



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

BULLETIN BUILDER

Saint John The Baptist Orthodox Church

December 14, 2014

## Church Lectionary & Typicon



**DECEMBER 14, 2014**

27th Sunday After Pentecost

Nahum the Prophet;  
Philaret the Merciful of Amnia

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17  
Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

**Resurrectional Tone 2**



## Church Services and Events

Tues	Dec 16	7:00 pm Advent Lecture Viewing
Wed	Dec 17	9:00 am Pastry Roll Workshop
Thurs	Dec 18	7:00 pm Vespers – St Nicholas
Fri	Dec 19	9:00 am Liturgy - St. Nicholas
Fri	Dec 19	7:30 pm UCONN Women's Basketball Game
Sat	Dec 20	8:30 am Divine Liturgy – Repose Helen Sedlar
Sat	Dec 20	11:00 am – 1:00 pm - Pastry Roll Order Pick-up
Sat	Dec 20	5:00 pm Great Vespers
Sun	Dec 21	8:30 Confession, 8:45 am 6 <sup>th</sup> Hour
Sun	Dec 21	10:00 am Liturgy, Panachida Rep. M Gadala & C. Lomme, St Nicholas Brunch

**St John The Baptist  
Orthodox Church**

**1240 Broadbridge  
Avenue  
Stratford, CT 06615**

**Very Rev.  
Protopresbyter  
Peter Paproski, Pastor**

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203-375-2564**

**Fr. Peter's  
Cell Phone  
203-260-0423  
(Emergency)**

**Email:  
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**Website  
[www.sjoc.org](http://www.sjoc.org)**

## St John's Stewards

<u>Date</u>	<u>Coffee Hour Host</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Epistle Reading</u>	<u>Cleaner</u>
Dec 21	St Nicholas Brunch	Brett	Cantors	Bilcheck
Dec 28	OK Mihaly	Pani Carol	Serge	Bilcheck

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

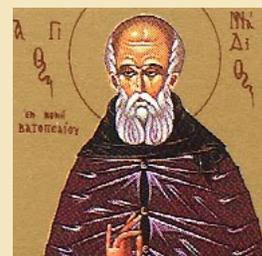
Dec 14	Amy Booth	Birthday
Dec 15	Hailey Meyernick, Ken Lomme, Jr.	Birthday

# Announcements



- ❖ **ADULT EDUCATION & BIBLE STUDY** –The Next Adult Education Class will take place On Sunday Dec 21 in lieu of the sermon. All are welcome to join us for our weekly Bible Study on Wed Mornings at 11:00 am. We are studying the Gospel according to St. Matthew.
- ❖ **12 WEEK FOOD CHALLENGE** – There is a challenge across the nation which began on Facebook asking each family to donate one food item to a local food bank each week until the end of the Year. We are asking parishioners to do the same. This will help restock our nation’s food banks which are at historic low levels.
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECT** - This year we will be providing a Christmas Eve Dinner (Dec 24) for the needy people of Stratford at Christ Church. Please let Eve know if you are able to assist with preparations in advance and/or work at the Dinner. We will also in conjunction with the other Stratford faith communities be collecting personal care items and \$25 gift cards to Cumberland Farms. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Church hall indicating how you would like to help with the projects. Cash donations to offset the cost of the meal will also be gladly accepted.
- ❖ **ST NICHOLAS BRUNCH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!!!** - This Year our annual St. Nicholas Celebration will take place on Sunday Dec 21, 2014 immediately following Divine Liturgy. In addition to a delicious brunch we will be honored by a visit from St. Nicholas, the Sainly Bishop of Myra in Lycia. All parents are kindly asked to bring a wrapped present to be distributed by St. Nicholas. The cost of the Brunch is \$10.00 per adult; children 5 and up: \$4.00; children under 5: free. There is a reservation/donation sign-up sheet in the Church Hall. Reservations must be made by Dec 14, 2014. Donations of "finger" desserts such as cookies, brownies, bar-cookies would be greatly appreciated. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. There will be NO coffee hour that day.
- ❖ **BOWLING OUTING** - The Annual Deanery Youth Bowling outing will take place on Monday Dec 29, 2014 at Nutmeg Bowling Lanes in Fairfield, CT. Cost is \$12.00 and includes a pizza lunch to follow at St. Johns on Silver Lane. Christmas caroling will take place after Lunch at various nursing homes. Please let Fr. Peter know by next Sunday, Dec 21, if your children and parents will be attending.

