



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405



DECEMBER Bulletin Sponsor

In memory of Kenneth Ruff– Given by Carol Ruff

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, December 8

9:30 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /
Visit by St. Nicholas / Special Social / Council
Meeting

Monday, December 9

10:30 AM: Clergy Association Meeting @ St.
Mark

Wednesday, December 11

6:00 PM: Fire House Training

Saturday, December, 14

4:30 PM: Confessions

5:30 PM: Vespers (**Note time for today**)

Sunday, December 15

9:35 AM: Hours

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /
Christmas Taping (part of Yolka) / Special
Social

Ephesians 2:14-22 (Epistle)

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia Commemorated on December 6

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. **Con't Next Page**

Office: 330-755-4931 / Cell: 570-212-8747

<https://www.stjohnthebaptist-campbell.org/>

padrebartek@gmail.com

PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Send a "Thinking of You" card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please contact Fr. Andrew.

Mrs. Mary Fredericks

648 Dumont Ave
Campbell, OH 44405

Mrs. Audrey Chengelis

c/o Assumption Village
9802 Market Street / Room 132
North Lima, OH 44452

Mrs. Julia Simko

c/o Inn At Poland Way
6501 Poland Way / Rm 122
Poland OH, 44514

Sub-Deacon Vladimir Rusnak

208 Ash Court
Campbell, OH 4405

Emilia Yannitto

8017 Salinas Tr.
Boardman, OH 44512-5402

Carol Ruff

2207 Birch Trail Blvd
Austintown, OH 44515-4910

Mrs. Dorothy Shirilla

8362 Van Dr.
Poland, OH 44514

Mrs. Pauline Fesz

488 Harmony Lane
Campbell, OH 44405

Mrs. Marion Zwinski

9190 Springfield Rd / Apt 17c
Poland, OH 44514-3196

Joan Cross

97 Butler Street / Apt 1-rear
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Irene & Al Mazanek

1285 Fairfax-Manor Dr
Carmel, IN 46032

Helen Colaluca

c/o Victoria House
5295 Ashley Circle / Room 115
Austintown, OH 44515

George Horodnic, Sr.

c/o The Inn at Walker Mill
8060 South Ave., Rm. 216
Boardmen, OH 44512

Sue Kennedy

593 Hyatt Ave
Campbell, OH 44405-1479

Ann Cvercko

2769 Donna Dr.
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

Geogr Kolesar

4030 Cascade Dr.
Youngstown, OH 44511-3538

St Nicholas con't from Pg 1

With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to Saint Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great

pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. **Con't Pg 7**

PRAYER LIST– Updated 12-3-24

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Matushka Christine Hryb / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Matushka Helen Psinka / Sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Marion Zwinski

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: AP James Gleason (Fr.) / Fr. Michael Rustic / Fr. Edward / Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family & parish

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Karen Debiec / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Dennis Graban / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Mea Mahan / Mary Mahan/ Pauline Meath (Fr.) /Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Teri Petroff (Fr.) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Julia Shirilla / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) /Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Brian (Shirilla) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Ellen (Clark) / Ellen (Kessler) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Karen (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Katie (Garrity) / Paul (Kolesar) / Paula (Voytilla) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Richard (Tusinac) / Steven (Fr)

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky)

MISCELLANEOUS: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Diocese of Aleppo) & Archbishop John (Archdiocese of Aleppo) still being held captive & Metropolitan Arseny imprisoned / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

Divine Hymnody: Theology Set to Music

When someone first enters an Orthodox Church, they are often struck by immense beauty: colorful iconography in the glow of a candle or lamp, bright vestments that adorn the clergy and the icon stands, the sweet fragrance of incense that instantly transports a person out of the world and into the heavenly spaces. But once a service begins, something else often draws the focus of those in the church: the hymnography, sung by a single chanter or a massive choir or any combination in between. The music of Orthodox worship, using only the human voice, draws a person in and immerses them completely in the service, such that, in the words of the emissaries of St. Vladimir, they “knew not whether [they] were in heaven or on earth.”

