



Saint Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church Shrewsbury Massachusetts
Biserica Ortodoxă Română Sfântul Nicolae Shrewsbury Massachusetts

34 Gold Street, Shrewsbury, MA, 01545

Parish Priest Vasile Aileni

<http://www.stnicholaschurch.org/> || tell (508) 320 0645



WEEKLY BULLETIN
Sunday May 05, 2024



Happy Easter!

RESSURECTION NIGHT – After the Divine Liturgy we will have an Agape Meal - Potluck. **Stephen and Margareta Ellis** have graciously offered to cook and donate the lamb for everybody. We invite everyone to celebrate Pascha in our church family atmosphere!

THE GREAT FRIDAY CHILDREN'S RETREAT for the younger children and youth will be held on Friday, May 3rd starting at 3:30 pm, and concluding with a celebration of Great Vespers at 6:00 pm. Older children and teens are also welcome to participate.

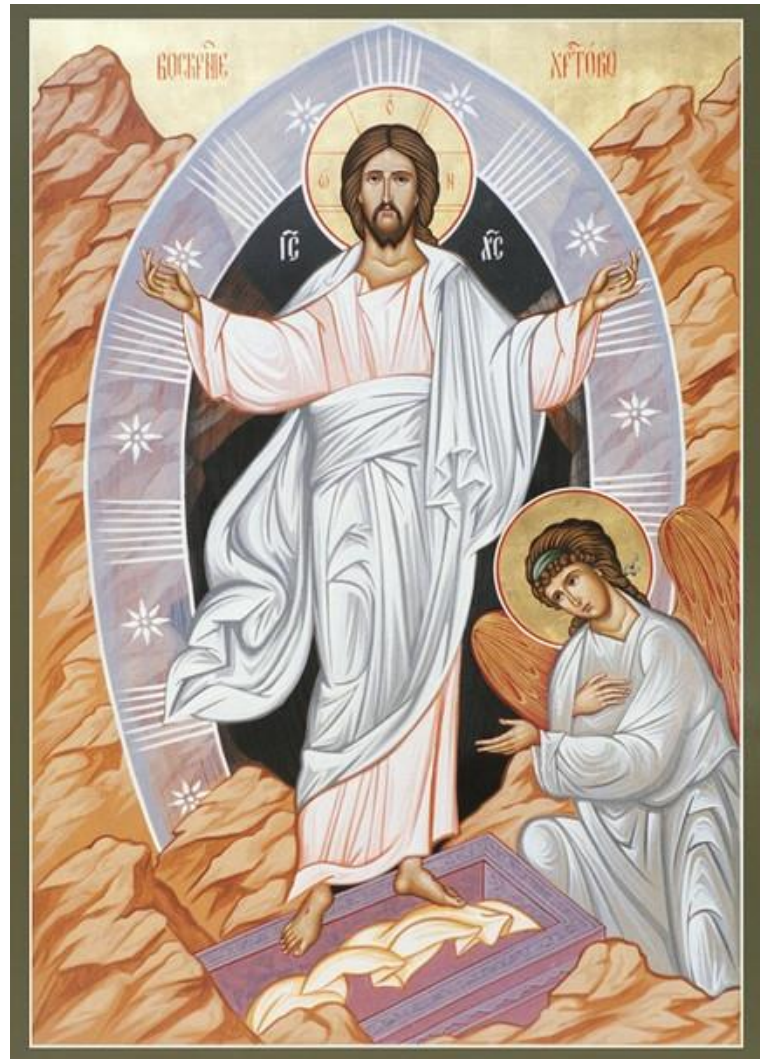
FAITH MAGAZINE 1/2024 – You can find the electronic version of the Faith Magazine on the link below:
https://mitropolia.us/pdf/January_March_2024_Web.pdf

PASCHA CUPS – Following the Resurrection Service we will distribute the Holy Pascha cups. They contain mixed bread and sweet wine, blessed by the priest. If you want to make a donation towards the bread and wine, you are welcomed!

BAKING ORDERS FOR EASTER - You can still place your order because we still have a few pitas left over. Any questions, please contact Betty Anderson by email (bettya16@verizon.net) or by phone 508-353-9449. Many thanks to **Betty Anderson, Natasha Zaka, Maria Dumitriu, Maria Ivan, Diana Tonna** and **Gina Skaff** for their effort and dedication in making these delicious pitas!

E-RECYCLING DAY - AN ELECTRONICS/WHITE GOODS, ETC. RECYCLING day is set for Saturday, June 1, from 9 - 2. If you're able and willing to help during the event, please call George Demake at 774 239 7804 or email him at gdemake@charter.net. See flyer below.

