

January 2012

ST. NECTARIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH

405 Marcum Road, Lakeland, FL 33809

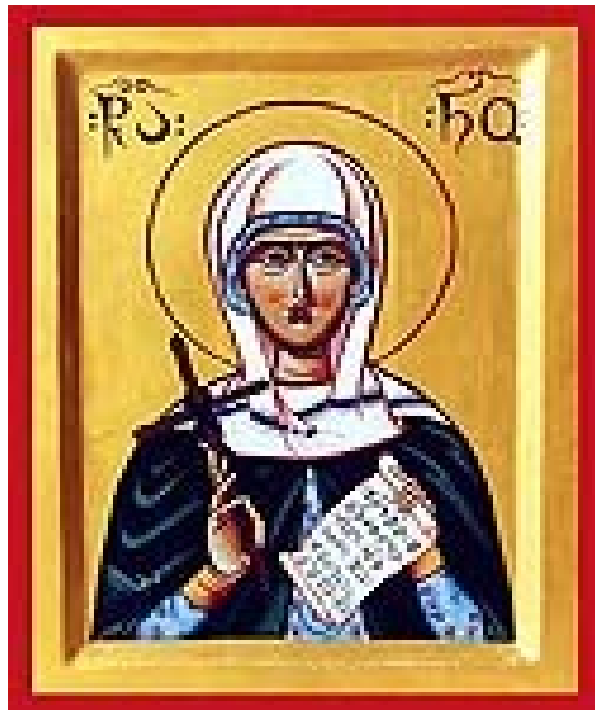
Rev. Fr. Nicholas Wyborski

Subdeacon Joseph Brown

Reader Josphe Galluccio

Phone: (863) 815-1576 Rectory: (863)-853-1054 Cell: (863) 838-9423

E-mail: FatherNicholas@StNectarios.com Website: www.StNectarios.com



January 14

Saint Nina Enlightener of Georgia and Equal-to-the- Apostles

We welcome to our parish all visitors, guests, relatives and friends of parishioners & all those visiting for the first time or have not been with us for some time..We sincerely hope that the celebration of the Divine Liturgy with us is spiritually rewarding for you and that you will return often to worship with us.

Schedule of Services for January 2012

Saturday	Vespers:	5:00 pm
Sunday	Matins	8:30 am
	Divine Liturgy:	9:30 am
Wednesday	Moleben:	6:00 pm
Sunday	January 1, 2011	Circumcision of Our Lord Commemoration of St. Basil the Great
	Matins	8:30 am
	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	9:30 am
Thursday	January 5	Eve of Theophany (<i>Strict Fast</i>)
	Royal Hours	9:30 am
	Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	11.00 am
	Service for the Eve of the Feast with Great Blessing of Water	6:00 pm
Friday	January 6	Feast of Theophany
	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
Saturday	January 7	(<i>Old Calendar Christmas</i>) Feast of St. John the Baptist
	Divine Liturgy for Nativity of Christ (OS)	9:30 am

Confessions: Before/After Services or by Appointment

Note: No Vespers on Saturday January 7

No Service on Wednesday January 25th

SPECIAL DAYS

Birthday:	Joan Yancsek	1/8
	Garson Caruso	1/13
	Rdr Adam Wyborski	1/16
	Andy Smith	1/17
	Christopher Marciniak	1/19
	Petya Wolfe	1/29
Anniversary:	Ernest and Merle Pido	1/10
	Subden Joseph & Cynthia Brown	1/14
	Fr. Nicholas & Pani Wanda	1/23
	Walter and Nina Klymenko	1/29
Nameday:	Charles (Vasilios) Stoyka	1/1 (St. Basil the Great)
	John Kuzemchak	1/7 (St. John the Baptist)
	Jack Kriniske	1/7
	John Farkas	1/7
	Sean Cousins	1/7
	Nina Klymenko	1/14 (St. Nina, Enlightener of Georgia)
	Duane Fielder	1/15 (St. Dane Bobovich, martyr)

MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY BLESSED YEARS!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Reagan Jude Michael Arbuthnot on her reception into the Holy Orthodox Church through Baptism, Christmation and Holy Eucharist. May God grant her many Blessed Years! Mnohaja Blahaja L'ita!

