



ОМОФОР



SMSPHSR

Покровский Аустон - Ураи Пресвятой Богородицы - Нью-Йорк, Н.У.

Holy Virgin Protection Church - Parish Newsletter - Nyack, N.Y.

Христос Родается! Славите Его!

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Рождество Господа Бога и Спаса нашего Иисуса Христа

THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

25 декабря / 7 января
Тропарь - глас 4

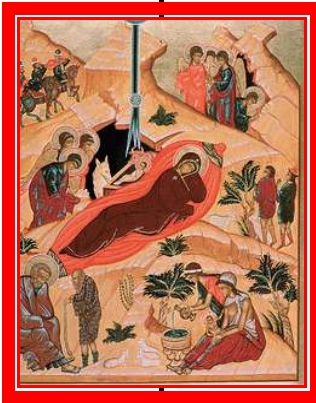
December 25 / January 7
Troparion — Tone 4

*Рождество Твое, Христе Боже наш, / возсия
мирови светразума, / в нем бо звезд
служящии / звездою учахуся / Тебе кланяются,
Солнцу Правды, / и Тебе ведети с высоты
Востока. // Господи, слава Тебе!*

*Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / Hath shone to
the world the Light of wisdom! / For by it, those
who worshipped the stars, / Were taught by a Star
to adore Thee, / The Sun of Righteousness, / And
to know Thee, the Orient from on High. / O Lord,
glory to Thee!*

Кондак - глас 3

Kontakion — Tone 3



*Дева днесь Пресущественнаго рождает / и
земля вертеп Неприступному приносит /
Ангели с пастырьми славословят / волсви же со звездою
путешествуют / нас бо ради родися // Отроча Младо,
Превечный Бог.*

*Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent
One, / And the earth offereth a cave to the
Unapproachable One! / Angels with shepherds glorify Him! /
The wise men journey with a star! / Since for our sake the
Eternal God was born as a Little Child!*

Что такое ОМОФОР ?

Наш праздник Покров - в видении Дева распростерла над людьми широкий плат-покрывало, который сняла со своей головы. В Богослужбной традиции сохранилось греческое слово «омофор» (дословно «наплечник»). Омофор (или, как его называли и называют в нашей стране, покров) - это не только покрывало, но и символ защиты, **защита Богородицы, которой она покрывает нас!**

The meaning of SMSPHSR

Our parish feast day is Pokrov - the Mother of God spread over the people a wide shawl, which she took from over her head. In Church tradition, the shawl was preserved with the Greek name “omophor,” literally a “shoulder shawl.” The omophoor (in Russian, also “pokrov”) - is not just a shawl, but a symbol of protection, **the protection by which the Mother of God covers us all!**

●

Святое Богоявление. Крещение Господа Бога и Спаса нашего Иисуса Христа.

6/19 января

Тропарь - глас 1

Во Иордане крещающуся Тебе Господи,
Троическое явися поклонение: Родителю бо
глас свидетельствоваше Тебе, возлюбленного
Тя Сына именуя: и Дух в виде голубине,
извествоваше словесе утверждение, явлейся
Христъ Боже, и мир просвещей слава Тебе.

Кондак - глас 4

Явился еси днесь вселенней, /и светТвой, Господи,
знаменая на нас, /в разуме поющих Тя: /пришел еси и
явился еси, //СветНеприступный.

Почему надо освящать дом на Крещение

Благодать Божия, подаваемая через освящение наших домов, особенно нам необходима, чтобы помочь нам защитить, сознательно оградить себя от вирусов греховного соблазна и духовного разложения, проникающих в наши жилища.

Будем помнить, что освящение дома — это и защита его от всяких бедствий, и благословение на добрые дела и на охранение нашего жилища от всего злого, противного Богу; благословение на то, чтобы мы не уходили от Бога и старались направлять нашу жизнь не по тем законам, которые внедряют в человеческую жизнь враг рода человеческого, но по Закону Божьему.

Пригласите вашего священника освятить вам дом или заполните запись на освящение дома у свещного ящика.

Сестричество

● Каждое воскресенье после литургии наше сестричество устраивает обеды чтобы дать возможность богомольцам отдохнуть и пообщаться. Милости просим!

