



The Rev. Joseph Woodill gives sermon at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Whitestone. Photo by Joy Keh

# An Orthodox church 'of all nationalities'

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Religious affiliation:** Washington-New York Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America

**Spiritual leader:** The Rev. Joseph Woodill

**Address and neighborhood:** 14-65 Clintonville St., Whitestone

**Years in present location:** 95

**Size and character of congregation:** "Ours is an Orthodox church made of all nationalities. While the founders of the parish were of Slavic descent, the parish today is made up of Russian, Ukrainian, Greek, Italian, Belorussian, American, Romanian, Georgian, Latin American, etc., worshippers who were either raised Orthodox, came to Orthodox Christianity after years of spiritual search, or converted from other denominations," said Woodill.

**Scheduled services:** Sundays at 10 a.m., and Saturday at 5 p.m.

**What makes your congregation special:** "We are a church striving to be both fully Orthodox and fully American," Woodill said.

**Largest service and turnout:** "Our last parish luncheon on Sept. 19 had a full church for worship and a full hall for homemade meatloaf, about 100 people," he said.

**Most prized possession:** "Our faith," he said.

**Biggest wish-list item:** "More people who like to sing," he said.

**Proudest moment:** "When our Bishop Michael expressed his love for our parish on Aug. 1, 2010, after my installation," he said.

**Biggest issue:** "How to explain to Americans that the Orthodox church is not only for certain ethnic groups," he said.

**Most memorable service:** "The last one, seeing a whole congrega-

tion of happy and prayerful people," he said.

**Most dedicated volunteer:** "There are too many to name. Most parishioners are involved at every level of church life, from cleaning to singing the services," he said.

**Other services and programs offered:** Church school, Sisters of St. Mary, choir for four-part harmony, and "Learning the Prayer of the Heart" after vespers on Saturday nights.

**Contact:** (718) 767-7292; [stnicholasny.org/](http://stnicholasny.org/)

Compiled by Maxine Simpson

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