The Saint Nectarios Orthodox Youth Group would like to thank everyone who donated to the Food & Blanket Drive for their support. It has been a wonderful success and will help those families who desperately need it during this Christmas season. Remember, the Food & Blanket drive ends on January 8. Our Youth Group is committed to making a positive difference in 2012 and we appreciate all of your continued support.

Our annual Parish meeting will be held on January 8, 2012 after Divine Liturgy.

A sincere 'thank you' to everyone for your kind thoughts, prayers and gifts during the holy Nativity season.

St. Nectarios Youth Group has begun planning events for the year. They include: Trip to Disney World January 7 (after Divine Liturgy); Yard/Bake Sale - February 18; Pilgrimage to Monastery -Great Lent (date to be determined).

Gather your treasures together! The **St. Nectarios Youth Group (Jr. ACRY)** will sponsor a Yard/Bake Sale on February 18. The proceeds from this effort will assist the Youth Group to finance its activities (Monastery visit and other outings being planned this year. Please do be generous and support our youth who are, in fact, the future of our parish. *Please contact any youth group member for further information.*

If you have not approached the **Mystery of Confession** recently, now is the time to repair or enhance your relationship to Christ. A good rule of thumb is to participate in this Sacrament every 8 - 10 weeks unless there is a desire to do so more frequently. This is especially important for those who frequently approach with fear of God, with faith and with love to receive the Body and Blood of Christ

HOUSE BLESSINGS -IMPORTANT! Everyone should have their homes blessed at this time of the year.

Father Nicholas will bless homes beginning January 6 but not from the 22th to the 27th. **Please fill out the slip in the Narthex (next to the calendars) to indicate your desired date and time for blessing and place in the basket.** (Or send an e-mail to Fr. Nicholas indicating your preferred dates and times.)

When Father comes to bless your home, please use the following guidelines as closely as possible:

1. Have as many **family members** present as is possible.
 2. Set up a place for prayer either in the Icon corner or on a table in the dining room or kitchen with an **icon and candle**. (If one is not available, Father will provide.)
 3. **Print the first names** of those for whom prayers are to be offered (including all who reside in the home) on a sheet of paper. Make one list for the living and another for the departed.
 4. Please make Fr. Nicholas aware of any special needs or requests you may have, ask any questions or discuss anything you may have on your mind.
 5. **Be sure to mention any family members who are ill, shut-ins, in nursing homes, or in need of a visit.**
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Be sure to check out the **Diocesan Website**: <http://www.acrod.org>. You will find many interesting features as you browse through the site which even allows you to light a candle and pray for someone.

Don't forget to visit the parish **Icon/Gift Shop** where you will find a nice assortment of articles for personal use or to be used as gifts.

Liturgy Commemorations. If you wish to have a relative, friend or loved one (living or departed) remembered during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, please fill out the Special Intention Form next to the basket of breads as you enter the Chapel and give to the Subdeacon or one of the Altar servers. You may also offer one of the loaves for this purpose as well. A free-will offering may be made for the bread.

Panachidas (Memorial Services). In addition to the general commemorations for the departed made on All Souls Saturdays, it is customary to remember our loved ones on 3rd, 9th and 40th day, and on the 1st year and subsequent anniversaries of their falling asleep. If you wish to have a Memorial Service sung for a loved one after the Liturgy, let Father Nicholas or Pani Wanda know. Koliva (sweetened boiled wheat) or a Memorial Bread may be prepared and shared with the congregation, if desired. Recipes available on request.

