



The Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
301 Struthers Liberty Rd
Campbell, OH 44405
OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



DECEMBER BULLETIN SPONSOR

*In memory of Sveda family and for the good health of Sveda Family
Given by George & Barbara Kolasar*

Weekly Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, December 3

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Social
3:00 PM: Christmas Tree Lighting in Campbell

Tuesday, December 5

6:00 PM: Vesperal Liturgy for Feast of St Nicholas

Wednesday, December 6

7:30 PM: City Council meeting (open to public)

Saturday, December 9

9:00 AM: 3 Etreats Pan-Orthodox Retreat in Mogadore
6:00 PM: Great Vespers / Confessions

Sunday, December 10

9:35 AM: Hours
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy / Annual Yolka / Social

Pro-Life Prayer cont'd

come to the life of Your Truth and glorify You, the Giver of Life, together with Your Father, and Your All-Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PRAYER IN TIMES OF INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

Furthermore, we pray for peace from above, so that our civil leaders and authorities will be blessed with wisdom at this critical time in the world. Allow them to see Your light. Increase their understanding. Let them not overlook any possibility for peace in all the conflicts around the world. We pray for the protection of all our sons and daughters who serve in the armed forces and especially those deployed around the world. We pray for our enemies, that they may be touched and led to a peaceful resolution of the conflicts around the world. Spare our people another war. Let them beat their swords into plow-sharers and their spears into pruning hooks. May nation not lift up sword against nation, nor may they learn war anymore. We pray to You, most merciful Lord: "Hear the voice of the supplication of us sinners and have mercy."



PRO-LIFE PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, Who are in the bosom of the Father, True God, source of life and immortality, Light of Light, Who came into the world to enlighten it: You were pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls By the power of Your All-Holy Spirit. O Master, who came that we might have life more abundantly, we ask You to enlighten the minds and hearts of those blinded to the truth that life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with Your image and likeness; enable us to guard, cherish and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For You are the giver of life, bringing each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness affront Your divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, and all of us,

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia Commemorated on 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. Saint 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 Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation 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. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint 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 Saint 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. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the **Con't Pg 6**

PRAYER LIST– Updated 11-29-23

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Donna Chiarelli / George Horodnic / Irene Horodnic / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / Paula Kennedy / George Kolesar / Barbara Kolesar / Mary Jane Puskas / Kenny Ruff / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Marion Zwinski

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Archbishop Benjamin / Archbishop Alexander / Archbishop Melchizedek / Bishop Matthias / Fr. James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Moses Berry / Fr. Michael Rustic (Fr.) / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath (Fr.) / Bret (Zelinsky) / Chrissy (Fr.) / Donna Chiarelli / Dominic (Centofanti) / Ellen (Clark) / Katie (Garrity) / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Mark Hruban (Fr.) / Ellen (Kessler) / Eleanor Marie (Kidder) / Paul (Kolesar) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Mea (Mahan) / Mary (Mahan) / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Michelle Nicoloff / Matushka Raissa (Nicoloff) / Eugene (Pallai) / Ksenia and her unborn child (Petrochko) / Matushka Helen (Psinka) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Kristianna & infant Mary Louise (Robinson) / William Romanchak (Fr.) / Roxanne (Yannitto) / Julia (Shirilla) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Richard (Tusinac) / Brian (Shirilla) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Paula (Voytilla) / Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Drew (Willison) / Emilia Yannitto / Charlette Zenko / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Zoland Zile (Fr.)

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky)

MISCELLANEOUS: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Diocese of Aleppo) & Archbishop John (Archdiocese of Aleppo) still being held captive / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

DECEMBER SOCIALS

- Dec 3 – by Debbie Zelinsky in memory of her sister Pricella (Shilla) Sirilla
- Dec 10 – St Nicholas “O” Club coffee hour
- Dec 17 – Sisterhood
- Dec 24– Sisterhood
- Dec 31 – Fr. Wargo’s 50th Anniversary w/ Archbishop Melchizedek

KOLACHI PICKUP

Baking Day: Dec. 4 –6 (Monday thru Wednesday)
 8:30 AM: Rollers report
 11:00 AM: Men report
 Pick up dates: Dec. 7 & 8 (Thursday & Friday) between 3 & 5 PM

Seeking New Church Officers

There will be a couple of open positions coming up in 2024.
 If anyone is interested in serving the church in this way, please speak with Fr. Andrew ASAP.

NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

Expenses..... \$15,218.92
 Income..... \$12,217.00
TOTAL..... -\$3,001.92

Weekly Tithe \$10,893
 Weekly Candles..... \$339
 Protection Icon \$90
 Iconostasis \$150
 Altar Candles..... \$150
 Christmas Card..... \$495
 Missions \$110
 Wine \$50
 Christmas Flowers \$26

Other Income:

Religious Item \$68

PRAYER LIST

If anyone can come off the prayer list please let Fr. Andrew know. If you would like for them to remain on the list, that is fine. Thank you

Christmas Flowers

In order to help supplement our Christmas flowers, flowers are available for purchase (\$10.00 each). They can be *In memory* or *In honor* of family or friends. Every name will be remembered at the Great entrance at the Christmas Divine Liturgy. Please give your money to Cindy and the names to Father Andrew.

Fr. Andrew (10 flowers)

- * For the health of all St. John the Baptist parishioners and their families.
- * For the Health of the Campbell First Responders, especially the fire fighters.
- * For the health of all my family and friends.
- * For the health of my Spiritual Father, Archpriest James.
- * For the health of the City of Campbell, their residents and businesses.
- * For the Health of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, the Holy Synod & all seminarians.
- * In memory of my ordaining Hierarch, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas.
- * In memory of my parents George & Dorothy, my Grandparents, my Godparents, my family & friends.
- * In memory of the Diptychs of this parish.
- * In memory of all the hierarchs of the OCA & all the priests who served this community.

Zenko Family:: (1 flower)

- * For the Health of Ron & Charlotte & family Angeby & Sue & Family & Matt Zenko

Polewan Family (2 flowers)

- * In memory of Michael & Ethel Dudzik
- * In memory of Tony and Mary Polewan

Rusnak Family (5 flowers)

- * In memory of my wife Laurissa Rusnak & George and Mary Rusnak (parents of subdeacon Walter Vladimir Rusnak
- * In memory of George, Jr (brother)
- * In memory of Ann Sanders (sister)
- * In memory of Nadine Pallai (sister)
- * For the health of Joseph (brother & Mary Jane Puskas (sister)



December Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin: In memory Sveda family and for the good health of Sveda Family– Given by George & Barbara Kolasar

Wine: In honor of my mother Emilia Yannitto on her birthday on December 3 & in memory of my brother Danny Yannitto on December 3– Given by Melanie Yannitto

Incense: *Available*

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of our godparents, George & Ruth Libertin, and grandparents, Andrew & Mary Libertin - Given by Charissa Oliphant & Mark Libertin

Altar Candles: In memory of my mother Margaret Boldish on the 7th anniversary - Given by Nancy Tusinac / In memory of parents, Nicholas & Mary K. Libertin, & brother, Dr. Nick Libertin - Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant, Mark & Colette Libertin / In memory of my parents George Vansuch & Olga Vansuch– Given by daughter Sandy & Son in law Jim Bufalini

Tetrapod Candles: *Available*

St. Herman Candles: **TAKEN**

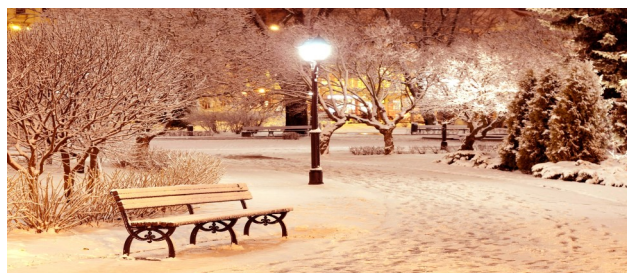
St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: *Available*

Protection Icon Candles: *Available*

St. John the Baptist Candles: *Available*

Flowers: In memory of my mom Eileen Elash who passed away in December of 2009

<u>\$50 per month</u>	<u>\$30 per month</u>	<u>\$25 per month</u>
Wine	St. Herman candles	Incense
Bulletin	St. Panteleimon Icon	
Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light	candles	<u>Flowers</u> - \$75
Altar Candles	Protection Icon candles	
Tetrapod Candles	St. John the Baptist candles	