BASKET BLESSING – Faithful bring their baskets with the traditional food to be blessed after the Resurrection Divine Liturgy.



Christ is Risen!
Indeed, He is Risen!

The Great and Holy Pascha

Apostolic Reading: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 23RD 2024

ST. NICHOLAS 75TH ANNIVERSARY



"I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he die, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Lord Jesus Christ



**Happy Birthday! God Grant You
Many More Years!**

May 7 – David Vlad
May 16 – Gheorghina Shaheen
May 16 – Silvia Valentine
May 20 – Theodhoraq Lolo
May 30 - Hannah Constance Datz

**Let us Pray for the good health
of:**

Elizabeth, Rooney, Ekaterina, Psa
Ileana, Luiza, Andrew, Margareta,
Marius-Nicolae, VioricaLoredana-
Anca, Teodora, Joanne, John,
Deborah-Ann, Rebeka, Fr. Stefan and
his son Andrei, Elena, Anca, Marius
Nicolae for their helath and for their
salvation!

Amin!

**Dates to remember:
June 23th 2024**

**Sun, May 5 - GREAT AND HOLY
PASCHA**

Fri, May 10 - Theotokos of the Life-
giving Spring

Tue, May - Constantine and Helen, Equal-
to-the Apostles

A Prayer of Fr. Laurence

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD! Glory to you, O Lord, for letting us live to enjoy the beautiful morning that celebrates the triumphal entry of your Son into Jerusalem. As we add our own hosannas to those of the people who welcomed him, number us among those who hymn you forever. Give us all we need to live in a way that is pleasing to you. Take pity on those whom your own hands fashioned and for love of whom your Son sojourned on this earth. Bring a loving peace and unity to your churches, disturbed by so many divisions and contrary opinions. Grant us all remission of our sins, and, by the prayers of the Theotokos and all your saints, enable us to offer you this morning worship with attention and true devotion. For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen!



" Holy Chrism is both the sign and the seal of Christ, through the anointing with it the newly anointed becomes truly and fully Christian, a new Christ, an anointed of the Lord. The anointing, made in a form of Cross, is therefore a sealing of the members of the church, the visible sign of their belonging to the Lord's mystical Body"

Reception of catechumens to Orthodoxy

On Sunday, April 28th, after the Divine Liturgy we have received into the Orthodoxy our beloved brother Zachary Davidson. May that he will walk on the path of Light towards his Salvation. It was a joy for our community and for his family. Congratulation to his godparents: Christopher and Ana-Stefania Seith.

We invite you all to be part of this important event for our community and to welcome him into our family!



**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR
HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA**

HOLY WEEK

- Holy Monday - April 29, 2024** - 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service
Holy Tuesday - April 30, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.- Bridegroom Service
Holy Wednesday - May 01, 2024 - 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service - Holy Unction Service
Holy Thursday - May 02, 2024 - 9:30 Akathist
- 10:00 Divine Liturgy of the Holy Supper
- 6:00 p.m. - Holy Passion (12 Gospels)
Holy Friday – May 03, 2024: -1:30 p.m. Royal Hours.
- 3:30 p.m. Great Friday Children’s Retreat
- 5:00 p.m. Descend from the Cross Service
- 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service- Lamentation (Prohodul)
Great and Holy Saturday - May 04, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR
GREAT & HOLY PASCHA**

- May 04, 2024:** - 11:15 p.m. Vigil of Pascha
- 11:30 p.m. Resurrection Service
May 05, 2024: - 12:00 a.m. Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom - - Agape meal - Potluck
- 12:00 p.m. Vespers
- 01:00 p.m. Egg hunting
Monday Second Day of Pascha - May 06 - 9:00 a.m. Matins
- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - George the Great Martyr and Triumphant
Tuesday Third Day of Pascha – May 07 - 9:00 a.m. Matins
-10:00 a.m. Divine liturgy
Friday-Theotokos of the Life-giving Spring – May 10 - 9:00 a.m. Matins
- 10:00 a.m. Divine liturgy
Sunday of St. Thomas - May 12 - 9:00 a.m. Matins
- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy – Sunday of Thomas

**PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE FEAST OF THE LORD’S RESURRECTION
2024**

† NICOLAE

by the mercies of God

***Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the United States of America and
Metropolitan of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas***

*To the Beloved Clergy and Orthodox Christians of our Holy Archdiocese,
peace and unwavering hope in Christ the Risen Lord,
and from us hierarchical blessings.*

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” (1 Cor. 15:20-22)

**Very Reverend Fathers, Beloved Faithful,
Christ is risen!**

We give glory to God that He has permitted us once again to utter these words that proclaim to everyone the Resurrection of Christ, the miracle that changed the destiny of mankind and of the world, the wonder that revealed the victory of life over sin, suffering, and death, and man’s possibility to pass from this life to eternal life, as St. Paul the Apostle tells us: *“And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power”* (1 Cor. 6:14).