What makes the music and hymnography of Orthodox services so beautiful and important is precisely this union: music and hymnography. Because our music is exclusively vocal, there are no “interludes” or “musical breaks,” only the text of the hymn sung, in whatever arrangement, according to whatever musical system, by whatever combination of singers are present. The crucial feature is that the text itself, the prayer of the hymn, is conveyed by the beauty of the human voice to those worshipping. This characteristic is important because so much of our theology is expressed in our liturgical texts. To paraphrase the old adage, what we pray is what we believe, and the prayers prayed by the Church in its divine services speak to us in great detail about the saving dispensation of our Lord Jesus Christ, about His life, death, and glorious resurrection, about His Mother and His Saints.

To serve this end, the Texts for Liturgical *Con't pg 6*

FINAL NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$17,682.77
Income	<u>\$17,014.52</u>
TOTAL	-\$668.25
Weekly Tithe	\$9,410
Weekly Candles	\$456
Bulletin	\$50
Barbeque / Chicken Dinner	\$5,000
Christmas Flowers	\$180
Altar Candles	\$50
Eternal Light	\$100
Reimbursement of Church Credit Card	\$160
Protection Candles	\$30
Christmas Card	\$320
Unneeded Gifts	\$525
Cemetery Reimbursement	\$625.63
Missions	\$50
Reimbursement Dinner of AB Visit	\$50
PNC Reimbursement	\$8
Monthly Charity Collection: (St. Vladimir's Seminary)	\$533

DECEMBER Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

NOTE: If anything is missing from the Sponsorships please contact Fr. Andrew ASAP

- Bulletin:** In memory of Kenneth Ruff– Given by Carol Riff
Wine: In memory of my parents George & Mary Rusnak– Given by sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak
Incense: In memory of my parents George & Mary Rusnak– Given by sub-deacon Vladimir Rusnak
Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In loving memory of parents Nicholas & Mary K. Libertin, Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant
Altar Candles: In memory of my mother Margaret Boldish- given by Nancy Tusinac / In loving memory of brother Dr. Nick Libertin, Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant
Tetrapod Candles: In memory of my brother Danny Yannitto– Given by Melanie Yannitto
St. Herman Candles: Commemorating all who participate in maintenance of the church, the teachers, singers & those who participate in social events. Praying for everyone to love one another.
St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: OPEN
Protection Icon Candles: OPEN
St. John the Baptist Candles: OPEN
Flowers: OPEN

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>\$50 per month</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Wine *Bulletin *Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light *Altar Candles *Tetrapod Candles | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>\$30 per month</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *St. Herman candles *St. Panteleimon Icon candles *Protection Icon candles *St. John the Baptist candles | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>\$25 per month</u></p> <p>Incense</p> <p>Flowers - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time– <i>Updated</i></p> |
|--|--|--|

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - NOVEMBER	2023	2024
1st Week		
Vespers	8	5
Divine Liturgy	64 / 34	56 / 37
2nd Week		
Vespers	7	8
Divine Liturgy	67 / 41	45 / 35
3rd Week		
Vespers	8	4
Divine Liturgy	50 / 31	60 / 49
Vespers for Mary	8	15
D.L. for Mary	No record	10
4th Week		
Vespers	5	6
Divine Liturgy	52 / 31	60 / 47
5th week		

PAN-ORTHODOX HOLY UNCTION SERVICE

WHEN: December 18, 2024

TIME: 5:30pm

WHERE: St. Mark Orthodox Church
3560 Logan Way, Youngstown, OH

Christmas Cookie Walk

Fundraiser to benefit our parish

We are seeking donations of 10 dozen of one cookie type from your secret Christmas cookie file. These are for a walk on December 14th.

Please see Cindy or Nancy for more details or to donate cookies.

HOME BLESSING

Please consider having your homes blessed in January. Contact Father Andrew to set up a time. Home blessings will take place from January 6th through February 1st. (Bring Christ into your home for a good & real relationship with Him.).