REPOSED LIST FOR DECEMBER

- Dan Ivanovich (1929) ©
1- Sam Zilens Sr (1978) ©
1- Mary Livoniak (1952) ©
2- John Gozur (1972) ©
2- Marian Dunchak (1999) ©
2- Priscilla Sirilla (2003) ©
3- John Korchniak (1919) ©
3- Irene Black (2003) ©
4- Kathleen Garman (2010) ©
4- Anakreon John (1923) ©
5- Mary Bobosh (1975) ©
5- Michael Evans (1977) ©
6- Sophie Sasnowchik (1975) ©
6- Ann Dahulich (2017)
6- Mary Krajnak (1945) ©
8- Anna Hastol (1982) ©
8- Bill Soltis (2014)
8- George Kotie (1940) ©
8- Mary Pretko (1947) ©
8- Anna Papoch (1963) ©
9- Mary Niznih (1990) ©
9- Emanuel Ginnis (1954) ©
9- Joseph Andrasko (1960) ©
9- Judith Banas (2018) ©
10- Michael Basala (1991)
10- Suzanne Marinelli (1999) ©
12- Pauline Truhan Livosky (2017) ©
13- Andrew Libertin (1931) ©
14- Michael Hastal (1984) ©
14- Susan Marie Sveda (2004) ©
15- Theodore Fesz (2020) ©
15- Joseph Graban (2003) ©
15- Still born Cmur (1924) ©
15- Catherine Papantonakis (1951) ©
15- Eugenia Pontikos (1953) ©
16- Anne Cvercko (1996) ©
- 16- Svetlana Gozur Evanoff (2014) ©
18- Archbishop Job (2009)
18- V. Rev. Michael Macura
19- Edward Malchisky (2001)
19- Catherine Bondar (2010) ©
19- Margaret Boldish Feltovich (2016) ©
20- George Fischu, Sr (1983) ©
20- Anna Livosky (1946) ©
20- Loukas Arfaras (1951) ©
21- John Kotchmar (2022) ©
22- Susan La Valle (2019)
22- Peter Alesaudridis (1946) ©
22- George Roman (1953) ©
23- Fr. David Sedor (2008)
23- Anna Volchko (1989) ©
23- Mary Vansuch (2008) ©
23- George Matzye (1950) ©
24- John Feltovich (1981) ©
25- Stephen Vansuch (2002) ©
26- Fr. Robert Sally (2002)
26- Julia Malchisky (1971)
26- John Joseph Marinelli (1996) ©
27- Eileen Elash (2009) ©
27- Adam Nedastup (1920) ©
28- Fr. John Kuchta (2019)
28- Julia Zora (2001) ©
29- Andrew Midlik (1943) ©
29- John Vansuch (1995) ©
30- Bishop Boris (2000)
30- Ed Pehanich, Sr (2019)
30- Kosta Alesandridis (1928) ©
30- Christina Chulik (1943) ©
31- Robert LaVallee (2007)
31- Hermenegildo Guerrero (2018)
31- Mary Shirilla (1952) ©
31- John Niciforos (1964) ©

Ephesians 5:9-19 (Epistle)

(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,

HUGE THANK YOU

Due to your generosity and participation, the St. Nicholas Seminary Project was a great success!

Almost \$500 in gift cards plus gifts for Ryerson Family of four from St. Tikhon's seminary was collected.

Thank you all.
May God bless you all!

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

1-Ileana Bruner, Thomas McDonald
4-Steven Calzone, Hannah Willison
5-Ted Fesz & Mat. Laryissa Bremer
6-Mat. Susan Northrup & Paul Demkosky Sr.
8-Nicholas Basile
9-Alexis Jesko, John Koval, Pauline Meath, Angie Dardovsky
10-Karen Zwinski
13-Helen Colaluca
14-Kenny Ruff
16-George Rusnak
17-Ann Cvercko
27-Claudia Moore
30-Christina Adzima
31- Ken Krause

Anniversaries

5-2004- AB Mark of Philadelphia
19-1971 Retired Bishop Seraphim of Sendai
26- Anthony & Shelia Jesko, Jr.
31- Jimmy & Christine Billy

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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, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshipping 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, Saint 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, Saint 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 Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received 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 First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicean Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint 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 **Con't Next Pg**

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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. The face of Saint Nicholas resembled that of an Angel, resplendent with divine grace. A brilliant ray shone from his face, like that which shone from the face of Moses (Exodus 34:29), so that those who looked at him were astonished. Whoever was oppressed by some affliction or passion of the soul had only to behold the Saint, and his sorrow was eased at once. As for those who conversed with him, they soon found themselves advancing on the path of virtue. Not only were the faithful moved to compassion, but unbelievers as well, and they directed their steps on the path of salvation when they heard him speak. The evil of unbelief which had been implanted in their hearts since childhood was uprooted, and in its place, the word of truth was sown.