●

FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

January 6/19

Troparion - Tone 1

When Thou, O Lord was baptized in the Jordan /
The worship of the Trinity was made manifest /
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee /
And called Thee His beloved Son. /And the
Spirit, in the form of a dove, /Confirmed the
truthfulness of His word. /O Christ, our God,
Thou hast revealed Thyself /And hast enlightened
the world, glory to Thee!

Kontakion - Tone 4

Today Thou have shown forth to the world, O Lord, /and the
light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. /Knowing
Thee, we sing Thee praises. /Thou hast come and revealed
Thyself, /O unapproachable Light.

Why we bless our homes on Theophany

The grace of God, given through the blessing of our homes, is particularly needed by us to help protect us, to knowingly guard ourselves from the viruses of sinful temptations and spiritual decay entering into our homes.

Let us remember, that a house blessing is a guard against various calamities and a blessing for good works to protect our home from all evil, from all that is adverse to God. It is a blessing so that we would not depart from God, but that we try to direct our life not according to the laws being foisted on us by the evil one, the enemy of mankind, but according to the Laws of God.

Invite your priest to bless your home or fill-in the “Home blessing sheet” at the candlestand.

Sisterhood

● Please come and join us every Sunday after Liturgy for delicious lunches. Mingle and make new friends. Support our Sisterhood fund-raisers for charity and parish needs. Everyone is welcome to help or support these efforts.

From the newly elected head-sister, Anna (Gloria) Clark:

ITS a WONDERFUL LIFE

In the spirit of the Christmas Holiday, I recall fondly one of my favorite films, "It's a Wonderful Life," starring Jimmy Stewart. Jimmy plays our hero George, who has a true sense of responsibility, takes ownership of challenges and frustrations, as well as displaying the integrity of always doing the right thing.

Yes, we too have A Wonderful Life; to go to church, pray, have a bite of lunch and go home, care free and worry free to Our Wonderful Life. George, our hero has helped so many people, putting them first before his own desires and needs... This is what our Sisterhood does each and every day.

George, our hero, gets himself into financial trouble, through no fault of his own and says for a moment "What if I had not been born and never existed?" I see a similar question with regard to our Sisterhood. What if Our Sisterhood never existed? Just imagine what our Church would be like!

First, there would be no prosfora or breads for the liturgy, no decorating for feast days, to beautify for our Liturgy, or decorating our special trapezas and parish events. There would be no fund-raising for special capital projects for maintaining the Church Hall, or for any projects that could include heating systems, painting, even freezer repair. There would be no lunches, or various trapezas, no pomenki, no kulichi or pascha to be made or sold, no blini dinners. No friendships or sense of community would occur for our parishioners as they could not interact with each other at these spirited events. Cleaning supplies could not be purchased or maintained, and neither would the church, kitchen, the pantry or bathrooms be kept clean. Annual appeals for missions, seminary donations and icon restoration, and flowers, would disappear along with the maintenance of vestments, tablecloths, and even aprons.

No one would visit the elderly or frail with customary Christmas baskets and blessed Easter food as no one would assemble them. There would be a halting of the Sisterhood's contribution to the General Fund as an austerity program for our parish would be put in place. Our Russian School would not be the successful vibrant institution that it is ... perhaps a hollow shell.

Right now most of these activities and chores are done, for the most part, by three members of the Sisterhood. Yes, it is a Wonderful Life, for many, but like our hero George, he is tired and frustrated like our Sisterhood is, and feels that so much more help is needed. The workers for our Sisterhood, need more people involved with Church duties. The fundraising committees are frustrated that our parishioners are not taking more ownership of the various events. We all need to participate, to donate more time and support, truly helping from our hearts. Just as George (in the film) helped so many in his community; we will be helping our church community, insuring its future for many more years to come ... in order that we too may have A Wonderful Life.

submitted by Gloria Clark Dec 21, 2016

Lives of Saints

"And the Word became flesh!... in order to make us earthly beings into heavenly ones, in order to make sinners into saints; in order to raise us up from corruption into incorruption, from earth to heaven; from enslavement to sin and the devil - into the glorious freedom of children of God; from death - into immortality, in order to make us sons of God and to seat us together with Him upon the Throne as His royal children. O, boundless compassion of God! O, inexpressible wisdom of God! O, great wonder, astounding not only the human mind, but the angelic [mind] as well!"

