



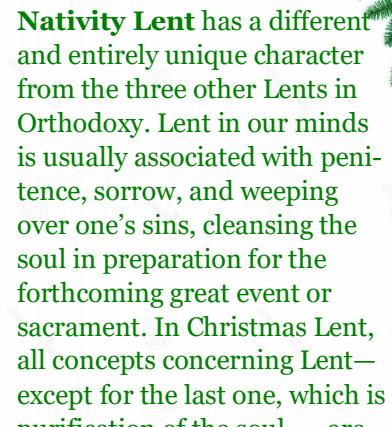
WAY of the SAINTS

Excerpts from Father Vasilios' recent sermon:

In the gospel lesson of the Good Samaritan a question arises. Who is that man who fell to robbers? The answer is: It is the person who has abandoned the way to God, who refuses to obey His Commandments and follows the downward slope of the sinful life, falling into the traps of the evil one. And those invisible robbers utterly strip him of anything good; injuring his mind; wounding his soul; leaving him to die in his sins: the eternal death of his soul. Who came to save this lost soul? Definitely not those who are indifferent, unaffected by the pain of their fellow humans. Not those who avoid such circumstances, don't want to become involved with the problems of others so they pass by to 'the other side'.

Fortunately there exists a Good Samaritan. He is our Lord, the Incarnated Son and Word of God. The One who hastened to come to earth to demonstrate to us His Divine Love. Who humbled Himself and became Man, preaching the Good News for the enlightenment of our souls. The One who came to invigorate us, wash our wounds, raise us from the dead works of sin, and save us from eternal damnation. He established that blessed Inn, the Church—the Body of Christ—with its indispensable and saving mysteries [the Sacraments]. His infinite love should flood our heart with gratitude, inspiring us to His teachings and direction for our lives.

That's the kind of love we should show towards others, concerned for their physical as well as spiritual needs. As disciples of the 'Good Samaritan' we should become like Him, looking after the person who is in pain, ill, and needs our help. Not only with words but with deeds, offering ourselves in sacrificial love.



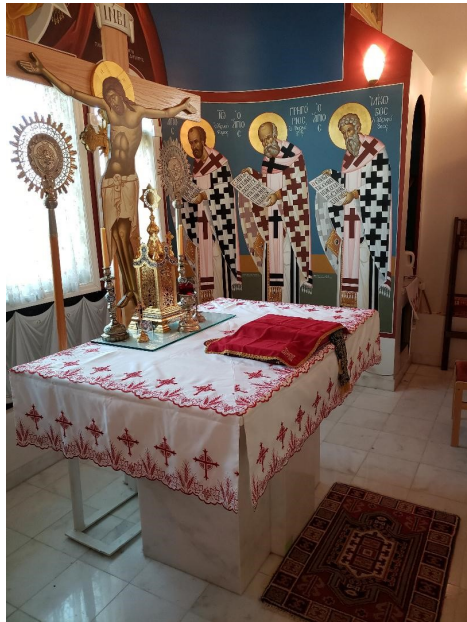
Nativity Lent has a different and entirely unique character from the three other Lents in Orthodoxy. Lent in our minds is usually associated with penitence, sorrow, and weeping over one's sins, cleansing the soul in preparation for the forthcoming great event or sacrament. In Christmas Lent, all concepts concerning Lent—except for the last one, which is purification of the soul, — are eclipsed by two dominant characteristics. These are: humbleness, and internal joy. The entire Christmas Lent is studded with the feasts of major saints like glittering jewels; holy great-martyr Catherine, Apostle Andrew, holy great-martyr Barbara, and the great Saint Nicholas, as well as others. It's '*as though*' all this rejoicing has become possible only because the Lord has come down to earth and has opened the way to heaven.

