

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024 #NATIVITYFAST vol. X
 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
 +Martyr Platon (266)
 Reservations for the Deanery St. Nicholas Charity
 Dinner due TODAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 #NATIVITYFAST
 6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers and Orthodoxy 101

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 #NATIVITYFAST
 FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS
 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 #NATIVITYFAST
 9:30 am Akathist Hymn to St. Nicholas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 #NATIVITYFAST
 9:00 am Winter Maintenance & Decorating Morning
 11a-1p Mystery (Sacrament) of Confession offered
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 #NATIVITYFAST vol. X
 24th Sunday after Pentecost
 Leave-taking of the Feast of the Entrance of the
 Theotokos into the Temple
 +Hieromartyr Clement of Rome (101)
 9:15 am Third Hour; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
 Epistle: Ephesian 2:14-22
 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 (10th Sunday of Luke)
 Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7 (for Theotokos)
 Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (for Theotokos)
 Monthly Memorial (Panachida) for +Beverly Ferko
 (12/2), +Julia Potoski (12/14/18), +Josephine
 (Smoley) Urban (12/15/99), +Archpriest Stephen
 Shuga (12/16/19), +Stelian Popescu (12/30/19)

Tone 7; Liturgical Color: **Blue**
 5:00 pm Deanery St. Nicholas Charity Dinner

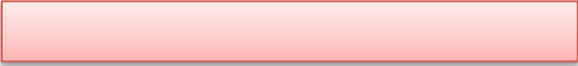
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 #NATIVITYFAST
 6:30 pm Moleben for the Nativity Fast
 7:00 pm Exploring Orthodox 101

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 #NATIVITYFAST
 9:30 am Nativity Fast Paraklis to the Theotokos

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 #NATIVITYFAST
 11a-1p Mystery (Sacrament) of Confession offered

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! (*responded with: Glory forever!*) Slava Isusu Christu! (*Slava na viki!*) We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning. We wish God's Blessings to all who are with us today and hope you come again soon! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.
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(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)
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***** Nativity Fast** – The Nativity Fast has begun. This fasting period is also referred to as Philip's Fast (Filipovka). We are *all* called to increase our prayer, fasting, and charity. The fasting periods in the church are prescribed as an opportunity to strengthen our faith. It is for all of us. (*When the church calendar is pink – it is a fasting day for everyone.*) Fasting is personal, but let's embark on this discipline and journey together!
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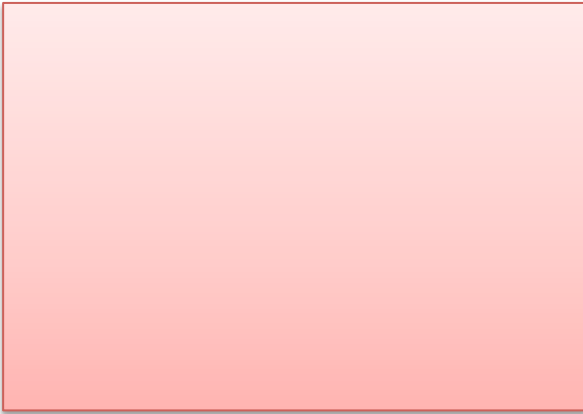


