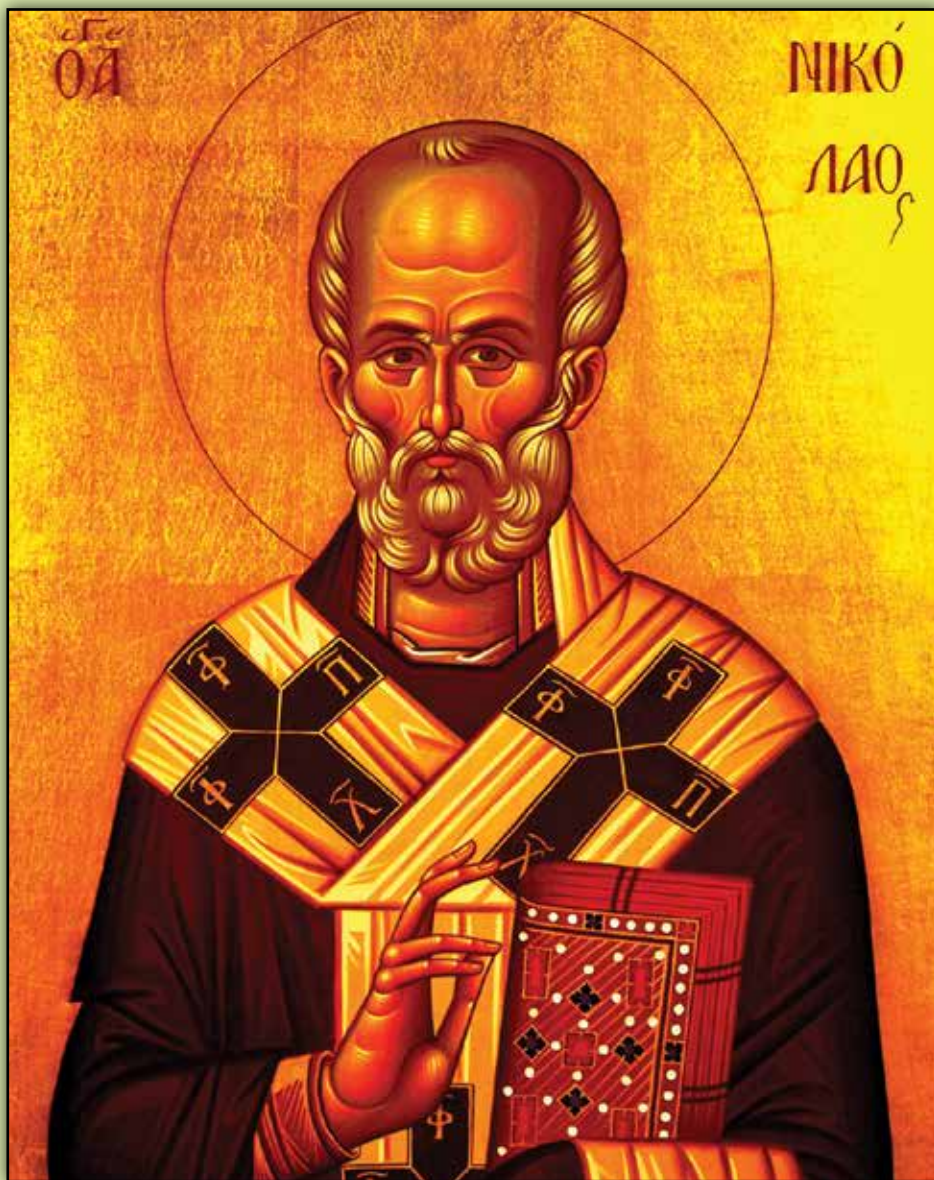


TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th

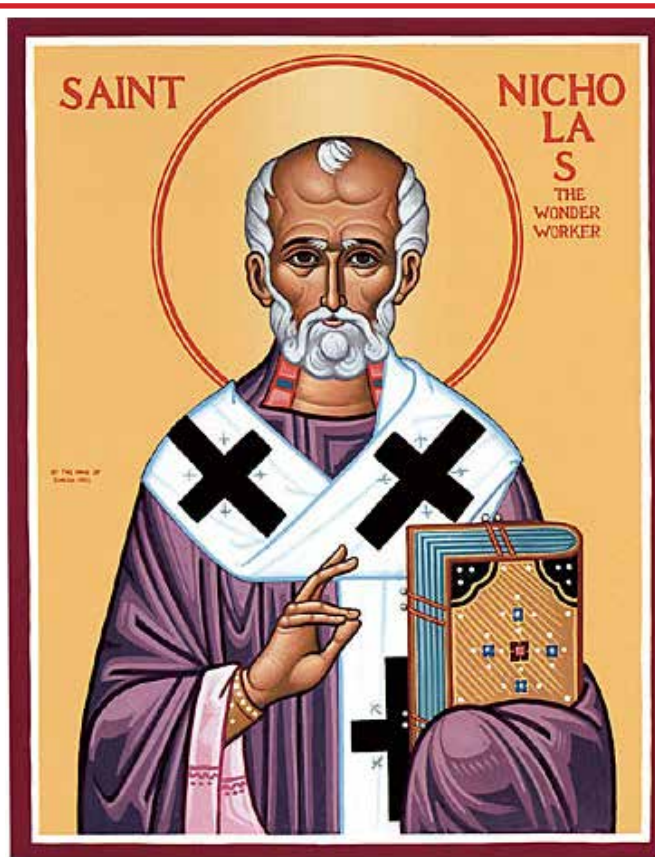
December 5, 2021: 28th Sunday After Pentecost		
Epistle: Col. 1: 12-18		Gospel: Lk. 17: 12-19
Mon., Dec. 6	St. Nicholas (Solemn Holy Day)	
	9:00	+ Michael Legos (Family)
Tues., Dec. 7	9:00	+ Nicholas Zinsky (Wife, Dorothy)
Wed., Dec. 8	9:00	+ Frank (Carol)
Thurs., Dec. 9	Maternity of the Holy Anna (Solemn Holy Day)	
	9:00	+ Mildred, Anna & Wasyl Bendersky (Family)
Fri., Dec. 10	10:00	Funeral: + Evelyn Klapatch
Sat., Dec. 11	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ Michael & Rose (Carol)
Sun., Dec. 12	10:00	For Our Parishioners

