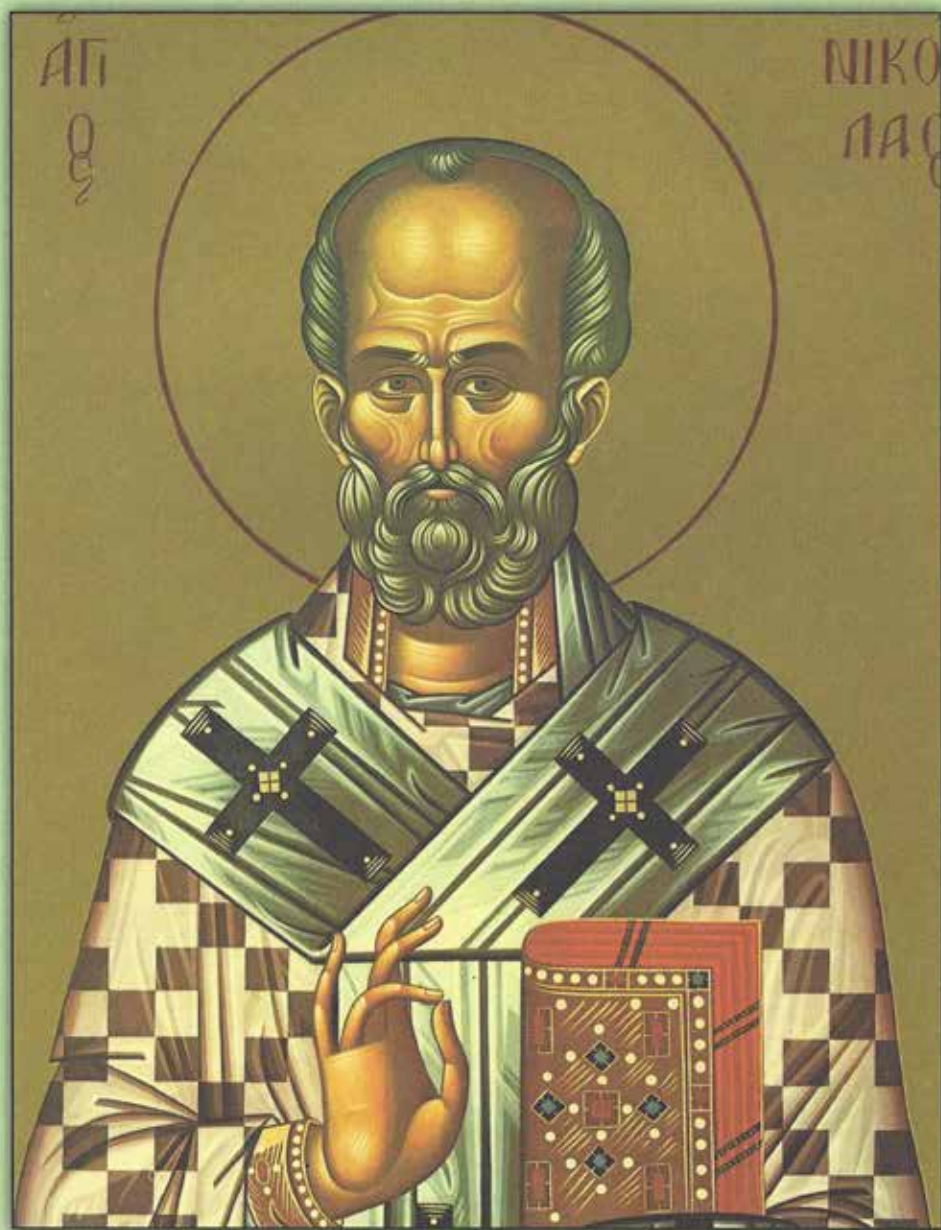


TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th

December 2, 2018: 27th Sunday After Pentecost	
Epistle: Eph. 6: 10-17 Gospel: Lk. 13: 10-17	
Mon., Dec. 3	8:00 + Joseph Chmil (Pat, Cathy & Patrick Marcinko)
Tues., Dec. 4	No Divine Liturgy Today.
Wed., Dec. 5	8:00 + Eva & Prokop Rusinyak (Marlene Nestrick) <i>For the Holy Day:</i> 7:00 pm + Leona Wirchniansky (Matt Beckage)
Thurs., Dec. 6	St. Nicholas (Solemn Holy Day) 9:00 + Nicholas Zinsky (Wife, Dorothy)
Fri., Dec. 7	8:00 + Joan Turko (Ted & Eleanor Slachtish)
Sat., Dec. 8	No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 Confessions 4:00 pm + Michael Clark (Sharon Sembrat)
Sun., Dec. 9	9:00 For Our Parishioners 11:30 + Rose & Michael (Carol)

Pylypivka (Advent) Pastoral fo the Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy of the U.S.A.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

One day, during the pre-Nativity liturgical service celebrated at the Basilica of St. Sofia-Wisdom of God in Constantinople, St. Gregory of Nazianzus, the Theologian, overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, exclaimed: "Christ is Born! Go out to meet Him!" This short phrase expresses the innate meaning of the

forty days of the Nativity Fast, popularly known as Philip's Fast. This period isn't filled with grief, but rather with joy, because Christ is coming to transform the world and grant us salvation not only through His suffering and resurrection, but also through His incarnation.

