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<td>3 St. Nicholas of Japan Church School 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM Coffee Hour – George M. &amp; George L. George M. &amp; George L.</td>
<td>Greeter: Mat. Melanie</td>
<td>12 Icon of the Theotokos</td>
<td>Charity: St. Herman Church, King Cove, AK</td>
<td>CT Deanery meeting @ Terryville, CT 7:00 PM</td>
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<td>2 Meeting of the Lord Festal Divine Liturgy 9:00 PM Baptism of Matthew Dresko 2:00 PM Great Vespers 5:00 PM Confession</td>
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**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**
HOUSE BLESSINGS: The home blessing this year was again a tremendous joy. I had a wonderful time visiting with everyone, some 50 homes. I also hope the list will grow so that we can get as close to 100% as possible. Thank you, everyone, for your kindness as I journeyed around central Connecticut.

Fr. David

FEAST DAY: The Great Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple will be celebrated with Great Vespers with Litya on Friday, February 1st at 6:30 p.m. and Festal Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Candles on Saturday, February 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

NEWLY ELECTED: The 2013 Parish Council, elected at the annual parish meeting, together with the officers for the Sisterhood and Men’s Club will be blessed the end of Divine Liturgy on February 10th, subject to approval of the elections by His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON. All elected members are asked to be present for that service.

BAPTISMS: We are blessed at Holy Trinity to have two Baptisms scheduled during February. On Saturday, February 2nd at 2:00 p.m. Matthew Dresko, son of Nicholas & Melissa will be baptized. The following Saturday, February 9th at 10:00 a.m. Tenley Morrison, daughter of Stormie & William will be baptized.

God grant them many years!!!

PARISH COUNCIL: The first meeting of the 2013 Parish Council will be held on Monday evening, February 25th at 7:00 P.M. All council members are reminded of the schedule change and asked to make every effort to attend the meeting.

The February charity collection is for St. Herman Church, King Cove, Alaska. A collection of historic, masterful 19th century Russian icons was transferred from Belkofski to King Cove in the 1980’s by barge and placed in Saint Herman Church, then newly built. Today the church is in urgent need of a major restoration in order to house these treasures. Your help is needed to raise the funds to build a safe and modern house of worship for the residents of King Cove and the region. The collection will be taken on the last Sunday of the month. Please use the envelope provided in your monthly mailing.

Help Save Alaska’s Church Treasures!

Birthdays & Anniversaries in FEBRUARY:

4    Isabella Salina    2008
6    Michael Karabin   1947
6    Diane Polzun      1947
7    Adam Salina       1975
7    Tania Bouteneff   1993
8    Ellen Santoro     1953
9    Joshua Karabin    1977
10   Philip Cook        1986
12   Stormie Morrison   1974
14   Natalie Zaiko      2009
16   Helen Anop         1927
17   Kristina Bouteneff 1993
18   Eva Zagorska       1965
20   Katarina Delaney   2004
20   Mike Wanik         1958
25   Kelsey Rembisz     2009
25   Nick Dresko        1983

Archpriest David Koles, Rector
9 Frankie Lane
Terryville, CT 06786
Phone: 860-573-0013
Email: frdavid@htocnb.org
Anniversaries in FEBRUARY:

5  Peter & Ann Anop   1994
21  Paul & Janet Culton  1959

“WHEN I WAS SICK YOU CAME TO ME”

The following parishioners (and friends) are now home-bound or in long-term care facilities. If there are any names missing, please inform Fr. David. The regular schedule of visitations is included on the monthly calendar. Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to make regular visitations to nursing homes and shut-ins. Our loved ones NEED to feel connected to their parish family.

Middlewoods, Newington
Jennie Skovich

Jerome Home, New Britain
Sadie Albino
Helen Karabin

Arbor Rose, New Britain
Nona Belomyzy
Mary Camarata

Walnut Hill, New Britain
Olga Skotnicki
Mary Cherpak

St. Lucian Residence, New Britain
Mary Kotrady

Ledgccrest Nursing Home, Berlin
Natasha Zaiko

At Home: Jim Dounouk, Mary Fairbanks, Michael Horbal, Susan Labas, George Liwen, Stella Liwen, Leo Matyschysk, Irene Prigodich and John Steffick.