**** #GivingTuesday** is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated the Tuesday following Thanksgiving after the widely recognized shopping events *Black Friday* and *Cyber Monday*, #GivingTuesday (**December 3**) kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. If you will be donating online, please consider supporting the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops or one of its official affiliates (such as IOCC, OCF, OCMC, OCPM, OVC, OYM, OCAMPR, FOCUS-NA. To see their full names visit: www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/affiliates/) or other Orthodox organizations such as EOCS, OCEC, OCN, St. Constantine Orthodox School...
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*** Winter Maintenance & Decorating Morning** - On **Saturday, December 7** our periodic parish maintenance morning will return! All are asked to come and help repair some little things, do a deep cleaning, and decorate for Christmas. Please sign up on the sheet in the hall if you are able to offer any of your time that morning.
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**** Isaiah 44 Project: Life-giving water to Malawi** - This project, supported by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church as well as many other organizations, is dedicated to providing clean, safe water to those who literally do not have any. Malawi, in South Central Africa, is the location in which this project digs wells and provides water in the midst of none. Fr. Bob Holet will be offering a talk about this project at Sts Peter & Paul Church (220 Mansfield Ave., Carnegie, PA 15106) on **Saturday, December 7**. Vespers is at 6pm, the talk is immediately after. More about this valuable and worthwhile project can be found at: https://www.uocofusa.org/news_230209_2, and <https://www.orthodoxsteward.com/isaiah-44-project-about/>. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and see! (See flyer on the bulletin board)
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*** The St Nicholas Charity Dinner**, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Deanery to benefit our Christ the Saviour Seminary, will be on **Sunday, December 8** at the Bulgarian-Macedonian Hall - BMNECC (449 West Eighth Ave., West Homestead, PA 15120). Doors open at **5:00 pm** with a Buffett Dinner at 5:30. Adults - \$40; Teens - \$30; Ages 5-12 - \$15 (*checks payable to "Pittsburgh Deanery"*). Come meet the seminarians, enjoy the fellowship, carol sing-a-long, and a special guest! *Please order your tickets by TODAY, Sunday, December 1.*
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**** St. Matrona Cookie Walk** – the 21st Annual event will be held on **Saturday, December 14** from 10am to 2pm (or until sold out) at Ss. Peter and Paul Church (220 Mansfield Blvd, Carnegie). If you haven't experienced this, you really should! Most cookies sold by the pound. No online orders. Email smladiessociety@gmail.com for more info.
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*** Food Festival** – Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church (214 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106) will be having their Christmas Food Festival featuring all the traditional favorites on **Saturday, December 14** from 10 am to 12 pm. Orders Must Be Placed Online At www.hvroc.org. Call 412-276-6234 with any questions.
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***** St. John's St Nicholas Breakfast** – Our parish St. Nicholas Breakfast will be on **Sunday, December 15** following the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to stay for this wonderful fellowship tradition that we have! A sign up sheet is in the hall so we have an idea for food preparations.





Weekly Candle Intentions or Memorials were offered last week by the Nelson Family; Carol and Tom Lorenzi; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Rich and Renee Mirilovich; Cindy Pavilonis

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The **Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Cindy Pavilonis in memory of her grandfather, +George Huron. May His Memory Be Eternal!

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*** **Nativity Commemorations** – We offer you the opportunity to sponsor items to be used for Nativity as commemorations: *anonymously, in memory of departed loved ones, OR for the health of loved ones.* If you are interested in making any of these commemorations, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule (or email Fr. Dave) and give an *additional stewardship free-will offering* to the church.

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*** **End-of-Calendar-Year** - The end of the civil calendar year is here. (*Can you believe it's December?*) Have you made a financial contribution to your parish yet? Please fulfill your stewardship responsibility of time, talent, and treasure.

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*** **No Styrofoam** – We greatly appreciate when people, in their stewardship, bring in supplies to use at the parish. A few years ago, in an effort to be more “green” towards God’s Creation, the Parish Council agreed for us to go Styrofoam Free. When bringing in supplies, please *do not* purchase Styrofoam. Thank you for your understanding and being a good steward to God’s Creation!

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“Code” for reading the bulletin:

*** = new news ** = 2nd time in the bulletin

* = at least the 3rd time in the bulletin



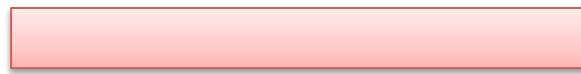
Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God - 9 not because of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”



For the Health of... Carol, Daniel, Allen, Elizabeth, Robert, Matthew, David, Stephanie, Suzanne, William, Boyd, Millicent, Barbara, Paul, Robert, Kelly, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and Michael
...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer

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December Namedays:

Nicholas Sarandou - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (NC 12/6)
Carol Lorenzi, Katie Sarandou, Katherine Schrmack - Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria (12/7)
Andrew Mirilovich, Fr. Dave Andrew Urban - Holy & All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called (12/13)
Barbara Kirish; Barbara Leone - Great martyr Barbara (12/17)
Nicholas Ditmore; Nicholas Kubis - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (12/19)
Patrick Wertz - St. Sturm of Fulda Monastery (12/30)
...May God grant them many and blessed years!