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

December 15- AB Peter from Chicago
January, 12– Eugene Pallai

DECEMBER CHARITY

Zoe House in Cleveland for un-wed women

DECEMBER Reposed List

- Dan Ivanovich (1929) ©
1- Sam Zilens Sr (1978) ©
1- Mary Livoniak (1952) ©
2- John Gozur (1972) ©
2- Marian Dunchak (1999) ©
2- Priscilla Sirilla (2003) ©
3- John Korchniak (1919) ©
3- Irene Black (2003) ©
4- Kathleen Garman (2010) ©
4- Anakreon John (1923) ©
5- Mary Bobosh (1975) ©
5- Michael Evans (1977) ©
6- Sophie Sasnowchik (1975) ©
6- Ann Dahulich (2017)
6- Mary Krajnak (1945) ©
8- Anna Hastol (1982) ©
8- Bill Soltis (2014)
8- George Kotie (1940) ©
8- Mary Pretko (1947) ©
8- Anna Papoch (1963) ©
9- Mary Niznih (1990) ©
9- Emanuel Ginnis (1954) ©
9- Joseph Andrasko (1960) ©
9- Judith Banas (2018) ©
10- Michael Basala (1991)
10- Suzanne Marinelli (1999) ©
12- Pauline Truhan Livosky (2017) ©
13- Andrew Libertin (1931) ©
14- Michael Hastal (1984) ©
14- Susan Marie Sveda (2004) ©
15- Theodore Fesz (2020) ©
15- Joseph Graban (2003) ©
15- Still born Cmur (1924) ©
15- Catherine Papantonakis (1951) ©
15- Eugenia Pontikos (1953) ©
16-Ann Cvercko (1996) ©
- 16- Svetlana Gozur Evanoff (2014) ©
18- Archbishop Job (2009)
18- V. Rev. Michael Macura
19- Edward Malchisky (2001)
19- Catherine Bondar (2010) ©
19- Margaret Boldish (2016) ©
20- George Fischu, Sr (1983) ©
20- Anna Livosky (1946) ©
20- Loukas Arfaras (1951) ©
21- John Kotchmar (2022) ©
22- Susan La Valle (2019)
22- Peter Alesaudridis (1946) ©
22- George Roman (1953) ©
23- Fr. David Sedor (2008)
23- Anna Volchko (1989) ©
23- Mary Vansuch (2008) ©
23- George Matzye (1950) ©
24- John Feltovich (1981) ©
25- Stephen Vansuch (2002) ©
26- Fr. Robert Sally (2002)
26- Julia Malchisky (1971)
26- John Joseph Marinelli (1996) ©
27- Eileen Elash (2009) ©
27- Adam Nedastup (1920) ©
28- Fr. John Kuchta (2019)
28- Julia Zora (2001) ©
29- Andrew Midlik (1943) ©
29- John Vansuch (1995) ©
30- Bishop Boris (2000)
30- Ed Pehanich, Sr (2019)
30- Kosta Alesandridis (1928) ©
30- Christina Chulik (1943) ©
31- Robert LaVallee (2007)
31- Hermenegildo Guerrero (2018)
31- Mary Shirilla (1952) ©
31- John Niciforos (1964) ©

Five Retreats for Widows of Clergy Available Online

Over the course of the past two years, the Clergy Wives Advisory Group (CWAG) of the Office of Pastoral Life (OPL) has sponsored five online retreats for widows of clergy of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). The retreats have been edited for the privacy of participants' discussions, and are now available online:

April 2023: His Grace John Abdalah, Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, "Grief Is Complicated"

September 2023: Mother Angelina, Monastic, Holy Assumption Monastery, Calistoga, CA, "Navigating Parish Life as the Widow of a Priest"

November 2023: Mother Christophora, Abbess, Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA, "Illness and Aging"

February 2024: Father Sergius, Abbot, Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, South Canaan, PA, "On Prayer"

May 2024: Father Ian MacKinnon, Retired Archpriest, Diocese of the West, Orthodox Church in America, "Finding Your Purpose as a Widowed Clergy Wife"

"We are extraordinarily grateful for our speakers who so graciously led these retreats," said Mka Natasha Lazor, a regular participant of and advocate for the retreats. "They clearly demonstrated their love, care, and concern for the widows of clergy in our Church in their thoughtfully prepared presentations."

December Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Ileana Bruner / Thomas McDonald
- 3 Melanie Yannitto
- 4 Stephen Calzone / Hannah Willison
- 5 Ted Fesz / Mat. Laryissa Bremer
- 6 Paul Demkosky Sr
- 8 Nicholas Basile / John Koval
- 9 Alexis Jesko / Pauline Meath / Angie Dardovsky / John Koval
- 10 Karen Phillips
- 12 Nicholas Shirilla
- 13 Helen Colaluca
- 16 George Clark
- 17 Ann Cvercko
- 27 Claudia Moore
- 30 Jeff Stokely / Christina Adzima
- 31 Ken Krause

Anniversary

- 2-2023 His Grace Bishop Benedict Bishop of Hartford & New England
- 5-2004 AB Mark of Philadelphia & Eastern, PA
- 19-197 Retired Bishop Seraphim of Sendai
- 26 Anthony & Shelia Jesko, Jr.
- 31 Jimmy & Christine Billy

Names Day

- 4 Barbara Kolesar / Alex Vansuch
- 6 Nicholas Basile / Dr. Niicla Nicoloff / Reader Nick Vansuch / Mildred Wilfong
- 9 Ann Cvercko / Kelly Ann Ferrick / Annie Jesko / Sue Kennedy / Linda Livosky / Carol Ruff / Lynn Krause / Audrey Chengelis
- 15 Debbie Zelinsky
- 22 Nancy Tusinac
- 27 Stephen Simko
- 29 David Dionisio / Dc. David Gemmel / David Konik
- 31 Melanie Rusnak / Melanie Yannitto

Divine Hymnody con't from pg 3

Services provided by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations are an invaluable resource to parishes in the OCA, who now have at their fingertips the sacred hymnography of Vespers and Divine Liturgy—and even Matins, in some cases—for every Sunday and many Feast days. These texts are provided free of charge and can be downloaded in an instant, taking considerable stress off of choir directors and priests who have so much on their plate already in preparing the services. Many of these texts are even set to music, so that those choirs who prefer to read from music, rather than pointed text, have such resources at their disposal.

This valuable service would not be possible without the generous support of the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America. Your donations are immensely

important to help these resources continue to be available. Become a steward by donating today, and help us continue our mission to enable beautiful services to be offered to the glory of God.

Fr. Phillip Ritchey

Project Lead, OCA Department of Liturgical Music and Translations / Associate Priest, St. Symeon Orthodox Church, Birmingham, AL

2024 - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Tusinac (President)

Phone- 724-456-7366

Cindy Ferrick (Treasurer)

Phone 330-531-1119

Joann Sirilla (Financial Secretary)

Phone 330-881-6775

Sub-deacon Dr. Donald Tamulouis (Council)

Phone 330-774-8860

Natalia Simko (Council) (Cemetery issues)

Phone- 330-980-3033

Maintenance Issues:

Michael Simko - 330-565-0084

Michael Centofanti - 330-544-3518

Holy Synod Meets for its Regular Fall 2024 Session

On November 4-7, 2024, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America met for its Regular Fall 2024 Session in Springfield, VA, under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon.

The meeting began on Tuesday, November 5, with an opening Molieben and introductory remarks from His Beatitude, followed by an overview of the Fall Session. The Holy Synod addressed various matters, including updates from Synodal Offices and Committees, discussions on the Canonization Commission — particularly the glorification of Matushka Olga. Dates surrounding her upcoming glorification were decided upon and will be made public soon. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel made a report on the Canonical Procedures Conference recently held in Chicago.

Discussions also covered internal church matters such as the Chancery relocation process and Stavropegial institutions. Reports on External Affairs included updates on the visits to Ukraine, Romania, and Constantinople, as well as discussions regarding the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops.

The second day began on Wednesday, November 6, with a Divine Liturgy at the Protection of the Holy Mother of God Church in Falls Church, VA. His Grace Bishop Andrei presided at the celebration of the Liturgy. **Con't Pg 9**

St. Nicholas Con't from pg 2

This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicean Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies. The face of Saint Nicholas resembled that of an Angel, resplendent with divine grace. A brilliant ray shone from his face, like that which shone from the face of Moses (Exodus 34:29), so that those who looked at him were astonished. Whoever was oppressed by some affliction or passion of the soul had only to behold the Saint, and his sorrow was eased at once. As for those who conversed with him, they soon found themselves advancing on the path of virtue. Not only were the faithful moved to compassion, but unbelievers as well, and they directed their steps on the path of salvation when they heard him speak. The evil of unbelief which had been implanted in their hearts since childhood was uprooted, and in its place, the word of truth was sown.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over

the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him.