PARISH DIPTYCHS

Please remember our departed brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Theodore Karpey  February 1 1982
Mary Semanchik 15  February 23 1910
John Lehman  64  February 23 1950
Anastasia Pelik  62  February 23 1954
Helen Wlasuk 71  February 23 1960
Mary Gasparini 94  February 25 1998
Andrew Lenik 35  February 26 1930
Katherine Smoluk 73  February 26 1971
Alexander Kotrady  February 26 1985
Child (No name) Pruta 4  February 27 1937
Pearl (Paraskeva) Liwen 95  February 27 1987
Justina Sulima 69  February 28 1969
Barbara Steffick 75  February 28 2008
Elia Podubinsky 38  February 29 1916

FEASTDAYS IN FEBRUARY:

Meeting of The Lord (February 2):

Forty days after Christ was born he was presented to God in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. At this time as well his mother Mary underwent the ritual purification and offered the sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forth days after Christmas, on the second of February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the Meeting or Presentation or Reception of the Lord.

The meeting of Christ by the elder Simeon and the prophetess Anna (Luke 2:22-36) is the main event of the feast of Christ’s presentation in the Temple. It was “revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ” (Luke 2:26) and, inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he met the new-born Messiah, took him in his arms and said the words which are now chanted each evening at the end of the Orthodox Vesper service:

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)

At this time as well Simeon predicted that Jesus would be the “sign which is spoken against” and that he would cause “the fall and the rising of many in Israel.” He also foretold Mary’s sufferings because of her son. (Luke 22:34-35) Anna also was present and, giving thanks to God “she spoke of Jesus to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:38)

In the service of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the fact emphasized is that Christ, the Son and Word of God through whom the world was created, now is held as an infant in Simeon’s hands; this same Son of God, the Giver of the Law, now himself fulfills the Law, carried in arms as a human child.

Receive him, O Simeon, whom Moses on Mount Sinai beheld in the darkness as the Giver of the Law. Receive him as a babe now obeying the Law. For he it is of whom the Law and the Prophets have spoken, incarnate for our sake and saving mankind. Come let us adore him!

Let the door of heaven open today, for the Eternal Word of the Father, without giving up his divinity, has been incarnate of the Virgin in time. And as a babe of forty days he is voluntarily brought by his mother to the Temple, according to the Law. And the elder Simeon takes him in his arms and cries out: Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, O Lord, who has come to save the human race - glory to Thee! (Vesper Verses of the Feast)

The Vespers and Matins of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord are filled with hymns on this theme. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated with the lines from the canticle of Mary forming the prokeimenon and the words of Simeon being the verses for the alleluia. The gospel readings tell of the meeting, while the Old Testamental readings at Vespers refer to the Law of the purification in Leviticus, the vision of Isaiah in the Temple of the Thrice-Holy Lord, and the gift of faith to the Egyptians prophesied by Isaiah when the light of the Lord shall be a “revelation to the Gentiles.” (Luke 2:32)

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the Church is not merely a historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led of the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own “meeting” with the Lord, and so also can witness that they too can “depart in peace” since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of his Christ.

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness! Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder; you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection. (Troparion)

By Thy nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb. And didst bless Simeon’s hands, O Christ our God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man. (Kontakion)

It is customary in many churches to bless candles on the feast of the Meeting of the Lord.

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko
The Orthodox Faith, Volume II: Worship
Dept. of Religious Education:OCA 1972  3
Our father among the saints Nicholas of Japan, Equal to the Apostles (August 1, 1836 – February 3, 1912), brought Orthodoxy to Japan. He was sent to Japan as a missionary by the Church of Russia. He worked tirelessly among the Japanese people and established there the Church of Japan. His feast day is February 3.

**Early life**

Nicholas was born Ivan Kasatkin in Berezhovskiy village, Volsk district, in the province of Smolensk. There his father, Dmitri, served as a deacon. His mother died when he was five. The deacon's family was big and very poor. Despite that, young Ivan was sent to the Belsk Theological School and later to the Smolensk Theological Seminary.

In 1857, Ivan, one of the best students, was sent to study in the St. Petersburg Theological Academy, where he demonstrated remarkable talents. When Ivan was about to finish his studies, his future mission — to preach the Orthodox faith in Japan — was revealed by Divine Providence.

