



Pastor's Page



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(Website)

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(Email)

Sunday December 9, 2018

Service Attendance & Offering:

Saturday Dec 1 st	Great Vespers	8
Sunday Dec 2 nd	Divine Liturgy	74



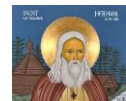
Financial Stewardship Information

Weekly Collection	\$ 2,112.50
<i>(Weekly Collection Required to Meet Budget - \$3,587.99)</i>	
Monthly Total (To Date)	\$ 2,112.50
<i>(Monthly Total Required to Meet Budget - \$17,933.95)</i>	

Liturgical Services / Schedule: (28th Sunday After Pentecost)
(Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most-Holy Theotokos)



Rest of Venerable Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (Dec 13)



Wednesday Dec 12th

6:00pm Vesper Liturgy

(In preparation for receiving Holy Communion at the Vesper Liturgy, fasting should begin no later than noon that day!)

Saturday December 15th

4:00pm Great Vespers (Confession)

Sunday December 16th

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Scripture Readings: Epistle : Colossians 3:4-11
Gospel: Luke 14:16-24



Holy Forefathers

Announcements:

- May God Bless the Hryb Family for decorating our church for the Holiday Season.
- A reminder to participate in the Sacraments of Confession and the Holy Eucharist in preparation for the Feast of the Incarnation (Nativity)!
- A special 'Thank You' to all who donated to our parish's "Feed the Valley" drive!
- May God Bless all who contributed to the Church School sponsored St. Nicholas Seminarian Program. Approximately \$600.00 in donations and gift cards were collected for the Conover Family of St. Tikhon's Seminary. Once again, God Bless all who gave from their heart!
- The "O" Club will sponsor its "Cookie Walk" this Saturday December 15th. The event takes place from noon to 3:00pm on a 'first come – first serve' basis.



- The 2019 Wall Calendars are available in the vestibule. Thanks to the Kirilla Funeral Home for once again donating the calendars.
- Sisterhood Christmas Dinner will take place on Friday December 28th at Donavito's Italian Grille in Struthers beginning at 5:30pm. More information or to make a reservation please see Lynn Krause or JoAnn Biros.
- Please sign-up to have your homes blessed next month following the Feast of Theophany. The sign-up sheets are available at the candle desk.

T-Shirt Sale



100th Anniversary T-Shirts are available to support the Parish Tree Trimming Project.

The shirts cost \$12.00 and come in various colors & sizes. For more information, or to place an order, please see Beth Liszka.

Order forms available at the Candle Desk.



Warm the Children – Giving Tree



For the past five Christmas Seasons St. John's has taken part in a "Giving Tree" for Orthodox orphans in Russia and Belarus. The project is called "Warm the Children", which was started at an Orthodox parish in New Jersey but carried on at St. John's as a 'labor of love' by Beth Liszka.

This year the focus will be on providing for the less fortunate children in our own local community.

If you would like to participate please bring a wrapped gift (toy, clothing, etc.) and place it under the tree in the vestibule of the church.

God Bless all who help keep the spirit of Christmas alive through your generosity in any and all donations to our brothers in Christ.

Incense



As At this time of the year we hear much about frankincense, gold and myrrh for they were the gifts brought to the Christ child by the wise men (Matthew 2:11). It is interesting that all three play a large part in Orthodox worship. In the Theology of Worship we read: To an Orthodox Christian it is of utmost importance that the act of worship should express the joy and beauty of the Kingdom of

heaven. Without the dimension of the beautiful our worship will never succeed in being prayer in the fullest sense, prayer of the heart as well as the reasoning brain.



This joy and beauty of the Kingdom cannot be properly expounded in abstract arguments and logical explanations; it has to be experienced, not discussed. And it is above all through symbolic and ritual actions - through the burning of incense, through the lighting of a lamp or candle before an icon - that this living experience is rendered possible. These simple gestures express, far better than any words, our attitude towards God, all our love and adoration; and without such actions our worship would be grievously impoverished.

Why offer incense or burn candles? Why make prostrations or the Sign of the Cross? ... Each exists because it expresses something which cannot be expressed in any other way. If it were possible to say in words why we burn candles and incense, then we could rest content with the verbal explanation and forego the symbolic act altogether. The whole value of the symbol in worship is that it expresses something which cannot be said through the spoken word alone, that it reaches a part of our being which cannot be touched by rational arguments. The symbol is on the one a hand simpler and more immediately accessible than a verbal explanation, and on the other hand it penetrates more deeply into the heart of reality.