***Christ is Born—
glorify Him!***

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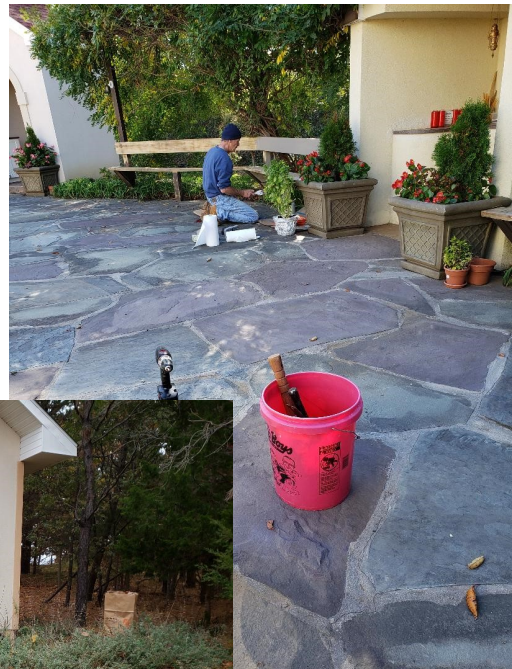
Celebrations and improvements— Many thanks to:

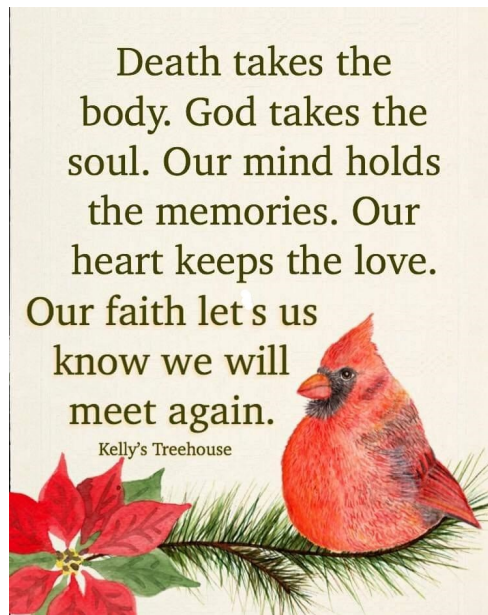


Colette, who finished our wall plastering and graphic art.

Howie, who cleaned and stained—winterizing our benches

Colleen, who raked and cleaned the patio, and around our small chapel .





UPCOMING WEEKDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

NOTE: Throughout Winter we will have fewer services during the weekdays due to driving distances and possible inclement weather.

Dec 6	Saint Nicholas	Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
12	Saint Spyridon	Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
24	Liturgy of Saint Basil	Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
25	<i>no services today—Nativity of our Lord</i>	
Jan 1	Circumsision of Christ, and Saint Basil the Great	Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
6	Theophony, blessing of the waters	Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
30	Three Heierarchs, Sts John, Basil, and Gregory	Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
Feb 10	Saint Haralambos	Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
22	First Saturday of Souls	Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
29	Second Saturday of Souls	Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

NOTE:

Every Sunday:

**Orthros at
8:45 AM**

**Divine Liturgy at
9:30 AM**

We invite everyone to
actively participate in our
Liturgical services.

All are welcome.

Please make note of our current mailing address:

P.O. Box 215, Riverhead, NY 11901

...as anything sent to the old post office box in Calverton, NY will no longer be delivered to us.



THE HISTORY OF ΧΡΙΣΤΟΨΩΜΟ

Χριστόψωμο, which translates as “Christ’s Bread” is a bread decorated with the Byzantine cross. It is a rich, round loaf, scented with wine soaked figs, anise, and orange. It often contains nuts, raisins, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and mastic.

Only the best and most expensive ingredients are used to bake this bread. The preparation of Christopsomo is considered a sacred tradition in Greek Orthodox homes. The baker begins by crossing their self and asking for blessings for the household.

The bread is baked on Christmas eve and eaten on Christmas day.

Καλά Χριστούγεννα



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~~~~~We are located at:~~~~~

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