

**\*\*IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION\*\***

\*\*Until further notice, we will continue celebrating the Divine Services up to no more 25 parishioners in attendance. With this in mind, if single parish members or parish member households - UP TO 25 PEOPLE IN CHURCH AT EACH DIVINE LITURGY - would like to attend the Divine Liturgy on a Sunday please refer to the following signup link <https://signup.com/go/AqSQSmX> \*\* (Slots 1-25 in the Church)! **PLEASE SIGN-UP BY 6:00 PM ON SATURDAY NIGHT!!**

**Regarding Holy Communion:**

- If anyone would like to come and receive Holy Communion or if you would like Fr. Jason to come and bring Holy Communion to your home, please contact him to make arrangements:  
[jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)/609.851.3811/716.875.4222

**Regarding Holy Confession:**

*Taking into consideration the spiritual and mental healing that comes through the Sacrament of Confession, His Eminence blesses, for all priests and communities in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, that for this period:*

- Confession may continue to be held over the telephone or by live video communication; it may also be done in person with social distancing kept between the priest and the penitent (6 feet), and with face masks worn by both. The Prayer of Absolution can be given by video or phone and especially in person.
- When Confession is heard over the telephone or by live video, the priest must read the Prayer of Absolution before ending the phone call or video communication, in the hearing of the penitent.
  - If anyone would like to have Confession, please contact Fr. Jason to make arrangements:  
[jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)/609.851.3811/716.875.4222

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Please look up the below weblink for the Digital Edition of The Jacobs Well:

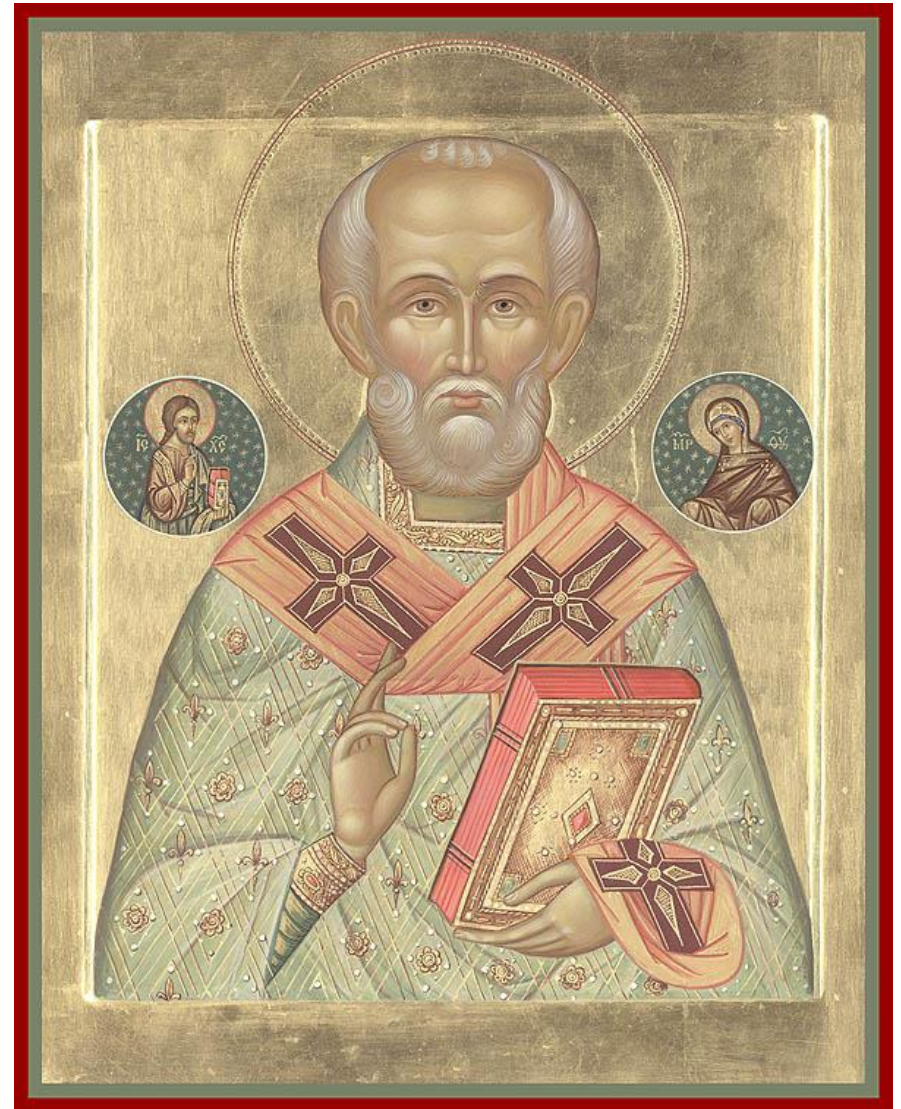
<https://issuu.com/jacobswell/docs/jacobs-well-fall-2019-nk>

Please look up the below weblink for the website of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey:

<https://www.nynjoca.org>

Please look up the below weblink for the newly-updated Diocesan Directives of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey for the Gradual Approach of Re-Opening of our Parishes:

<https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/covid-19/Diocesan-Directives-on-the-Gradual-Re-Opening-of-Diocesan-Churches-2020-05-08-For-Distribution.pdf>



**St. George Orthodox Church**  
**2 Nottingham Terrace - Buffalo, NY 14216**  
**(716) 875-4222**

**[www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://www.stgeorgebuffalo.com)**

## THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and The Orthodox Church in America

### **ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2 Nottingham Terrace Buffalo, NY 14216

**V. Rev. Jason Vansuch, Parish Priest**

**2 Nottingham Terrace 716-875-4222 Buffalo, NY 14216**

**Cell Phone: 609-851-3811 Email: [jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)**

Presbyter Andreja Damjanovski, Attached Rev. Peter Irfan, Attached  
Reader John Kirwan, Choir Director  
Mr. Amil Slaiman, Parish Council President  
Home: 716-773-2961 Email: [aslaiman2014@gmail.com](mailto:aslaiman2014@gmail.com)

**26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (ca. 345). St Maximus (1280).**

<b>EPISTLE:</b> Ephesians 5:9-19 Hebrews 13:17-21	Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  <i>(St. Nicholas)</i>	<b>GOSPEL:</b> Luke 17:12-19 Luke 6:17-23
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**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!**

**GLORY FOREVER!**

### **\*\*FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK\*\***

In front of the Icon of Our Lord, In front of the Icon of The Theotokos, and on the Center Icon Table are donated by Bonnie Dan

\*\*\*\*\*

Altar Vigil Candles are offered by Anthony DelNuovo in Loving Memory of Thy Servant of God – Frank. May his memory be eternal.

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**TODAY'S WEEKLY MESSENGER IS SPONSORED BY:  
ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

### **WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

We welcome all of you to the Divine Liturgy this morning, especially those who are visiting with us here at St. George Orthodox Church. Everyone is invited to the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy for Christian Fellowship. It is our prayer that your experience this morning was spiritually uplifting and you will return very soon to pray with our parish family. In the Orthodox Church, we do not practice open Communion. However we do invite everyone to come and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Hence only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer and fasting may receive Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you with many years of good health and happiness.