The Russian consul in Japan sent a request to the Holy Synod (later forwarded to the Academy), asking for a pastor "who would be useful both as a spiritual director and a scholar, and whose private life would give a good idea of our clergy not only to Japanese, but also to foreigners." He filed a petition to Bishop Nectarius, the rector, asking to profess him and to appoint him to the Russian Consulate in Japan.

On June 24, 1860, Bishop Nectarius professed Ivan Kasatkin with the name of Nicholas in the academic church of the Twelve Apostles. On June 29, the day of Apostles Peter and Paul, monk Nicholas was ordained hierodeacon, and on June 30, when the Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles was celebrated, he became hieromonk.

The bishop's words of blessing of the young monk's new mission were remarkable: "You are supposed to live your ascetic life outside the monastery. You will have to leave your homeland to serve God in a country that is distant and unfaithful. Along with the cross of an ascetic you must take your staff of a pilgrim, along with monastic exploits you must embark on an apostolic mission!"

**Early years in Japan**

In June 1860, Heromnonk Nicholas set off for his duty station in the town of Hakodate, taking along the icon of Smolensk Mother of God. On his way to Japan, he met the renowned bishop of the Russian Church, St Innocent (Veniaminov), Archbishop of Kamchatka, the Kurile and Aleutian Islands (later Metropolitan of Moscow), called the Apostle of America and Siberia. In Nikolaevsk-on-Amur, he learned from the elder missionary's experience all that was necessary to continue his apostolic deeds "even to the end of the earth."

On July 2, 1861 Nicholas arrived in Hakodate. At first, to preach the Gospel in Japan seemed next to impossible. According to Fr Nicholas' words, "the Japanese of that time regarded foreigners as beasts, and considered Christianity to be a vicious church, to which only notorious evildoers and magicians could belong." It took him eight years to familiarize himself with the country, its people and language, and the customs and traditions of those to whom he had come to preach.

Nicholas learned Japanese culture and language eagerly. Especially after he met Archbp. Innocent (Veniaminov) in September 1861 in Hakodate, his motivation seemed to be accelerated. In Japan, the young Nicholas tried to keep his competence for Western languages and read foreign books. Innocent eventually found him reading Western books and scolded him. According to Innocent, all of Nicholas' efforts should have been toward learning Japanese language, culture and history so that he would be able to make a correct translation of the Scripture. Nicholas was impressed greatly with the words of Archbp. Innocent and meekly submitted and was obedient to him.

Hieromonk Nicholas attended popular gatherings to listen to visiting storytellers and Buddhist preachers. By 1868, Fr Nicholas had already mastered spoken Japanese. His knowledge of the history of Japan was deeper than that of many Japanese. In the meantime, he also learned English, which was becoming an international language. By that time Fr Nicholas' congregation numbered about 20 men and women.

In late 1869, hieromonk Nicholas came to St. Petersburg to report on the results of his work to the Synod. A decision was made "to set up a special Russian Ecclesiastical Mission to preach God's Word among pagans." Fr Nicholas was promoted to the rank of archimandrite and appointed head of the Mission.

Upon his return to Japan, the prospective bishop turned over his Hakodate congregation to Hieromnonk Anatole, his new associate, and relocated the missionary centre to Tokyo.

In 1871, the persecution of Christians began in Japan, which affected many people, including Paul Sawabe, the first Orthodox Japanese, who would later become a famous missionary priest.

**Building of the mission**

It was not until 1873 that the persecution lessened a little and a free propagation of Christianity became possible. In the same year Archimandrite Nicholas started to build a church and a school for fifty people in Tokyo, followed by a theological school, which was transformed into a seminary in 1878.

In 1874, His Eminence Paul, Bishop of Kamchatka, arrived in Tokyo to ordain local candidates recommended by Archimandrite Nicholas. By that time, there were four schools in Tokyo: a catechist school, a seminary, a girls' school, and a clerical school; and two schools in Hakodate, one for boys and one for girls.

In late 1877, the Mission began to publish a magazine, The Church Herald, on a
regular basis. By 1878, there were 4,115 Christians in Japan. In public worship and the education of local communities, the vernacular was used. The publication of books on spirituality and ethics was initiated as well.