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 Wonderworker. 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.

ON THE FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA

The U. S. Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy issued the following letter dated November 30, 2006:

To the Clergy, Sisters, and the Faithful of the Metropolitan Province of Philadelphia for Ukrainians:

As long as anyone can remember, we have celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the United States on December 8th as a Holy Day of Obligation. This was done so we may be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of the Latin Church as this title of the Mother of God is the patron of our great country. In accordance with the decree (1.4) of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church during the Synod of 1997 (September 14th - 20th), the holy

days of obligation were promulgated and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was not included as a day of obligation.

As the feast of the Conception of St. Anne is celebrated on December 9th in ALL of the Eastern Churches (Gregorian Calendar) and specifically in the Ukrainian Church, we, the undersigned, promulgate that the Feast of the Conception of St. Anne is to be celebrated on December 9th in the United States of America. This will enable our Church *sui iuris* to be of one accord in its celebration of the Liturgical life of our Church. This is to take effect immediately. Given on the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30) 2006.

+Stefan Soroka

+Robert M. Moskal +Richard S. Seminack +Paul Chomnycky, O.S.B.M

ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE

Our Parish is, again, hosting a poinsettia sale fund raiser. These 6 ½ inch florist quality plants are \$10.00 each and are available in red only. Due to time constraints orders must be made either after this weekend's liturgy or by calling Jule at 570-357-6171 or Michaelene at 570-209-2026. Time will not allow mail-in orders. Your payment, however, may be mailed to: St. Cyril's Church;

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447, with checks payable to: "St. Cyril's Church." Please support our parish through this fundraiser; or consider purchasing a plant to donate to your parish, a nursing home, or to cheer a friend. For your convenience, pickup is being coordinated with bake sale pickup on Monday, December 20th from 4:00 to 6:00 at the Parish Hall on 207 River Street.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

The third installment of our Parish's Winter Fundraiser is the bake sale featuring goodies from Jerry's For all Seasons. The order form is attached to this weekend's bulletin. Orders must be received by Monday, December 13th. (Please consider the delays with the mail when sending in your order.) Orders may be made by phoning: Jule

at 570-357-6171 or Michaelene at 570-209-2026. For your convenience, pickup will be coordinated with the poinsettia pickup: Monday, December 20th from 4:00 to 6:00 at the Parish Hall on 207 River Street. Additional order forms are located at the back of the church. Please take some to share with friends, neighbors, etc.

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 the 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.

VIRUS CAN'T STOP THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

During our current pandemic, all is certainly not calm. But very soon, things will be a little bit brigher on River St. in Olyphant. Today (December 5th), beginning at about 11:30 am, armed with strings of lights, wreaths, boughs of greenery, and plenty of extension

cords, we will decorate our Church for Christmas. These decorations help bring some much-needed cheer during this coronavirus crisis. Remember, we need plenty of vounteers to make this happen.

DIVINE LITURGY STATISTICS

The following are the November 2021 Parish Liturgies Attendance Statiscs which were submitted to the Archbishop's Chancery this year:

	Saturday	Sunday	Total
November 6/7	46	38	84
November 13/14	47	44	91
November 20/21	52	45	97
November 27/28	51	31	82
Total:	196	158	354

2022 CHURCH CALENDARS

The 2022 Church Calendars are available in the Vestibule of the

Church. The Calendars are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

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

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!

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG

YOU ARE INVITED to join Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish for their 27th Annual Christmas Carol Sing Along in the church on North River Street in Wilkes-Barre, Sunday, December 12th, 2021 starting at 2 p.m. 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 2021 is Team

#4: Ron Barkofsky and Joe Smagula.

Sunday Collection for Nov. 27 & 28, 2021: \$

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Parish financially in our weekly collections. If you are still staying at home due to the pandemic, and are able to send in any amount, it would be a blessing.



Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



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.