## **THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES**

### **Sunday December 6, 2020**

**The Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**

**9:10 A.M.** The Third and Sixth Hours

**9:30 A.M.** Divine Liturgy

“On-The-Go” Coffee Hour Fellowship following Divine Liturgy

Q&A with Fr. Jay – The Feast of St. Nicholas (Google Classroom) – **12:30-1:15 pm**

### **Monday December 7, 2020**

**6:30-8:00 PM** Bible Study Class via Zoom

### **Tuesday December 8, 2020**

**9:00 A.M.** Daily Matins

### **Wednesday December 9, 2020**

**6:00 PM** Little Compline Service

**7:00-8:30 PM** Inquirer’s Class via Zoom

### **Thursday December 10, 2020**

**9:00 A.M.** Akathist Service to Our Lord

### **Saturday December 12, 2020**

**9:00 A.M.** Divine Liturgy

**4:00 P.M.** Great Vespers with Litiya

**5:00 P.M.** Parish Council Meeting via Zoom

### **Sunday December 13, 2020**

**Sunday of The Forefathers**

**The Feast of The Repose of St. Herman of Alaska**

**9:10 A.M.** The Third and Sixth Hours

**9:30 A.M.** Divine Liturgy

“On-The-Go” Coffee Hour Fellowship following Divine Liturgy

Church School Class (Google Classroom) – **12:30-1:15 pm**

**\* \* \* \* \* PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE \* \* \* \* \***

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS  
FOR THE HEALTH OF THY SERVANTS:**

**HIERARCHS**

Metropolitan HERMAN

**CLERGY**

Archpriest Herman, Matushka Cynthia and George *(Schick)*

Archpriest James and Mat. Patricia *(Mason)*

Archpriest Alexey and his family *(Kargut)*

Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne

Archpriest Timothy/Mat. Michelle

Archpriest Michael and Mat. Valerie *(Hatrak)*

Archpriest Ken and Matushka Natalie *(Starevsky)*

Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather *(McNulty)*

Archpriest Gregory and Mat. Diane *(Winsky)*

Priest Peter and Mat. Mary *(Irfan)*

Archpriest Leonid Palceski

Presbyter John and Presbytera Nancy

**MATUSHKI**

Presbyter Andreja, Popadija Anica and Family

Mat. Katia Mat. Paraskeva Mat. Joanna Popadia Vicki Mat. Christine Mat. Patricia *(Severeno)*

Mat. Gloria *(Martin)*

Stanley Mandy Annette, Amy, John., Kevin

William Natalie Natasha Richie

**Family/Friends/Parishioners of St. George Orthodox Church**

Catherine Ivan/Marina/Inna Bonnie *(Dan)*

Karen Aliscia *(Nick Rostko)* Walter, Paul

Edwina Irene Luba Silvu Dan, Jr.

Jim, Darren, Marsha *(Relatives of Elaine M.)*

Serena Lillian Reader Victor

Nicholas, Andrew *(Wityk)* Frank

Sarah Albert *(Fadell)* Carol *(Frank's friend)*

Boris *(Kuvshinoff)* Marilyn *(Linda cousin)*

Xenia, Justin, Kylie, Danielle *(Friends of Fr. Jason)*

Frank Oscar Ronald, Candice *(Masset)*

Victor *(Tita Nephew)* Catherine *(Tony)*

Susan *(Kirwan)* June *(Pavlov)*

Evelyn *(Friend of Julie)* Billy *(William – Mat. Christine's cousin)*

Clyde Allison *(school)*

Rebecca *(Relative of Mat. Christine)* Svetlana *(Family friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia)*

Jeanne *(Mat. Christine's Friend)* Angela, Jason, Michelle *(Relatives of Dn. Mark)* Linda Justin *(Slaiman)*

Carol *(Mailman's sister-in-law)* Margaret, Thomas, Victoria *(Ewing)* Ashley *(Friend from Roswell)*

Melody Lee *(Beth's brother)* Lee, Bridget *(John Kirwan friend)* Paul *(Shosho)* Brain *(Brother of Matthew Just)*

Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas Sada Thlisinitsa, Gemmal, Geesa, and Patric *(Fr. Peter)* Child Senit

Anne *(Mariami Grandmother)* Jeremy Stewart *(nephew of Bill George)* Susan *(Zumba)* Juliana *(Matusiak)*

Susan *(Deeb)* Justin *(Cmunt)* Louis *(cousin of Barbara)* Yuri/Elena Alex *(Valieff)* John, Kevin Irene Sean

Jaime *(Zumba)* Vera *(grandmother of Hannah)* Rosemary Harry *(neighbor of Tom and MaryAnne Slaiman)* Anthony

Robert *(Bonnie Valieff father)* Aspasia *(Dean's Mother)* Charles Seraphim Emma/Alexander *(relatives of Natalie Huett)*

Olga *(Friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia)* Vadym Iryna Yuriy Anastasia Noah *(McEntee)* Elias, John, Joseph

Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber Judithann *(Friend of Barbara)* Steven *(Uncle of Dean)*

Barbara *(Rdr. John's Sister in Law)* Brian John, Roberta, Barbara *(Family of Dana and Annette)* John, Michael John

Matthew *(Bashira)* John, William *(Friend of Judge Family)* Larry Joseph *(Rocco Father in Law)*

**Diocese of NY&NJ Prayer List** Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga *(Bethlehem)*

Protopresbyter Leonid *(Kishkovsky)* Archpriest Samuel *(Kedela)* Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar

Archpriest George *(Hasenecz)* Archpriest Paul *(Shafraan)* Costa *(Father of Pete Thanos)*

Archpriest Jonathan *(Ivanoff)* Archpriest Paul *(Kucynda)* Ted *(friend of Paul/Joan)*

Archpriest Sergei and Mat. Gerry *(Glagolev)* Priest Vasili *(Dubee)* Barbara *(Archbishop Michael's Sister)*

Jeffry, Dominic, Rachel *(Family of Andrea)* Lee, Benjamin, Patrick *(Relatives of Beth Mellas)* John, Helen *(Parents of Tanya Cmunt)*

**Expectant Mothers** Birthdays Chris *(Friend of MaryAnne Slaiman)*

Rachel and the child to be born of her

**Those Serving in The Armed Forces**

Kenneth, Nadine, Jason, Robert, Andrew, Justin, Shawn, Austin,

Chris, John, Daniel

**Catechumens**

Juanita Martha

**FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:**

All of the clergy and parishioners of This Holy House who have departed this life, who now lie asleep in the Lord.

Ever-Memorable Archpriest Eugene Vansuch

Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Timko

Ever-Memorable Priest John Bohush

Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Aswad

Ever-Memorable Archpriest Rastko

Matushka Dorothy *(Timko)*

Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark

Ever-Memorable Sbdn. Gregory

Ever-Memorable Pdn. Gregory

Akhtar Remyat, and Barkat *(Family of Fr. Peter)*

**Newly-Departed Servants of God**

Michael *(nephew of Rdr. John)* Anne *(sister of Tita Abraham)*

Ana *(Sister of Tita Abraham)* Mary *(Massey)* (40<sup>th</sup> Day – December 20) Archbishop DAVID Met. THEODOSIUS

\*If anyone would like to have their loved ones added to the prayer list

for remembrance during the Divine Liturgy, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

**HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY**

**Tropars/Kontakions for Divine Liturgy**

**Troparion for The Resurrection – Tone 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:“ Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

**Troparion for St. Nicholas The Wonderworker – Tone 4**

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted thee; and your poverty enriched you. O Hierarch Father Nicholas, entreat Christ our God// that our souls may be saved!