The first Russian Christian prince Askold (+ 882) was baptized in 866 by Patriarch Photius (February 6) with the name Nicholas. Over the grave of Askold, Saint Olga (July 11) built the first temple of Saint Nicholas in the Russian Church at Kiev. Primary cathedrals were dedicated to Saint Nicholas at Izborsk, Ostrov, Mozhaisk, and Zaraisk. At Novgorod the Great, one of the main churches of the city, the Nikolo-Dvorischensk church, later became a cathedral.

Famed and venerable churches and monasteries dedicated to Saint Nicholas are found at Kiev, Smolensk, Pskov, Toropetsa, Galich, Archangelsk, Great Ustiug, Tobolsk. Moscow had dozens of churches named for the saint, and also three monasteries in the Moscow diocese: the Nikolo-Greek (Staryi) in the Chinese-quarter, the Nikolo-Perervinsk and the Nikolo-Ugreshsk. One of the chief towers of the Kremlin was named the Nikolsk.

Many of the churches devoted to the saint were those established at market squares by Russian merchants, seafarers and those who traveled by land, venerating the wonderworker Nicholas as a protector of all those journeying on dry land and sea. They sometimes received the name among the people of "Nicholas soaked." *Con't pg 9*

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padrebartek@gmail.com

**FIRST ANNUAL
HOLY NIGHT SUPPER
FOR THEOPHANY**

This year we are going to try to establish a new holy tradition at St. John's.

We are going to have a Holy Night supper on Sunday, January 5 at 4:30 PM in the social hall. At 6:00 PM there will be Vigil and the Great Blessing of Water upstairs.

This will be just like Christmas Eve Holy night Supper. There will be 12 courses.

Please sign up at the Candle desk or see Nancy for further information. I hope and pray this can become part of the traditions here at the parish.

Fr. Andrew

**INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR
COUNCIL?**

If anyone is interested in running for council, please see Fr. Andrew ASAP.

In 2018 Archbishop Paul made it mandatory that any potential council member be vetted and have a background check before they could be presented for nomination. Obviously, that cannot happen on the day of a meeting. Therefore, there will not be any nominations from the floor.

One needs to be in good standing in the church. Regular confession (at least 4 times a year & frequent communion.

If men of our day simply restrained their tongues and stopped insulting each other, then half of all the evil in the world, and half of the evil spirits, would disappear.

St. Nikolai Velimirovich (1956)

"Beloved ones, love your church! Consider it your own, something near and dear to you, take care of it and support your parish priest in any way you can. It is difficult even for the strongest ones when they are alone, and it's also much easier for a weak priest when he feels that he is among friends and feels their strong and loving support. Let your parish be this way, so that it may grow, develop, and blossom, which is what I wish for you with my heart."

Metropolitan Philaret

Christmas Flowers

Your loved one's name (living and/or deceased) will be remembered at the Christmas Liturgy. Cost: \$15 per flower. Please give names to the Church Office or Father Andrew directly.

Fredericks, Sherrie (1 Flower)

- ◆ In memory of my dad Robert Fredericks

Fredericks, Mary (1 Flower)

- ◆ In memory of my parents Naume & Mary Evanoff

Bartek, V.R. Andrew (10 Flowers)