Together we have gone through the sorrowful days of the Holy Week of the Lord’s Passion that we might be able to proclaim, on the morning of the Resurrection, the miracle of the Lord’s rising from the grave. Thus it is proper that we should reflect now on the meaning of the Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ the Savior.

The Holy Gospels represent these events as fulfilling the Savior’s word, not understood by the Holy Apostles: *“From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day”* (Matt. 16:21, Mark 8:31, Luke 9:22). St. Cyril of Alexandria shows the meaning of the Passion of the One without passions: *They took the Giver of Life to death. And this was done for us, through the divine power and economy that is above all thought... For the passion of Christ was transformed into a means of victory over death, and the Lord’s death was made the beginning of the renewal of mankind unto incorruptibility and new life. Bearing on His shoulders the wood upon which He would be crucified, He goes forward, being condemned from before to death and bearing this judgment upon Himself only for us. For He took on the condemnation which rightfully hung over sinners, on the basis of the Law. For He was made accursed for us, for “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree,” as it was written (Gal. 3:13).¹ The One Who descended from heaven, the Son of God, in Whose image man was created, the One Who humbled Himself *taking the form of a servant* (Phil. 2:7), accepted to the end to take on Himself the human condition. Adam’s sin meant alienation from God, estrangement from the Creator and fountain of life, which brought about death. Instead of abundant life, man came under the condemnation of death. And in order that death might no longer rule, for the healing of the condemnation, Christ, the God-Man, accepted crucifixion on the wood of the cross: *He Who did not know sin was cursed for us, that He might deliver us from the ancient curse.*²*

Through His sacrifice and death on the cross, He shows us how much He loves us. Through this suffering, which brings salvation to all mankind, Christ proves to us that He tore down the dividing wall between us and the Father, in the words of St. Cyril of Alexandria: *After all these things against Christ the Savior were accomplished and He has given His life for us, from now on those who worship Christ will be enriched in all wisdom, in all knowledge, and in all words, receiving the knowledge of His mystery untroubled and free from any shadow.*³ Although Christ was in the grave in His body, with His soul He descended into Hades in order to free those held under the power of death. **The descent into Hades is an event of cosmic importance**, as the Holy Fathers teach us: *the most pure body of the Lord was placed into the earth as a bright beacon, and his unstoppable radiance and mighty splendor drive out the darkness that had reigned in hell and enlightened the ends of the earth... Shining unto the ends of the earth, the striking radiance of the Divinity mortified death and hell... And now everything: heaven, earth, and the nethermost parts have received the light of the serene glory of the Most Holy Trinity. By the warmth of*

¹ Sf. Chiril al Alexandriei, *Comentariu la Evanghelia Sfântului Ioan*, PSB 41, p. 774.

² Ibidem.

³ Ibidem, p. 784.

*this Divine Light is man, the world, and all creation quickened, celebrating and rejoicing with inexpressible exaltation.*⁴

The One Who was crucified, dead, and laid in a new grave was not held by death. The Giver of Life, Life in His nature, could not undergo corruption. He who submitted to the laws of our nature and took upon Himself the ultimate consequence of sin, death, **gave life to the nature which needed life, our human nature.**⁵ We confess this together with St. Basil the Great: *[He] rose again on the third day, making a way for all flesh unto the resurrection from the dead, for it was not possible that the Author of life should be held by corruption, that He might be the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep, the first-born from the dead, that He might be in all things the first among all.*⁶ And together with St. John Chrysostom: *O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown... Christ is risen, and life reigns.*⁷

Most Reverend Fathers, Beloved Faithful,

Sharing these explanations by the Holy Fathers, we should understand that the Savior's Death is the source of our death unto sin, and His Resurrection the source of our resurrection with Christ unto eternity. St. Paul the Apostle assures us of this: *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God* (Col. 3:1-3). The proclamation of the Lord's Resurrection should be for every Christian the source of a different life, lived together with the Risen Lord *for us and for our salvation*. The one who believes in the Resurrection becomes an imitator of the Risen One, no longer being held by sin and death, desiring heavenly things: *Do as He also did, love what He loved, and finding in yourselves the grace of God, love instead your nature in Him, for as He becoming poor did not lose His riches, humbling Himself did not diminish His glory, and dying did not lose eternity, so You too should walk in His steps: despising earthly things that you may gain heavenly things.*⁸

I urge you all, priests and faithful, to share with our brothers, in these days of the Resurrection, this hope of our resurrection with Christ. Proclaiming to one another that *Christ is risen!* may we do so with our soul full of hope that the Risen Lord will bring peace and good understanding to our world as well!