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December Birthdays:

Stacy (Martin) Dzambo (12/1), *Father's Godson*, Joseph Sekerak (12/2), Lucy Jo Blobner (12/4), Brynn Jozwiakowski (12/6), His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory (12/7), Pañi Eleanor Herbert (12/8), Deborah Brancho (12/9), Jim Potoski (12/10), *Father's God-sister*, Lauren Babbie (12/12), Thomas Figura (12/15), Brian Gogal (12/15), Madelyn Spirnak (12/17), Donald Gavulich (12/19), Carter Andrekovich (12/20), Fr Nik Ferencz (12/20), Mike Puhac (12/21), Molly Blobner (12/27/21)
...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!

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For the souls of the newly departed...

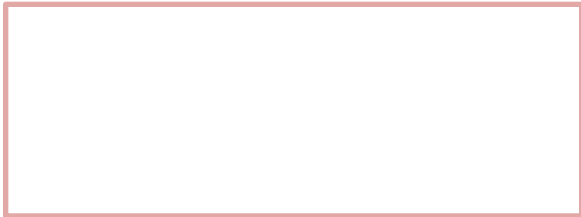
...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory!

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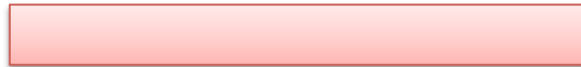
THE HOLY MARTYR PLATON (PLATO)

Commemorated on December 1 / November 18

The Holy Martyr Platon (Plato), brother of the holy Martyr Antiochos the Physician (Comm. 16 July), was born at the city of Ancyra in Galatia. While still a youth he left home and went through the cities, inspiredly preaching the Word of God to pagans, amazing his audience with the persuasiveness and beauty of his speech, and his profound knowledge of Greek learning. Because of his preaching he was arrested and brought for trial to the temple of Zeus before the governor Agrippina. At first the judge attempted by flattery to sway the saint into a renunciation of Christ. He assured the youth, that he might be on a par of intellect with the greatest of the philosophers Plato, if he but worshipped also the pagan gods. To this Saint Platon answered, that the wisdom of the philosopher, although great, was but ephemeral and limited, whereas the true, eternal and unbounded wisdom comprised the Gospel teachings. Then the judge as the reward for renunciation promised to give him as wife his beautiful daughter, but in case of refusal threatened him with torture and death. Saint Platon replied, that his choice was a temporal death for the sake of eternal life. The patience of the governor was exhausted, and he gave orders to mercilessly beat the martyr, and then send him off to prison.

When they led Saint Platon off to prison, he turned to the people, gathered about the temple, he called on all not to forsake the Christian faith. Seven

days later they again led the Martyr Platon for trial before Agrippina in the temple of Zeus, where they had the implements of torture already assembled: boiling cauldrons, red-hot iron and sharp hooks. The judge offered the martyr a choice: to either offer sacrifice to the pagan gods or to feel on himself the effects of these implements of torture. Again the saint steadfastly refused to worship idols, and after his tortures they threw him in prison for 18 more days without bread or water. But seeing that this did not shake the martyr, they offered him in exchange for his life and freedom but to pronounce the words "great god Apollo". "I want not to sin by word", – answered the martyr. By order of Agrippina the holy Martyr Platon was then beheaded (+ 302 or 306).



During the Nativity Fast, we are called to increase our Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be:

- Having a monetary collection for the **Sr. ACRY Stewardship Campaign** (our community outreach collection at the end of the month). The Stewardship Campaign helps support the ACRY Scholarship Fund, Camp Nazareth, Youth Workers' Conference Fund, Ambassador Fund, and Lenten Retreat Fund,
- **Food Drive Project** for Neighborhood Resilience Project (formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh). *Please bring in non-perishable unexpired food items: canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, canned meats, soups, oatmeal, pasta, peanut butter and jelly, and rice.*,
- And reaching out to **our homebound** parishioners. *Thank you in advance for your prayers and offerings this month!*

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*** **2024 Yearbook, A.C.R.Y. Annual** - If you would like to include a patron, booster, or memorial listing in this Year Book of the activities of our God-saved Diocese, a sign-up sheet has been placed in the

vestibule on the black cabinet. Patron & Memorial listings are \$6; Booster listings are \$3. Please see Father with any questions. Deadline is Dec 31.

