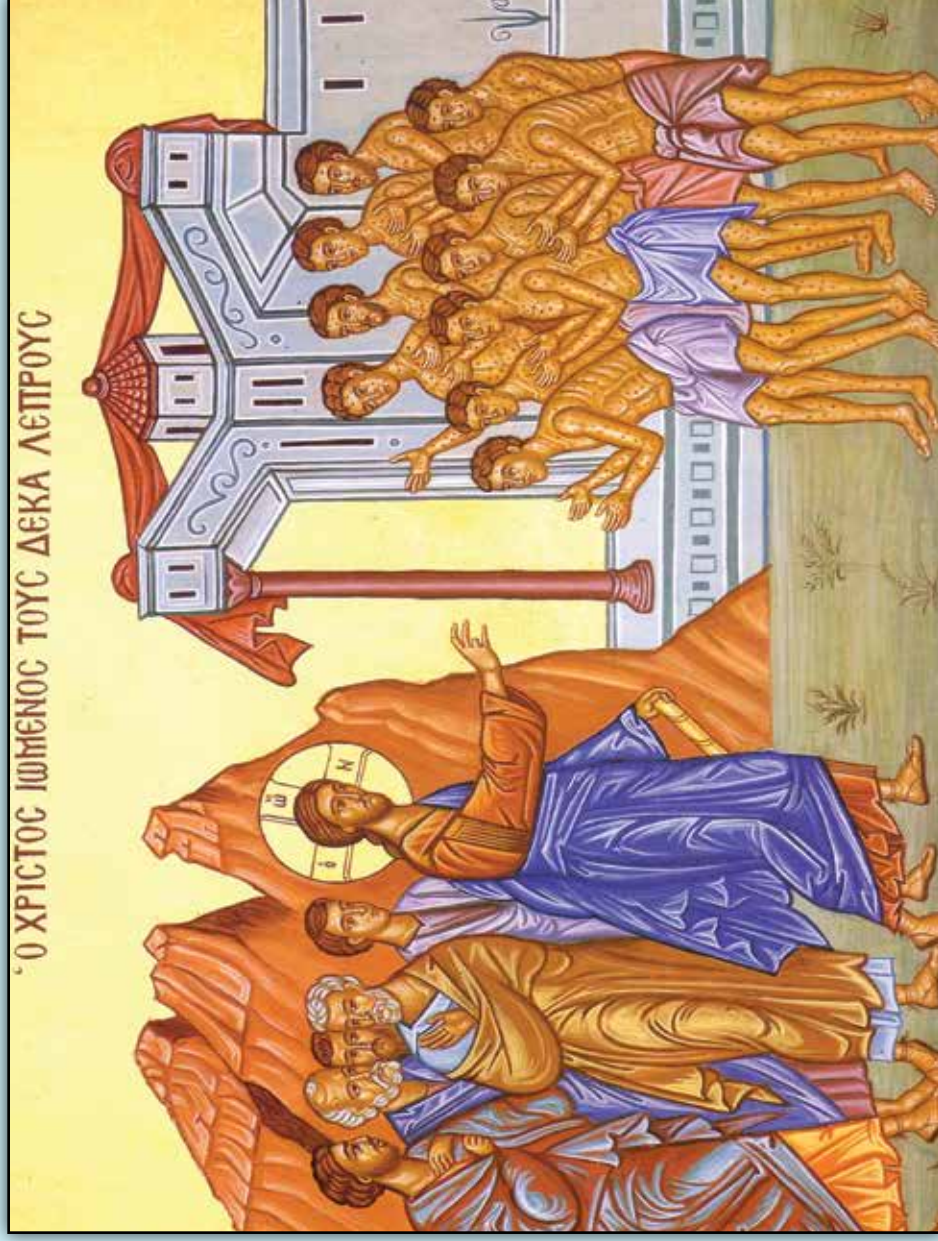


## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of the Healing of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:12-19)*

<b>December 4, 2022: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b>		
Epistle: Eph. 5: 9-19		Gospel: Lk. 17: 12-19
<b>Mon., Dec. 5</b>	9:00	+ Anne Kawa (Bob & Marlene Zelno)
<b>Tues., Dec. 6</b>	9:00	<b>St. Nicholas (Solemn Holy Day)</b> + Nicholas Zinsky (Wife, Dorothy)
<b>Wed., Dec. 7</b>	9:00	+ John & Nellie Priblo & + Spurge Chudillo (Dolly Daniels)
<b>Thurs., Dec. 8</b>	9:00	+ Andrew & Stephen Chezik (Chezik Family)
<b>Fri., Dec. 9</b>	9:00	<b>Maternity of the Holy Anna (Solemn Holy Day)</b> + Michael Clark (Sharon Sembrat)
<b>Sat., Dec. 10</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy.</b> 2:00 pm Confessions. 4:00 pm + Michael & Rose Rutsky (Daughter, Carol)	
<b>Sun., Dec. 11</b>	10:30	For Our Parishioners