In 1880, the Holy Synod decided to increase the staff of the Mission and to elevate the head of it, Archimandrite Nicholas, to the rank of bishop. On March 30, 1880, Archimandrite Nicholas was consecrated bishop of Tokyo in the Trinity Cathedral of Alexander Nevsky Lavra. The bishop wrote later: "During the sacrament of consecration, feelings seem to overwhelm the man against his will, his eyes get wet, his soul embarrased. His inner being is transformed as soon as hierarchs place their right hands upon him. He stands up a totally different person than he was before kneeling down in front of the altar."

From this moment Bishop Nicholas continued his apostolic labor with even greater zeal. He completed the construction of the Holy Resurrection Cathedral (Tokyo, Japan) in 1891 and then proceeded with the translation of liturgical books, and composed The Orthodox Theological Dictionary in Japanese while continuing to attend to the needs of the numerous Orthodox communities.

The Russian-Japanese War of 1905, however, turned out to be the time of ordeals for St Nicholas and his flock. He withstood them with honor, to the great surprise of the Japanese. He found a way to help Russian prisoners of war in their difficult situation. In recognition of this unprecedented effort, he was promoted to the rank of archbishop.

In 1911, after fifty years' missionary work of St Nicholas, the Church of Japan numbered 266 communities, including 33,017 Orthodox laymen, one archbishop, one bishop, 35 priests, six deacons, 14 teachers of singing, and 116 catechists.

Throughout his life, St Nicholas set an example of a true spiritual director wholly devoted to his ministry. He was a man of inexhaustible energy, firm commitment, and outstanding efficiency. He said once: "I consider it inappropriate for a missionary to retire unless he is totally unable to serve. I have never tried on a 'robe de chambre,' not even in my dreams. I would better die on the field where God's Providence destined me to plough and sow."

These words fully reflect his human nature. His private life was that of an ascetic. He never tried to perform any special feat, but rather surrendered his entire soul to God. His life was marked with hardships and willfulness, self-appraisals and tiredness, and the feebleness of an old man. However, the saint's life was a clear manifestation of success in overcoming these hardships through the fulfillment of Christ's commandments, shown to the whole world.

On February 3, 1912, Archbishop Nicholas, the enlightener of Japan, peacefully reposed in the Lord at the age of 75, to be succeeded by his assistant the future Metropolitan Sergius (Tikhomirov) of Japan. On April 10, 1970, the Church of Russia headed by Patriarch Alexis I of Moscow and all Russia decided to glorify Archbishop Nicholas naming him Equal-to-the-Apostles. Among the Orthodox, in Japan especially, St Nicholas is now venerated as a man of great sanctity and a special intercessor with the Lord.

Troparion (Tone 4)

O holy Saint Nicholas, the Enlightener of Japan,
You share the dignity and the throne of the Apostles:
You are a wise and faithful servant of Christ,
A temple chosen by the Divine Spirit,
A vessel overflowing with the love of Christ.
O hierarch equal to the Apostles,
Pray to the life-creating Trinity
For all your flock and for the whole world.

The November Parish Council meeting was held in the church hall on November 26, 2012. Warden Gladys Labas called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. A quorum was noted and the meeting began with "O Heavenly King".

Pastor's Report

Father David reported that our new Metropolitan Tikhon was elected by the Holy Synod of bishops at the All American Council on Tuesday, November 13 and will be enthroned in January at the Cathedral in Washington, D. C. He was personally invited to celebrate our 100th Anniversary in 2013 by Father David and His Eminence. We hope for a favorable response.

In December during Advent we will be celebrating the Feast days of St. Nicholas and St. Herman in addition to services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Also, Sister Maria will be visiting us from St. Elizabeth Convent in Minsk, Belarus and will give a presentation about the work and mission of the sisters. We will give a monetary donation for her to take back to the convent.

Father announced that Deacon James has submitted his paperwork requesting to be ordained. This could mean that His Eminence may come here to Holy Trinity to celebrate the ordination if his schedule permits, sometime in December or January.

Father David received a letter from a man, who donated ceramic plates to the church, requesting the church claim that they are worth the amount the donor states. Father David consulted a CPA who said that the plates are worth what they are sold for. Gladys gave the donor the information and told him that we will return the plates to him.