True God from true God, begotten, not made descends from

heaven to us, in order to be with us in our mundane earthy life often filled with difficulties. The Lord comes because He dearly loves us and desires to make the first step toward reconciliation and lift up our human nature broken and damaged by sin. Thus, the Nativity Fast is not a mere expectation or an effort to recall the important historical event of Christ's birth that occurred more than 2000 years ago, but primarily, it is a time of our soul's preparation for the encounter with the incarnated Christ. How should we prepare ourselves for this salvific event of Christ's Nativity?

The secular world proposes its own version of such preparation by using festal illumination of our streets, bright and ornamented windows of our shops and richly decorated evergreen trees. The entertainment industry employs various sales tactics which entice us to make more purchases. While in the whirl of preparatory activities, we might forget to prepare ourselves to meet with the newly born child, who is God eternal. It is important to know that the festive atmosphere would only be filled with adequate internal meaning when we repent and open our hearts in order to make it ready for the Birth of Christ.

Our liturgical texts pertaining to the Nativity Fast period often proclaim: "Bethlehem, Get Ready" or "the Cave of the Nativity Be Ready," although, in reality, poor Bethlehem and the meager cave is our destitute human existence which is in need of God's nurturing. The Lord did not enter this world in the royal palace, thus, if we want God to live with us and be born in us, we have to cast aside any kind of pride and luxury of self-indulgence and chose a path of humility and quiet joy from the fact that "God is with us." Therefore, if we would like to prepare "a modest cave in our soul" for the birth of the child Jesus, then it would be imperative to get rid of the imaginary illusion of our self-worth and gladly accept the modest circumstances of our present lives as given to us by God for our benefit and salvation.

During the Nativity Fast, the Holy Mother Church puts in front of us the images of our forefathers, fathers and prophets, who foretold the coming of the Savior. Although, they were not soothsayers, or using the modern term "futurists," but having been inspired by the Holy Spirit, they spoke on behalf of God about essential things concerning our present life with

God. After all, it is crucial to maintain our relationship with God “here and now” rather than “somewhere and sometime.” Apostles Andrew and Phillip, whom we commemorate during the Nativity Fast, understood this well, since they sought intimacy with Christ and unconditionally followed Him in search of “light that enlightens every person.” Similarly, amid these dark late autumn days we strive for sunshine and warmth that can only be given to us by the “authentic Sun of Truth”- Christ, the Savior. Therefore, the aim of fasting is to strive to be filled and sifted through by the uncreated light of God’s presence in our souls granted to us by the newborn Lord.

God’s Son leaves behind His

Heavenly dwelling in order to become one of us. So, what should we leave behind during fasting? Traditionally, the Church calls to refrain temporarily from festive celebrations and some foods, but even more importantly - to abandon pride, laziness and all that alienates us from God, from all that is superfluous in our lives and interferes with the joy of celebrating the incarnation of Christ.

“The Lord is coming,” – exclaim our liturgical chants. He comes again and again to all of us together and to everyone in particular. So, let’s prepare a road for Him to our heart. We will light the lamps of our faith, open the caves of our souls and become prepared for the gift of the new life incarnated wants to grant us.

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Eparch of Stamford

+Andriy Rabiy
Apostolic Administrator of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

+Benedict Aleksiychuk (author)
Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago

+ Bohdan J. Danylo
Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma

+John Bura
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

November 2018 Parish Liturgy Attendance Statistics

	4:00 pm	9:00 am	11:30 am	TOTAL
Nov. 3/4	83	44	59	189
Nov. 10/11	68	48	45	161
Nov. 17/18	75	44	58	177
Nov. 24/25	71	45	56	172
TOTAL	297	181	218	696

Special Collection for St. Mary's Church, Carteret, NJ At Divine Liturgies Dec. 8 and 9

This past Tuesday, our faithful in Carteret, NJ experienced the tragic destruction of their Parish Church of St. Mary as the result of a three alarm fire. Bishop Andriy has asked that a special collection be taken up in all of our par-

ishes, at the Divine Liturgies the weekend of December 8 and 9, 2018 for St. Mary's parish in Carteret, NJ. In this season of giving, please be generous in your support of our sister Parish.

