

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

1201 Hathaway Lane NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55432-5720  
Phone: 763-574-1001  
web site: <http://www.resurrectionskete.org/>  
email: [rsmnch@msn.com](mailto:rsmnch@msn.com)

Курская Икона  
посетит наш Храм  
12-13 апреля, 2016

**Schedule for the Week of December 13 - 19, 2015**

<b>Sunday Dec 13</b>	<b>Apostle Andrew</b>
<b>Friday Dec 18</b>	<b>Vigil for St. Nicholas 6:30 PM</b>
<b>Saturday Dec 19</b>	<b>St. Nicholas / Свт. Николая 9 AM Divine Liturgy</b>
<b>Sunday Dec 20</b>	<b>St. Ambrose 8:15 AM - Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy</b>

**Святитель Николай,  
Архиепископ мир Ликийских**

С детских лет св. Николай преуспевал в изучении Святого Писания; днем он не выходил из храма, а ночью молился и читал книги. Дядя его, еп. Патарский Николай, радуясь духовным успехам и высокому благочестию племянника, поставил его во чтеца, а затем возвел Николая в сан священника. Служа Господу, юноша горел духом, а опытностью в вопросах веры был подобен старцу, чем вызывал удивление и глубокое уважение верующих.

После смерти архиеп. Иоанна Николай был избран епископом Мир Ликийских. Во время гонений императора Диоклетиана (284-305) св. Николай вместе с другими христианами попал в темницу, где поддерживал заключенных и увещевал их твердо переносить пытки и мучения. По воцарении равноап. Императора Константина святитель был освобожден.

Много чудес и добрых дел совершил св. Николай: по его молитвам г. Миры был спасен от тяжкого голода; святой избавил от смерти трех неправедно осужденных мужей; не раз молитвами Николай спасал утопающих в море.

Скончался свт. Николай ок. 345-351 гг.

**St. Nicholas**

St. Nicholas is one of the oldest official saints of the Orthodox Church. He was a bishop and a worker of miracles, but in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, his veneration has been hijacked by pagan Western commercialism. But whatever the confusion surrounding him today, St. Nicholas was a fantastic figure and his feast day is kept in honor.

St. Nicholas was a strong defender of the Church against the Arian heresy, which denied Christ's divinity. He attended the council of Nicea in 325 AD. That council condemned Arianism and instituted the Nicene Creed, which we say at every Divine Liturgy and at many other services. It affirms that Jesus is "Begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light; true God of true God..." Such was St. Nicholas' infuriation with Arius, that it is said that he struck the apostate so severely that "the bones in his body rattled."

Following St. Nicholas' death in 342, he became the subject of popular devotion and accounts of many miracles spread among the general population along the shores of the Mediterranean. In the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Emperor Justinian built a church in his honor in Constantinople. His fame then spread along the Black Sea coast and into Eastern Europe.

In 1087, his relics were taken from Myra to Bari.

St. Nicholas lived in what is now southern Turkey on the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean. In the early fourth century he was bishop of Myra, a town which is now known as Demre. There are no longer any Christians living in that town, and the Cathedral of St. Nicholas is now a ruin. (*from The Orthodox Herald*)

**Nativity Reminder:**

*The Feast of the Nativity of Christ is coming soon.  
Dates are as follows:*

**Wednesday, January 6, 2015**

**Nativity Vigil 6:30 PM**

**Thursday, January 7, 2015**

**Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM**

These services will be celebrated in the space of St. Mary's OCA Cathedral, 1701 5<sup>th</sup> St NE, Mpls MN 55413

## Christmas Flower Donation

**Please consider a donation to beautify the church for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ.**

**Thank You!**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### WHY THE NATIVITY FAST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED

The Orthodox Church prepares its faithful to welcome the Nativity of Christ in a worthy manner by means of a 40-day Nativity fast, which lasts from November 28th to January 6th (by the new calendar).

Besides generally known reasons, the Nativity fast is also undertaken by Orthodox Christians in order to venerate the suffering and sorrow undergone by the Holy Mother of God at the hands of the scribes and the Pharisees just prior to the sacred event of Christ's Nativity.