During Molebens (Service of Supplication) prayers are said for our loved ones who may be physically, emotionally, or spiritually ill or otherwise in need of our prayers. Give or send to Fr. Nicholas or Pani Wanda the name(s) of anyone you would like to have remembered in prayer. The list will be used every Wednesday and may be renewed/revised as needed. Slips are available near the candle basket.

If you or a family member are ill and/or need a visit from Father for any reason, please call and let him know.

Finally - if you would like to have the Divine Liturgy celebrated on your Birthday, Anniversary, Patronal Feast Day (Slava) or Names Day, please contact Father Nicholas to make arrangements.

CONCERNING THE HOLY WATER *(from the Menaion)*

Let it be known to all concerning the Holy Water that those who deprive themselves of partaking of it are not doing a good thing, for the Grace of God was given for the sanctification of the world and all creation. Therefore it is sprinkled in all places and even over common and profane things. And so, what is the reason not to drink of this? (But know that uncleanness in us is not from partaking of things that are eaten, but from our filthy deeds. If we are cleansed of these deeds, without doubt we may drink of this Holy Water.)

St. John Chrysostom, in his sermon for those Christians who had come to the Holy Church of God for baptism...says: "Why not on the day on which Christ was born, but on the day in which He was baptized is the appearance spoken of? Because this is the day on which He baptized and sanctified the nature of water." For this reason, on the Eve of the Feast, all draw and carry this water to their homes and keep it and preserve it throughout the whole year. The day of sanctifying the waters becomes a clear sign of God's grace, for the nature of these waters is not spoiled for a long time, but it endures for a whole year, or two, or three, or many years. Today the waters that are drawn remain fresh and new and after an extended time is as on the day it was drawn.

Remember to pray for the members of our parish family – especially the sick, those who are away, those who have no one to pray for them, and all of those in need of God's mercy. May the Lord bless them, protect them and grant them length of days

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2012

Most important days occur on the same day each year. Those which depend on the /Paschal cycle differ each year. This year these dates include:

Beginning of the Triodion	- February 5 (Sunday of Publican & Pharisee)
First Day of Great Lent	- February 27 (Clean Monday)
Palm Sunday	- April 8
Great and Holy Pascha	- April 15
Ascension Day	- May 24
Feast of Pentecost	- June 3
Apostles Fast begins	- June 11

Meditation for Epiphany (Theophany). *"Who do you say I am?"* When presented with this question, we remember the words of Simon Peter, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."* We speak these words with our lips but what do we speak with our lives? As we prepare for Christ's Nativity and His Baptism in the Jordan, we should look to our own life. Do we acknowledge Christ in *all* of our life, or only in those parts of our life we consider to be "religious and spiritual?" What are we doing to serve Christ? As He said, *"as you have done to these, the least of My brethren, so have you done to Me."*

At Your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the Trinity was revealed, for the Father's voice bore witness to You, calling You "His beloved Son," and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, who appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You! (Tropar)

You have appeared today to the inhabited earth, and Your light, O Lord, has been marked upon us, who with knowledge sing Your praise. You have come, You are made manifest, the Light that no man can approach. (Kondak)

For the Record

<u><i>Liturgy Attendance</i></u>				<i>Income</i>	<i>Outgo</i>
	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>			
				<i>Stewardship</i>	\$ 4635.00
<i>Dec 4</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>9</i>		<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Dec 6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>		<i>Church Icon/Gift Shop</i>	<i>97.00</i>
<i>Dec 11</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>Candles</i>	<i>156.30 (130.80)</i>
<i>Dec 18</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>Cookie Sale</i>	<i>240.00</i>
<i>Dec 25</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>Bread Offering</i>	<i>172.00 (172.00)</i>
<i>Dec 26</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>Debit Card Refund</i>	<i>.25</i>
<i>Dec 27</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>Natalie Pope Loan Payment 1</i>	<i>(627.64)</i>
				<i>Natalie Pope Loan Payment 2</i>	<i>(540.00)</i>
				<i>Diocese Loan payment</i>	<i>(416.60)</i>
				<i>Fr. Nicholas Loan Payment</i>	<i>(449.31)</i>
				<i>Phone</i>	<i>(104.76)</i>
				<i>Electric</i>	<i>(83.89)</i>
				<i>Water</i>	<i>(13.97)</i>
				<i>Skirtin for Baptism font</i>	<i>(15.98)</i>
				<i>Modem for phone</i>	<i>(242.99)</i>
				<i>Water Heaters Installation</i>	<i>(127.91)</i>
				<i>Insurance Premium</i>	<i>(410.67)</i>
				<i>Totals:</i>	<i>\$ 5300.55 (3336.48)</i>