Andrew's Pence

The Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) has decided to hold a collection, called Andrew's Pence, to support faithful of UGCC abroad where there is no permanent ecclesiastical structure.

More than 100 years ago Ukrainians started to leave their native land in search of a better life, material welfare, and freedom. Many settled on another continent, where church buildings of the UGCC are not everywhere, so that

the faithful could not attend services in their native Church. Wishing to provide all faithful of the UGCC with spiritual care, the bishops call upon all to support the faithful of the UGCC abroad in prayer and financially, collecting the so-called Andrew's Pence.

According to the Protocol of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, the "Andrew's Pence" collection is to be taken in all parishes each year in the month of December.

'Tis the Season

We will begin to decorate our Church for the Christmas season today, December 2, 2018 beginning at 1 pm. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to

come and lend a helping hand. We especially need the men of the Parish to handle the ladders and the Manger.

Welcome St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas arrives Saturday, December 8th at approximately 5:15 pm. Please arrive no later than 5:00 pm to ensure a good seat! St. Nicholas will visit with each child, and there will be treats for children of all ages. Our Religious Education children will welcome St. Nicholas by singing, "O, KTO, KTO," and, everyone can

sing along with other favorite carols. This is a Parish event limited to members of the Parish and closest friends. REMINDER to all: There is to be no eating of candy or oranges inside the Church. Please be mindful and pick up any wrappers, etc., before leaving. Thank you. Looking forward to seeing you!

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society will meet next Sunday, December 9th following the 9:00 am Divine Liturgy. All

members are encouraged to attend this monthly meeting.

Why Should I use weekly envelopes?

The use of envelopes is important, they document your active participation in the faith life of our parish. This information is needed in order to obtain a Letter of Eligibility to be issued when you are asked to be a baptism or confirmation sponsor. This also facilitates

the preparation of a statement of contributions for income tax purpose. If you do not currently participate in our envelope system and would like to start using them, please contact the Parish Office at 570-291-4451.

Do You Have Time To Help Others?

VNA Hospice and Home Health is

seeking volunteers to be part of our care

team. Our volunteer program provides a unique opportunity to serve others and at the same time learn new skills and make new friends. If you like to listen to treasured stories or just lend a helping hand, VNA is the

place for you.

If you would like more information on joining our team, please contact Marina Pambianco, Volunteer Coordinator, at 570-383-51804 or mpambianco@vnahospice.org

Connor's Christmas Miracle

An "Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar" will take place on Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 1 to 5 pm at Jon Pierres American Bistro, 590 Burke Bypass in Olyphant.

All proceeds benefit Connor Edward Abda, who was born on June 1, 2018 with Immunodeficiency Disease (Boy in the Bubble Disease).

Donations will help Connor with ongoing medical expenses as he con-

tinues with treatment at Hershey Medical Center.

Donations of \$5.00 per Family at the Door gets you a Door Prize ticket for a LIVE Christmas Tree, Photos with Santa, gift bags for the kids, juice, hot chocolate, Homemade cookies, and the Gift of Giving Connor a Miracle! For more info call Kim at (H) 570-383-9552, (C) 570-892-0378 or Diane at 845-542-9233.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2018 is Team #4: Ed Stecco and Joe Smagula.

At this time we are looking for

more volunteers to help process the Sunday Collection. If you are interested in helping, please let Father Nestor know.

Sunday Collection for November 24 & 25, 2018: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for December 8 & 9, 2018

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Samuel Szczesniak -- Brett Lowe	Andrew Augustine
9:00 am	Nicholas Chylak -- Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Brian Radle -- Thomas Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

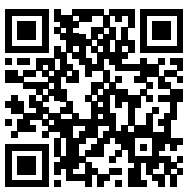
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Who Was Saint Nicholas?

Saint Nicholas of Myra, also known as Nicholas of Bari, was an early Christian bishop of the ancient Greek city of Myra in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) during the time of the Roman Empire. Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, and students in various cities and countries around Europe.

Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas. The earliest accounts of his life were written centuries after his death and contain many legendary elaborations. He is said to have been born in Patara, Lycia in Asia Minor to wealthy Christian parents. In one of the earliest attested and most famous incidents from his

life, he is said to have rescued three girls from being forced into prostitution by dropping a sack of gold coins through the window of their house each night for three nights so their father could pay a dowry for each of them. Other early stories tell of him calming a storm at sea, saving three innocent soldiers from wrongful execution, and chopping down a tree possessed by a demon.

In his youth, he is said to have made a pilgrimage to Egypt and the Palestine area. Shortly after his return, he became Bishop of Myra. He was later cast into prison during the persecution of Diocletian, but was released after the accession of Constantine. An early list makes him an attendee at the First Council of Nicaea in 325, but he is never mentioned in any writings by people who were actually at the council.