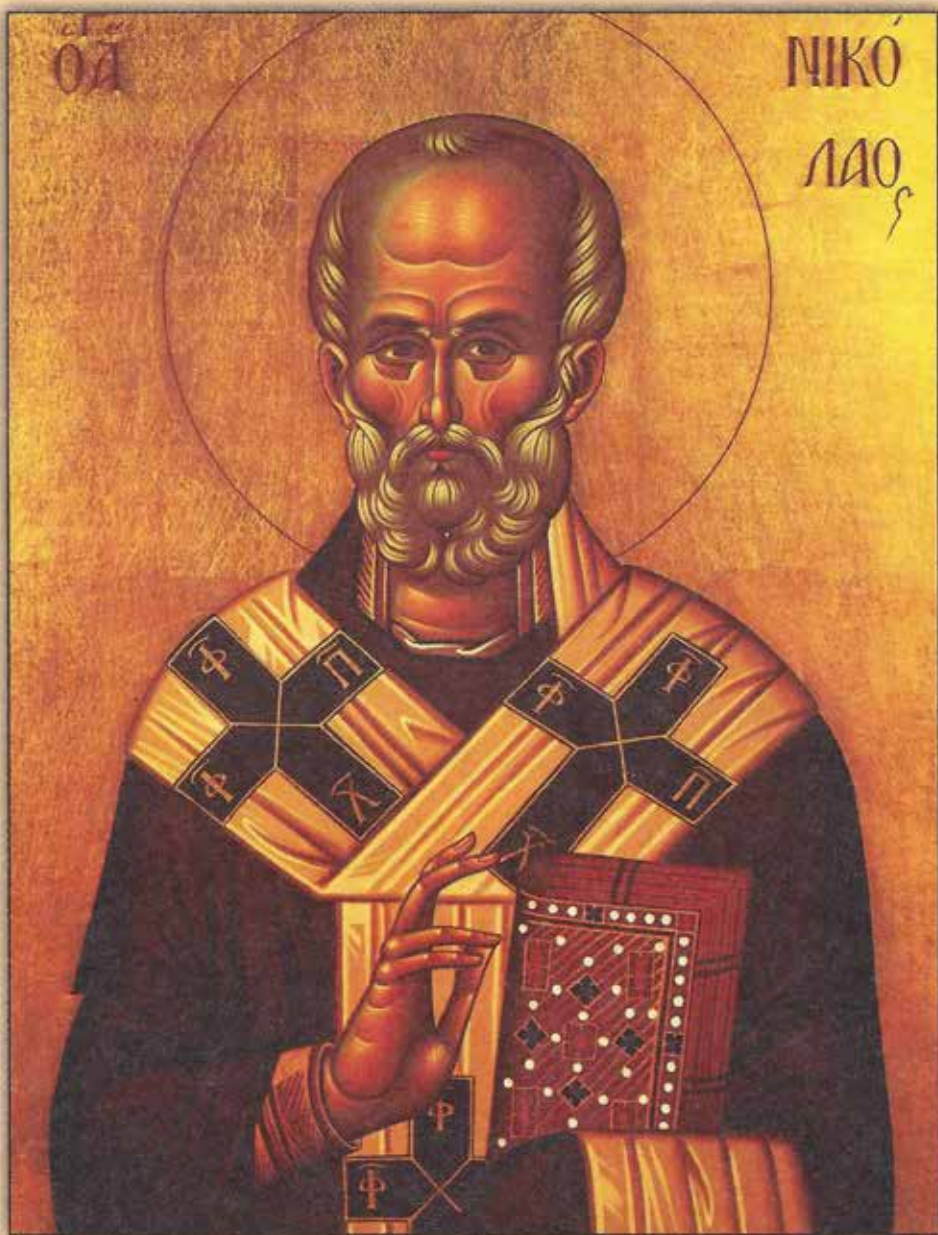


TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th

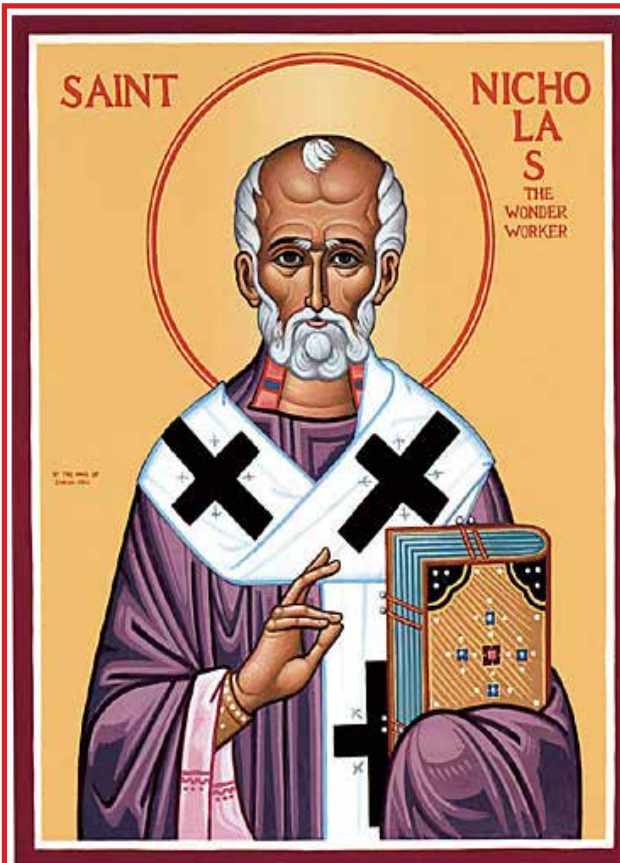
December 1, 2019: 25th Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Eph. 4: 1-6		Gospel: Lk. 18: 18-27
Mon., Dec. 2	8:00	+ Souls in Purgatory (Dorothy Zinsky)
Tues., Dec. 3	8:00	+ Myroslaw Iwasiw (Father Nestor)
Wed., Dec. 4	No Divine Liturgy Today	
Thurs., Dec. 5	8:00	Health of Andy Marcinko (Andrea Novak)
		<u>For the Holy Day:</u>
	7:00 pm	+ Judith Korischar (Howard & Anna Smith)
Fri., Dec. 6	St. Nicholas (Solemn Holy Day)	
	9:00	+ Nicholas Zinsky (Dorothy Zinsky)
Sat., Dec. 7	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	No Confessions: Sobor in Philadelphia	
	4:00 pm	+ Michael Clarke (Sharon Sembrat)
Sun., Dec. 8	9:00	For Our Parishioners
	11:30	+ Joseph Muchisky (Wife & Sons)

THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA, WONDERWORKER

St. Nicholas stands out in the Church as a “model of faith and an example of virtue.” Nicholas was Archbishop of Myra in Lycia in the fourth century. He is called the Wonder-worker. His greatness lies neither in theological works nor in writing. He is a personification of a shepherd, a defender, and an intercessor. For us, Nicholas is a man of faith. He shows us what humility is and teaches us the

values of moderation and poverty. All generations have acknowledged him as a holy bishop.

