# *THE SAINT NICHOLAS PROJECT:*

## MAKE A MERRIER CHRISTMAS FOR TWO SEMINARIAN FAMILIES!

Our Parish is participating again this year in the St. Nicholas Project. We will be "adopting" two seminarian families from St. Vladimir's Seminary, providing them with gifts in the spirit of generosity and love exemplified by the beloved Bishop of Myra.

Please visit the "St. Nicholas Gift Tree" at Coffee Hour today -- adorned with $10 gift card ornaments. Sponsor one, or as many as you like! A gift card will then be purchased and combined with others to be given to our two "adopted" families.

The gift cards allow the families to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. To Seminarian families with little income, this gift has a double meaning, bringing great joy to both parents and children!

**<u>The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016.</u>**
**In order to have a voice and vote at the Annual Meeting, take any needed steps to fulfill all the following requirements. Thank you!**

- **partake in the Sacraments of private Confession, and Holy Communion at least once a year,**
- **fulfill all financial obligations, as established by the parish, by the end of the year** [currently, this is the $145/year Diocesan Assessment]

**Voting isn't everything … Communion with Christ is! Still, your voice is valuable. So please, work on meeting these criteria so that you can participate both spiritually and materially in the care and growth of your family in Christ!**

# HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Yonkers, New York

**Sunday, November 29, 2015 ~ 26th Sunday After Pentecost**
**St. Mardarije of Libertyville (1889-1935)**

**~A NEWLY GLORIFIED SAINT OF NORTH AMERICA~**

**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH**
Trinity Plaza ✦ 46 Seymour Street ✦ Yonkers, New York 10701
Rector: V. Rev. David Cowan ✦ Protodeacon John Eby
Attached: V. Rev. John Tkachuk ✦ Rev. Vitaly Bahanovich
Rector Emeritus: V. Rev. Yaroslav Sudick, Ph.D., D.D.
Rectory Phone 914-965-6815 ✦ Email: frdavidcowan@gmail.com
Web: www.holytrinityyonkers.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/holytrinityorthodox
Diocese of New York & New Jersey: www.nynjoca.org


**Sun., Nov. 29, 2015 ~ 26th Sunday After Pentecost**
**Saint Mardarije of Libertyville – Newly Glorified Saint of North America**
**Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19; Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

## SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

**Today – St. Mardarije of Libertyville; Martyr Paramon and His Fellow Martyrs**
9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*

**Tues., Dec. 1**
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal – in the Church

**Wed., Dec. 2 – St. Porphyrios of Mt. Athos; Habbakuk the Prophet**
9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy* – Fr. David's Ninth Anniversary of Ordination

**Thurs., Dec. 3**
10:00 AM Decorating the Church for Christmas – See Anna Bolinsky to help!

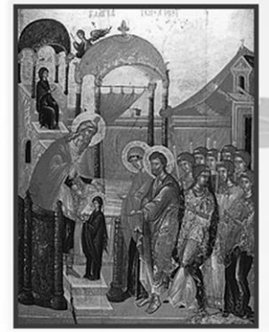
**Fri., Dec. 4**
7:00 PM "M&M" Women's Group Meets – at Dasha Piwinski's Home

**Sat., Dec. 5**
5:30 PM Private Confession Available
6:00 PM *Great Vespers & Litya* – Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker;
During Vespers, Private Confession Available in Russian, Polish, Ukrainian.

**Sun., Dec. 6 – Feast of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra in Lycia**
9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*, followed by Coffee Hour with St. Nicholas Day Brunch, Gingerbread Church Building Contest, and … A Visit From St. Nicholas!

***Families Encouraged to Come Together for Confession in Preparation for Christmas, Sat. 12/5, starting 5:30 PM … particularly if some family members wish to confess in the Slavic languages:***
***CONFESSION AVAILABLE IN RUSSIAN, UKRAINIAN, and POLISH – Saturday, December 5, 6:00 PM***

**В субботу, 5 Декабря в 6:00 вечера, во время службы великой вечерни, о. Вячеслав Кравчук будет слышать исповеди прихожан нашего храма говорящих на Русском, Украинском и Польском языках.**



# The Pre-Nativity Season

***"O angelic hosts of the Lord, do ye hasten to the village of Bethlehem in Judea to prepare a noble place for Him who cannot be contained, the Author of creation…"***

