



Saint Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church Shrewsbury Massachusetts
Biserica Ortodoxă Română Sfântul Nicolae Shrewsbury Massachusetts

34 Gold Street, Shrewsbury, MA, 01545

Parish Priest Vasile Aileni

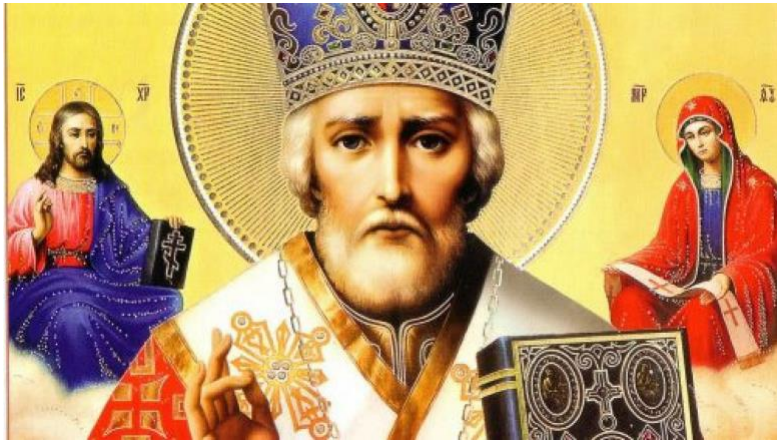
www.stnicholaschurch.org || tell (508) 320 0645



WEEKLY BULLETIN



Sunday December 8, 2024



SAINT NICHOLAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are pleased to announce the holy celebration of our patron saint, Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra. We warmly invite all clergy and faithful to join us in this sacred and joyous occasion. We look forward to celebrating this holy and beloved event together, in faith and fellowship!

CHRISTMAS THE ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL is underway. Our church relies upon the offering of time, talents and treasure from each of us. We ask that you prayerfully consider an offering of time, talents and treasure to sustain our beloved church for the glory of God. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Holiday Season.

MUSTARD SEED MEAL – We need a sponsor/s for our next Mustard Seed Meal on **Friday, December 20th**. We could use this way of giving in memory of our loved ones, for the someone's health, but beyond that is because we want to feed our hungry brothers and sisters. If you have it in your heart to contribute, please contact Betty Anderson (508) 353-9449.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DECEMBER 25th - The rehearsal will start this coming Sunday after liturgy, so if you would like for your child/children to participate, please bring them to church. **Here is the schedule for December:**
November 30th- Sunday after Liturgy; December 1st - Sunday after Liturgy; November 23rd - at 6 Saturday; December 7th- at 5 pm; December 14th at 6pm; December 15th- after Liturgy
December 21—at 6; December 22- after Liturgy
December 25th, Christmas Day- pageant after Liturgy.



The Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Apostol: Ephesians 6:10-17; Gospel: Luke 13:10-17
(Jesus Heals the Woman with Osteoporosis)
Tone 7 † Resurrection Gospel 2

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE:

Thursday - Dec 5: 6:00pm Vespers, Refreshments will follow;
Friday - Dec. 6: 9:00am Matins; 10:00am Divine Liturgy;
Saturday - Dec. 7: 6:00 pm – Vespers;
Sunday - Dec. 8: 9:00 am – Matins; 10:00 the Divine Liturgy;
12:00 pm Brotherly Agape/Luncheon;

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.





Fasting alone is not enough without acts of mercy!

“Why is mercy so crucial? “Because merciful love or showing kindness to those in need is the beginning of man’s resemblance to the Merciful God. God desires not only our gratitude towards Him but also our mercy toward those in need.”
Patriarch Daniel

Happy Birthday! God Grant You Many More Years!

Dec 1 - Sophia Morris
Dec 4 - Irli Ilie Durmillari
Dec 5 – Athina Ellis
Dec 6 - Nikolla Endriko
Dec 8 - Monika Maria Durmillari
Dec 9 - Michael Anthony Prizio
Dec 15 – Dan Manescu
Dec 25 – Stefan Hortopan

Let us Pray for the good health of:

Fr. Daniel Adrian, Monica, Maria Elizabeth, Rooney, Ekaterina, Psa Ileana, Psa Camelia, Anca, John, Luiza, Margareta, Marius-Nicolae, Viorica, Loredana-Anca, Teodora, Joanne, Deborah-Ann, Fr. Stefan and his son Andrei, Elena, Maria, Maria, Cristi, for their health and for their salvation! Amin!