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 Saint 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 Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint 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, Saint 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, Saint Olga (July 11) built the first temple of Saint Nicholas in the Russian Church at Kiev. Primary cathedrals were dedicated to Saint Nicholas at Izborsk, Ostrov, Mozhaisk, and Zaraisk. 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 Saint 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 Saint 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 Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker. ***Con't Next Pg***

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Many wonderworking icons of Saint Nicholas appeared in Russia and came also from other lands. There is the ancient Byzantine embroidered 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: Saint 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 future wife of Prince Theodore, the Byzantine Princess Eupraxia, who perished in 1237 with her husband and infant son during the incursion of Batu); and Saint 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 Saint Nicholas, or to enumerate all his miracles.

Saint 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.

Saint Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).

In Italy, the relics of Saint Nicholas are in the Roman Catholic Basilica of Saint Nicholas in Bari; and his left arm is in Saint Nicholas Roman Catholic Church of Rimini.

In Russia, relics of Saint Nicholas are to be found in Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow, and in the Saint Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg.

The right hand of Saint Nicholas is in the church of Saint George the New in Bucharest, Romania.

In Greece, portions of the Saint's relics are in the Monasteries of Saint Nicholas Apo Bathia in Euboia, and Phaneromenē in Salaminos. A piece of the Saint's left arm is in the Metropolitan church of Volos. One of the Saint's teeth is at Kalabryta Monastery in the Peloponnēsos.

Sermon on the Good Samaritan by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

My beloved children in the Lord,

Picture if you will the scene: a man lying by the side of the road, beaten, robbed, stripped, suffering. Passing by on the other side, going out of their way to avoid this man in need, this man in pain, are first a priest and then a Levite.

It is easy to hear this Gospel and be horrified by the callous indifference of these clergy of Old Israel as they ignore the plight of their brother, whom we know to be the innocent victim of a terrible crime.

But imagine, if you will, the perspective that these characters might have had on the situation. Perhaps they had truly urgent business—or at least, that what's they told themselves. Perhaps they assured themselves that someone with more time, more resources, more qualifications to help would come along soon. Perhaps they were afraid of the man—he's all bloody and on the road in the middle of nowhere, he might be a shady character. Or they are afraid that thieves might still be nearby. They'd have liked to help, but they had a rational fear for their own safety.

In other words, we needn't imagine that the priest and the Levite in this parable were actively cruel, a pair of Judean Ebenezer Scrooges eager to put the poor in prisons and workhouses and to decrease the surplus population through Social Darwinist policies. Not at all.

Rather, the priest and the Levite represent business as usual for the entire human race: they'd like to help, but they have their own affairs to attend to. Sure, they love their neighbor—when they have the time, the extra money, the right assurances.

The priest and Levite are not cruelly indifferent, just casually selfish, with sensible, socially-sanctioned priorities.

And how many of us are exactly the same as they?

Of course we all give to our neighbor—but do we give when it pinches our own resources? Of course we all want to help—but do we put ourselves at risk, at a disadvantage, even a little bit, for the sake of the other? Of course we all want to do the right thing—but do we really want to do the right thing, even when it comes at the expense of our comfort and sense of well-being?

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Sermon on Good Samaritan con't from previous pg

In fact, with our hobbled virtue, little courage, habitual selfishness, and unreflexive hypocrisy, we might find that, when we think about it, we are just as helpless and wounded as that man by the side of the road. We claim to love God and love virtue, but we are far too weak, far too infirm, seriously to pursue these things.

But, thank God, the true Good Samaritan, Christ the Savior, has visited us in our weakness and woundedness, and he has anointed us with the oil of the Spirit. He has given us his Flesh as bread and his Blood as a drink more delightful than any wine on the face of the earth.

Powerless as we are to pursue virtue, to practice true generosity, to lead lives of real love, he has nevertheless loved us to excess, making up for all our shortcomings with the surpassing abundance of his mercy.

And now, henceforth, as the holy apostle John the Theologian says, "We love him because he first loved us."

Knowing his superlative grace, his lavish forgiveness, his extravagant love, we are able to share that same grace, forgiveness, and love with our own neighbor.

Consider the holy hierarch John the Merciful, patriarch of Alexandria, whose memory we celebrate today. St. John was known for his great generosity, and we read the following story in his life:

One day, when the saint was visiting the sick, he met a beggar and commanded that he be given six silver coins. The beggar changed his clothes, ran on ahead of the patriarch, and again asked for alms. Saint John gave him six more silver coins.

When, however, the beggar sought charity a third time, and the servants began to chase the fellow away, the patriarch ordered that he be given twelve pieces of silver, saying, "Perhaps he is Christ putting me to the test."