**** Random Tidbits...** Father Dave is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 2:30pm OR by appointment... **Online Community:** Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email... **Parish Phone Tree:** Please call Fr. Dave to be added... **Emergency Sick Calls:** Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

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Mystery of Confession – Father is available to hear Confessions after every service *or* by appointment.

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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:

www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/

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Calendar - Future Services are updated online at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)

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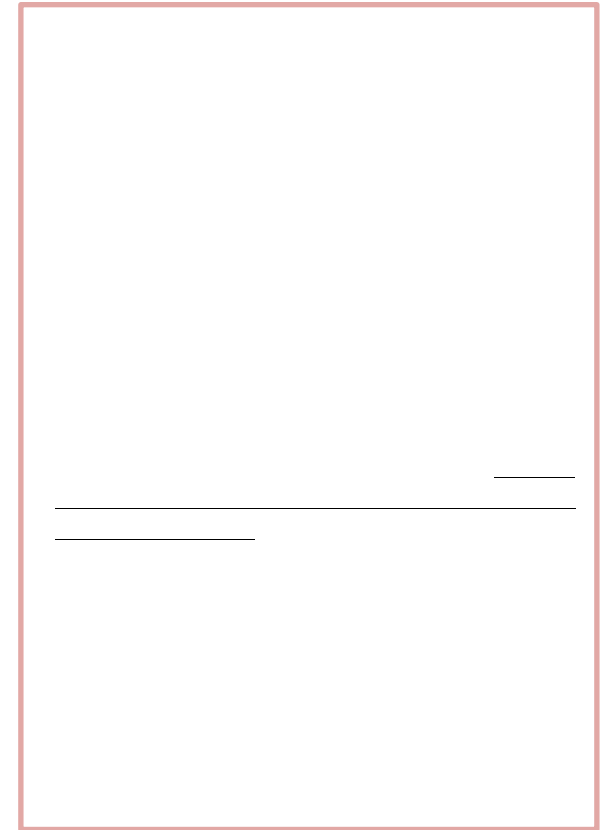
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Speaking With Your Priest - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in Christ, Fr. Dave

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? 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 #NATIVITYFAST

9:15 am Third Hour

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 #NATIVITYFAST

6:30 pm Feast Day Vespers and Orthodoxy 101

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 #NATIVITYFAST

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 #NATIVITYFAST

9:30 am Akathist Hymn to St. Nicholas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 #NATIVITYFAST

9:00 am Winter Maintenance & Decorating Morning

11a-1p Mystery (Sacrament) of Confession offered

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 #NATIVITYFAST

9:15 am Third Hour
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Monthly Memorial (Panachida)
5:00 pm Deanery St. Nicholas Charity Dinner

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 #NATIVITYFAST

6:30 pm Moleben for the Nativity Fast
7:00 pm Exploring Orthodox 101

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 #NATIVITYFAST

9:30 am Nativity Fast Paraklis to the Theotokos

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 #NATIVITYFAST

11a-1p Mystery (Sacrament) of Confession offered
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 #NATIVITYFAST

9:15 am Nativity Canon and carols
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Youth Sunday
St. Nicholas Breakfast

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 #NATIVITYFAST

7:00 pm in *Homestead* Feast Day Vespers

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 #NATIVITYFAST

FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS
9:30 am Divine Liturgy

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The Entry Into The Temple Of The Most Holy Mother Of God

Commemorated on December 4 / November 21

The Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God happened, according to the preserved accounts of Holy Tradition, in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Righteous Joakim and Anna, in praying for a solution to their childlessness, gave a vow that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached three years of age, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. Having gathered together their kinsfolk and acquaintances, and having dressed the All-Pure Mary in Her finest clothes, and with the singing of sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands they carried Her to the Jerusalem Temple. There the high-priest with a throng of priests met the maiden of God. In the Temple, the stairway led up fifteen high steps.

The Child Mary, so it seemed, could not Herself make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly made it up over the remaining steps and ascended to the highest. Then the high-priest, through an inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, and herein of all people it was only the high-priest that entered one time a year with a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

Righteous Joakim and Anna, having entrusted their Child to the will of the Heavenly Father, returned home. The MostBlessed Mary remained in the domicile for girls, situated near the Temple. Round about the Temple, through the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Lk. 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters, in which dwelt those dedicated to the service of God.