Give Glory to God for all things!

January 14
St. Nina of Georgia Equal-to-the-Apostles

Saint Nina, the only daughter of Zabullon, a legionary commander and kinsman of the holy Great Martyr George, was born in Cappadocia and lived during the reign of St. Constantine. Raised in the love of God and the study of Holy Scripture, she was captured by Iberians (later called Georgians), who took her to their land between the Black and Caspian Seas on the borders of the Caucasus. This people was devoted to idolatry and the worship of fire but, despite many tribulations, St. Nina persevered in the faith and boldly proclaimed the Gospel of Christ. On reaching the chief city of the Kingdom of Iberia, she dwelt in a hut in the royal garden at the foot of a majestic cedar, said to begrowing over the grave of Sidonia, a convert from Judaism, who was buried with Christ's seamless coat clasped in her arms. One night as St. Nina was praying there, she saw a great flock of black birds fly into the garden. Bathing in the stream which flowed near the cedar, they suddenly became as white as snow. Settling in the branches of the tree, they filled the garden with melodious singing. This was seen as a God-given sign of the coming conversion of the pagan Iberians and of the building of a church in this sanctified place.

Not long afterward, a lady of the city came to St. Nina in great distress for she had found no one able to cure her child who was gravely ill and implored the captive Christian woman to help her. When they brought the child and laid it on St. Nina's bed, she raised her hands to heaven and besought the mercy of God, whereupon the child immediately got up, completely cured, to the amazement of the pagans.

Soon word of her astonishing power reached the Queen, who was suffering from an incurable disease. A fervent idol worshiper, she disapproved of Nina but, all else having failed, she decided to see that the Saint could do for her. The Queen was carried to the hut in the garden and she asked Nina to intercede for her to her God. Using a cross made of vine stems, given to her by the Mother of God, Nina signed the Queen with the sign of the Cross, and the Queen arose cured, proclaiming her belief in Christ. The Saint would accept no reward, saying that the miracle was not due to her but to Christ, the Son of God and Creator of heaven and earth, Who took on flesh in order to deliver the human race from death of soul and of body.

The King Mirian was amazed to learn of his wife's recovery but his response was the reverse of hers. He would gladly have rid the Kingdom of St. Nina and of all the Christians. Some days later, however, while he was hunting deep in the forest, a thick cloud suddenly enveloped him, and he was stricken with fear. His gods remaining deaf to his prayer, he turned at last to the God of Nina. The cloud vanished immediately and the King acquired the spiritual light of faith. On returning to the royal city, he hastened to cast himself at the feet of the captive Christian woman and resolved that the whole Iberian nation should be baptized. He sent ambassadors to the Emperor Constantine to ask him to send a bishop and priests to this Kingdom. On the advice of St. Nina he also built a church in the royal garden where the cedar tree stood.

Following the apparition of a great luminous cross in the sky above the church, Nina, together with some resolute clergy, set out to preach the Gospel to the wild, mountain tribes. Thanks to God's divine power and many miracles, she induced them to destroy their idols and they were baptized. She also converted Queen Sophia of the neighboring realm of Kakheti.

Having accomplished all that she was sent on earth to do, St. Nina retired to another hut and gave back her soul in peace to God, surrounded by the King, his court, the clergy, and a great crowd, who had hastened in tears to be present at the last moments of her who had been their mother in the faith.

From the Synaxarion