- ◆ In memory of my Ordaining Hierarch His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, AB Paul, His Grace Bishops John & Matthias
- ◆ In memory of My parents George & Dorothy & all my family & friends
- ◆ In memory of the diptychs of the parish including John Shirilla killed in action & all the priests who served this parish (Priest: Theodore Kulchitsky, Daniel Kreshko, Joseph Dvonchik, Isadore Salko, Peter Honchok, Michael Ugrin, Nicholas Yuschak & Archpriests: Michael Kostyk, Nicholas Vansuch, John Psinka
- ◆ All the military who lost their lives defending the freedoms of this country will still observe
- ◆ For the Health of all our parishioners & their families especially the former Priests who served here, Archpriest John Steffaro, Archpriest Andrew Nelko; for the parish council; all the organizations of this parish; and all those on our prayer list
- ◆ For the Health of the Campbell City Hall, all the residents & businesses of this City, including the Fire Department: Stephen, David, Evan, Greg, Robert, Steve, Bryan, Nick
- ◆ For the health of all my friends & family especially my 5 God-children
- ◆ For the health of all the active military especially those in harm's way and away from their families
- ◆ For the health of all who are homeless, depressed, lonely and all those in need of God's mercy
- ◆ For the Health of the entire Diocese, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Chancery staff, all my former parishes & their parishioners and my home parish

Jesko Family (2 flowers)

- ◆ -In memory of Kathleen Mahar & Anne Jesko

Kiolesar Family (2 flowers)

- ◆ -In memory of Hary Sveda & Olga Sveda

Cverko Family (3 flowers)

- ◆ In memory of Andrew Cvercko
- ◆ In memory of Andrew & Anna Cvercko
- ◆ In memory of Morris & Antonia Pecuszok

St Nicholas con't from pg 7

Many village churches in Russia were dedicated to the wonderworker Nicholas, venerated by peasants as a merciful intercessor before the Lord for all the people in their work. And in the Russian land Saint Nicholas did not cease his intercession. Ancient Kiev preserves the memory about the miraculous rescue of a drowning infant by the saint. The great wonderworker, hearing the grief-filled prayers of the parents for the loss of their only child, took the infant from the waters, revived him and placed him in the choir-loft of the church of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) before his wonderworking icon. In the morning the infant was found safe by his thrilled parents, praising Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Many wonderworking icons of Saint Nicholas appeared in Russia and came also from other lands. There is the ancient Byzantine embroidered image of the saint, brought to Moscow from Novgorod, and the large icon painted in the thirteenth century by a Novgorod master.

Two depictions of the wonderworker are especially numerous in the Russian Church: Saint Nicholas of Zاراиск, portrayed in full-length, with his right hand raised in blessing and with a Gospel (this image was brought to Ryazan in 1225 by the future wife of Prince Theodore, the Byzantine Princess Eupraxia, who perished in 1237 with her husband and infant son during the incursion of Batu); and Saint Nicholas of Mozhaisk, also in full stature, with a sword in his right hand and a city in his left. This recalls the miraculous rescue of the city of Mozhaisk from an invasion of enemies, through the prayers of the saint. It is impossible to list all the grace-filled icons of Saint Nicholas, or to enumerate all his miracles.

Saint Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

Saint Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).

In Italy, the relics of Saint Nicholas are in the Roman Catholic Basilica of Saint Nicholas in Bari; and his left arm is in Saint Nicholas Roman Catholic Church of Rimini.

In Russia, relics of Saint Nicholas are to be found in Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow, and in the Saint Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg.

The right hand of Saint Nicholas is in the church of Saint George the New in Bucharest, Romania.

In Greece, portions of the Saint's relics are in the Monasteries of Saint Nicholas Apo Bathia in Euboia, and Phaneromenē in Salaminos. A piece of the Saint's left arm is in the Metropolitan church of Volos. One of the Saint's teeth is at Kalabryta Monastery in the Peloponnēsos.

Holy Synod meets con't from pg 6

Following the Liturgy, His Beatitude led a memorial service for the departed hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America and family members of the Holy Synod.

After brunch at Saint Mary's, Protodeacon Peter Danilchik, a member of the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee, made a report and detailed his recent trip to Alaska where he, and Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, made a presentation to the Alaskan Diocesan Assembly on the topic of compliance with the Sexual Misconduct PSPs.

The Holy Synod continued with reports from Father Alexander Rentel and Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Synod then heard a presentation from Insurance Systems on a new term life insurance program which will be made available, on a voluntary basis, to all clergy and lay workers of the Orthodox Church in America—more information on this will be shared in due course. Mr. Andrew Smith, Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, followed with a financial report, which included the 2025 budget and All-American Council assessments.