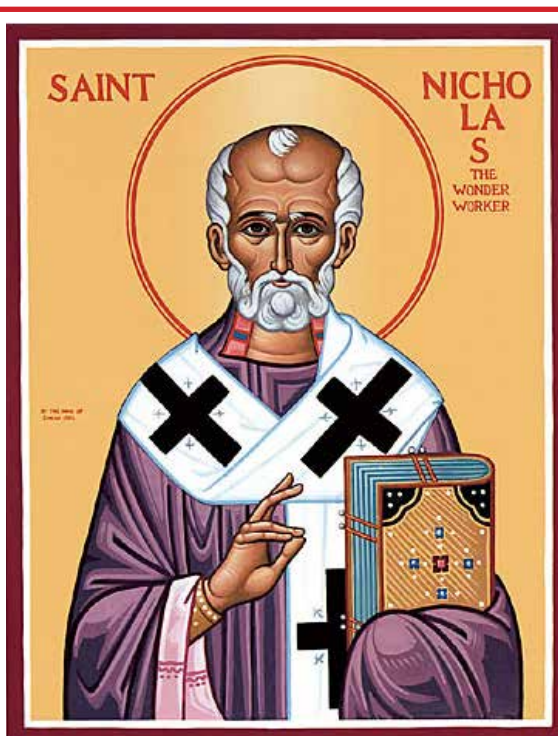
## THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS,

### 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 Dioletian, 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 holy day 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>), 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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

## **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

*The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary. The article is quite long but certainly is worth reading.*

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejew-

eled tress, Christmas trees... I don't feel threatened... I don't feel discriminated against... That's what they are, Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think that they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In

fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu... If people want a crèche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away. I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her: "How could God let

something like this happen?" (regarding Hurricane Katrina). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said: "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events... terrorist attacks, school shooting, etc... I think that it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK.

Then some of you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strang-



ers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with “WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.”

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world’s going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but ques-

tion what the Bible says. Are you laughing yet? Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

But, if you discard this thought process, don’t sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in. My Best Regards, Honestly and respectfully.

## **DIVINE LITURGY ATTENDANCE STATISTICS**

*The following are the November 2022 Parish Liturgies Attendance Statistics which were submitted to the Chancery:*

	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Nov. 5 &amp; 6</b>	50	50	100
<b>Nov. 12 &amp; 13</b>	45	38	83
<b>Nov. 19 &amp; 20</b>	48	42	90
<b>Nov. 26 &amp; 27</b>	48	44	92
<b>Total:</b>	191	174	365

## **‘Tis the Season! Decorating St. Cyrils Church for Christmas 2022**

Christmas will be here before we know it! We will be decorating St. Cyril’s Church today (Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>) following the Divine Liturgy at approximately 12:00 noon. All Parishion-

ers are invited to volunteer, as windows, iconostas, vestibule, the Royal Doors, the Main Altar, manger, choir loft, outdoors, etc... are decorated for the Christmas season.

## **2023 CHURCH CALENDARS**

The 2023 Church Calendars are available in back of the Church. The Calendars

are free, but any donations will be appreciated.

## **UPDATE ON THE SUNDAY CHURCH ENVELOPS**

Recently FJ Remey Co., our current envelop provider, merged with Church Budget Envelope Co., our new company. Due to this transition, and the

Thanksgiving holidays, many Parishioners received or will receive their Church envelopes later than usual. We apologize for this inconvenience.

## **PARISH UPDATES**

Several Parishioners have expressed concerns regarding the condition of the Parish school, garage, and grounds. In response to these concerns, the Parish Council was asked to review them and develop a plan of resolution. The Council has decided upon the following actions:

- The garage will immediately be cleared of all rummage sale items being stored in it so that Father will have free access to it. No fundrais-

ing related items will be stored in the garage in the future. The grounds around the garage and school are being cleared of all clutter.

- There are plans to hold a Clearance Sale of items in the school gym when the building is warm enough in the spring and to dispose of all unsold items.
- The Council has established a set of rules for all future Parish fundraising activities.

## **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 is good or bad? Remember, God also created the birds -- and each, including the crow, SINGS!

## **COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of December 2022 is Team #4:

Ron Barkofsky, and Joe Smagula.

**Sunday Collection for Nov. 26 & 27, 2022: \$**

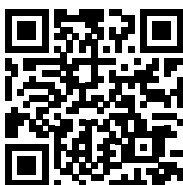
## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church**

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### ***Our Faith and Christ's Action***

The liturgical service takes place on earth, but it belongs to the realm of heavenly realities. In fact, it was not instituted by a human being or an angel, but by the Spirit himself, so that those who are still living in the flesh should think of performing the service of angels.

O what mercy, O what love of God for human beings! Christ who is seated with the Father in highest heaven is at that moment grasped by the hands of all and does not hesitate to give Himself to anyone who wants to embrace Him and be bound to Him.

He whom the eyes of faith perceive is possessed by everyone.

You remember how Elijah was surrounded by a great crowd and had in front of him the victim for sacrifice placed on the stone (see 1 Kings 18). Everyone stood stock still. The silence was complete. Only the prophet raised a prayer. Suddenly from heaven came down fire on the victim. It was a marvelous spectacle that filled everyone with amazement.

Here, however, something much more than a marvelous spectacle is unfolded. Something is happening that is greater than any marvel. Here the priest draws down not fire but the Holy Spirit Himself.

*St. John Chrysostom*