

ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

Sunday, Jan. 24th 2021

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia. Ven. Xenia of Rome and her two female servants (5th c.)
Colossians 3:4-11; Luke 18:35-43

Please sign up in the back of the Church for a house blessing or speak to father directly. Blessings can be done quickly and safely, and are greatly encourage as a way to bring the renewing grace of Christ into the home and forward in the new year.

Next Sunday at 1pm, we will bless the River at Monessen Boat Launch, near By George restaurant. All are welcome; please observe social safety measures.

The St. Nicholas Society will have an advance order only Super Bowl Hoagie Sale on Sat., Feb 6th. To place an order, call 724-379-6478 or 724-483-8428 by no later than Jan. 29th. Please give name, number, and order. Pickups are 11am to noon on Feb. 6th. Cost is \$8.00 per hoagie. Please wear a mask when picking up order. **Volunteers are requested** to help make the hoagie that same morning, at 8am.

The Wednesday night Inter-parish book study continues on Wednesday evening, reading “Orthodox Worship: A Living Continuity with the Synagogue, the Temple, and the Early Church.” Newcomers are always welcome.

Our **parish library** is always available to those interested; simply write down the title you’re checking out and the date so Fr. John can keep track of what goes where.

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wed. Jan. 27th

6:30pm – Compline & Reading of Lives of the Saints

7:00pm – Zoom book Club (email Fr. John for link, or call to ask for the call-in number if you are participating via phone)

Fri. Jan. 29th

6:30pm – Compline & Reading from the Lives of the Saints

Sat. Jan. 30th

4:30pm – Great vespers, followed by confession

Sunday, Jan. 31st

9:00am – On the Incarnation book study

10am – Divine Liturgy, hours @ 9:40; **1pm River blessing @ Monessen**

Mon. Feb 1

6:30pm Vespers for the Meeting of the Lord

Tues. Feb 2

9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord

Prayer List Jan. 17th

Mary Behanna – in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat (Virgin Mary Kiot)

Sandy Carroll – health of family / special intentions / in memory of parents, Mae & Pete Ruev / for health of Tony Butti

Natalie & Rob Montini – in memory of newly departed Father, Arsenio Montini
Pauline Aitken – in memory of departed son, Kevin, grandson, Nicholas, and Husband, Lee / for special intentions / for health of sister Bunnie / for health of granddaughter Amanda

Fred & Caroline Ruev – in blessed memory of departed sister Agnes Vukich

Jim & Vera Hays – in memory of Agnes Vukich

Tom & Elaine Backstrom – for special intentions / in memory of Mom & Dad / God’s healing hand be upon sister Michele / blessings upon grandchildren Sydney, Luke, Freddy & Madison

Dimitri & Pauline Petro – God’s blessings upon brother Dan on his birthday / for health and safe travel for Adam, Kyra, Luke & Noah / for health and wellbeing of Natalie and Rob / for health of Nick, Christine, Alex and Nicholas / for health and wellbeing of Jonah & Catherine / for health of Tom, Shelley, Rachel, Russell / in memory of newly departed Lacie Ring / for health of Fr. Igor / special intentions / in memory of newly departed Archie Montini / for health of Bunnie Campayo

Pauline Petro – for health of husband Dimitri

Kyra, Adam, Luke & Noah Zewe – in memory of newly departed Lacie Ring

Michael Horan – in memory of loving wife, Rebecca / birthday blessings for Cindy / for health of daughter Erika