**Kontakion for The Resurrection – Tone 1**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Kontakion for St. Nicholas the Wonderworker – Tone 3**

You appeared as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas, fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O venerable one; You laid down your life for you people and didst rescue the innocent from death.// Therefore, you have been blest as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Steadfast Protectress Tone 6 (Hymn to the Theotokos)**

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator. Despise not the entreating cry of us sinners, but in Your Goodness come speedily to help us who call on You in faith! Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos!! For You always protect those who honor You!

**PROKEMEINON Tone 1**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!  
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

**The Second Prokeimenon in the 7<sup>th</sup> Tone:**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, / and shall hope in Him.

**ALLELUIA VERSES**

God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.

He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

Thy priests shall be clothed in righteousness, and Thy saints shall rejoice.

**THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

It is truly meet to bless You, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement, You gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify You!

**COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY**

Ephesians 5:9-19 and Hebrews 13:17-21 (*St. Nicholas*)

**Brethren:**

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

**Brethren:**

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.



## GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

Luke 17:12-19 and Luke 6:17-23 (*St. Nicholas*)

### Let us Attend!

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

### Let us Attend!

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

## === Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

Monday	1 Timothy 5:1-10	Luke 20:27-44
Tuesday	1 Timothy 5:11-21	Luke 21:12-19
Wednesday	1 Timothy 5:22-6:11	Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24
Thursday	1 Timothy 6:17-21	Luke 21:28-33
Friday	2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18	Luke 21:37-22:8
Saturday	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 13:18-29
Sunday	Colossians 3:4-11	Luke 14:16-24

## \*\* NEW PROTOCOLS WHEN ATTENDING THE DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS.....

- 1) A Parish Council Member will greet everyone at the Front Entrance Doors to the Church. We will have the Sign-Up Sheet there to mark off your name if you signed-up to attend. If we did not sign-up, then we will write your name down and kindly remind you to sign-up before next Sunday.
- 2) EVERYONE attending the Divine Liturgy (those in the Nave and Parish Fellowship Hall - parishioners, choir members, parish council members) NEED to sign-up. Only Those in the Altar do not need to sign-up as they are not taking space in The Nave. Once we reach our capacity of 25 people in The Church, everyone else will be seated in The Parish Fellowship Hall.
- 3) When receiving Holy Communion, a Parish Council Member will call everyone up - pew by pew - to allow for social distancing (the children and Altar Servers will come first, then the first pews up front all the way to the back of the Church with the Choir being the last ones to receive Holy Communion). If any faithful are in The Parish Fellowship Hall, Fr Jason, Fr. Andreja, or Fr. Peter will bring Holy Communion to those in the Hall.

\*\*If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless and guide all of you!\*\*

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**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**(via Zoom) 4:00 PM – SATURDAY DECEMBER 19, 2020 – 4:00 PM (via Zoom)**

At their monthly meeting held on Saturday November 14, the Parish Council decided to postpone The Annual Parish Meeting until Saturday December 18 due to the fact of the COVID Pandemic and needing more time to properly prepare for our meeting. With this in mind, on Saturday December 19, following the Celebration of Great Vespers at 3:00 pm, we will be holding our Annual Parish Meeting **via Zoom** to review and discuss the life and mission of our beloved parish of St. George. As is our custom, all reports will be emailed out and mailed out one week prior to our meeting to give everyone the opportunity ore reading them and reviewing them. We ask everyone to make every effort to read the reports and come to the meeting with our thoughts, ideas, questions. So that together, as a parish family, with one voice, one heart, and one mind, we may come together for the building up of The Body of Christ here at our beloved parish of St. George. Looking forward to coming together as a parish family on December 19 to review and discuss the life and mission of our beloved parish of St. George. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason, Amil, or any member of the parish council.

**\*\* Election of Parish Council Officers/Financial Bookkeeper will take place at our Annual Parish Meeting in December. If anyone would like to run/be nominated for anyone of these positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Bookkeeper, please see Fr. Jason or any member of the parish council. Also a written nomination must be presented to Fr. Jason prior to the December meeting of the parish council.**



**A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS TO THE PARISH FROM OUR PARISH GIVING TREE**

- Matushka Fran for donating Hand Sanitizer
  - The Thanos Family for donating Liturgical Charcoal
  - Drew and Molly for donating Liturgical Incense
  - Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia/Anna and Alex for donating cups for Zapifka
  - Dr. Boris and Barbara Kuvshinoff for donating the Flowers for The Feast of the Entrance of The Theotokos into The Temple
  - Dr. Boris and Barbara Kuvshinoff for donating the Vigil Candles by St. Nektarios for the continued good health of The Kuvshinoff Family.
  - The Kfoury Family for donating the Flowers for The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ According to The Flesh
  - Reader John and Sue Kirwan for donating Liturgical Wine as well as towards Supplies for Prospora
  - Linda and George Mucyn for donating Plastic Bags for Prospora
- Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall to see how we may be able to donate towards the needs of our parish through our continued support and stewardship for our beloved parish.

If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Fr. Jason or Barbara.

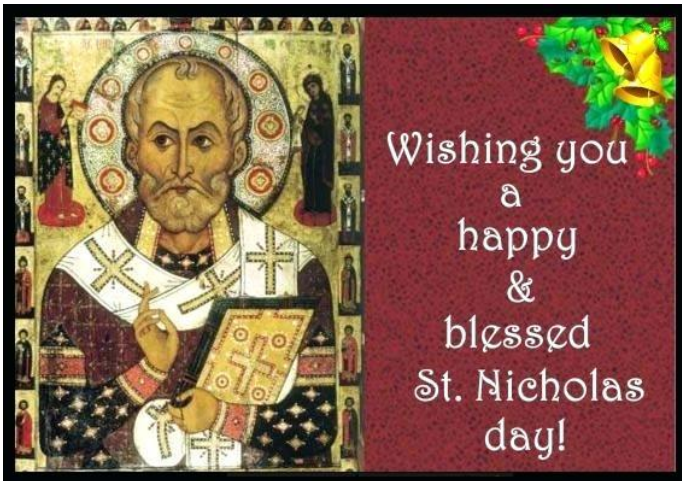
Thank you for your continued prayerful support and stewardship. May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families and our entire Parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care!

## LIVE-STREAMING OF DIVINE SERVICES

As a friendly reminder, ALL DIVINE SERVICES, WILL ALSO BE LIVE-STREAMED from Fr. Jason's Facebook page and our Parish Youtube Page so that we can still be together and pray together. So please continue to join us in prayer!! There are three ways you can join us in prayer via Live-Stream even if we do not have a FaceBook account:

- 1) Go directly to our Parish Website ([www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://www.stgeorgebuffalo.com)) and on our homepage you will see a box that says 'Restream: Stream currently offline'. When 'live-stream' is active, the live video will automatically appear.
- 2) Go directly to Fr. Jason's Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/jason.vansuch> and there you will see the Live-stream video.
- 3) Go directly to our Parish Youtube Page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCft4AWAX2COrLZExfMjc5KQ> and there you will see the Live-stream video.

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## THE HYMN TO ST. NICHOLAS

O who loves Ni-cho-las the Saintly,  
O who serves Nio-cho-las the Saintly.  
Him will Nicholas receive,  
and give help in time of need.  
Holy Father, Ni-cho-las.

O who dwells in God's holy mansions;  
Is our help on the land and oceans.  
He will guard us from all ills,  
keep us pure and free from sins,  
Holy Father, Ni-cho-las.