St. John of Kronstadt, On the Nativity of Christ.

Parish Life

What happened in our parish last year?

Illustrated excerpts from the rector's address at the General Parish meeting.

Dear brothers and sisters,

I thank you all for attending today, showing interest and concern in the life of our parish. We had many interesting and good-producing activities that occurred in our parish during the last year, 13 months since our last annual parish meeting on November 8, 2015. At the request of the auditing committee, we moved the meeting a month later, to allow them to complete their work. I have been trying to abide by the Bishop Nicholas' emphasis, at our parish meeting in May, 2015, the preference of having the annual meeting within 2 months of the close of the fiscal year. For us, the fiscal year ends Aug 31st.



Fr. Ignatius with Patriarch in Moscow

We want to welcome to our parish Father Ignatius Green and his family, Matuschka Aimilia and their children, Ephrem and Theophania. On April 1st, 2016, Father Ignatius was assigned to our parish as a staff part-time second priest by His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion. During our the last annual meeting, Father Ignatius was still a subdeacon, embellishing our services with his reading and singing while pursuing a masters degree at St Vladimir's. Father Ignatius was ordained deacon and then priest in December of last year and attached to our parish until completion of his Master's degree in June. However, upon graduation, St. Vladimir's offered Father Ignatius a full-time position as editor of St. Vladimir's publishing house - thus enabling Father Ignatius to be assigned by our ruling bishop as a staff priest. Father Ignatius is a "part-time" second priest, as Father Ignatius duties require him to serve twice a month at the seminary. We are truly blessed to have Father Ignatius at our parish. At his own volition, Fr Ignatius served liturgy every day during Bright week (the first week after Pascha Sunday). As part of Father Ignatius' editor duties at St. Vladimir's, he traveled to Russia the week before Thanksgiving to present a book published by the seminary press to his Holiness the Patriarch Kyrill of the patriarch's sermons. Father Ignatius will share his visit to Russia with us as an added agenda item at this meeting.

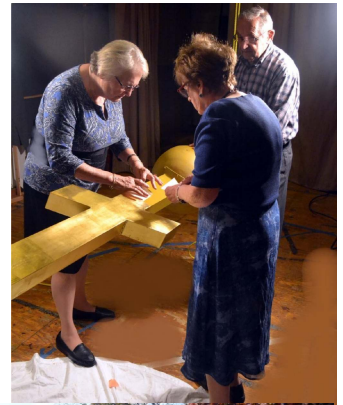


We were blessed this past year with several archpastoral visits. Bishop Nicholas served hierarchal liturgies on St. Catherine's, December 7, 2015, on January 17, 2016, on Palm Sunday, April 24, 2016, when he also served the Sacrament of Unction, and on Pokrov, our parish feast day, October 14, when he awarded Father Ignatius the right to wear the Nabedrenik. Bishop Jerome served liturgy on the Myhrr-bearers Sunday after Pascha, May 15, 2016.



In the 13 months since the last parish meeting, 93 liturgies were served, 567 persons received confession and communion. 12 persons were received into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism and 4 couples were joined through the Sacrament of Matrimony. Funerals were served for Alexei Umrichin, Andrew Orlov and Taisia Popova. Other members or friends of the parish passed over to eternal life during this period, Galina (Svetlana) Kluge, Nadezhda Papkov, Elena, Leo, Sophie Schidlovsky, Agafia, Ludmilla Prokh, Nadezhda Issaeva, Antonina Abramova, Micheal Lopukhin, George, archpriest Gregory Williams, Protodeacon Job Chemerev, Archimandrite Innocent Potter, Archpriest Andrei Semyanko (protodeacon at our parish), and Archimandrite Athanasius, Let us pray for the repose of their souls.

Due to a drop in voluntary donations to the parish in previous years on which the parish depended, we were unable to pay the our share of the diocesan dues to support our diocese and synod. As a result, in the fall of 2015, I needed to request a forbearance on the dues owed to the diocese for the 2014 and 2015 years. Graciously, the diocesan council granted the forbearance and allowed us to start fresh with the 2016 year. Due to the tireless fund-raising efforts of many members, the financial state of the parish has improved and we were able to resume paying our diocesan dues to the diocese. The treasurer will report the details in his report, but we need to remember, that the membership dues themselves cannot sustain the parish - our parish is dependent on fund-raisers and separate voluntary donations. I call upon all to contribute what they can - if monetary donations are impractical, help with fund-raising events is usually possible for all. Fund-raisers can be undertaken by any parish member and we are looking for new ideas.