Dates to remember:

December 1 - NATIONAL DAY OF ROMANIA
December 5 - Great Vespers service
December - Divine Liturgy service
December 7 - Vespers service
December 8 - Divine Liturgy
December 25 - **The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**
December 26 - **Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos**
December 27 - **St. Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr**

A Prayer of Fr. Laurence

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD! We glorify you, Lord Jesus Christ, for allowing us to know you. Everything we have belongs to you and we possess nothing of our own, for it is you who gave us all we have. By coming into our midst, you show us how to let go of everything, and by the poverty of your birth, you teach us to be attached to nothing. As we prepare for the celebration of your earthly birthday, O Christ, keep our hearts fixed only on you, so that we may always sing: Glory to God in the heights; on earth peace, and among all love and understanding. For you are God and we give you glory together with your Father Who is without beginning, and your all holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen!



Day	Date	Time	LITURGICAL SCHEDULE
December			
Thursday	5-Dec	6:00 PM	Great Vespers & Artoklasia
Friday	6-Dec	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy - †) Saint Nicholas - Archbishop of Mira & Wonderworker
Saturday	7-Dec	6:00 PM	Vespers
Sunday	8-Dec	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	Sunday 27 after Pentecost - “Jesus Heals the Woman with Osteoporosis”
Sunday	15-Dec	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	Sunday 28 after Pentecost - “Sunday of the Holy Ancestor - The Parable of the Great Banquet”
Sunday	22-Dec	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	The Sunday before the Nativity - Sunday of the Holy Ancestors of the Lord. The Genealogy of the Savior
Wednesday	25-Dec	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	(†) The Nativity of Our Lord .Pageant. Santa brings presents for the children.
Thursday	26-Dec	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	(†) Synaxis Holy Theotokos - Divine Liturgy
Friday	27-Dec	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	(†) First Martyr Stephen - Divine Liturgy



Metropolitan Nicolae's Message for the Feast of St. Nicholas

Among the many saints commemorated during the church year, certainly the Holy Hierarch Nicholas has a special place in the soul of every Christian. When we were children, we waited for Father Nicholas to leave us a gift in our boots. Later we learned the story of the Holy Hierarch and began to understand the example given by his life of humility, service of neighbor, and defense of the Orthodox Faith. The troparion of his Feast describes it this way: The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause, thou hast achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Having grown up in a Christian family, St. Nicholas learned the ways of the Church from childhood, not only through education, but also having a special call from God, as we see in the story about how he fasted even from his mother's breast. The troparion says that the Lord Himself showed him to be a teacher of temperance. To his zeal for holy things he added the knowledge of Scripture and other useful writings, all under the tutelage of his Uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patara in the province of Lycia. And as one who learned kindness from the Kind One, St. Nicholas took care of all those who needed help: those without material resources, those in peril on the seas, the hungry, the tired. Only the Kind One taught us that they are blessed who are poor in spirit, those who weep, and those who make peace. Through his life, St. Nicholas showed us how to understand those who seem impossible to understand. He showed us that we can be joyful and blessed when we weep, when we are poor, and when we are persecuted for Christ's sake.

As a Hierarch of the Church of Christ, he defended the true teaching about the deity of the Son, Who is "begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made". And when the powerful of that time opposed this true confession and persecuted those who dared to affirm it, St. Nicholas went with the faithful of his flock to prison.

A renowned miracle worker during his life, St. Nicholas has continued to live up to his reputation after passing into heaven, hearing and answering the prayers of those who request his help with tears. Thus, the Old Man who brings gifts to children became the Saint who performs miracles for those who are victimized and saddened by the troubles of the times. Let us, too, pray and ask St. Nicholas to send us a useful gift.

I am sorry I could not make it this year for your feast day because of medical reasons. I hope to visit you soon. I wish you a blessed feast day of your patron saint. I would invite all of you, clergy and faithful of St. Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church in Shrewsbury, MA, to pray St. Nicholas for a fruitful mission of your parish, for health and all good things for the salvation of your souls and your dear ones!
With archpastoral blessings,

† Metropolitan NICOLAE



Alegeri prezidențiale •



CONSULATUL GENERAL AL ROMANIEI
la NEW YORK



Doamnelor și domnilor,

Stimați prieteni ai Comunității Românești,

● Guvernul României organizează, în data de 22, 23 și 24 noiembrie 2024 (primul tur) și 6, 7 și 8 decembrie 2024 (turul II), alegerile pentru Președintele României din anul 2024. Avem rugămintea să participați în număr cât mai mare la vot, pentru că votul dumneavoastră este deosebit de important pentru viitorul României.