**O kto, kto Nikolaja l'ubit, O kto, kto Nikolaju  
služit, Tomu svjatyj Nikolaj Na vsjakij čas  
pomahaj, Nikolaj, Nikolaj!**

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**O, Holy Hierarch Nicholas Pray unto God for us!**

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## WELCOME TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH!

Do we have questions about our life, its meaning, purpose, destiny?  
Are we desiring to know Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God?  
Are we seeking forgiveness, healing, and wholeness?  
Do we wonder where to go to find answers?

We can find the answers to these questions and so many other questions  
in The Holy Orthodox Church through Her Sacred Tradition,  
Holy Scriptures, Her Teachings and Dogmas.

The Orthodox Church is the original Christian Church, the Church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ and described in the pages of the New Testament. Her history can be traced in unbroken continuity all the way back to Christ and His Twelve Apostles, empowered and sent forth on the day of Holy Pentecost. Incredible as it seems, for over twenty centuries she has continued in her undiminished and unaltered faith and practice. Today her apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact. The Orthodox Church maintains that the Church is the living Body of Jesus Christ. Many of us are surprised to learn that for the first 1000 years of Christian history there was just one Church.

Where is "**The Church**" to be found and experienced today? Come Taste and See How Good The Lord is every Sunday by joining us for The Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

What is Orthodox Christianity all about? How does it differ from other Christian confessions? This section will attempt to answer these questions and many more. For a visual introduction to the Orthodox Church, please view the video link below: [http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player\\_embedded&fs=1](http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player_embedded&fs=1) For a brief introduction and in depth study to The Orthodox Faith and to find answers to: "What we Believe?", "Who we Are?", and "How we Live?", please view the PDF link below:

<http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/files/studies/InquirersClassV1final.pdf>  
or you may visit the OCA website by clicking the link below:  
<http://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith>  
or you can begin a Journey Through Orthodoxy by clicking the link below:  
<http://journeytoorthodoxy.com>

To learn more ways that we can teach our children about the Orthodox Faith, The OCA has provided a wonderful website for us to use that provides great resources such as (handouts, texts, articles, stories, and much more)! To see this great website, please view the PDF link below:

<http://dce.oca.org/page/resources/>  
If you have any questions or would like to know more about The Orthodox Faith, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch ([jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

## IMPORTANT DATES WITHIN THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH

### Parish Announcements:

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace as well as Kevin Guest House and our other outreach ministry projects.
- **WE CONTINUE TO CONTACT ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS OKAY, SAFE AND HEALTHY.**

**\*\*Please be on the lookout for emails this week with the following items:**

- 1) **Reader Vespers for Saturday Evening (December 12)**
- 2) **Reader Typika Service for Sunday Morning (December 13)**
- 3) **Information for St. George Bible Study – Monday December 7**
- 4) **Information for Inquirer Class – Monday December 9**

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**BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER, WE WILL BE RECORDING THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH SUNDAY AS WELL AS OFFERING THE MONTHLY INCOME and EXPENSE FOR OUR PARISH!**

**INCOME FOR SUNDAY November 29, 2020 – \$1, 458.00**  
**DONATIONS FOR THE NEW BOILER (Capital Improvement Fund) –**  
**Total Donations so far for the New Boiler: \$13, 305.00**

**MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!**

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**\*Please refer to the Weekly Bulletin and Church Website for any changes to the calendar!\***

### DAILY FAMILY PRAYER RULE WE CAN PRAY TOGETHER AT HOME WITH OUR FAMILIES

A Prayer Rule must be done in front of the icons and the Gospel in our Icon Corners with a lit candle.. It is important to remember that we must make time for God, for the "Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force"(Matt. 11:12).The best time to pray is in the morning or in the evening when we as a family can come together in prayer. Also, when using a Rule of Prayer, we must be flexible and do what we can and do it attentively and consistently. Our goal is to maintain the connection with God and cultivate a real relationship with Him.

With that in mind, please find below The Rule of Prayer offered by our Diocese for us to use at home especially during this most difficult time when we are not able to be in church together as a parish family.

<https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/praying-at-home/A-FAMILY-PRAYER-RULE.pdf>

**May God bless you and keep you always in His Loving Care!**



## ST. ANDREW'S CAMP

\*\* Saint Andrew's Camp has released a new promotional video for prospective campers!

The video can be found here on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/saintandrewsorthodoxcamp/videos/357928144820497/>

\*\*Be sure to check it out...you may recognize the priest:)

For more than sixty years, St. Andrew's Camp has offered the young people of our parishes an incredible summer camping experience. Children and teens have been instructed in prayer and the divine services, the reading of Scripture and the teachings of our Orthodox Church. They have been nourished with the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. They have had fun swimming, horseback riding, playing sports, singing and learning musical instruments, creating in the visual arts, learning to safeguard the planet, and exploring the stars. And they have established friendships that last a lifetime, met their future spouses, and nurtured their vocations to serve the Lord in ministry.

As a token of gratitude for the labors of love extended by the administration and staff, both clergy and laypersons, of St. Andrew's over the past six decades, it is now time for us to help the Camp in an especially needed way.

Please join us in raising funds for the new multi purpose building which will include new kitchen, dining hall and activities center. The cost of this new building is \$300,000. To become a reality, the completion and furnishing of this much-needed center will require great generosity of individuals, organizations and parishes.

You can click on the link below which will take you to the gofundme.com page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-andrew039s-camp-fundraiser-by-ss-peter-and-paul>

As we continue to fulfill the work of Our Lord by living and fulfilling His Gospel Message, let us open our hearts and minds by providing support and assistance to our Diocese, to our children, by taking a moment to reflect upon what God has given us, and to discern how we might be able to return to God a portion of the blessings we have received.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you and your families for your continued prayers, support and generosity.

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\*\*Also, make sure we check out the promotional video for prospective campers!

**The video can be found here on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/saintandrewsorthodoxcamp/videos/357928144820497/>

\*\*Be sure to check it out...you may recognize the priest:)

## Remember our Loved Ones during Our Daily Prayers

*'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

{Matt. 25:40}

As we say our daily prayers, let us also take time out to remember our loved ones who are homebound, who are in hospitals and who are in nursing homes. Let us remember them that GOD will continue to watch over them and protect them. Also, during the Year, let us take to either send them a card, give them a call, or visit them to let them know how much we love them, how much we remember them, and how much we pray for them.

Please refer to the of our Parish Shut-Ins below.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless you and guide you!

### ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH SHUT-INS (2020)

Mrs. Diane Salvamoser  
147 West Hazeltine Avenue  
Kenmore, NY 14217  
716.875.9503

Reader Victor Shanchuk  
495 Lafayette Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
716.881.3096

Mrs. Luba Japadjief  
Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit)  
245 Bassett Road  
Williamsville, NY (Room 30)

Mrs. Catherine Tony  
274 Wadsworth Ave.  
Tonawanda, NY 14150  
716.695.3068

Mr. Albert Fadell  
317.376.2562

Andrew Wityk  
Ellicott Center  
200 Seventh Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201

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### WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

These sermons offered to us by The Diocese via video can be found on the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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## **An Invitation to Support the Stewards of the OCA!**

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. The foundation for this work is Jesus Christ, Whom we encounter in our spiritual lives, stewardship, evangelism and outreach, and relations with others as we engage the world. Being a steward of the OCA goes beyond the financial gifts which support the work of our church. Being a steward is about caring for and knowing the history of the mission of the Orthodox Church here in North America and finding your place in that history. Having received this great gift of our Orthodox Faith, we bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of Saint Herman and Saint Tikhon; Saint Innocent and Saint Alexis and all the other saints known and unknown who have worked to build up and expand Christ's Church here in North America. Please consider being a part of that mission today by giving to the Stewards of the OCA. For more information, please visit The OCA Website: <https://oca.org/become-a-steward>

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## **An Invitation to Support the Ministry of the DDB!**

In order to fund necessary ministries and fulfill the work of the Church in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** generously contribute financial support. To learn more about the DDB, please go to the following link: <http://vimeo.com/71021182> and watch a 60 second video inviting you to join the ever-growing list of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey who joyfully support the on-going work of our diocese. Their support allows us to provide assistance to new mission parishes, scholarships to seminarians, support the departments of The Diocese, and much-needed encouragement to older struggling parishes. How about you? Our parish is a member of the DDB. If anyone would like to join, please see Fr. Jason as well as take a pamphlet from the table in the back of the church. May God continue to bless and guide you for your continued support. The Diocese of New York and New Jersey has two monthly newsletters: "**First Fruits**" and "**Beyond the Plateau**." The goal, as expressed by Archbishop Michael, is to increase communication and grow the communal spirit of diocesan fellowship in the building-up and strengthening of our parish communities. To learn more about these monthly diocesan publications, please refer to the diocesan website: <http://www.nynjoca.org/newsletters.html>.

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### **"Lessons in Our Faith" Video presented by His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL**

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and "to the point," offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! For those who do not have

internet, please see the handouts from each lesson which are located on the table in the back of the church. **There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!**

## **ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE**

As you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our newly-formed Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include: Icon ornaments, jewelry, Icons, prayer books, prayers ropes, and much more. If you need a Gift, come check out the Bookstore...you may find something you like!! We are now also offering Gift Certificates for our Bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information!! We thank David and Andrea Chmiel who are managing of our Bookstore for us. If you have any questions or if you would like to order something that you do not see, please see or contact David or Andrea Chmiel and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at: [bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com](mailto:bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com). May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

## **ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CORNER** **THE FEAST OF OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS:**

### **ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

**December 6**

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the 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. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on

his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. St Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From 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, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom St Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desparation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. St Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to St Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. St Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, St Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, St Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to

await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, St Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of St Constantine (May 21) as emperor, St Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, St 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 St Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Sts Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

St Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers

had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by St Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of St Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to St Constantine in a dream, St Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.



Having reached old age, St Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him.

The first Russian Christian prince Askold (+ 882) was baptized in 866 by Patriarch Photius (February 6) with the name Nicholas. Over the grave of Askold, St Olga (July 11) built the first temple of St Nicholas in the Russian Church at Kiev. Primary cathedrals were dedicated to St Nicholas at Izborsk, Ostrov, Mozhaisk, and Zarsk. At Novgorod the Great, one of the main churches of the city, the Nikolo-Dvorischensk church, later became a cathedral.

Famed and venerable churches and monasteries dedicated to St Nicholas are found at Kiev, Smolensk, Pskov, Toropetsa, Galich, Archangelsk, Great Ustiug, Tobolsk. Moscow had dozens of churches named for the saint, and also three monasteries in the Moscow diocese: the Nikolo-Greek (Staryi) in the Chinese-quarter, the Nikolo-Perervinsk and the Nikolo-Ugreshsk. One of the chief towers of the Kremlin was named the Nikolsk.

Many of the churches devoted to the saint were those established at market squares by Russian merchants, sea-

farers and those who traveled by land, 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, venerated by peasants as a merciful intercessor before the Lord for all the people in their work. And in the Russian land St Nicholas did not cease his intercession. 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 for the loss of their only child, took the infant from the waters, revived him and placed him in the choir-loft of the church of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) before his wonderworking icon. In the morning the infant was found safe by his thrilled parents, praising St Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Many wonderworking icons of St Nicholas appeared in Russia and came also from other lands. There is the ancient Byzantine embordered image of the saint, brought to Moscow from Novgorod, and the large icon painted in the thirteenth century by a Novgorod master.

Two depictions of the wonderworker are especially numerous in the Russian Church: St Nicholas of Zarsk, portrayed in full-length, with his right hand raised in blessing and with a Gospel (this image was brought to Ryazan in 1225 by the Byzantine Princess Eupraxia, the future wife of Prince Theodore. She perished in 1237 with her husband and infant son during the incursion of Batu); and St Nicholas of Mozhaisk, also in full stature, with a sword in his right hand and a city in his left. This recalls the miraculous rescue of the city of Mozhaisk from an invasion of enemies, through the prayers of the saint. It is

impossible to list all the grace-filled icons of St Nicholas, or to enumerate all his miracles.

St Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

St. Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (His Nativity of birth)

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### THE STORY OF ST. NICHOLAS and THE GOLD COINS

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom St Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to send his daughters to work so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold coins through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. St Nicholas also provided gold coins for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

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*Glory to Jesus Christ!*

When we pray, do **we ask God** for what we want, or **what we need?** Our life is a constant struggle, choosing to satisfy our passions and desires, or calling to God for **mercy and strength** to reach out to Him. The devil throws many distractions and temptations our way, all to keep us occupied and not focused on God. However, God is **always there** with outstretched arms, offering **His love and mercy.**

*Receiving Mercy*

The lepers who **encounter Christ** in today's gospel were recipients of His mercy and healing. They had been outcasts from society, condemned to a life of isolation. It took courage and faith to call out to Christ from a distance, "**Jesus, have mercy on us!**"

Christ eliminates their isolation, **reuniting them** to the community of believers by sending them to the Temple. And in obedience they go.

*Returning to God*

Our sinfulness is a result of our disobedience, causing us to also be at a distance from Christ. Yet, when we recognize our isolation and **return to God through prayer**, our **Lord accepts us** into His loving embrace, found in the Orthodox Faith.

At the moment we experience **God's grace and compassion**, are we like the one leper, or the nine?

*Expressing Gratitude*

It's one thing to **ask God** for what we want or need, but if our prayer doesn't include gratitude, **our healing and transformation** cannot be complete.

How we act when experiencing God's grace and compassion ultimately leads to a **change of heart** and a **God-centered purpose** for our life.

God is ready to provide for our every need. His love allows us the free will to **call out in prayer** without pressure to receive His healing.

*Remission of Sins*

During the season of advent, we **go to confession** as a spiritual check-up and opportunity to be washed of our sinfulness, crying out, "**Jesus, have mercy on me!**"

After **we confess to God**, our priest reads the prayer of absolution, as God's grace provides us with healing, **reuniting us to our community.** With purity of heart, may we give thanks to God daily, for receiving the **cleansing of our soul and body.**

*Scripture Readings*

*for the 26th Sunday after Pentecost*

Epistle: **Ephesians 5:9-19**

Gospel: **Luke 17:12-19**



*Hymns of the Day*

*Troparion/Apolytikion — Tone 1*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

*Kontakion — Tone 1*

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You: "You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Parents, Church School Teachers & Youth Directors: Watch for the ☞ to indicate topics/questions you can use to inspire conversations with youth. Or use the corresponding study guide for this resource.

