

HOLY TRINITY HERALD



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FROM FR. NIKON

Dear brothers and sisters, warm greetings!

Most of the winter is behind us, and with it a whole galaxy of festive memories and amazing events; Christmas and the subsequent Baptism of the Savior. I would like to once again thank each member of our large parish family who contributed to the celebrations: in organizing the Christmas performance, in preparing for the blessing of water in the lake on Epiphany Day, followed by a picnic, and helping with everyday parish issues. The upcoming month promises to be no less rich in church events: from the participation of our Sisterhood in the “Russian Festival” and the preparation of Pancake week pancakes to the celebration of the Presentation of the Lord and the annual meeting Parish members meeting. Speaking of February, I recall the very beginning of one of Boris Pasternak’s poems: “February. To get ink and cry! Writing about February sobbing ...”. So today, dear ones, I would like to wish everyone a joyful month. May each new day, by the grace of God, become an occasion for new achievements, successes, self-realization and happiness. All these aspects of the external exaltation of the spirit are completely natural and possible for each of us. It is only necessary to have sincerity, courage, hope and most importantly, Love as the foundation. For us, of course, the foundation of life is Christ and the Gospel Evangelism. Only in this way can all our aspirations really come true and bring joy. After all, there is already no barrier to love, because the Lord Himself is Love.

I call upon all the blessings of the Holy Trinity!

FR. NIKON ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Question: My family moving from Russia to the USA is due to the desire to live with more financial security. Is this desire a sin of greed?

Answer: In this question we will examine and try to understand when usefulness ends and sin begins. Certain financial freedom presupposes the opportunity to create comfortable conditions for our loved ones, and caring for the family - the “Small Church” - is an important part of our life. Often, a person’s material security provides more opportunities in the realization of his own

strengths and talents granted by God. And, of course, the higher our material well-being, the more opportunities we have for doing good and providing all kinds of help to those who need it. We see that money and related material goods are just a tool. An instrument of self-realization, an instrument of good deeds and an instrument that helps to create something useful in certain moments of life.

However, when this tool turns into the goal itself, when the desire to possess and consume obsesses us, when we do not use our opportunities to help and provide mercy, when we see material wealth as an exceptional source of happiness and are infected with a fear of losing it ... then the service to an idol begins.

HOLIDAYS OF THE MONTH

MEETING LORD (February, 15)



According to the Old Testament, a woman who gave birth to a baby was forbidden to enter the temple for 40 days. Then the mother would come to the temple with the baby to offer the Lord her gratitude and a purifying sacrifice. Not needing purification, the Blessed Virgin Mary brought the Baby Jesus to the Jerusalem Temple, where She was met by the righteous old man Simeon and the prophetess Anna. Simeon had a revelation from above that he would not die until he saw the Savior. Taking the Infant in his

arms, he glorified God and uttered the famous prophecy: "Now send Your servant, Lord ...". This event marked the meeting of the Old Testament with the Bearer of the New Testament, in Which the Divine is met with the human. The Feast of the Present is one of the oldest in the history of Christianity. See: <https://www.pravmir.ru/imeniny-v-fevrale/>

PARISH LIFE

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

On January 1, Hieromonk Fr. Nikon performed a prayer service to the St. Seraphim of Sarov, with the participation of the parishioners of our church and parishioners of the Greek church. According to tradition, every year Maria Khristova invites our parish to the prayer service for St. Seraphim. Maria built a chapel to St. Seraphim of Sarov, on the territory of her home, where prayers take place. After the general prayer, Maria warmly offers everyone delicious dishes of Greek cuisine.

January 19, on the day of the Epiphany - Baptism of the Savior, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in our church with the Great blessing of water. Then our community, led by the rector of Fr. Nikon went to Lake Crabtree, where the rite of blessing the water was performed. Wishing parishioners made three dives into the lake, symbolizing the Jordan River on this festive day. At



Hieromonk Fr. Nikon with parishioners of our church and parishioners of the Greek church. The chapel of St. Seraphim of Sarov, located on the territory of Maria Khristova's home. January 1, 2020. Wake Forest, NC.

the end of the prayer, we shared the joy of communication at a picnic arranged in a park by the lake.



Hieromonk Fr. Nikon performs the rite of blessing the water on January 19, the day of the Epiphany - Baptism of the Savior, Lake Crabtree in North Carolina.

