose
Saturday Dec 27	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Dec 27	Sunday of the Forefathers Святых Праотец 8:30 AM Confessions, Nocturns 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

**Святитель Николай,  
Архиепископ Мир Ликийских,  
Чудотворец (6/19 Декабря)**

Святитель Николай явил в своей жизни идеал епископского служения. Смиранный, кроткий, милосердный, он носил простые одежды, пищу вкушал постническую, и ту раз в день, вечером. Двери дома святителя были открыты для всех нуждающихся. Оказывая людям помощь и в житейских нуждах, святитель более всего заботился об исцелении греховных язв. Во время гонения на Церковь Христову при императоре Диоклетане (281-305) святитель Николай был заключен за исповедание веры в темницу. Переноса страдания, голод и жажду, он питал союзников словом Божиим и неустанно укреплял в них веру.

**Christmas Donation**

*Please consider a donation to the Church for  
decorating for the Feast of Christ's Nativity:*

From: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank You!*

**Christmas Service Schedule**

*At the Skete, 1201 Hathaway Lane NE:*

Wednesday, January 6, 2010:

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

*The following at St. Mary's OCA Cathedral  
1701 5<sup>th</sup> St NE, Mpls, MN 55413:*

Wednesday, 6:30 PM -- Nativity Vigil

Thursday, January 7, 2010:

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**Мирские заботы и духовная жизнь**

Один брат посетил авву Силуана на горе Синай и, когда увидел трудящихся братьев, сказал старцу: «Не работайте для тленной пищи. Мария избрала благодать». Тогда старец сказал своему ученику: «Захария, дай брату книгу и отведи его в келию, в которой нет ничего внутри».

Когда наступило время еды, около 3-х после полудня, этот брат стал наблюдать за дверью – может кто-либо придет позвать его к трапезе. Но так как никто его не позвал, он пошел к старцу и говорит ему:

--Авва, ели сегодня братья?

--Да, - говорит старец.

--Потому что ты – человек духовный, - ответил ему авва Силуан, - и не имеешь нужды в пище. Мы же, люди плотские, хотим есть, поэтому работаем. Ты же благодать избрал, читая весь день, и не нуждаешься в тленной пище.

Когда монах услышал это, сотворил поклон и сказал:

--Прости меня, авва.

--Все же и Мария имеет нужду в Марфе, - ответил старец, - потому что благодаря Марфе восхваляется Мария.

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 (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, Mozhaik, and Zraisk. 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, seafarers 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.

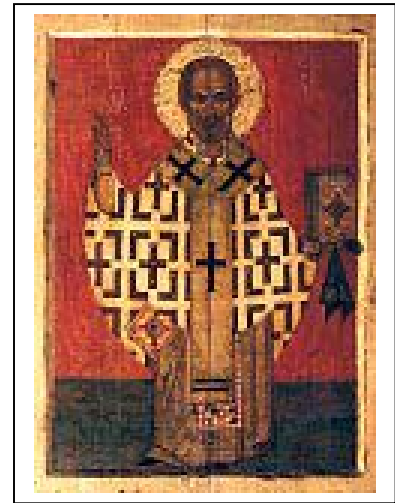
Many wonderworking icons of St. Nicholas appeared in Russia and came also from other lands. There is the ancient Byzantine image of the saint, brought to Moscow from Novgorod, and the large icon painted in the thirteenth century by a Novgorod master.

Two depictions of the wonderworker are especially numerous in the Russian Church: St. Nicholas of Zraisk, 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 Mozhaik, 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 Mozhaik 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.

St. Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).



## *In Memoriam*

*On Friday, December 18, we have learned of the death of two church clergymen:*

Archimandrite JOASAPH (ROCOR), head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem:

<http://www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws/synod/eng2009/12enarchimioasaf.html>

and His Grace Archbishop JOB (OCA) of Chicago and the Midwest:

<http://www.oca.org/news/2032>

May their Memories be Eternal – Вечная Память!