St. Nicholas, called “of Bari”, was bishop of Myra in the fourth century. The great veneration with which this saint has been honored for many ages and the number of altars and churches which have been everywhere dedicated in his memory are testimonials to his holiness and of the glory which



he enjoys with God. He is said to have been born at Patara in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. Myra, the capital, not far from the sea, was an episcopal see, and this church falling vacant, the holy Nicholas was chosen bishop, and in that station became famous by his extraordinary piety and zeal and many astonishing miracles.

The Greek histories of his life agree

that he suffered imprisonment for the faith and made a glorious confession in the latter part of the persecution raised by Diocletian, and that he was present at the Council of Nicaea and there condemned Arianism. He died at Myra, and was buried in his cathedral.

The Icon of St. Nicholas brings him into our life. He is shown with his right hand raised in blessing and his left hand clasping a scroll. As bishop, he blesses his people in the name of Christ and brings the Word of Truth to them. The Icon encloses the image of Christ holding the Gospel Book on one side of the Saint, and the Mother of God holding the Bishop's omophorion on the other side. This is an obvious

reference to his choice as Bishop of Myra. It is common for events from the lives of the Saints to be shown in their icons. In a vision prior to his election as Bishop, Nicholas beheld Christ handing him the Book of Gospels, and the Mother of God placing the omophorion on his shoulders.

The celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas, on December 6, is a holiday

celebrated with much joy in Ukraine, where it is a traditional custom to visit and distribute gifts. Many Ukrainian communities continue this old tradition, which helps Ukrainian children remember that before Santa Claus there was a holy man called Nicholas.

Named the patron saint of children, Nicholas was the son of a wealthy bishop and shared his fortune with the poor. He was said to have secretly

left bags of gold in the night for those who could not afford dowries for their daughters. Legend says that maidens need only pray to the patron saint and they will have good husbands in the future.

With St. Nicholas we stand in faith and worship, seeing him as a model for our Christian lives and a model for Christian leadership. We ask him to pray to Christ for us.

SOME THANKSGIVING HUMOR

Thanksgiving Divorce!

A man in Chicago calls his son in New York the day before Thanksgiving and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough.

"Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Dallas and tell her." Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this," She calls Chicago immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my

brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says, "they're coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way."

Taming A Cussing Parrot!

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious, and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to "clean up" the bird's vocabulary. Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The

parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got even angrier and even ruder. John, in desperation, threw up his hands, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he had hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arm and said, "I believe I

may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I am sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior." John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird spoke-up, very softly, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

NOTICE TO THE PARISH

Please pass this notice to those members of our Parish who have not been regular in their church attendance and ask them to carefully consider the message below.

I want you to know that our Parish needs you, and that you also need to be here with us. We have a responsibility

to one another as members of the Body of Christ - the Church - and these responsibilities are growing daily, given the events taking place in the world around us. Please make Church attendance and prayer a regular part of you daily lives. Please!

SOBOR (GATHERING) DECEMBER 7 & 8

The Archieparchial Sobor (Meeting) for the laity will continue on December 7 & 8. This session will conclude the meeting with the laity for 2019 regarding the need to unite the

Archieparchial Parishes in discovering our needs and future. The Metropolitan encourages you to attend. He desires your input. Contact Fr. Nestor if you would like to attend.

ARCHIEPARCHIAL RAFFLE

The allotted Archieparchial Raffle Tickets have sold out. We Thank

everyone who helped support this Archieparchial fund-raiser.

ST. CYRIL'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY MEETING

St. Cyril's Holy Name Society will meet next Sunday, December 8th following the 9:00 Divine Liturgy. All members are

invited and encouraged to attend this meeting.

'TIS THE SEASON

We will begin to decorate our Church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 8, 2019 beginning and 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.

2020 CHURCH CALENDARS

The 2020 Church Calendars are available in the Vestibule of the Church. The

Calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

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.

SINGING IN CHURCH

There are many who would say "I don't have a good voice" or "I'm not a singer." To them I would say -- We are God's greatest creation -- and within each of us

is the voice God gave us. It is the only musical instrument created by God for all others are the invention of man. Who are we to judge, to decide that the voice

inside each of us if good or bad? Remember, God also created the birds --

and each, including the crow, SINGS!

WHAT IS OUR RULE ABOUT FASTING BEFORE COMMUNION?

We all have a strict obligation to fast for one hour before receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. This means no eating or drinking at all for one hour before. Those who have medical conditions (diabetes, etc.) and must take medica-

tion or eat at certain times are certainly exempted from this fasting rule. While a very beneficial spiritual practice, fasting and abstinence should never be practiced to the detriment of one's physical health and well-being.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG

You are invited to join Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Parish for their 26th Annual Christmas Carol Sing Along in the church on North River St. in Wilkes-Barre, on Sunday, December 15, 2019 starting at 2 pm. Join in the singing of some very sacred, joyful and inspiring

Christmas Carols. Afterwards, please join us in the lower church hall for a Christmas Fellowship Social. Please bring a friend or family member, and share the joy of Christmas with them, as we all prepare to welcome the Newborn Son of God into our hearts and homes.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2019 is Team #4:

Ron Barkofsky & Joe Smagula.

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for December 7 & 8, 2019

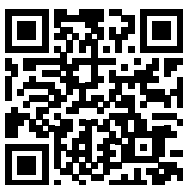
	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Brett Lowe -- Alex Nick	Andrew Augustine
9:00 am	Patrick Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Brian Radle -- Thomas Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was

unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man’s window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint’s feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.