The afternoon sessions continued with discussions on various clergy matters, the Pension Board report presented by Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton and Ms. Melanie Ringa, the Legal Report presented by Mr. Mark Hamilton, OCA General Counsel, and the report of the Board of Theological Education presented by Archpriest Kirill Sokolov.

The final sessions on Thursday, November 7, included presentations from the Office of Pastoral Life by Archpriest Nicholas Solak, a report on the OCA Departments by Archpriest Thomas Soroka, and reports from St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminaries, respectively by Archpriest John Parker and Dr Alexander Tudorie.

Luke 17:12-19 (Gospel)

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Thanksgiving Day 2024

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

First of all, to my flock in the United States of America, I wish you a happy Thanksgiving!

The world around us believes—and always has believed—that happiness comes through power, through control, through wealth. The world teaches us that happiness is born of the ability to satisfy one's own desires.

In the Church, however, we know a greater happiness, the happiness of thanksgiving. This does not mean giving thanks just for the things that we enjoy, the things that appeal to us, the things that satisfy our appetite and our self-conceit. Christian thanksgiving is the thanksgiving of St. John Chrysostom, who, dying in exile, unjustly persecuted, far from friends and homeland, departed this mortal life with the words: "Glory to God for all things!" Christian thanksgiving is the thanksgiving of St. Nikolai Velimirovic, who spoke of his time in Dachau concentration camp thus: "If it were possible, I would give the remainder of my life for one hour in Dachau."

These are not expressions of masochism or stoic indifference, but rather expressions of thanksgiving born of true Christian experience, proceeding from a profound knowledge of man's sinfulness and God's infinite love. Because Christ, mounting the Cross, took on all the suffering caused by our sin in order to defeat sin and its ultimate consequence—death—suffering is forever transformed. When we suffer with thanksgiving, humility, and repentance, suffering relieves our sins and brings us near to God himself. More than this, suffering is the path beyond suffering, the path to life and resurrection.

Thanksgiving, the exclamation "Glory to God for all things," has thus become a literal lifeline—this is how we cling to God amidst all the adverse circumstances of life. Then, even darkness becomes light, and bitterness becomes sweet, and the worst consequences of our sins become a pathway back to God. In this way, thanksgiving proves itself to be a power beyond any worldly power, a joy and nearness to God that is untouchable by any authority or means in this world.



Therefore, even as we give thanks for family, friends, for prosperity, for life's simple joys—for God is the Giver of all these good things, too—let us also strive toward the truly Christian thanksgiving of the saints, the thanksgiving that recognizes all things as sent down from on high for the sake of our salvation.

As the Lord says to every Christian soul in the famous samizdat meditation attributed to St. Seraphim of Vryitsa: "Know and remember always, no matter where you are, that whatsoever hurts will be dulled as soon as you learn in all things to look at me. Everything has been sent to you by me for the perfection of your soul. All these things were from me."

And because all things are from the Lord, therefore, we can truly and joyfully declare: "Glory to thee, O God, for all things!"

Once again, to all those who celebrate today's holiday, happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

MEMBERSHIP: WHAT DOES IT MEAN AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST & ALL ORTHODOX CHURCHES?

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is probably one of the most difficult topics for many Orthodox Christians who live in the United States, a largely protestant mindset, to understand and accept.

The responsibility of any rector is to teach and advise all Orthodox Christians of the teachings, traditions and Truth of the Church. Any rector, including myself, is not trying to be difficult, or to accuse, or to attack. We've simply been given a duty which we must fulfill. Please work to not take what is written here personally.

To belong to the parish, any Orthodox parish, is through the receiving of the sacraments of Holy Baptism, Holy Confession & Communion [the latter two - on a regular basis]. Giving of Talents and Treasures are important and necessary examples of Faith; however, it is the Sacraments that make us members.

"Dues" are "paid" to belong to a club, which The Church is not. We pledge our tithe to the Lord for the blessings He has given us. Nothing is ours. All we have has been given by Him.

If anyone is unsure whether they are "members in good standing," please contact me ASAP. It is an easy fix!

May all we do and say be done in kindness, love and for HIS glory.

Fr. Andrew, Rector