***EVENTS IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY …***

- **Thurs 12/3, 10 AM: Come Help Decorate the Church for Christmas!** Please join in putting up the trees & ornaments in church! See Anna Bolinsky to help.
- **Fri 12/4, 7 PM: SS. Martha & Mary Women's Group Meets** at Dasha's home. Discussion will center on the book, *Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives.*
- **Sat 12/5, 6:00 PM: Confessions in Russian, Polish, Ukrainian:** Fr. Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk will hear Confessions here in those languages, during Vespers. Please share this with your family and friends in the parish who will benefit!
- **Sun 12/6 at Coffee Hour: St. Nicholas Celebration.** The Nolan Family will host their annual St. Nicholas Breakfast. There will be a special visit from St. Nicholas and again this year, a Gingerbread Church Contest! Edible building materials will be supplied for classes and families (and anyone else who'd like to participate) to build their "dream" church.
- **Sun 12/13 Special St. Herman's Day Collection at Liturgy for IOCC** (International Orthodox Christian Charities) If you are moved to help refugees in the Middle East, victims of the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine, or those in need other places around the globe, bring a donation on St. Herman's Day, Dec. 13. For more info, see IOCC's website, www.iocc.org
- **Thurs 12/24 5:30 PM: Holy Supper** at the Rectory … Let Mat. Tamara know you'd like to come! A traditional lenten Christmas Eve meal, it is the last meal of the Advent fast. Fasting foods served can include barley, honey, stewed prunes, pierogi, sauerkraut, potatoes, lima beans, garlic, Lenten bread, or mushroom soup. A lit candle symbolizes the star of Bethlehem. The bread broken and shared symbolizes Christ at the Last Supper. Foods range from bitter to sweet to remind us of the bitterness of life before Christ's birth and its sweetness after He came. After supper, all attend the Christmas Eve vigil. Hay under the tablecloth recalls the manger where Jesus' Mother placed Him. An extra place is always set -- for Jesus, either in Spirit, or in the form of a traveler or stranger, for none are turned away on this day without a warm invitation to partake!

# A Big "THANK YOU"

## to all who took part in the

## *"FREEZER PLEAZERS"*

## Fundraising Auction

***You Raised Over $1,250 to help renovate and add New Boys' Bathrooms … and fund Camper Scholarships for 2016! If you weren't here for the Auction or want to donate something more, please see Mat. Tamara.***

St. Andrew's Camp

**OUR LOCAL CHARITY FUND NEEDS REPLENISHING … THANK YOU!**

Thanks to your generosity the last time we ran a "Local Charity Fund Appeal," our parish was able to provide Thanksgiving meals for 5 local families last week. Now … your generosity is sought to replenish the Local Charity fund! Anyone able to donate, please see Fr. David or Financial Secretary Joel Statkevicus.

The Ladies' Guild Gift Shop
has new items in stock for your Christmas Shopping –
starting Saint Nicholas Day – next Sunday, December 6!

**PLEASE BRING YOUR**
**2015 DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT "A.S.A.P.!"**

The Diocesan Assessment is again set at $145.00 per person for 2015. So that we may submit our accurate parish census to the Diocesan Office, **please bring your $145.00 Diocesan Assessment as soon as possible.**

**Ephesians 5:9-19** Brethren: the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth,10finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.11And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.12For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.13But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.14Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."15See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,16redeeming the time, because the days are evil.17Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.18And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

**TODAY'S GOSPEL Luke 13:10-17** At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.11And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.12But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."13And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.14But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."15The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it?16So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?17And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

**CHOIR MEMBERS: Rehearsal Schedule for the Rest of 2015**

Tuesday, December 1, 7:30 PM • Tuesday, December 15, 7:30 PM

… and a Pre-Christmas Rehearsal, Sunday, December 20, after the Liturgy

***Thank you, Singers, for every effort you can make to participate in rehearsals and in the Divine Services!***

***With love in Christ ~ Fr. David***

**HELP WANTED STUFFING OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS –**

Call the rectory at (914) 965-6815, or email frdavidcowan@gmail.com , to let me know when you'd be free this week to come stuff and stamp envelopes.

**Thank you!**

**Find Spiritual Nourishment for Your Family and You During the Advent Fast!**

- Short Video Talks by Archbp. Michael: www.nynjoca.org/lessons_in_our_faith.html
- Nativity Lessons and Resources for Families: www.antiochian.org/nativity
- Streaming Orthodox Music from Ancient Faith Radio: www.ancientfaith.com/radio#

***PASTORAL CARE – GENERAL INFORMATION***

***Emergency Sick Calls*** can be made at any time. Please call Fr. David at (914) 965-6815, when a family member is admitted to the hospital.

***Anointing In Sickness:*** The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, the hospital, or your home, for anyone who is sick, however severe. It doesn't mean "Last Rites!"