# MY ADVENT PLANNER

Sunday	<p><b>6</b> St. Nicholas of Myra</p> <p>___ Attend Liturgy</p> <p>___ Read the life of <a href="http://bit.ly/st-nicholas-1aaz">http://bit.ly/st-nicholas-1aaz</a></p> <p>___ Talk with your parents/guardians to decide when you'll go to confession before Christmas</p>
Monday	<p><b>7</b> St. Ambrose of Milan</p> <p>___ Watch a video of the Hymn of St. Ambrose: <a href="https://youtu.be/_OMQ32gh8">https://youtu.be/_OMQ32gh8</a></p> <p>___ Pray for members of your family</p> <p>Today I helped:</p>
Tuesday	<p><b>8</b> St. Pappas of Thelso</p> <p>___ Read the life of <a href="https://bit.ly/st-pappas">https://bit.ly/st-pappas</a></p> <p>___ Pray for your teachers at church and school</p> <p>What decorations are you putting up for Christmas?</p>
Wednesday	<p><b>9</b> Prophetess Hannah</p> <p>___ Read 1 Samuel 1:2-2:21</p> <p>___ Pray for your school classmates</p> <p>Today I learned about:</p>
Thursday	<p><b>10</b> Blessed John of Serbia</p> <p>___ Read Luke 6:17-23</p> <p>___ Pray for the homeless</p> <p>Today I helped:</p>
Friday	<p><b>11</b> Venerable David the Stylite</p> <p>___ Read Psalm 63</p> <p>___ Pray for your departed relatives</p> <p>___ Make a donation to FOCUS North America, helping those in need.</p>
Saturday	<p><b>12</b> St. Spyridon the Wonderworker</p> <p>___ Plant seeds in cotton with water for St. Spyridon Day... watch them grow 'til spring!</p> <p>___ Help your parents at home</p> <p>___ Attend vespers (or vigil)</p>

## Christmas Cards

☞ This week, let's create greeting cards for parishioners who may be in the hospital, assisted living facilities, or homebound (either because of the COVID pandemic or a lack of mobility).

It's also possible to make cards for parishioners who are doctors, nurses, or home health care workers, giving of themselves every day, caring for the needs of those who are ill or infirm.

Did you know that Christmas cards have only existed since the mid 1500s? But the greeting "Christ is born!" and its response, "Glorify Him!" is much older, and can be said between December 25-31.

We greet each other on festive occasions like Christmas sharing the joy and our devotion to the new-born Son of God, Jesus Christ. Christmas cards become an extension of our faith in God, and a tangible way for us to share our joy, especially with the homebound or ill.

### Making Christmas Cards

We'll need some supplies like these:

- **Paper**  
(colored construction paper is a great option, white 8.5 x 11" 65 lb cardstock paper is ideal and available from most office supply or discount retailers. Best for use with markers, paints, inks, etc.)
- **Coloring Supplies**  
(markers, colored pens, colored pencils, crayons, watercolor paints [best used with 120lb or thicker paper, otherwise paints tend to bleed through thinner paper])
- **Craft Supplies**  
(glitter, pipe cleaners, tinsel, stickers, yarn, stencils, colored string, etc.)
- **Tools**  
(scissors, glue, tape, ruler, pencil, pencil sharpener, etc.)
- **Examples of Orthodox Christmas icons**  
(the Nativity, Jesus Christ, the Theotokos, angels, patron saint, etc., see some ideas on page 3)
- **Examples of Christmas imagery**  
(candles, Christmas tree, wreath, star of Bethlehem, manger/cave, wise men, shepherds, angels, town of Bethlehem, Church, people singing, ornaments, colored lights, see some ideas on page 3)
- **Phrases and Greetings**  
(Merry Christmas, Christ is born! Seasons Greetings, or any other liturgical text, some are available to choose from on page 4)
- **Envelopes and Stamps**  
(A9 envelopes (<https://bit.ly/A9-envelopes>) are best for paper folded to 5.5x8.5", this is a standard greeting card envelope size. And don't forget to put a stamp on the envelope!)

Using your supplies and creativity, let's make some cards, decorating the front and inside, sharing your joy and celebration of the Christmas feast!

Below the greeting you write on the inside right panel of the card, be sure to sign your first name (last name optional).

After making the card(s), place them in envelopes, and coordinate with your parents/teacher (or priest) to address the cards to members of your parish.

### Think Outside Your Parish

If your parish doesn't have homebound members or health care workers, or if you want to make more cards, consider creating "Get Well Soon" or generic holiday greeting cards (Happy Holidays, Seasons Greetings) for young people in the pediatric ward of a local hospital. There are always children being cared for in hospitals, and a get well card can bring a word of encouragement at a difficult time in their life.

Since we cannot assume every child in a hospital is an Orthodox Christian, or believes in Jesus Christ, these cards shouldn't have any religious imagery or messages. However, we can still be examples of Christ's love for our neighbor by making and sending cards with our heartfelt best wishes to children who aren't able to be at home with their families or loved ones.

Use your own ideas to draw friends holding hands, rainbows, nature scenes, happy moments, big smiles, with positive messages of encouragement (You can do this! Get well soon! I believe in you! Thinking of you!) for boys or girls. Be sure to sign your first name.

After making the cards and placing them in envelopes, coordinate with your parents/teacher, or priest to have them delivered to the local hospitals for distribution. *May God bless your kindness!*

# GREETINGS & PHRASES

Use these greetings or create your own within your card designs!

<b>English</b> Christ is Born!	Glorify Him!	Out of the womb before the Morning Star have I begotten Thee!
<b>Albanian</b> Kristi u lind! Lavdërojeni!	Khree - shtee eh - leend! Lahv - deh - ro - yeh - nee!	Rejoice, Bethlehem, land of Judah, for our Lord has come from you!
<b>Arabic</b> ! المسيح وُلِدَ! مَجْدُوهُ!	Al - mah - see - eh wu - li - da! Ma - ji - du!	The Virgin said to the wise men: "Come and behold the invisible God, visible now as a man."
<b>Finnish</b> Kristus syntyi! Kiittäkää!	Kree - stoos Soohn - too! KEE - tah - kah!	Celebrate, O Zion! Rejoice, O Jerusalem!
<b>French</b> Le Christ est né! Glorifiez-le!	Leh Kreest eh nee! Glor - eh - f'yeh - leh!	Come, O faithful, let us look upon the glory of the Only-begotten Son from God the Father!
<b>Georgian</b> ქრისტე დაიბადდა! აღვრეგვარცომა!	Khree - steh ee Shveh - bees! Ah - dee - deb - deet!	Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!
<b>Greek</b> Χριστός Γεννάται! Δοξάσατε!	Khree - stos Yeh - NAH - teh! Dohks - AH - sah - teh!	Behold, He Who dwells on high holding the world in His hand is wrapped in swaddling clothes and received in a manger.
<b>Japanese</b> ハリストス 生る! 崇め讃めよ!	Hris - tos u - ma - ru! A - ga - me ho - me yo!	Bless Him O youths, praise Him, O priests! Come all people, exalt God above all forever!
<b>Polish</b> Chrystus się rodzi! Wychwalajmy go!	Khree - stos szhee rohd - zhee! Veech - vah - lahy - meh gho!	Let mortals join the angels and celebrate in the feast!
<b>Romanian</b> Hristos se naște! Mariti-L!	Hree - stos seh NAH - shteh! Mah - ree - tee'!	The sayings of the prophets are now fulfilled: Our God is born ineffably of the Virgin Mary!
<b>Russian</b> Христос Рождается! Славите Его!	Khree - stos Rohzh - dye - yet - sya! Slah - vee - teh Yeh - vho!	Let us celebrate, keeping the feast of Christ's Nativity! Let us all go forth to meet our new-born Lord.
<b>Serbian</b> Христос се роди! Вонстину се роди!	Khree - STOS seh Roh - dee! Vo - ees - tee - nu seh Roh - dee!	Today, we sing the new song of the angels to our God.
<b>Spanish</b> ¡Cristo ha nacido! Glorifícale!	Khree - sto ah na - SEE - do! Glo - ree - FEE - ca - leh!	Christ is revealed as a newborn child, while remaining the eternal God!
<b>Ukrainian</b> Христос Раждається! Славте Його!	Khree - stos Rahzh - DYE - yet - sya! Slah - vee - teh Yo - ho!	God the Lord is made flesh of the Virgin, Giving Light to those in darkness!
		Let all the nations sing with rejoicing, and let all peoples be joyous!
		Let us come to Bethlehem, worshipping Christ with the Magi, Bringing the fruits of our righteous deeds as gifts!
		The star from Jacob has risen within the cave!
		Blessed are You, our God who has come: glory to You!
		Come, Christ-bearing people! Let us behold wonders that will amaze every mind.
		Come, God-inspired faithful, arise and behold the descent of God from on high!
		O Christ our God of great mercy, glory to You!