Vladimir Kash – in memory of Archie Montini

Sandy Aitken – for health of Aunt Bunnie

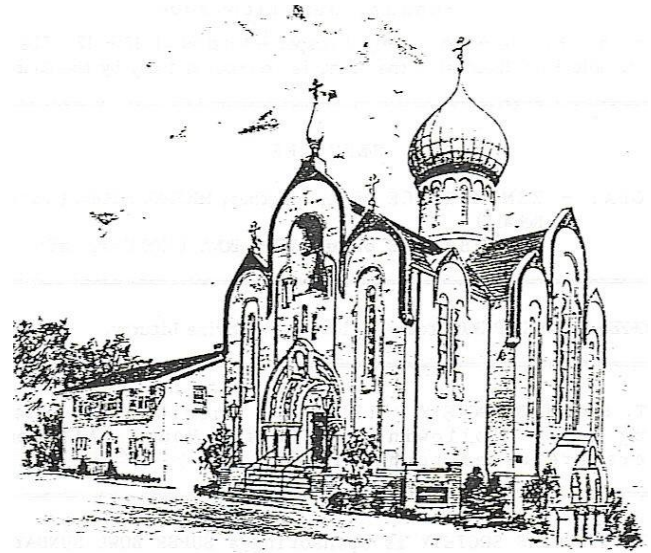
Christ is our Friend who loves us

“We should feel that Christ is our friend, because He is. He says so Himself when He says: “You are my friends...” We should look upon Him and approach Him as a friend. Do we fall? Do we sin? With familiarity, love, and trust we should run to Him. Not fearing that He’s going to punish us, but with boldness that will make us feel that we are His friends. We should say: “Lord, I’ve done this or that, I’ve fallen. Forgive me.” And at the same time, we should feel that He loves us, that He’ll receive us tenderly and will forgive us. Sin shouldn’t separate us from Christ. When we believe that He loves us and we love Him, we don’t feel strangers to Him or separated from Him, even when we sin. We’ve got His love guaranteed, and, no matter how we behave, we know He loves us.” – St. Porphyrios

This is how a man of God lives...

We must realize the following truth: in order to begin to live a spiritual life, I must be vividly conscious of the fact that I am nothing, that I can do nothing, and that I am completely incapable and unworthy. It is only the Right Hand of the Most High, only God's grace and power that can produce fruits in my spiritual life.... When I have accepted the fact that I can do nothing, when all seems lost, then God visits me, and it is then that I see Him. And what is the result? Life becomes a vision, a delight, and a fulfillment. In the words of the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil: "We have been filled with Your life that knows no end. We have feasted gladly on Your inexhaustible nourishment." We are filled with life eternal. We feast on the food of heaven... The soul that thirsts for God is continually bathed in divine light. The face of such a person becomes divinely luminous.

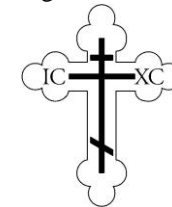
Thus the Christian becomes a strange spectacle: a Christ-bearer, a God-bearer, and a Spirit-bearer. He or she reveals the unsurpassable beauty of Christ....My desire is for Christ; my longing is for Christ. It is for Him that my life is being transformed. It is on account of Him that my heart has been wounded [by love]. It is because of Him that my mind has been set afire and groans: I wander and am on fire, searching here and there for You. My path is one of constantly seeking after the Lord. And I strain my eyes to catch a glimpse of the One I desire, but He is invisible, and evades my sight. But eventually He rewards my efforts, and I am amazed at the beauty of His form.... From every direction He shines upon me the light of His immortal splendor. All of my members are shining with light; I am entirely caught up in His glory, and He embraces me totally. He gives Himself to me, the unworthy one, and I am filled with His love and His beauty. I am sated with divine delight and sweetness. I share in His light, I participate also in His glory, and my face shines just like the face of my beloved Christ, and my entire body becomes luminous. Then finally I become more beautiful than those who are beautiful, wealthier than those who are wealthy, more powerful than mighty kings, and more precious than anything on earth or in heaven, for I possess the Creator of the universe, to Whom belongs all glory and honor now and forever. This is how a man of God lives. Amen." - Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra



"It is impossible for God not to show mercy on one who is genuinely striving to be saved."—St. Pochomios of Chios

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

1 St. Nicholas Drive
DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA
Organized 1916



The Reverend Father JOHN PARKER, Pastor
Rectory Telephone (724) 379-4827
frjohndonora@gmail.com

Deacon ROBERT MOTICHAK (Attached)
Dr. DIMITRI PETRO, Choir Director

www.stnicholasorthodoxdonora.org
Facebook / Instagram: @stnicholasdonora