***Marriages and Baptisms*** require early planning, scheduling, and selection of sponsors (crown bearers or godparents). See Father before booking dates and reception halls!

***Funerals*** are celebrated for practicing Orthodox Christians. Please see Father for details.

***The Church opposes cremation; we cannot celebrate funerals for cremations.***

**WANT TO HELP A STRUGGLING PARISH, MISSION, OR SEMINARIAN WITHIN OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY?**

**Become a *DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN BENEFACTOR!***

**To see a video "slice of life" of our Diocesan churches, visit www.nynjoca.org/vision_for_future_2012.html … and scroll down to VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS. *Questions? See Fr. David.***

**PRAYER LIST**

**Above all, we are a praying community. Keep this list in your prayer corner, and in your daily prayers, remember our Brothers & Sisters in Christ:**

The survivors of the terrorist attacks in France; Betty Isreal; newborn Amelia; MaryAnn Paprocki; Newborn Courtney Lyzak; Anatole Honczarenko; Tekla Ryzyk; Timothy; Mat. Anastasia Harris; Jennifer Drake (Beth Ryzyk's sister; Elias Kachur; Mat. Olga Meerson; Elena Herman; Eleanor Wasilko; Adriana Szpynda; baby Alena King; Ludmila Branzow; Nathan Orsini; Suzanne Gee; Evan; Nicholas; Dorothy Vernak; Nikolette Katechis; expecting parents Juliana & Mark Federoff, Mat. Anastasia & Fr. Timothy Hojnicki and their unborn children; Nicholas Washenko; Maryanne Nolan; Stan & Victoria, and all those preparing for marriage; Kevin Kuzmenko; Shawn Malone; Metropolitan Paul and Bishop Gregorios, Vera Bullock; Julia Wislocki; Schuyler Perry; Doris Morin; Kelly Ray; Justin Solak; Carmen Fesh; Anne Kakos, Kay Baker (Anne's sister); Vitaliy Khutko; Malcolm Kirkpatrick; Nikolai & Nadezhda Solidnov; Kathleen Nolan; the priests Frs. Vitaly Bahanovich, John Tkachuk, Joseph Chupeck, Leonid Kishkovsky, Joseph Kreshik; John Nehrebecki, Herman Schick, David Shewczyk, Ken James Stavrevsky, Daniel Degyansky, Stephen Mack, PDn. Peter Skoog; Klara Borzova; Helen Delandri; Helen Dempsey; Irene Homa; Olga Juck; Mary Kalakuka; Mary Kantor; Daria Krawchuk; Vincent & Mary Macagnone; Olga Pavelchak; Stephanie Phillips; Mat. Juliana Schmemann; Martha Slivka; Zena Weshta; all those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and their own homes due to illness; for all soldiers, especially Jorge, Bryan & Mykola; widows, orphans, prisoners, victims of violence, and refugees, especially in Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and the Ukraine; all those suffering chronic illness, financial hardship, loneliness, addiction, abuse, abandonment and despair; all Orthodox seminarians & families, especially John & Brenda Mikitish; all Orthodox monks and nuns, especially Monk Seraphim, and all those considering the monastic life; all Orthodox missionaries and their families. Birthdays: Patricia and Michael Bouteneff (today); Sebastian Harris (today).

**For blessed repose for the souls of:** The victims of the terrorist attacks in France (+11/13); Mario Luigi Saraceno (+11/10); Elizabeth Newman (+11/4); Maria and Daniel; Fr. Sergei Garklavs (+10/19); Nellie Berezina (+10/12); the ever-memorable Marie Washenko & William Moskwa; and all those departed this life in hope of the Resurrection.

**Please give prayer requests to Fr. David, to Protodeacon John, or to an Altar Server. Typically, names remain on this list for 40 days, unless requested otherwise. Those confined to hospitals or homes, or suffering chronic illnesses, remain on the list.**

**PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS – our parish sons & daughters, OCF chapter members, AND those at nearby colleges who make HTO their spiritual home away from home!**

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|---|---|---|
| Bassim Abbasi | Andrew Nolan | Matt Skalski |
| Michael Bouteneff | Kamille Perry | Alexandra Solak |
| Joe Ciamarra | Schuyler Perry | Justyna Skalski |
| Kaydee Kowalczyk | Roman Piwinski | Monika Wislocki |
| Dan Kozak | Amanda Ryzyk | |
| Madeline Miroshnikov | Peter Ryzyk | |

***"Sending our kids to college without a connection to the Church is like sending children to play in traffic." -- Archbishop Michael***

**Please tell Fr. David if there are any errors or omissions on this list.**