# ICONOGRAPHIC IMAGES

Use these sketches or others as inspiration for your own card designs!



# CHRISTMAS IMAGES

Use these sketches or others as inspiration for your own card designs!



## The Twenty- Sixth Sunday After Pentecost The Healing of the Ten Lepers

Luke 17:12-19

From The Explanation of the Gospel of St. Luke

by Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

11-19. And it came to pass, as He went to Jerusalem, that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, who stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when He saw them, He said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found any that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

From this one may learn that nothing prevents a man from living in a manner pleasing to God, not even if he belongs to a despised race, if only he has a good will and disposition. For behold, ten lepers met Jesus as He was about to enter a certain city. They met Him outside the city, for those who were considered unclean were not permitted to go into the city. They stood afar off, as if ashamed of their supposed uncleanness, and did not dare to draw near, thinking that Jesus abhorred them as did the others. They lifted up their voices and made supplication. By physical location they were standing afar off, but in their supplication they were near. For the Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him in truth (Ps. 144:19). And they did not make supplication to Him as to a mere man, but as to One greater than a man. For they called Him Master, meaning Lord, Protector, and Guardian, which is not far from thinking of Him as God.

The Lord instructs them to show themselves to the priests. Initially the priests would examine men such as these to determine whether they were lepers or not. For there were certain signs by which the priests could recognize incurable leprosy. But in addition to this, if it should



happen that someone who had been suffering from leprosy was healed, the priests would again examine him to verify the cure, in which event the gift commanded by the law would be offered (Lev. 14). In this case, since these men were already confirmed lepers, why should they show themselves to the priests, unless indeed they were about to be cleansed? To command them to go the priests indicated nothing less than that they would be healed. This is why the Evangelist says that as they went, they were cleansed. Of the ten lepers, the nine who were Israelites showed themselves to be ungrateful, while it was the Samaritan, an accursed foreigner, as we said earlier, who returned to voice his gratitude. The Samaritans were Assyrians; therefore, let no Gentile despair, and let no one descended from holy forebears boast. This miracle also signifies the common salvation that came to the whole human race. For the ten lepers represent all of human nature—it was leprous with wickedness, carrying about with it the ugliness of sin, passing its life outside the heavenly city on account of its uncleanness, and standing afar off from God. But this very distance from God is itself a supplication. For when the Lover of mankind, Who wills that all should be saved and receive good things, sees someone who is not sharing in His goodness, then He is most quick to show mercy and to heal those who are so miserably afflicted. But He also healed the whole leprous nature of man, when, for every mans sake, He took flesh and tasted of death. Although the Jews had been cleansed of the uncleanness of their leprous sin, as far as it was the Lords part to do, they showed themselves ungrateful and did not return from the path of their vain foolishness to give glory to God Who saved them, that is, to believe in Him Who is God and Who endured the extremes of suffering. For this is the glory of God: His Flesh and His Cross. These Jews, then, did not confess the incarnate and crucified Lord of glory. But the foreign and accursed people of the Gentiles recognized the One Who makes clean, and they glorified Him by believing in Him. They believed that God loves man so much and is so powerful that He accepted the very depth of dishonor for our sake—this is His love of man; and having accepted it, He suffered no harm to His own nature—this is His power.

***LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14***

***YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37***

***YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39***

***LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44***

***LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4***

***LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8***

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## Parish Activities

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting will be December 12 at 5:00 PM

### **CHURCH SCHOOL**

Held every Sunday from 12:30-1:15 PM via Google Classroom

Church School Q&A with Fr. Jay on Sunday, December 6.  
(The Life of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker  
Church School Nativity Outreach Projects start:

- New Pajamas Collection for Roswell Park
- Christmas Gifts for Baker Victory (\$20 each for 50 children)
- Collection for Hearts for Homeless

**BIBLE STUDY**

Next Class - Monday, December 14 at 6:30 PM (Via Zoom). We are studying the Gospel According to Matthew. We will be starting Chapter 9.

**BOOK CLUB**

Next Class - Monday, December 7 at 6:30 PM (Via Zoom). The topic is Marriage

**ADULT EDUCATION/CATECHUMENS' CLASS**

We will be offering a 4 part class on the Basics of Orthodox Christianity

Next Class – Wednesday December 9 & 16 at 7:00 PM (Via Zoom) Information will be sent out to everyone. Please tell our families, friends, neighbors and anyone who may be interested in learning more about The Orthodox Faith.

**SISTERHOOD OF ST. GEORGE**

We will be collecting those delicious homemade Christmas Cookies for Hearts for the Homeless. Please bring them to church on Sunday December 13. We are looking for at least 2 dozen per donation.

If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Barbara.

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**NATIVITY PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:  
Greetings to everyone as we begin this Nativity Fast!

Once again, this year, as part of our parish outreach ministry during The Nativity Fast and Christmas Season, we are teaming up with Baker Victory Services to provide Christmas gifts to the Foster Children in their residential homes. This year we are hoping to help 19 kids, spending \$50 on each child. There will be opportunities to buy gifts of different amounts so that we can accommodate what people are able to spend. Please look at the list below containing the Christmas Tree Angels/Gifts. When picking a Christmas Tree Angel/Name, please contact Andrea with which the name of the child you would like to purchase a gift for. We ask that all Christmas Gifts are brought to the Church No Later Than Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please attach the Name and Gift Item to the gifts that you purchase so that we can ensure that all of the children receive at least one gift from their wish list. Thank you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to talk with Andrea at church or email her at [ajchmiel@gmail.com](mailto:ajchmiel@gmail.com).