Three thank you notes were received by Father David including one from St. Vladimir Seminary thanking us for the donation of kielbasa for Education Day. The others were from the Boys and Girls Club of New Britain and Project Mexico -St. Innocent Orphanage.
Warden’s Report
Warden Gladys Labas thanked the Sisterhood for a wonderful Apple Harvest Dinner.
She and Evelyn Cherpak will be working on the anniversary book beginning in January. She would like to have a meeting soon.
There is unsightly furniture in front of houses on either side of the church. She contacted City Hall and found that it is the property owner’s responsibility to remove it.
Gladys emphasized that the parish needs to fill the Financial Secretary position.

Secretary’s Report
Motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting was made by Dave Bartos, seconded by Chris Dresko. Motion carried.

Financial Report
Rosemary Delaney reported the October figures as follows:
October income $16,155.69
October expense $15,352.15
Expense over Income $803.54
The figures were audited. Rosemary stated that large expense was $2,491 for insurance.
Income from the tag and food sale as of Oct. 31 is $2,696.75.
Still outstanding from July is Check #19253 for the Puerto Rico mission-$331.
October charity for discretionary fund yielded $536.00.
George Ludko reviewed the Financial Account Statement and noted that the Wells Fargo account was down $5,000. Also, the Profit/Loss statement was presented and a discussion followed concerning the net income being $30,000 below budget.
Motion made by Chris Dresko to accept the financial report which was seconded by Mark Myszka. Discussion on the motion included that more money is still coming in for the Food and Tag Sale and $605 has been collected so far for the Christmas card. After discussion motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Standing Committees
Finance Committee
Chairman George Ludko reported that the next finance committee will take place on December 4 to discuss the budget for next year.
George Matyczek asked questions about the Endowment Fund and Gladys responded that the financial advisor will be able to advise the council in investments and fund matters. Also, in regards to the Bissland bequest, there are no stipulations as far as how to use the interest from the fund investment.
George Ludko stated that the council must stipulate in writing who the signees are in regards financial matters.

By-Laws Committee
Dan Belonick stated that revised by-laws should be made available to the parish for review before the annual meeting. On December 2 there will be a meeting to discuss any questions the parishioners may have in advance. Answers to the questions will be made available well in advance.

Building and Grounds
Dan Bradanini said that he, Fr. David, Ed Bichun and George Matyczek met to review items on the list to discuss with Kaestle-Boos that must be attended to. The list includes:
The stairs leading to the church.
Remove retaining walls along sidewalk next to street to improve appearance.
Fire escape on south side must be changed and re-installed.
Re-build retaining walls around steps.
Wish list includes:
Remove glass and metal enclosure over the stairwell exits.
Gladys would like to turn the garage into office space as we need to think of the future. Dan roughly estimated costs of between $60-$70K. maybe the timing is not right.
George Matyczek reported that he obtained a quote from two contractors for the cost of running a line from the church to the garage, which is costly. Discussion followed concerning thoughts that the timing for converting garage to office space is not right for this year’s budget.

From the Floor
George Matyczek noted that the snow removal company plowing snow from the apartment parking lot across the street plows the snow onto the sidewalk in front of the church. He will send a letter to the building owner to cease and desist.
He also noted that in the cemetery a plastic fence was installed by Dan Telychka, Peter Steffick and himself and metal brackets were placed the grave sites.

NEW BUSINESS
February charity – Father David suggested that we help re-build a historic church in Alaska. At the AAC, St. Herman Church, King Cove, a 19th century church, was presented as one that is in need of assistance.
George Ludko made a motion to support the preservation of St. Herman Church, King Cove, AK which was seconded by Ed Bichun. Motion carried.

From the Floor
Chris Dresko addressed the starting time for Divine Liturgy on Christmas morning and would like it to begin at 8:00am. Since the times have already been published, the council agreed to leave it at 9:30am.
George Ludko will have available the budget in advance to pass out to the parishioners.

*Adjournment* Motion to adjourn at 8:35pm by G. Ludko. The meeting concluded with “It is Truly Meet”.

NEXT MEETING Monday, January 14 at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Santoro