I want to thank everyone who made possible the fund-raising efforts

- Nativity Fundraiser chaired by the Podymov family - approx \$11000 clear. (\$2500 expenses)
- Pie selling fund raiser at Yolka - approx \$800 cleared. (Paul Farrel)
- Renting the hall and classrooms to Sr Cecilia English as a second language program. (Alex Vursta) >\$14k
- Blini (Cassie Vursta) - approx. \$10000 clear
- Kulich Decorating fund-raiser - approx \$1000
- Boutique - approx. 17k gross - net 10k+



The following maintenance efforts were successfully completed

- Replacement of water heater in the church building
- Tree work on performed in the fall of this and previous years.
- Snow plowing by junior and senior Alex Vursta.
- Painting of outside of the church
- Repaving of walkway around the church
- Repaving of 38 So. Mill St driveway
- Repainting of 38 So. Mill St house
- Main cupola cross taken down, regilded, and put back up by parishioners





I would like to thank our choir who continues to prayerfully sing under the tutelage of the choir master Elena Miloradovich and her untiring substitute and assistant, subdeacon Victor Gonchar.

The sisterhood at their last meeting elected a new head sister, Gloria Anna Clark, and other officers. I would like to thank the outgoing head sister Anastasia Lopoukhine and the entire sisterhood for their invaluable work for the parish. Anastasia Lopoukhine will provide the details in her pending report. The sisterhood, as always, provides so much for the parish, most often, unseen. Their reward will be from God Who rewards those who labor unseen, not seeking praise from man.

Much thanks are due to Father Deacon Sergei Arlievsky who also labors so much unseen performing all the tasks needed to keep the school on track. He is at the school at all hours of the day and night - rushing to do this or that. May God give you strength and reward you accordingly.

Our deacons, Fathers Dimitri and Andrei, diligently embellish the services, keep order in the altar, and ,together with sister Natalya Buleyeva, dutifully keep the temple adorned with the proper vestments. May God save you.

I also thank the auditors and the parish council for all the counsels and their time donated for our parish. Starosta Sergei Rylov and his helpers, provide the needed tasks to assist our parishioners. Kirill Zaporoshan, property manager and assistant starosta provides invaluable diligence in keeping our church and property in order. Treasurer Sergei Lopoukhine and assistant Marie Zaporoshan diligently keep the church finances in order. Marie works day and night at the computer keeping the books in synch. The auditors job is a most necessary but often a thankless job, as it involves much unseen diligence and the thankless task of pointing out inconsistencies or other misses.

Last, but not least, I thank everyone else who toils or tithes to our parish.

May God save you all.

Archpriest Ilya Gorsky

We are so excited to announce our Annual Parish Blini Celebration for February 24th, 2017 to be attended by young and old from near and far! So please mark you calendars now!

This years pricing will be \$70 per person! **For the first time ever we will have special pricing for those that purchase and PAY in Full by 2/1/17. Tickets will be \$60 per person!

We look forward to seeing you this year! Please order your tickets from Cassie Vursta 845-641-4216 or on our web-site, http://www.hvpc.us/blini_banquet.html

Our youth will be serving delicious Blini to our guests, dressed in Russian costumes, creating a festive Maslenitsa feast.

Please contact Cassie Vurta to volunteer - you will help make this event a success!



**Церковно-приходская школа
храма Покрова Пресвятой Богородицы
в Няке**

приглашает Вас на

РОЖДЕСТВЕНСКУЮ ЁЛКУ

15 января 2017 года
в воскресенье, в 3 часа дня



Спектакль по сказке А.С. Пушкина
**«Сказка о мёртвой царевне
и о семи богатырях»**

* Бесплатный буфет *
* Хороводы вокруг ёлки *
* Дед Мороз и подарки *

Вход: \$15 взрослые, \$5 дети школьного возраста,
малыши (3 года и младше) – бесплатно.
Бесплатный вход для учеников нашей школы

51 Prospect Street, Nyack, NY

Please join us in the church hall for our
parish school Yolka!
3 pm January 15, 2017

Visit our Parish Bookstore & Gift Shop

for

Nativity Gifts

In the Church Hall

845 353 1155

Our beautiful shop, the Church Bookstore, is located in the Church Hall, dressed in all its Christmas finery, is ready to be discovered by smart shoppers who want to buy perfect and unique Christmas gifts that embody many of our Russian traditions.

