

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Great Vespers of the Resurrection
Saturdays, 6:00PM

Divine Liturgy
Sundays, 10:00AM
(9:00AM during July and August)

We offer Matins and Vespers during the week, as well as a service of corporate Jesus Prayer. Please see the monthly bulletin posted at www.stnicholasofsalem.org.

At our website you will also find parish newsletters, sermons, directions, and other community news.

PLEASE CONTACT US!

Rev. Theophan Whitfield, parish rector
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The Orthodox Church
is *evangelical*,
but not Protestant.
It is *orthodox*,
but not Jewish.
It is *catholic*,
but not Roman.
It is not non-denominational,
it is *pre-denominational*.



Orthodox Christianity has been believed,
taught, preserved, defended,
and died for since AD 33.

Come and worship the Risen Lord with us!

Welcome to Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Salem, MA



St Nicholas Orthodox Church has served the North Shore of Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire since 1901.

The Orthodox Church, however, has been preaching the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ since the first century!

WHO WE ARE:

A Parish of the
Orthodox Church in America,
The Diocese of New England

WHERE WE ARE:

64 Forrester Street, Salem, MA 01970
978-744-5869

Web Site: orthodoxsalem.wordpress.com

FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT ...

The Orthodox Church keeps alive what we call the "Apostolic deposit." To his Apostles, our Risen Lord fully revealed the life-giving truth about God, the Church, and the divine plan for the salvation of all human beings. This deposit given by Christ to His Apostles is preserved in Holy Scripture, and we teach that it is preserved in Holy Tradition.

What is Holy Tradition?

Forty days after His resurrection from the dead, our Lord departed this earth, ascending into heaven and taking His place at the right hand of the Father. Fifty days after the resurrection, Christ gave birth to His Church in Jerusalem at the Feast of Pentecost. There, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Apostles, and from that time Christ now continues His ministry of mercy and righteousness on earth through His mystical body -- through His Church.

We humbly maintain that the Orthodox Church is a continuation of the Apostolic Church which was established in Jerusalem. And we worship God the Father in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:23) because we strive to keep the flame of Holy Tradition alive through our life of worship and prayer. All that we do -- our liturgical services, our sacramental life, our iconography, our teaching and our preaching -- has one focus: to preserve and proclaim the truth revealed to the Apostles that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life -- that He is one and the same Lord, both fully divine and fully human. That is Holy Tradition!



... TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

The Church from its founding in Jerusalem has been a missionary Church, and until the 20th century a total of fourteen "sister churches" were founded by Orthodox missionaries through the centuries. Many are familiar with the Churches of Greece and Russia. But there are more: Antioch, Albania, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria ... just to name a few. And these Churches in turn have established vibrant newer Orthodox missions in places such as Japan, Finland, and Kenya ... again, just to name a few.

The fourteen sister churches are "in communion" with each other for one basic reason: what they teach and what they proclaim in worship are the same. The languages in which they worship are of course different, and each church has its own spiritual leader (first bishop), but otherwise each Church is committed to the same set of truths about the Holy Trinity, the Church, and the hope for human kind through the crucified, raised, and glorified Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Orthodoxy first came to North America in 1794 through the efforts of missionaries sent by the Russian Orthodox Church to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to inhabitants of Alaska. And in 1970, the Church of Russia granted independence to its missionary parishes here in America.

And so in 1970, a fifteenth sister was added to the world-wide family of Orthodox Churches, and this new sister Church was named "The Orthodox Church in America."

PARISH HISTORY AND MISSION

- Our parish was founded in Salem in 1901 by immigrants from Galicia (now part of western Ukraine, roughly) and became part of the Russian Orthodox Church in 1908.
- In 1970, with hundreds of other parishes across the country, St Nicholas became part of the newly-established Orthodox Church in America (OCA).
- Like all churches in the OCA, we are now entrusted with the responsibility of spreading the Gospel throughout the American lands.
- Our parish welcomes faithful followers of Jesus Christ from all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds, and we promote unity and salvation by offering all services in English. (To honor our missionary heritage, we sing hymns on occasion in Slavonic.)
- We seek to spread the good news of God's love to all, and we do so by upholding the teachings handed down by Jesus Christ to His Apostles and maintained through the centuries by the communion of Orthodox Churches throughout the world.
- We seek to grow in holiness -- to become more and more like our Lord -- through "worship in spirit and in truth" and by expressing our faith through lives of repentance, forgiveness, mercy, compassion, and constant prayer.