In remembrance of the Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Jerusalem Temple, Holy Church from ancient times established a solemn feastday. The decretals for the making of the feast in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, where mention is made that the holy Empress Helen built a church in honour of the Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God.

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Sainted Nicholas, Archbishop Of Myra In Lycia, And Wonderworker

Commemorated on December 19 / 6

Sainted Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, and Wonderworker is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the Lycian region (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had given a vow to dedicate him to God. As the fruition of longtime prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and

Fridays he accepted milk from his mother only but once, after the evening prayers of his parents.

From the time of his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books – fashioning in himself a worthy dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. His uncle, Bishop Nicholas of Patara, rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his kinsman. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the dignity of presbyter, making him his assistant and entrusting him to speak instructing the flock. Constantly at work and vivacious, being in unceasing prayer, presbyter Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards those afflicted coming to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor. Having learned about the bitter need and poverty of a certain formerly rich inhabitant of his city, Saint Nicholas saved him from great sin. Having three grown daughters, the despairing father considered to give them over to profligacy so as to save them from hunger. The saint, grieving lest the man perish a sinner, by night secretly brought him through the window three sacks with gold and by this saved the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and conceal his good deeds.

In setting off on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, the bishop of Patara entrusted the guidance of the flock to Saint Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, he in turn asked blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted the onset of a storm threatening the ship with inundation, since he saw the devil itself having got on ship. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed by his prayers the waves of the sea. Through his prayer also was restored to health a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured.

Having reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and having come to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas offered up thanksgiving to the Saviour of the race of mankind and he made the rounds of all the holy places, doing poklons and making prayers. By night on Mount Sion the closed doors of the church opened by themselves in front of the arriving great pilgrim.

Upon the death of archbishop John, he was chosen bishop of Lycian Myra – after one of the bishops of the Council gave a decisive reply on the question of choice of a new archbishop – the choice of God as directed him in a vision – Saint Nicholas. Summoned to the flock of the Church in the dignity of archbishop, Sainted Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love towards people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the time of persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians, sustained them and exhorted them to bravely endure the fetters, punishment and torture. He himself the lord preserved unharmed. Upon the accession to rule of the holy equal-to-the-apostles Constantine, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received back their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the I OEcumenical Council (Sobor). This Council proclaimed the Nicean Symbol of faith, and he stood up with the likes of saints Sylvester the pope of Rome, Alexander of Alexandria, Spyridon of Trimiphuntum and others of the 318 fathers of the Council against the heretic Arius.

Saint Nicholas, in the heat of denunciation and fired up with zeal for the Lord, even gave the false-teacher a good drubbing on the ears. He was indeed a light in the world and the salt of the earth, wherein his life did shine and his word was mixed with the salt of wisdom.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas expired peacefully to the Lord (+ 345-351). His venerable relics were preserved undecayed in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087 his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now.

Part of all the churches devoted to the saint were

those established at market-squares by Russian merchants, sea-farers and land-goers, venerating the wonderworker Nicholas as a protector of all those journeying on dry land and sea. They sometimes received the name among the people of "Nicholas soaked". Many village churches in Russia were dedicated to the wonderworker Nicholas, reverently venerated by peasants as a merciful intercessor before the Lord for all the people in their work. Ancient Kiev preserves the memory about the miraculous rescue of a drowning infant by the saint. The great wonderworker, hearing the grief-filled prayers of the parents in the loss of their only child, by night snatched up the infant from the waters, revived him and placed him in the choir-loft of Saint Sophia church in front of his wonderworking image. And here in the morning the infant was found safe by his thrilled parents, praising with a multitude of the people Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker.

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**TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES
PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

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Joining the ACRY – If you would like to become a part of our philanthropic organization of the ACRY (American Carpatho-Russian Youth), which is open to all ages, please contact Subdeacon Ryan Ferko at 484-744-2771 or rferko85@yahoo.com.

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Why Should I Join the Local ACRY?

The ACRY is an Orthodox Christian family fellowship dedicated to the purpose of encouraging spiritual growth through charitable and apostolic missionary works, prayer and fellowship for the Glory of God and the building up of the Church and our Diocese. The local ACRY focuses on outreach to the community in various forms and fellowship within. This could be a fundraiser or family event at the church grounds to introduce people to our parish, or the volunteering of our time to help support a community event. In addition to these, the ACRY has the opportunity to branch out and meet other members of our diocesan ACRY community through deanery and nation events and partake in outreach at a broader level.