Holy Tradition tells us that shortly before the righteous Joseph and the Holy Virgin set off for Bethlehem, they were subjected to the following tribulation. A certain scribe by the name of Ananias, entering their home and seeing the Virgin pregnant, was severely distressed and went to the High Priest and the entire Jewish council, saying: "Joseph the carpenter, who has been regarded as a righteous man, has committed an iniquity. He has secretly violated the Virgin Who was given to him from the temple of God for safekeeping. And now She is with child." Then the High Priest's servants went to Joseph's house, took Mary and Joseph, and brought them to the High Priest, who began to denounce and shame the Most-blessed Virgin Mary.

But the Holy Virgin, crying in deep sorrow, replied: "The Lord God is My witness that I am innocent and have known no man." Then the High Priest accused the righteous Joseph, but the latter swore on oath that he was not guilty of this sin. Yet the High Priest did not believe them and subjected them to the trial that was customary in those times, (when a woman suspected of violation was given to drink bitter water that had been cursed by the High Priest). However, the trial just served to confirm the innocence of the Holy Virgin and the righteous Joseph. All those present were amazed at this, unable to understand how a Virgin could simultaneously be with child and yet remain inviolate.

After that the High Priest allowed the holy couple to go home in peace. The righteous Joseph took the Virgin Mary and went to his house, joyously glorifying God. But this was not the end of the Holy Theotokos' trials. It is well known that afterwards she shared with Joseph the toil of a three-day journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. And in Bethlehem there was no place for the Holy Virgin either in an inn, or in some home, and since night was already approaching, She was forced to seek shelter in a cave which served as a resting place for cattle. In this

humblest of shelters the Most-blessed Virgin remained in prayer and divine contemplation. It is here that She painlessly gave birth to our Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world.

We can see from all of the above that the days immediately preceding the Nativity were not days of rest and comfort for the Holy Mother of God. In those days She suffered various sorrows and trials, but did not leave off her prayers and contemplation. The Holy Church appeals to the faithful to participate, at least to some small degree, in the Holy Theotokos' spiritual labor, constraining one's flesh during the Nativity fast and nourishing one's soul with prayer. However, the Church warns us that external fasting only is not enough. We must also apply ourselves to internal fasting, which consists of shunning malice, deceit, wrath, worldly bustle, and other vices. During this fast, as at all times, we must show works of love and mercy to our fellow beings, doing all we can to help those in need and in sorrow. Only then will our fasting be genuine and not hypocritical, only then will it be God-pleasing, and only then will we know the true joy of the bright feast of Christ's Nativity. (Reprinted from "Orthodox Russia", No. 21, 1999)

### Святитель Николай, архиепископ Мир Ликийских, Чудотворец

Освященный еще в утробе матери богодухновенною благодатью, святой чудотворец Николай при жизни и по смерти явил великое множество чудес, покровительствуя нуждающимся, находящимся в беде, терпящим кораблекрушение, «питая вдов и срот». Указанный Самим Богом, святой Николай вступил на архиерейский престол Мир Ликийских. Бесчисленны дела Божии, которыми Господь возвеличил Своего угодника. Мощи святого источали благовоние и целебное миро, коим помазывались больные и исцелялись. Тем святым миром излечивались не только телесные, но и душевные недуги, и были прогоняемы лукавые духи.

В 1111 году несколько иноков по общему согласию построили деревянную церковь во имя святого чудотворца Николая и стали проводить постническую жизнь. Много бедствий вынесли они от тамошних жителей, в особенности же от одного вельможи, который по внушению дьявола не желал, чтобы вблизи него проживали монахи, но чудотворец Николай, нигде не оставляющий в нужде обители, посвященной его имени, когда с верой о том молятся ему, всегда доставлял пропитание и сим инокам. Вскоре случилось, что у вельможи, жившего вблизи обители, образовался на ноге злокачественный нарыв, от которого он сильно страдал. В болезни своей он опомнился и обратился с молитвой о помощи к святому чудотворцу Николаю, после чего отправился в обитель его и, помолвившись тут, получил исцеление.