

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Dec. 18, 2011

27th Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 2

(13th of Luke). SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions: Martyrs Nicostratus, Zoë, Castorius, Tranquillinus, Marcellinus, Mark, Claudius, Symphorian, Victorinus, Tiburtius, and Castulus (ca. 287). Ven. Sebastian, Abbot of Pshekhónsk Monastery (Vologdá —ca. 1500). Righteous Simeon, Wonderworker of Verkhótúr'ye (1694). St. Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem (633-4). St. Florus, Bishop of Amisus (7th c.). St. Michael the Confessor at Constantinople (ca. 845).

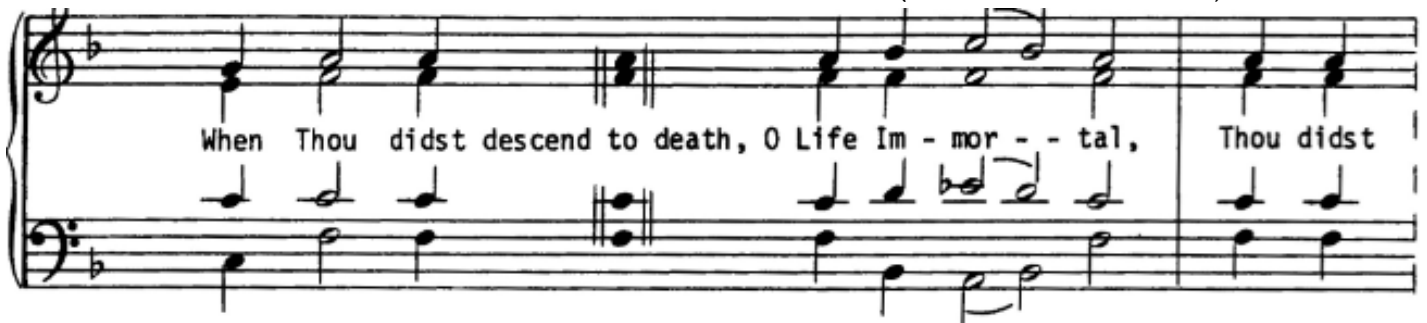
St. Nicholas Website: stnicholaspittsfield.org



Sunday before the Nativity

Hymns and Prayers

1. TROPARION (RESURRECTION) TONE 2 (continue with Tone 2)



Thou didst slay death with the power of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver of Life! Christ our God, Glory to Thee!

2. TROPARION (FATHERS) TONE 2 (same Tone as above)

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as
though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Glory to the Father and to the Son.....now and ever...

3. KONTAKION: (FOREFATHERS) TONE 6

You did not worship the graven image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:
"Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid,//
for You are merciful and able to do as You will!"

PROKEIMENON (TONE 4)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and
glorified is Your name forever!

v: For You are just in all that You have done for us!

EPISTLE: HEBREWS 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Brethren, By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect **apart from us**.

ALLELUIA (TONE 4)

We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.

Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till

she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called **His name JESUS.**

COMMUNION HYMN:

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. I believe also that this is truly Thine own most pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Therefore, I pray Thee, have mercy upon me, and forgive my transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, committed in knowledge or in ignorance. And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thine most pure Mysteries, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Of thy mystical supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee; Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom. May the communion of Thy holy Mysteries be neither to my judgment, nor to my condemnation, O Lord, but to the healing of soul and body. Amen.

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Schedule of Events

Cookie Exchange Today following Coffee HOur

Wed., Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m. ...Daily Vespers followed by Study Group

Sat., Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m.Eve of the Nativity of our Lord Vigil

Sun. Dec. 25, 9:40 a.m.**Reading of Hours:** Barbara Parhizgar

10:00 a.m.**Divine Liturgy**

Epistle: Emilie Goudey

Coffee: Tanya Bogaevskaya

Nativity of Our Lord Schedule of Services

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. We will celebrate on Saturday evening December 24th with Nativity Vigil at 6:00 p.m. On Sunday December 25th we will celebrate the Nativity Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at

10:00 a.m. We will be having coffee hour afterwards for anyone who would like to stick around. Please make every effort to come and celebrate this blessed feast day in the life of the Church.

Christmas Cookie Exchange Today

Don't forget our Christmas cookie exchange today. It is a wonderful way to help in the preparation for Christmas and also gives an opportunity to spend time with the people that you love. Everyone who comes will be sure to leave the exchange with a large container of delicious Christmas cookies to enjoy on Nativity! All are invited to come!

St. Nicholas Day Celebration Thank You!

A special thank you to St. Nick, Barbara Parhizgar and all who helped make our patronal feast day celebration such a wonderful time together. We pray that our Lord will continue to build our parish family and to continue to entrust us with children for the continued building up of His Church in Pittsfield.

Christmas Offering Envelopes

Enclosed in this week's bulletin is the Christmas offering envelope. Please consider offering something extra to help with the work of the Church this Nativity Season.