On the purely pragmatic level all the beauty and symbolism in our worship is unnecessary and useless. We can use odor-destroying sprays instead of incense, neon lighting instead of candles. But the human being is not simply a pragmatic and utilitarian animal, and those who look more deeply into human nature will quickly appreciate how much we need this "useless" beauty ...



To pray and to worship is to perceive the spiritual beauty of the heavenly Kingdom; to express that beauty alike through words, through poetry and music, through art and symbolic acts, and through our whole lives; and in this way to extend the divine beauty in the world around us; transforming and transfiguring the fallen creation.

"(They) fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)

December Donations:

- Wine/Incense - Linda Livosky and Family ("In memory of Anne Lichko and Anna Livosky. For the good health of Alex Norris")
- Flowers - Mary Baldwin ("In Memory of William Dean Baldwin (4th Anniversary)")
- Candles:
 - Altar - Reader Nicholas / Monica Vansuch ("In memory of Mary V. Vansuch")
 - Amvon - James/Sandra Bufalani ("In memory of George & Olga VanSuch")
 - Iconostasis - James/Elaine Johnston ("In memory of Mary Dunchak and Phillip Elmo")
 - Tetrapod - George Libertin ("In Beloved Memory (Memory Eternal) of Ruth M. Libertin & Brothers Cyril A Hiznay (58 yrs) and Andrew A. Libertin (87 yrs). For the health of Nicholas Libertin & Andrew Libertin (Birthdays-Dec 25th & 26th) and Rachel's infant (Eleanor Maria Libertin-Kidder)")

December Coffee Hour Schedule:

- Sunday December 2nd St. John's Sisterhood
- Sunday December 9th Matthew / Deena Vansuch
- Sunday December 16th Campbell Sr. 'O' Club – St. Nicholas Yolka
- Sunday December 23rd OPEN
- Sunday December 30th Parish Council

Health & Departed List

9-Dec-2018

Health

Metropolitans **Theodosius, Herman, Paul & Mar Gregorios**

Archpriests **George** (Hutnyan) & **Dionysius** (Swencki)

Matushkas **Pauline** (Gemmel), **Laryssa** (Hutnyan),

Catherine (Pyrch), **Susanne** (Senyo) &

Presbytera **Zoe** (Denas)

Josh / Sarah (infant Ava Grace) (Wilson)

Matushka **Kaila Susanna** (unborn child) (Nelko)

Rachel (unborn child) (Pethel)

Mary (Maksimoff)

Raissa (Nicoloff)

Stephen (Elash)

Julia (Simko)

Mea & Mary (Mahan)

Doris (Gemmel)

Mary Jane (Puskas)

Katherine ('Horodnic')

Ann & Robert (Zastany)

George / Irene (Horodnic)

Vincent (Smith – 'Kolesar')

Ann (Konik)

Laurissa (Rusnak)

Nicholas / Mary Kay (Libertin)

Paul / Kathy ('Kolesar')

George (Libertin)

Tamara (Drummond (Psinka))

Paula (Kennedy)

Helen (Korechko)

Vesna ('Luthern')

Thomas (Hutnyan)

Lou / Bonnie ('Zastany')

Katherine & Louise (Garman)

Joseph (Jackubek)

James (Lazor)

Adriana ('Liszka')

Ann (Cvrecko)

Melanie (Yanitto)

Alex (Norris) (Dec)

Eleanor Marie (Libertin-Kidder) (Dec)

Nicholas & Andrew (Libertin) (Dec)

Travelers

Michele & Nicholas (Basile)

Servicemen

Reader **John** (Zastany)

Jared (Bobic)

Mark (Zastany)

Liam (Garrity – 'Zelinsky')

Joseph Michael (Betras)

Jon Michael (Farraghar)

Birthdays / Anniversaries

Ann (Zastany) (12 Dec – Birthday)

Helen (Colaluca) (13 Dec – Birthday)

Rocco (Mediate) (15 Dec – Birthday)

Departed

Newly Departed (40 Days)

Archpriest **Joseph** (Martin) (18 Dec)

Protodeacon **Dennis / Helen** (Lucak) (20 Dec)

Departed

Mary (Dunchak) (Dec)

Philip (Elmo) (Dec)

Anne (Lichko) (Dec)

Anna (Livosky) (Dec)

William (Baldwin) (Dec)

Mary (Vansuch) (Dec)

Cyril (Hiznay) (Dec)

Andrew & Ruth (Libertin) (Dec)

George / Olga (VanSuch) (Dec)