**Female - 3yrs.** Tablet , pants/leggings/shirt- size 4T – color – blue or black – paw patrol or Dora toys **Trinitee**

**Female 15 yrs** Nike outfit size large in beige/gray – belly button rings. **Julia**

**Female 8 yrs** – clothes size 8-10/favorite color baby blue. LOL surprise OMG, remix super surprise, earrings. **Allie Jayre**

**Female 10 yrs**, clothes size 10/12 purple/gray. Nike shoes size 3 anything LOL. **Jamie**

**Male 17 yrs.** Nike/Sabres clothing – men’s small, JBL Bluetooth speaker. **Ayden**

**Male 10 yrs** - call of duty video games, gold chain, fortnite, NBA sweatshirt **Nick**

**Female 7 yrs** – pants/leggings 6x or 7 – shirts size 7, LOL dolls – LOL house, Barbie house, baby dolls. **Breez**

**Female-10 yrs** - loves big baby dolls and baby alive w/food, pants/leggings size 10/12, shirts 10/12, baby doll items-clothing. **Desire**

**Male 9yrs** – shirts/pants size 8 wrestlers and rink, radio. **Mekhi**

**Female - 11yrs.** Long sleeve black shirt – M/adult size, Leggings or jogging pants – M/adult size. loves art supplies, cheap led lights for bedroom. **Mekahla**

**Male – 9yrs** – New basketball/or football – Lamar Jackson poster. **Malakhi**

**Male – 16yrs** – any iPhone accessory (case, screen protector, speaker etc) Dick’s gift card. **Johnathan**

**Male – 9yrs** – any LEGO kit. **Zachary**

**Female (DOB is unknown – she is less than 1)** bubble bath solution, mobile/colored lights for bedroom decoration, crib blankets/sheets. **Aamara**

**Male – 1.5yrs** – winter clothing – coat, pants, sweatshirts etc. any color – summer shorts any color. He weighs between 25-30 lbs. **Liam**

**Male – 3 months** – neutral crib sheets, washcloths, stuffed animals, soft toys, teething ring. **Marshall**

**Male – 15** – MP3 player, basketball, **James**

**Female – 17yrs** – any bath and body lotion (floral fragrance), nail polish – darker colors, Target gift card. **Kayla**

**Male – 12yrs** – game stop gift card, Any X-box games, football. **Jacob**

**NEW PAJAMAS COLLECTION FOR ROSWELL PARK**



We will also be collecting New Pajamas for the patients at Roswell (adult men and women s-m-l/ children boys and girls s-m-l) as part of our care and compassion for the patients as they continue to receive treatment especially during this Christmas Season. Please bring the pajamas to Church no later than Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> and place them in the bin located in the Parish Fellowship Hall. If anyone has any questions regarding the pajamas or cookies, please do not hesitate to let Fr. Jason know.



To top off our parish outreach ministry during this Holy Season, we will be collecting homemade Christmas Cookies as well as the following items (Canned Chili, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Kidney Beans, Canned Baked Beans, Canned Carrots, Canned Corn, Spaghetti Sauce) to be delivered to Hearts for Homeless for their Annual Christmas Dinner. Please bring the cookies to Church no later than Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> and place them in the bin located in the Parish Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your continued love, prayerful support,, generosity, and stewardship not only for our parish but also for the community in which we live, serve, and dwell.

# ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD



Last year, we began a new parish tradition with the sending of a Parish Christmas Card. The cost is only \$20 per family. The idea of sending a parish Christmas Card is to extend the greetings and prayerful best wishes of The Nativity of Our Lord to our families, friends, and neighbors.

If we would like to have our name in the Christmas Card, please fill out the form with how we would like our name to appear in the card and hand it in to Amil no later December 6 along with your payment of \$20.00. Besides our names, we will also have a Nativity Message and Greeting from our parish family.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Looking forward to seeing our Parish Christmas Card bring the joy, love, and peace of The Nativity of Our Lord to everyone!

May God continue to bless and guide all of you and your family.

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**JOIN ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL, TO PRAY AND FAST**

## FOR RECONCILIATION AND AN END TO CIVIL STRIFE

The clergy and faithful of the Diocese continue to mourn the tragic losses of life, the needless acts of violence, the divisions among races, and the civil strife which plague many of our cities and countrysides.

Our Lord's own words instruct us as to what our response to injustice, inequality, violence and hopelessness must be: "Whatever you do to the least of My brethren, you do it to Me" (Matthew 25:40), and "by this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:15). The Saints remind us that we are blind unless we see every human being – regardless of their differences – as made in the image, and after the likeness, of God (Genesis 1:26-27). And the Sermon on the Mount challenges us to become "peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King put it this way, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate; violence multiplies violence in a descending spiral of destruction."

The work of establishing justice and equality, and peace and love among all peoples in our country, cannot be achieved by one-time efforts; it must be an ongoing process of change, of repentance. And some kinds of evil, according to our Savior, are only driven out "by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:21).

So, I invite all of our diocesan family to join with me in a Year Dedicated to Reconciliation and An End to Civil Strife by praying and fasting on the first day of every month, beginning Wednesday, July 1: by praying the Akathist to the African Saints, and the Prayer for Racial Reconciliation (which is attached to this e-mail) – at 12:00 noon, and abstaining from eating lunch that day.

If you cannot pray and fast at noon on that day, then choose another meal from which to fast, and another time to pray the Akathist ... or at least offer the Prayer for Racial Reconciliation, which is at the conclusion of the service, if that is all that you have time to do.

We ask the Lord to help us become instruments of peace and reconciliation ... for those who truly pray and fast for this cause, cannot be at the same time instruments of hatred and violence.

May Our Lord bring an end to the strife that divides the people of this country



from one another ... may He make us instruments of that process ... and, may He grant mercy and blessed repose to all those who have been taken from us in acts of hatred and fear. May their memory be eternal.

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WE WILL GATHER TOGETHER AS A PARISH FAMILY IN PRAYER ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS AT 12:00 NOON AND SERVE "THE PRAYER SERVICE FOR AMERICA":

- Friday January 1, 2021** *(After Divine Liturgy)*
- Monday February 1**                      **Monday March 1**
- Thursday April 1**                      **Saturday May 1**
- Tuesday June 1**

**\*\*PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD AND INVITE OUR FAMILIES FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS COME AND PRAY WITH US!**

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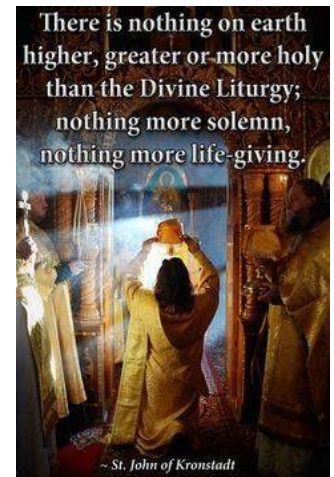
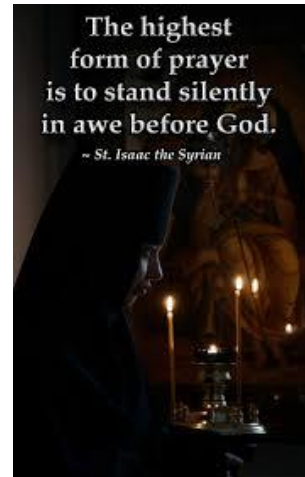
**COMMEMORATION SHEETS FOR REMEMBRANCE AT THE DIVINE SERVICES**

The greatest form of strength for our faith is Prayer. Prayer is the essence of our connection to the presence and existence of God in our lives. When we pray, we must be spiritually standing in awe before God and be in communion with Him. One of the greatest aspects of prayer is praying for our loved ones.

To help us with our prayer life and remembering our loved ones in prayer, we can submit names for Father Jason to commemorate during the Proskomedia as well as during the Divine Liturgy.

If anyone would like to have our loved ones ("For The Health of....." and/or "For the Repose of....."), please submit the below Commemoration Sheet to Fr. Jason at anytime and he will be sure to remember our loved ones during the Divine Services.

May God continue to bless and guide you and your families and keep all of us in His loving care.





For the Health and Salvation of:

Red horizontal lines for writing names.



For the Departed Souls of:

Black horizontal lines for writing names.

Use this page to create a prayer list of family members, friends, relatives, or other people who know and want to remember in your daily prayers

