

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Great Vespers of the Resurrection
Saturdays, 6:00PM

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

We also worship and gather for fellowship on weekdays! You will find an updated calendar at www.orthodoxsaalem.com.

There you will also find newsletters, sermons, photos, and community news.

PLEASE CONTACT US!

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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!

SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

SALEM, MA

Our parish family welcomes you!



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: www.orthodoxsaalem.com

FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT ...

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, the ones to whom Christ fully revealed the life-giving truth about God and the divine plan for the salvation of all human beings. From that time, and until His Second Coming, Christ continues His ministry of mercy and righteousness on earth through His mystical body -- through His Church.

The Orthodox Church is a continuation of the Church of the Apostles, 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.

... TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

The Church, from its founding in Jerusalem, has been a missionary Church. Two thousand years later, there are now fifteen "sister churches" founded by Orthodox missionaries through the centuries. Many are familiar with the Orthodox 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. In 1970, the newest Orthodox Church was born -- The Orthodox Church in America -- receiving its independence from the Church of Russia.

The fifteen 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.

PARISH HISTORY AND MISSION

- Our parish was founded in Salem in 1901 by immigrants from Galicia (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 have the responsibility of spreading the Gospel throughout the American lands.
- We welcome followers of Jesus Christ from all nations and ethnic backgrounds. We offer all services in English.
- 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 (+ 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.

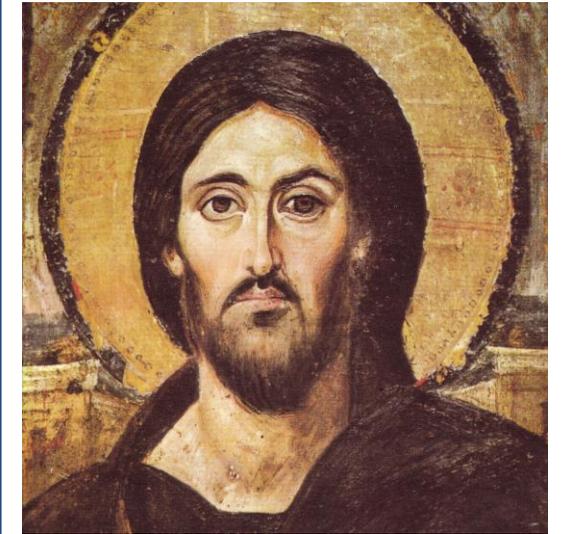
We have an active ministry to the elderly and homebound. Our sewing guild prepares magnificent vestments and altar cloths. Parish bakers assist with our weekly needs at St Nicholas. And we have a dedicated and involved parish council -- lay leadership at St Nicholas is a valued part of parish life!

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).



WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?



We worship Jesus Christ as the **Incarnate** Word of God. "Incarnate" is not a common word, but if one does not understand the "Incarnation," then one does not understand salvation through Jesus Christ.

It's not complicated, but it is revolutionary! In Jesus Christ, God became "enfleshed." He took on a human body just like ours. But in the Incarnation, His divinity was not diminished. He is one person, but is at the same time both fully divine (just like His Father and the Holy Spirit) and fully human (just like us).

Why? To save us. But how? By being with us, and by uniting himself to us. He becomes what we are, so that by grace, and by participating in His ongoing life, we might become what He is! In the Church, Jesus remains united to His followers, and so here we have "received Him ... and He gives us power to become children of God" (John 1:12).