I embrace you all in Christ the Risen Lord and wish you health and joyful holidays!

Truly He is risen!

Your brother in prayer to God,
† **Metropolitan NICOLAE**

Chicago, the Feast of the Lord's Resurrection, 2024

⁴ N. Vasiliades, *Tainstvo smerti*, p. 182, la Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev, *Christ the Conqueror of Hell. The Descent into Hades from an Orthodox Perspective*, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2009, p. 213.

⁵ Cf. Ibidem, p. 787-788.

⁶ *Liturgia Sf. Vasile cel Mare*.

⁷ *Cuvânt de învățătură al celui întru sfinți părintelui nostru Ioan Gură de Aur, arhiepiscopul Constantinopolului, în sfânta și luminata zi a slăvitei și mântuitoarei Învieri a lui Hristos, Dumnezeuul nostru*.

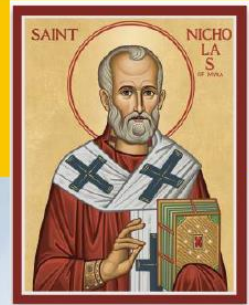
⁸ Sfântul Leon cel Mare, *Predici la Nașterea și Arătarea Domnului și la perioada Pentecostarului*, Editura Reîntregirea, Alba Iulia, 2016, p. 182-183.





ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

34 GOLD STREET | SHREWSBURY, MA



Please Join us on

Sunday June 23rd

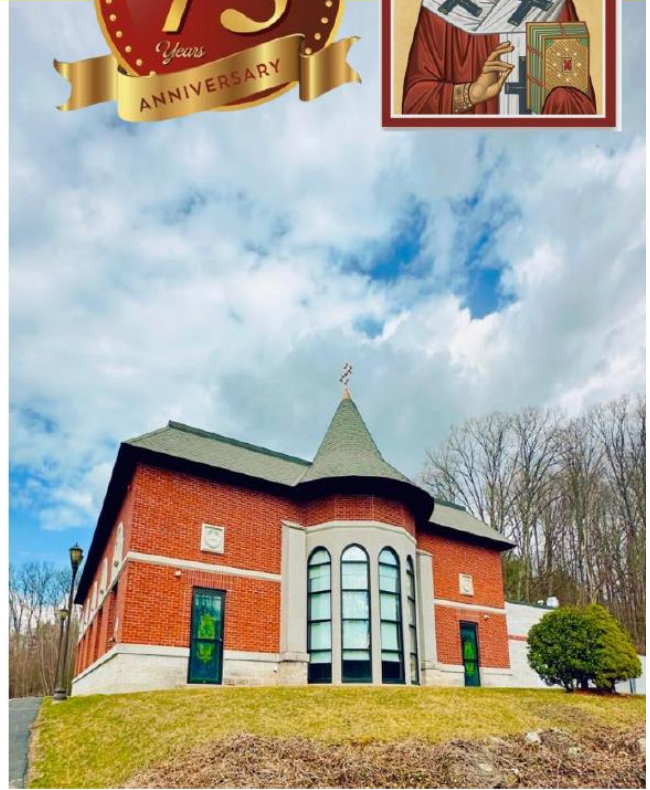
As we are celebrating the

75th Anniversary

of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

After the Holy Liturgy

from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Ask us about the 75th
Anniversary cross
project.

We ask for your support by placing an acknowledgment in the

Program Booklet

Giving Categories

- **Diamond \$2,000** Includes 2 full pages & 4 free dinners at the celebratory meal.
- **Platinum \$1,000** Includes 2 full pages.
- **Gold \$500** Includes 1 full page.
- **Silver \$250** Includes half page.
- **Patron \$100** Single-entry line

Scan me to
register and pay online



Please RSVP by June 1st

Ticket Prices

Adults \$ 60
Children (12 under) \$ 20

FOR TICKETS & PROGRAM BOOKLET

FR. VASILE AILENI 508-320-0645

GEORGE DEMAKE 774-239-7804

EMAIL | PARISHCOUNCIL@STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

WEB | WWW.STNICHOLASCHURCH.ORG

CHURCH & FACILITY NEEDS

The list below contains **ongoing needs for the Church as well as special needs that may arise**. Any and every offering is most appreciated. If you have any questions, or would like to donate for or towards one of these items, please speak with Daniel Shaheen or any member of the Parish Council, or use the [online giving](#) site.