● Consutul General al României de la New York asigură toate condițiile necesare bunei desfășurări a acestor Alegeri și vă așteptăm la vot, rugându-vă să citiți cu atenție următoarele informații:

COMUNICAT privind organizarea Alegerilor pentru Președintele României

● Consutul General al României de la New York, în numele Guvernului României, anunță organizarea Alegerilor pentru Președintele României, astfel:

Turul 1

- Vineri - 22 noiembrie 2024: 12.00 – 21.00 (ora locală)
- Sâmbătă - 23 noiembrie 2024: 7.00 – 21.00 (ora locală)
- Duminică - 24 noiembrie 2024: 7.00 – 21.00 (ora locală)

Turul 2

- Vineri, 6 decembrie 2024: 12.00 – 21.00 (ora locală)
- Sâmbătă, 7 decembrie 2024: 7.00 – 21.00 (ora locală)
- Duminică, 8 decembrie 2024: 7.00 – 21.00 (ora locală)

● În fiecare zi din zilele susmenționate votarea se poate prelunge până la ora 23:59, dacă la sediul secției de votare sau în afara acestuia sunt alegători care așteaptă să voteze.

● Cine își poate exercita dreptul la vot în străinătate: toți cetățenii români cu vârsta de peste 18 ani, împliniți inclusiv în ziua alegerilor, cu domiciliul sau reședința în străinătate, precum și cei cu domiciliul/reședința în România, aflați la momentul alegerilor în SUA.

● Cine nu își poate exercita dreptul la vot în străinătate: cetățenii români puși sub interdicție printr-o hotărâre judecătorească definitivă, precum și cei lipsiți de dreptul de a alege, ca urmare a unei condamnări definitive.

● Actele de identitate pe baza cărora se poate vota: pașaportul diplomatic, pașaportul diplomatic electronic; pașaportul de serviciu; pașaportul de serviciu electronic; pașaportul simplu; pașaportul simplu electronic;



pașaportul simplu temporar; cartea de identitate; cartea de identitate provizorie; cartea electronică de identitate; buletinul de identitate; pașaportul simplu cu menționarea țării de domiciliu; pașaportul simplu electronic cu menționarea țării de domiciliu; pașaportul simplu temporar cu menționarea țării de domiciliu.

● NU SE POATE VOTA CU TITLU DE CĂLĂTORIE și nici cu vreun document din cele mai sus enumerate, expirate!

● Ministerul Afacerilor Externe recomandă tuturor cetățenilor români cu documente românești expirate, pierdute sau furate să-și reînnoiască/preschimbe din timp documentele cu care pot vota.

● Fiecare alegător își exprimă votul personal.

● Votul multiplu este interzis.

● Exercitarea votului în numele altui alegător este interzisă.

● Votul exercitat în cadrul procesului electoral este secret.

● Orice control asupra modului în care votează un alegător este interzis.

● Participarea cetățenilor la procesul electoral se face pe baza liberului consimțământ al acestora.

● Nimeni nu are dreptul de a exercita presiuni asupra unui alegător pentru a-l determina pe acesta să participe sau să nu participe la Alegeri sau să indice un anumit candidat sau formațiune politică.

Secțiile de votare la care vă puteți prezenta sunt următoarele:

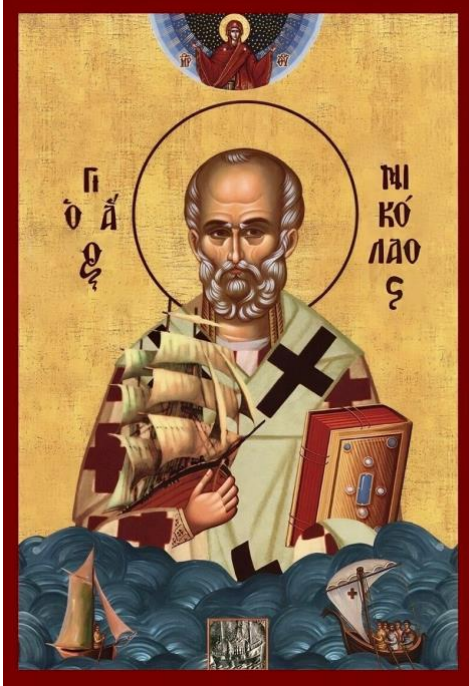
- New York, New York: Consutul General al României la New York, 200 E 38th St., New York, NY 10016 (cu intrarea pe 3rd Avenue).
- New York, New York: Institutul Cultural al României la New York, 200 E 38th St., New York, NY 10016 (cu intrarea pe 38th Street).
- Queens, New York: 90-34 139 Street, Jamaica, NY 11435.
- Long Valley, New Jersey: 132 Califon Road, Suite A, Long Valley, NJ 07853.
- Reading, Pennsylvania: 51 West Lawn Avenue, West Lawn, PA 19609.
- Shelton, Connecticut: 183 Howe Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484.
- Boston, Massachusetts: Four Points by Sheraton Wakefield Boston, 1 Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880.
- Victor, New York, 56 Andrews Street, Victor, NY 14564-1262.