We also have icons, lampadas, religious books and children's literature as well as gold and silver crosses.

For our Christmas season, we have a fabulous selection of hand carved and painted Santas from Russia; Imported glittering tree ornaments; and festive one of a kind specialty items Art Dolls, hand painted also known as matryoshka's.

We are open and available on Sundays after Liturgy;
Saturday 10:30 – 1:00PM.
and by appointment

Marie: 201-891-0594 Irina: 845-363-6036

Don't forget our elderly and sick - always glad to receive visitors!

- **Lydia Gnoutcheff:** Tolstoy Foundation Nursing Home, 100 Lake Road, Valley Cottage, NY 10989. Info: 845-268-6813.
- **Lisa Semyonova:** 36 South Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960. Info: 845-358-2835.

SMSPHPSR is the parish newsletter of the Holy Virgin Protection Russian Orthodox Church, Nyack, NY

Rector and Editor: Father Elias Gorsky

7 Calvert Drive, Washingtonville, NY 10992

Assistant Editors: Father George Larin, Father Ignatius Green, Irene Gorsky

To receive our parish newsletter via email or US mail, please notify
frilya@egcon.com

Donations to defray expenses are always welcome. Please make checks payable to:
Holy Virgin Protection Church - Omophor fund.

Nativity Appeal

“On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” (Matt 16:18)

With the Apostle Peter’s confession of faith, our Lord Jesus Christ built His Church. Today we ask you to give a donation to His church, our parish.

As our Holy Church has endured in all corners of the world, growing ever more despite the sins of the world, nourishing faith and warming us with the light of its love- so too has our small parish endured.

Our property, our sanctuary, our hall, has suffered by the passing of time, use, and the ceaseless barrage of nature. That is why we’re asking for your donation today.

Last year we undertook the monumental restoration of the interior of our sanctuary, renewing our frescoes to their original glory. Your donations accomplished this.

We now approach you for help to maintain our property: exterior renovations, paving, painting, repairs. The following projects were undertaken and finished.

- \$1000 Replacement of water heater in the church building
- \$2450 Replacement of air conditioner in the altar
- \$5300 Painting of outside of the church
- \$8150 Repaving of walkway around the church
- \$2000 Repaving of 38 So. Mill St driveway
- \$3500 Repainting of 38 So. Mill St house
- \$3100 Main cupola Cross re-gilding
- \$1500 Icon restoration
- \$23,900 Total**

Additionally, as you can see from the pictures of the regilded cross, the main cupola also needs regilding. We plan to undertake this effort in the near future, estimated at \$22,000, assuming the bulk of the work is done by parishioners.

However, so far, only a fraction of these amounts was donated. Replenishing our expended funds with your donation will allow us to continue with our much needed renovations and repairs for our parish church and school. We pledge to maintain our temple, dedicated to the birthgiver of God, the Holy Theotokos- for you, for your loved ones, for every person in our community, and for future generations. Your gift will make an immediate impact in much needed repairs of our spiritual sanctuary. In this season of giving, please help make our renovations possible with your donation.

Please donate on our web-site www.hvpc.us designating the Nativity Fund-raiser or fill out the form below. Please provide your contact information and join us in our commitment to keeping our legacy alive. Please attach a prayer commemoration list for your loved ones along with your offering.

Thank you so much for your help.

In Christ,
Archpriest Ilya Gorsky

Donation Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 other _____

Check enclosed, to: Holy Virgin Protection Church
38 So. Mill St, Nyack, NY 10960

Credit card _____ Exp date ____ / ____

Make an immediate secure donation at www.hvpc.us

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please add me to your mailing list email list

SMSPHQR is [our](#) parish newsletter. All are invited to submit ideas and articles (subject to review) via email to frilya@egcon.com.

SMSPHQR

38 South Mill Street
Nyack, NY 10960

Place
Stamp
Here