\$25 - Box of Three Kings Charcoal (100 pieces)

\$50 - 2 Beeswax Candles for the Holy Altar

HOLY WEEK DONATIONS

General donations in any amount to defray the cost of decorations for the Paschal Feast are most appreciated. Some specific needs are:

Flowers for Palm Sunday Icon	50.00
Palms	\$100.00
Flowers for Bridegroom Icon	\$50.00
Holy Thursday Gospel Candles	\$60.00
Wreaths for Cross (Great Friday)	\$75.00
(Resurrection)	\$75.00
Resurrection Icon	\$50.00
Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday	\$100.00
1 Gallon of Olive Oil	\$25.00
1/2 lb Incense	\$40.00
Priest's Paschal Candle	\$50.00
Rose Oil for Epitaphion	\$25.00
<hr/>	
Flowers for Epitaphion	\$600.00
Decorations/Plants for Pascha	\$250.00
Easter Candy/Gifts for Children	\$100.0

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

May 5, 2024

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Holy Trinity would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter

Monday: Cookie Bake 3pm

Tuesday: Cinco de Mayo Social with a Mexican food cooking demonstration

Fit USA Exercise 10am

Friday: Garden Club

Wine and Cheese Social with a special appetizer prepared by the Culinary Club

Our weekly planned events: anyone is welcome to stop by. If you have any questions or plan to stop by for an Activity, please contact our activities department Isabelle Bouchard 508-852-1000.

Our Shining Star Employee: Tatyana Dacosta! Tatyana has been at Holy Trinity for more than four months. She is a Certified Nurse's Aid who delivers outstanding customer service to our residents, families, and coworkers. She was recognized for going above and beyond and providing outstanding customer service. We want to thank Tatyana for her dedication and commitment to Holy Trinity!

Divine Liturgy: Every Wednesday at 9:30 am. All are welcome to attend and visit with the residents!

STAY CONNECTED: Like our Facebook page for frequent updates and photos we are always posting!



ACCEPTING ANY AND ALL
ELECTRONICS, BIKES, APPLIANCES
AND MORE!

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

Saturday, June 1st, 2024

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

St. Nicholas Church
34 Gold Street
Shrewsbury, MA

Cost to You:

- **\$5** each for Computers, Laptops, Video Game Consoles, DVD Players, VCR's, Small Printers, Stereos, Radios, Alarm Clocks, Speakers, Table Lamps, Fans, Hair Dryers, Curling Irons, Projectors, Power Tools, Drills, Cameras, Clocks, Trophies, Frying Pans, Holiday Lights, Other Small Electronics.
- **\$10** each for Small Household Appliances, Vacuum Cleaners/RoboVac, Toaster Ovens, Ceiling Fans, Floor Lamps, Air Fryers, Electric Grills, Hot Plates, Small Radiators, Keyboard Pianos, Coffee Makers, Ice Makers.
- **\$20** each for Flat Screen Computer Monitors, Microwaves, Dorm Sized Refrigerators, Dehumidifiers, Air Conditioners, Water Coolers, Large Printers/Copiers, Leaf Blowers, Chainsaws, Heat Lamps, Artificial Christmas Trees, Fire Extinguishers, Propane Tanks (Empty).
- **\$25** each for TVs up to 26," CRT Monitors, Outdoor Grills, Snow Blowers, Lawn Mowers, Rototillers, Power Washers, Large Yard Equipment, Water Tanks.
- **\$30** each for TVs between 26" and 35," Washing Machines, Dryers, Stoves, Dishwashers, Other Large Appliances, Treadmills, Exercise Equipment,
- **\$35** each for TVs over 36," Large Refrigerators, Ride-On Lawn Mowers.
- **\$40** each for Projection TVs.
- **NO CHARGE** (Cash Donations Appreciated): Cell Phones, **Bicycles in any condition**, Video Game Media and Accessories, Wires, Cables, Chargers, VHS/DVD's, Car/Household Batteries, Keyboards, Tablets.

**ALL TOWNS WELCOME! RAIN OR SHINE
HARD DRIVES DESTROYED, CASH PREFERRED, CHECKS (Over \$30)**

Questions? Contact: GreenDayRecyclingMA@gmail.com

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

34 Gold St | Shrewsbury, MA 01545-6238

508-845-0088 | e-mail: info@StNicholasChurch.org

www.StNicholasChurch.org

Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am