## Pearls of

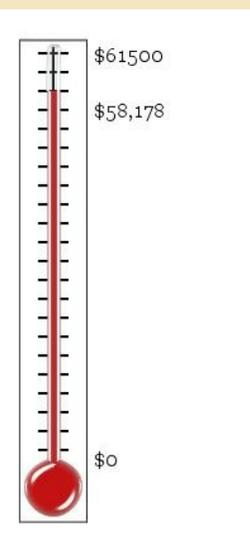


## Wisdom

Do not forsake prayer, for just as the body becomes weak when it is deprived of food, so also the soul when it is deprived of prayer draws nigh to weakness and noetic death.

- St. Gennadios of Constantinople

## Stewardship (Pew Collection)



### FINANCIAL STATISTICS Dec 7

Offering at The Door	1.00
Pew Collection	1027.00
First Sunday Collection	184.00
Seven Day Candles	21.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1233.00</b>

**Be A Good Steward  
Help Your Parish Carry  
Out Its Vital Mission!**

# Announcements

- ❖ **PARISH STEWARDSHIP** - In reviewing the parish finances and parish demographic changes such as decreased weekly attendance and the death of active, faithful parishioners over the past several years, it has been determined that we will face a budget deficit, both in this current fiscal year and especially in 2015.

To reach this year's stewardship goal of \$61,500, pew collections need to be \$1000 per week from today thru the next five weeks. Next year, based on our current giving levels, it is estimated that we will experience a \$20,000– \$25,000 deficit!

The parish council, in reviewing the annual budget, has determined that there is little room for cost savings, as it is essentially a bare bones budget that provides for only the essential needs. The council is presently working on a comprehensive parish stewardship plan which will address this challenge and encourage a revitalization of parish life by bringing about a greater awareness by all members of the spiritual and material needs of the parish.

We are blessed to be part of this wonderful, peaceful and holy parish. What we have here is special and worthy of our complete support. All parishioners are asked to reflect on what our parish means to them, and in a spirit of gratitude commit themselves to offer what ever possible to help us make it through this difficult time. With everyone offering their fair share of their time, talents and financial resources we can meet this budget gap and at the same time move from a subsistence budget to a growth budget, where we can have a more meaningful impact on the lives of our parishioners and our local community through expanded outreach ministries.

Putting it into perspective a budget gap of \$25,000.00 could be easily met by 50 parishioners giving an **additional** \$1.36 per day! This is less than the cost of a small cup of coffee, or a muffin at Dunkin Donuts, a small orange juice at McDonald's or two cigarettes. When you think about it this way, it is certainly doable. And if we could double that to \$2.75 per day We would be able to fund our entire budget without fundraisers and have money left over to do more outreach projects....

All it will take is a small sacrifice on all of our parts, and when we are aware that by doing so we will be showing our thanks to God for our parish and for having each other in our lives... this sacrifice will be easy and sweet! Be brave, have faith and respond to this need and you will receive many, many blessings from God.



## On Stewardship and the Orthodox Life - Part 6: You Are Not Your Own

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

God is not dependent upon us for the advancement of His cause. He might have made the angels his ambassadors of Truth. He might have made known His will as He did on Mt. Sinai in thunder and lightning. But, in order to cultivate a spirit of stewardship in us, God has chosen to use human beings to do this work.

Every act of self-sacrifice for the good of others will strengthen the spirit of stewardship in the giver's heart. Every act of self-sacrifice for the good of others will make the giver closer to Christ, who “was rich, yet for our sakes became poor.” All of the good gifts God gives to us will prove only a curse, unless we use them to benefit others, and to advance the cause of Christ on earth.

It is the increasing devotion to money-getting that deadens the spirit of the Church. When the head and hands are constantly occupied with planning and toiling for the accumulation of riches, the claims of God and humanity are forgotten. If God has blessed us with prosperity, it is not that our time and attention should be diverted from Him and given that that which He has lent us. The Giver is greater than the gift. “We have been bought with a price... we are not our own.”

We are the recipients of the abundant fruit of Christ's self-sacrifice; and yet, when work is to be done, when our money is wanted to help in the work of the Church, we shrink for duty and ask to be excused. Indifference and selfishness seal our senses to the claims of God and His Holy Church.

Are we to recline at our ease and forget the very reason why Christ went to the Cross, suffered, and died to take away the punishment for sin? Rather let us give while we have the power. Let us do while we have the strength. Let us work while it is day. Let us, rather than reclining at our ease, devote our time and our means to the service of God, and “glorify God in our bodies.”

*This weekly series of brief thoughts on stewardship and Orthodox life is brought to you by your Diocesan Stewardship Commission.*

View more articles on line here:

<http://www.acrod.org/ministries/stewardship/stewardship-blog/>