Confession before Nativity

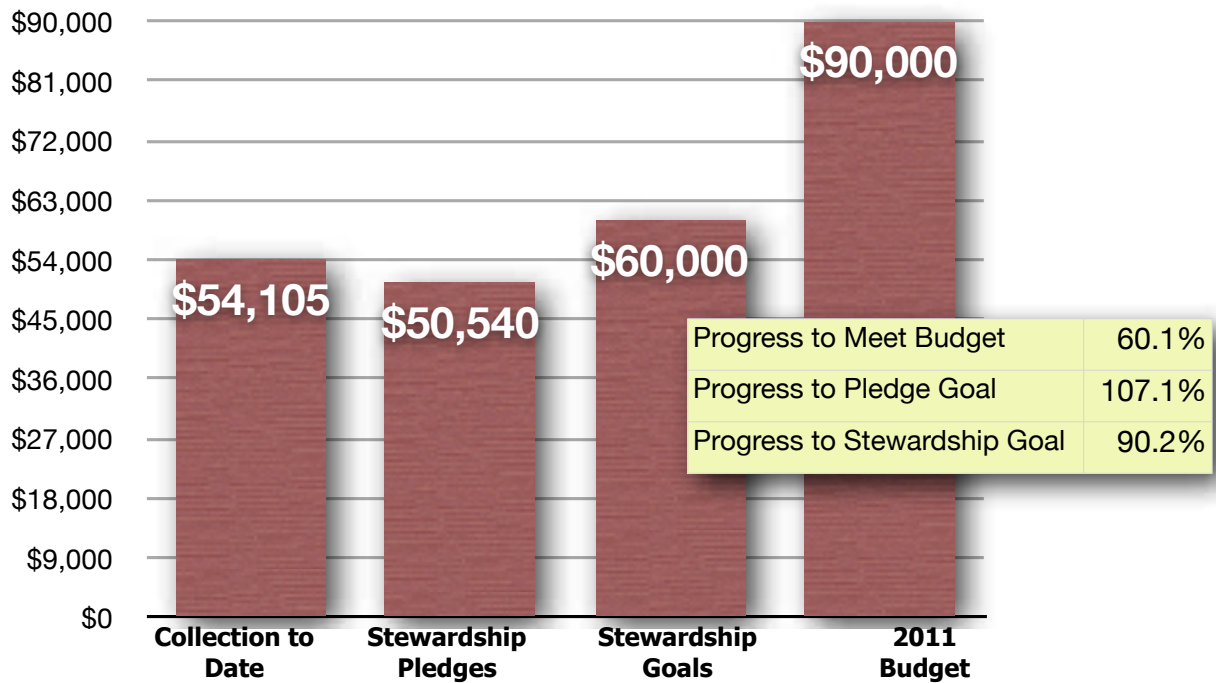
As we make all of our preparations for Christmas, as we hustle and bustle, wrapping, and shopping it is important for us to remember the real reason for this season, Christ. Part of our preparations for our Lord's Nativity, for Christmas, should include the sacrament of holy confession. The Church recommends, that all Orthodox Christians who receive Holy Communion on a regular basis, participate in the sacrament of confession, at least, during the four fasting periods of the Church. Those fasting periods include Great Lent, SS. Peter and Paul fast, the Dormition fast, and the Nativity Fast. The Nativity fast is different from Great Lent in that it is not a penitential fast but a fast of anticipation. It anticipates the coming Savior and new hope for all mankind. Don't we want to be prepared to receive Him? Please take this opportunity to rediscover your relationship with Christ and get back on the narrow path that leads to salvation in Christ.

New Church Update

The building continues to make its way to completion. This past week the drywall mudding and taping wrapped up and painting the church interior has begun. The interior doors have been hung and the trim is started. We also had the sewer, electric and the gas lines run from the street and now our new church has power and heat! In the mean time Northern Foundations is making preparations for the

new sidewalks and the exterior finish on the church is well underway. Please continue to pray for our work as it makes its way towards completion. We continue to rely on your donations to see the project to its completion.

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to St Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).



STEWARDSHIP 2011

Attendance 11/20/2011.....45
 Collection 11/20/2011\$1,172
 Goals per week.....\$1,731
 Weekly Average 2011\$1,082
 Weekly Shortfall.....\$649

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Donations received.....\$169,873
 Amount of pledges received.....\$221,113
 Pledges to collect.....\$51,340

STEWARDS OF ST NICHOLAS 2011

Fr. Barnabas and Mat. Daria
 Nicholas and Marina Bobrovsky
 Tanya Bogaevskaya
 Hailey Chamberlain
 Pat Davis
 Harold Fait
 Soren and Diana Fiscu
 Alla Gadoury
 Rick and Emilie Goudey
 Marjorie Grinko
 Paul Koronchik

Jane Maxouris
 Danton and Elena Papurkov
 Barbara Parhizgar
 Peter Pshenishny
 Priscilla Rogow
 Mary Romanchak
 Irene Vassos
 Olga Zaiken
 Galina Zeygerman



Become a Steward of St. Nicholas
Your gifts of grain ensure our health!