On Saturday, February 8, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. the Russian Festival will be held at: Halle Cultural Arts Center, 237 N Salem St, Apex, North Carolina 27502. The purpose of our participation in such festivals is to tell people about the existence of the Russian Orthodox Church and introduce the life of our parish. This festival is a form of our missionary service. At the festival, our parishioners will offer visitors brochures about our church, as well as sell pastries, sweets and home-made drinks to be used as a

Readings of the Akathists are held regularly in our church. We invite all to join us, as well as to meet with Fr. Nikon and parishioners after the Akathist readings. Please follow the schedule of services published on the web-site of our church.



Triple immersion of our parishioners in the consecrated waters of Lake Crabtree in North Carolina on January 19, the day of Epiphany - Baptism of the Savior

voluntary donation to the needs of our church. The proceeds from such festivals are one of the main incomes to support our parish. We invite everyone, sisters and brothers, to help with the preparation of pastries and sweets, as well as the delivery, sale, cleaning, etc. We appreciate any participation and/or monetary and other donations. For information, please contact the festival coordinator Lyubov Vanyashina: Tel. 919 381 0795; email: lyubov.vanyashina@gmail.com.

The year 2020 will be marked by numerous celebrations in the parishes of the **Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR)**. The ROCA is a self-governing group within the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) of the Moscow Patriarchate. ROCOR was created in the 1920s as a result of the division of the Russian Church after the revolution and civil war in Russia. On May 17, 2007 in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, the Patriarch of Moscow, Alexy II and the First Hierarch of the ROCA signed the Act of Canonical Communion which unified the ROCA with the ROC.

October 28-31, 2020. The Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville (New York State) will host celebrations and commemorative events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the ROCOR and the 90th anniversary of the founding of the monastery.

December 10, 2020. Celebrations will be held in the Cathedral of New York for the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Russian Church Abroad.

SISTERHOOD OF ST. TATIANA



Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksiy II and the First Hierarch of the ROCA Metropolitan of East America and New York Laurus sign the Act of Canonical Communion between the ROC and ROCOR. Cathedral of Christ the Savior, Moscow, May 17, 2007

An application for entry into the Sisterhood can be obtained at the church store or at sisterhood@holytrinitymission.com. To find out more about the history, mission, etc. of the Sisterhood visit this page: <http://www.holytrinitymission.com/index.php/en/sisterhood>

REMINDER

An electronic version of “Memoirs of Abbot Gabriel” was published in the appendix of the December issue of “Holy Trinity Herald” 2019. There is also the opportunity to order and receive a paper copy of the Memoirs by mail. See: <https://www.prestophoto.com/bookstore/364926-Gavriil-Photo-Book>

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Christmas concert. January 11, 2020, Morrisville, NC.



Christmas concert. January 11, 2020, Morrisville, NC.

A word from our rector Fr. Nikon about the Christmas performance "Bright Christmas":

Dear brothers and sisters! Merry Christmas! On January 11, the International Kids Club hosted a Christmas performance organized by our parish. To our great joy, the Festival brought together almost a hundred people! Among those present were both our parishioners with children and those who wanted to acquainted with the Russian church in Mebane. The whole performance was filled with an amazing atmosphere of celebration, comfort, warmth and joy for the Savior Who was born! The performance was very exciting and magical for children and adults! Many of the children showed their amazing talents: from reading poems and performing songs to playing the piano and even saxophone. In the end, of course, each got a Christmas present from Santa. The celebration continued with a table of sweets, photographs and fun with Santa and his helpers. Our



Christmas concert. January 11, 2020, Morrisville, NC

temple choir performed the troparion of Merry Christmas and the praise of the Lord. On behalf of our entire Parish, I would like to once again sincerely and warmly thank everyone who contributed to the organization of this amazing holiday!

THANKS

We thank Father Nikon for writing the script to our Christmas show, “The Bright Christmas”, and we thank our parishioners for preparing this performance. We are grateful to our Sisterhood for the financial support, including location rental, decorations, and the cost of gifts for children and refreshments for all guests, without which this performance could not have been possible.

We thank all the brothers and sisters who donate to the church, and bring icons, books and other items for sale for the church shop.

MEMBERS RECOMMEND



«If the prayer is right, all right»
St. Theophan the Recluse

Our parishioner Milla Albers recommends:

January 23, 2015, on the feast day of St. Theophan the Recluse and the 200th anniversary of his birth, the Orthodoxy.Ru portal presented 50 selected sayings and advice of Vyshensky St. Theophan the Recluse.

<https://pravoslavie.ru/76728.html>.

DONATION

Our parish is glad to receive any help. Your support is very significant to us. Donations can be sent through our website <http://holytrinitymission.com/index.php/ru/> (Donate button) or by check in the name of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church at 6803 US 70, Mebane, NC 27302.