

Parish Prayer List (Living)

Metropolitan Nicholas	Sharon	Bob	Reader Mark
Andrea	Amanda	Sherry	Joretta
Fr. Michael	Barry	Sean	Kristi
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Andrea & Kirby
Nanette	Michael	Tatiana	Rachael
Michael	Helen	Susan K	

Parish Prayer List (Fallen Asleep)

Nicholas Georgopoulos (+11/3)

Betty Pilja (+12/6)

Mary Louise Blomeley (+12/10)

Josephine Urban (+12/21)

Thoughts on Prayer

'If you are slandered - rejoice: this is very profitable for you. If you are offended, endure: for he that endureth to the end will be saved (Matt. 10:22). For everything give thanks to God; because thanksgiving intercedes before God for human weakness. Always and in everything condemn yourself as one who sins and is deceived, and God will not condemn you; humble yourself in everything, and you will receive grace from God. If you become accustomed to this, God will help you to obtain strength: for His will consists in this, that every man should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (cf. I Tim. 2:4).

Sts. Barsanuphius and John (6th century).

+++++

A 20th Century Miracle of St. Nicholas

It happened in Siberia. The White Army under Kolchak was retreating. Eugene Nikolaevich, in spite of a severe wound suffered in the First World War, served in Kolchak's forces in the rank of first lieutenant. It was a harsh winter.

Entering some village, the partisans seized a peasant suspected of collaborating with the Reds. It was decided to execute him. Eugene Nikolaevich ordered the prisoner to be locked up.

That night, as the lieutenant was sitting alone writing out the accusation, there came a knock at the door. He opened it and in stepped an old man wearing a skoufia, like those worn by monks, and an old cassock. "Mister officer," he said, "you have an arrested peasant here. Don't kill him. He's innocent."

"And who are you?" inquired Eugene Nikolaevich.

"I am the rector of the local church, Fr. Nicholas," answered the old man, and left.

Eugene Nikolaevich thought it over and decided to release the prisoner. Early in the morning he ordered a sleigh to be harnessed, had the prisoner get in, took some bread, and told the escorts: "I'm going to shoot him." Once in the forest he untied the prisoner, gave him the bread, and said: 'Into the woods with you, and don't cross our path again!'"

Returning to the village, Eugene Nikolacyich went to the church. It was locked. He asked a peasant walking by: "Where does Fr. Nicholas live? The Reds shot him long ago," came the reply.

Eugene Nikolaevich was taken aback, but he decided to look around the church. Someone unlocked the door for him, and he went inside. Suddenly he saw to the right an icon of St. Nicholas and immediately recognized him as his nocturnal visitor; in the icon the wonderworking hierarch was depicted wearing the very same skoufia.

++++
St. Nicholas Comes to Juneau

In 1862 Tlingit leaders asked the Russian Orthodox Bishop of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska to come to Juneau from his headquarters in San Francisco, so they could become Orthodox Christians. As there were no Russians in Juneau, the bishop how the Tlingit had come to this decision.

He was told that a young Tlingit man had had a vision of a short, white-bearded old man telling him to go to Sitka and be baptized. (The Tlingit in Sitka had their own Russian Orthodox chapel with services in the Tlingit language – unlike the American missionaries who were under orders from the United States government to suppress native languages and customs and use only English.) The young man went to Sitka and was baptized.

Not long afterward, he became very ill. Nearing death, he called for the elders of the village and told them the white-bearded old man had come again, giving the message that the Tlingit people should be baptized.

After the young man died, the elders had the same vision, with the same white-bearded man. As this vision, or dream, spread, the

Tlingit people became very eager to be baptized. When they saw an icon of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, they recognized him as the white-bearded old man who had come to them in their dreams.

The Tlingit leader Yees Gaanaaix and his wife were baptized, followed by seven hundred Tlingit people, all coming into the Orthodox faith.

The Russian Orthodox church in Juneau was dedicated to Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker in 1894. As the Tlingit people work on the sea, primarily as fishermen, they have a special love for Saint Nicholas, the protector of all who go to sea. The Juneau church is the oldest in continual use in southeast Alaska.

+++++

Trust rewarded

An elder (Paisios of Mt Athos) once told a story about a monk who had gone to (the town of) Karyes for some errand and had left the door of his cell open, trusting in the protection of St. Nicholas, its patron. When he returned he found that thieves had stripped the cell of everything.

He then went to the church and with courage and in a friendly tone of voice said to St. Nicholas, "Why did you not protect the cell from robbers, my saint? Starting today unless you reveal the robbers, I will not light your lampada." And he did just as he had threatened.

A few days later the thieves were caught, an evidence of the elder's faith, confidence, and simplicity, as well as of St. Nicholas' real presence there. In fact, the robbers humbled themselves and repented, and returned everything they had taken to the elder.

+++++

The Jacobs Creek Disaster

The lives of many Orthodox and Greek Catholic miners, living in Van Meter and Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania, were spared because they attended religious services on the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas instead of going to work.

They were employed by the Darr mines and were requested to work on December 19, 1907 (when the Feast of St. Nicholas was celebrated according to the Julian Calendar). And despite the fact that work had been sparse, they refused and attended the Liturgy that day instead.

That very day a huge mine explosion occurred, snuffing out the lives of approximately 200 men. Spared were the Orthodox members and others who decided instead to attend the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Saint Nicholas.

The following account appeared in the area newspaper:

JACOBS CREEK, PA, December 19 – Religious fervor is due to sweep through the Youghiogheny Valley as never before as a consequence of the Darr disaster. Today was a holiday of the Greek Catholic Church, and as such it was observed by many of the men who usually work in the Darr mines. Usually about 400 men toil within the mine. On account of the religious holiday – it was the Feast of St. Nicholas – this number was nearly cut in half, and these, almost two hundred men, who were saved by religious devotion, will certainly be more devout than ever, after the extent of the mine's horror is fully realized.