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* **Lots–O–Luck Calendars** – The National ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars are available. \$25 per ticket gets you a years worth of prizes totaling \$10,000! Please see Subdeacon Ryan Ferko for tickets.

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Garbage and Recycling – Did you ever notice that we do not have a dumpster at the church? Being non-residential without pick up in Allison Park, all of our garbage and recycling heads to stewards’ houses. If you would be willing to stick around at the end of coffee social and take a bag, please let Larry know. *(please grab the coffee grounds before taking the bag)*

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Additional Church Curators Needed – A synonym for *curator* is *steward*. Please see Larry Martin if you are interested in being a *steward of their time* and be “on-the-door”. Our curator list needs expanded!

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Giving at the Church – The “flow of traffic” is a little different in Allison Park, but the ways to give your stewardship treasures has not changed. One can:

- ✘ hand your offering to the curator who sits at the desk in the vestibule (to the right after you enter),
- ✘ there are multiple baskets around the church for you to drop your offering in, or
- ✘ when saying your prayers and lighting 2 candles, put your donation in the box in the candle stand.

We will continue to not “*pass the basket*” which interrupts our focus on our prayers.

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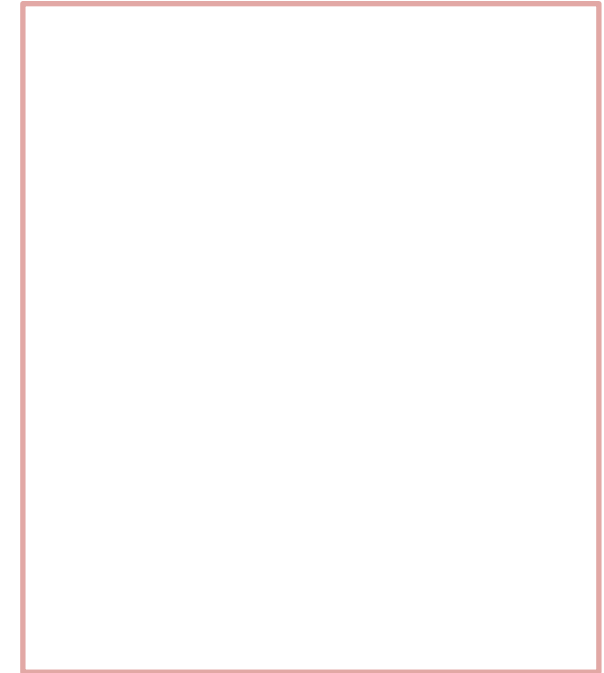
On-Line Giving is available from our parish website to donate to the: General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund. The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2nd best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it’s ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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Stewardship of Treasure Guide												
Weekly offering to God through the Sunday Offertory - Will you take a step up?												
Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe 15%	Tithe 12%	Tithe 10%	Upper Range Giving 9% 8% 7%			Middle Range Giving 6% 5% 4%			Lower Range Giving 3% 2%		1%
\$200	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$18	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$8	\$6	\$4	\$2
\$300	\$45	\$36	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9	\$6	\$3
\$400	\$60	\$48	\$40	\$36	\$32	\$28	\$24	\$20	\$16	\$12	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$75	\$60	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5
\$600	\$90	\$72	\$60	\$54	\$48	\$42	\$36	\$30	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
\$700	\$105	\$84	\$70	\$63	\$56	\$49	\$42	\$35	\$28	\$21	\$14	\$7
\$800	\$120	\$96	\$80	\$72	\$64	\$56	\$48	\$40	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8
\$900	\$135	\$108	\$90	\$81	\$72	\$63	\$54	\$45	\$36	\$27	\$18	\$9
\$1,000	\$150	\$120	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$10
\$1,100	\$165	\$132	\$110	\$99	\$88	\$77	\$66	\$55	\$44	\$33	\$22	\$11
\$2,000	\$300	\$240	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40	\$20
\$3,000	\$450	\$360	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60	\$30

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE% would be.

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Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 2:30pm OR by appointment.

Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Parish Phone Tree - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.

Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not prepared or not of the Orthodox Faith may receive a blessing from the chalice.