Vă mulțumim!

Mihaela-Simona FLOREA,

Consul General

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra



December 6

Saint Nicholas lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330. As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travellers, and of seafarers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

Apolytikion of Nicholas the Wonderworker

A model of faith and the image of gentleness, the example of your life has shown you forth to your sheepfold to be a master of temperance. You obtained thus through being lowly, gifts from on high, and riches through poverty. Nicholas, our father and priest of priests, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.

Kontakion of Nicholas the Wonderworker

Saintly One, (St. Nicholas) in Myra you proved yourself a priest; for in fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, venerable One, you laid down your life for your people and saved the innocent from death. For this you were sanctified as One learned in divine grace.

November 15 Nativity Fast Begins

The Nativity Fast is one of four main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on November 15 and concluding on December 24, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on December 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink, particularly from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil, and wine, as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us conscious of our dependence upon God.

The Purpose of Fasting

The purpose of fasting is to focus on the things that are above, the Kingdom of God. It is a means of putting on virtue in reality, here and now. Through it we are freed from dependence on worldly things. We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others, and not holding ourselves up as an example.

Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for our sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is a gift from God that is not bought by our hunger or thirst.

We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God's gift of Salvation may bear fruit in us. We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and prayer go together. Fasting is not irrelevant. Fasting is not obsolete, and it is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.

Most of all, we should not devour each other. We ask God to "set a watch and keep the door of our lips."

Postul are beneficii incredibile pentru creier || Arhidiacon Sorin Mihalache

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kv-g_39ieg

The Association of Romanians in New England



The Association of Romanians in New England would like to invite you to participate in our annual traditional Romanian Christmas carol sing. We will meet in **Natick Common** at 2:00 pm on December 15th. There is parking at the meters right next to the park, or at Pond St. Parking Lot. Hot drinks are available for purchase at Sweetwaters Coffee near the Common, to keep you warm.

We also plan to stay for dinner after the event at around 4:30 pm at Lookout Farm in Natick. To RSVP for dinner please e-mail us at info@ar-ne.org by December 10. For more details please visit the ARNE Facebook Page > Events.

Ca în fiecare iarnă din ultimii ani, Asociația Românilor din New England (AR-NE) vă invită la un program de colinde și voie bună. Întâlnirea se va desfășura pe data de 15 Decembrie la ora 2:00 pm în Natick Common, MA. Adresa este: 12 S Main St, Natick, MA 01760. Se va putea parca la meteres chiar lângă parc, sau în Pond St Parking Lot. Tot lângă parc, de la cafeneaua Sweetwaters Coffee se vor putea procura cafea, ciocolată caldă, ceai și alte bunătăți pentru încălzirea trupului, căci sufletul ni-l vom încălzi cu minunatele noastre colinde de Crăciun. După eveniment, în jur de ora 4:30 pm, vom merge la cină la Lookout Farm în Natick. Mai multe detalii vor fi afișate pe pagina de Facebook ARNE > Events. Vă așteptăm cu mic, cu mare, cu și fără aptitudini muzicale, dar cu un sufletul dornic de rememorarea tradițiilor românești.

Pentru cei care vor să revizuiască colindele, iată lista din care vom cânta:

Am plecat să colindăm; Iată vin colindători; Trei păstori; Steaua sus răsare; O, ce veste minunată; Astăzi s-a născut Hristos; Colindița; Deck the Halls; Jingle bells; We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Dacă doriți să participați la cină la restaurantul Lookout Farm vă rugăm să RSVP la info@ar-ne.org până pe data de 10 decembrie ca să vă includem în rezervare.

Sarbatori Fericite!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & CAROL CONCERT REHARSALS – DECORATIONS





CHURCH & FACILITY NEEDS

The list below contains **ongoing needs for the Church as well as special needs that may arise**. Any and every offering is most appreciated. If you have any questions, or would like to donate for or towards one of these items, please speak with [Fr. Vasile](#), any member of the Parish Council, or use the [online giving](#) site.

\$25 - Box of Three Kings Charcoal (100 pieces)

\$100 - Beeswax Candles for the Holy Altar

\$200 – Sacramental vine

\$100 – Olive oil for candles

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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508-845-0088 | e-mail: info@StNicholasChurch.org

www.StNicholasChurch.org

Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am