Unreasonable, excessive, incautious: such was St. John's love for his neighbor. His awareness of God's love for the fallen human race was so intense that he never balked at the chance generously to share that love, to pass it on to his fellow men.

As Christ comes into our midst today, the Healer of souls and Physician of ailing hearts, to treat the wounds of our selfishness and laziness and excuse-making, his love and his example call us to a renewed generosity toward both God and neighbor.

Jesus Christ gave himself for us: love calls out to love, and we are called to love in return. No longer

No longer will we pass by the needs of the neighbor; no longer will we allow the selfish patterns of the world to be enough for us. From this day forward, we are called to be good Samaritans in the image of the Good Samaritan who visited us by the wayside of life and saved us despite our sins. As Jesus says at the end of today's Gospel, "'Go and do likewise,' just as I have done for you. Show mercy as I have shown mercy. Be generous as I have been generous to you. Share my love; share my Gospel; share my forgiveness through my holy Church."

In the many ways, today's Gospel passage with its interpretation is the most fitting reading for us as we gather to celebrate the community of love that has existed here at Saint Matthew's Orthodox Church for 35 years. What we see reflected in the many souls who have prayed, worshipped, and struggled here – both those who are gathered here today and those who have gone to their eternal rest – is the fruit of the common effort of all to build here a communion of sacrificial love and care for one's neighbor. We give thanks to God for this great gift and entreat him to grant all of us to continue this sacred and apostolic work for many more years at Saint Matthew's.

To him who calls us to follow his example of love, mercy, and generosity, the Benefactor of mankind and the Healer of our soul's every wound, our true Lord and God and Savior, be all glory, honor, thanksgiving, and adoration, together with his heavenly Father and his all-holy, good, merciful, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Luke 18:18-27 (Gospel)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

**Protodeacon Nicholas Jannakos—
Father of our Chancellor**

Protodeacon Nicholas P. Jannakos, 91, fell asleep in the Lord on November 18, 2023. He was born into a family of Greek immigrants (from Volos-Pelion Greece), in East St. Louis, IL on September 21, 1932. Upon graduation from High School he served in the Army during the Korean War. After his discharge, he studied at St. Louis University and graduated with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

In 1959 he was hired by Martin-Marietta and moved his young family to Golden, Colorado where he lived for the next 45 years. During his career as an engineer he also worked for Coors Brewery, Ball Container Corporation, Sterns-Roger Engineering, and Rockwell Aerospace. He loved hiking in the Rocky Mountains with family and friends, and was an avid reader of Orthodox theology. In 1973, while working with Sterns-Rogers on a contract at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver he met Father Michael Margitich, a chaplain on the base. Father Michael invited him to attend an OCA parish in the area, after which he eventually joined Saint Herman’s Orthodox Church in Littleton, Colorado with his family, under the pastoral care of Father Andrew Harrison, with whom he remained life-long friends, along with Father Dragan Filipovic and Father James Worth. In October of 1993 he was ordained to the holy diaconate by His Grace Bishop Tikhon of San Francisco, and served at Saint Herman’s until 2005, when he moved to Albuquerque New Mexico, where he was blessed to serve with Father George Sondergaard and Father Nikolay Miletkov.

He was a loving husband to his wife Elizabeth (Sharos) Jannakos for 69 years; loving brother to +Charitona (Chona) (Jannakos) & +Theodosius (Ted) Millas; +Gregory & Sue Jannakos, and George & Pat Anastas; loving father to the Archpriest Paul & Protinica Michelle Jannakos, Mark & Jennifer Jannakos, Mary Beth (Jannakos) & Daniel Chumney; loving grandfather of 10 grandchildren; loving great-grandfather to 7 great-grandchildren; many dear cousins, nephews, and nieces.



**Prophet Zephaniah / Commemorated
on December 3**

The Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Prophetess Oldama. He was from the tribe of Simeon, and was the ninth of the Twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. The prophet lived at the royal court, where he preached repentance and helped King Josiah eliminate idol-worship.

He prophesied about the calamities that were to come for the people of Judea and the surrounding regions: Gaza, Ascalon, Crete, and against the Moabites, the Ammonites and the Ninevites.



November Liturgical Attendance			
Day	Vespers	Divine Liturgy	Communicants
Sat. Nov 4	8		
Sun. Nov. 5		64	34
Tues. Nov. 7 Vesperal Liturgy		9	
Sat. Nov. 11	7		
Sun. Nov. 12		67	41
Sat. Nov. 18	8		
Sun. Nov. 19		50	31
Mon. Nov. 20	8		
Sat. Nov. 25	5		
Sun. Nov. 26		52	31