How to receive - Please remember the following helpful hints aimed at helping to preserve the solemnity and safety of the Holy Mystery. Anyone wearing lipstick should remove it before receiving. Be sure to offer your baptismal name to the priest before receiving. Please take great care that the red cloth held by the acolytes (servers) is fully under your chin (you should not hold it), then use the centuries-old practice of receiving: please fully open your mouth, tilt your head back, receive the Holy Gifts, wait until they are securely in your mouth and so that none of the holy and precious Body and Blood of Christ is accidentally spilled. Thank you for your cooperation, and may God have mercy on us all!

Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you to come back! Generally speaking, sincere and regular participation in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and in the Mysteries of Confession and Communion are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John’s Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish

through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.

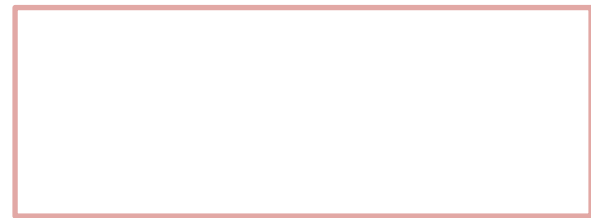
Baptisms – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Fr. Dave for more details.

Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

Marriages – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays in the church. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (before arrangements are made for the hall). It is critical that marriages are blessed in the church.

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

“The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica



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Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions & other needs*

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A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant(s) *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Stephen B., Fr. Thomas B., Protodeacon Gregory B., Kevin, Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin, David, Donna, George, *our diocesan seminarians:* Dcn Peter S, Nicolas W., Seamus M., Samuel L., Nicholas L., Alexander H., *and our Parish Council and Curators:* Lawrence, Subdeacon Ryan, Timothy, Rich, Elizabeth, Robert, Gina, John, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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*** **Nameday, Birthday, and Anniversary Prayer List is being reset** – Our parish prayer list of key dates and special occasions in our lives will be reset going forward (starting 3/1/24). If one of your special days is missing – please let Fr Dave know ASAP. See Fr. Dave with any questions.

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December Namedays:
Nicholas Sarandou - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (NC 12/6)
Carol Lorenzi, Katherine Schrmack - Great-martyr Catherine of Alexandria (12/7)
Andrew Mirilovich, Fr. Dave Andrew Urban - Holy & All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called (12/13)
Barbara Kirish; Barbara Leone - Great martyr Barbara

(12/17)
Nicholas Ditmore; Nicholas Kubis - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (12/19)
Patrick Wertz - St. Sturm of Fulda Monastery (12/30)
...*May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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December Birthdays:
Stacy (Martin) Dzambo (12/1), *Father’s Godson*, Joseph Sekerak (12/2), Lucy Jo Blobner (12/4), Brynyn Jozwiakowski (12/6), His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory (12/7), Pañi Eleanor Herbert (12/8), Deborah Brancho (12/9), Jim Potoski (12/10), *Father’s God-sister*, Lauren Babbie (12/12), Thomas Figura (12/15), Brian Gogal (12/15), Madelyn Spirnack (12/17), Donald Gavulich (12/19), Carter Andrekovich (12/20), Fr Nik Ferencz (12/20), Mike Puhac (12/21), Molly Blobner (12/27/21)
...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Maxwell, Barbara, Tyler ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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For those preparing for Marriage... Allison & Michael, Francis & Alexandra...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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November Anniversaries:
Doug & Elizabeth (Radomsky) Delaney (11/1)
Thomas & Harmonie Torchia (11/12/11)
Alisha & Aaron Zak (11/15/15)
...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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For Pregnant Mothers...
Mallory (due in March), Lindsay (April)
...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky
...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another**. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is **NOT** limited to only Orthodox Christians.*

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Special Intentions – Did you ever wonder for what reasons would a person’s name go under “For the Special Intentions of...” on our Prayer Page? A special intention request is very diversified! It could be when one is under extreme job stress, struggling with spiritual issues, infertility, dealing with the loss of a loved one... the list goes on. As with the other lists on our page, one does not have to be Orthodox to be added.

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Prayer requests – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the Altar at all services. All those listed in the “Prayer Corner” are prayed for during the Proskomedia (*Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion*). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) to our prayer list.

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