ACQUIRE THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND A
THOUSAND SOULS AROUND YOU
SHALL BE SAVED.

-ST SERAPHIM OF SAROV (1759 - 1833)

PARISH LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

At the center of our life is the worship of the One God and Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit. The **Holy Trinity** is our source and our goal.

Orthodox worship reaches its high point each Sunday at the celebration of the **Divine Liturgy**. At this service, the body and blood of Christ -- the Eucharist -- is offered to all Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves. For us, the Divine Liturgy is our foretaste of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is the fullest experience of the joyous Heavenly banquet presently possible.

Alongside our liturgical life, we offer **Christian education** for children and adults. Our Church School program for the children and youth of the parish runs from September to June each year, and for adults we have offered a range of classes recently: Bible studies, book discussions, as well as topics connected to Orthodox worship, prayer, and history. Classes are also offered for those who seek to be received into the Orthodox Church.

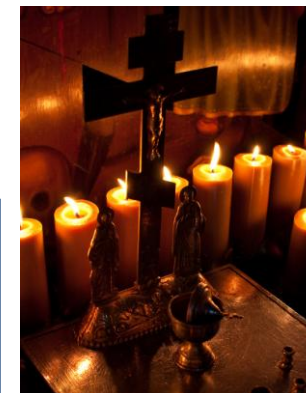


An important ministry in the Orthodox Church is the **ministry of singing**. Orthodox worship is conducted through continuous chant and song. Plus, we have no instruments in church -- we sing *a capella*! And so our choir members are vital participants in the life of worship.

We have an active ministry to the elderly and homebound. Our sewing guild prepares magnificent vestments and altar cloths. Parish bakers assist with our weekly needs at St Nicholas as well as with seasonal fundraisers. And we have a dedicated and involved parish council -- lay leadership at St Nicholas is a valued part of parish life!

And keeping before us the words of our Lord concerning ministry to the "**least of these my brethren**" (Matthew 25:40), we strive each year to deepen our involvement in ministries at the local, regional, and national levels. And just as we ask our parishioner to give a first portion their income to the church, the church itself gives a first portion of its income to charitable causes in Salem, the North Shore, and around the world.

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US,
FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH; WE HAVE BEHELD HIS GLORY,
GLORY AS OF THE ONLY SON FROM THE FATHER ...
AND FROM HIS FULLNESS HAVE WE ALL RECEIVED,
GRACE UPON GRACE (JOHN 1:14, 16).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I am not Orthodox. Am I allowed to attend the Divine Liturgy?

Yes! Our doors are open to all. When our Lord was calling his Apostles, they asked Jesus where He was staying. "Come and see!" was the Master's reply those who wished to see His dwelling place (John 1:39), and that is our reply to the whole world!

Are children welcome at Liturgy?

Absolutely. Orthodox worship appeals to ALL the senses: to taste, touch, sight, hearing, and even smell. For children (and adults!), Orthodox worship is both exciting and involving. Also, children are welcome to both sing in the choir and assist during the Liturgy. And there is our Church School program, to deepen their understanding of God's love.

I'm not sure what to ask. Any suggestions?

There is a wonderful essay about visiting an Orthodox Church entitled "12 Things I Wish I'd Known." The author is Frederica Matthewes-Green, a well-known Orthodox writer, and can be found on her website (with so much more!): www.frederica.com/12-things

How does one "become Orthodox"?

We encourage all, but hurry none. We are serious about the task of "baptizing all nations ... and teaching them to observe" what Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:19-20). Is God calling you to His Church? Is He calling you to follow "The Way" -- as our faith in Jesus Christ was called in the first century? Then "come and see"! We know that "God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Photography credits: Roy Goodwin & Richard P. Johnson.