

## ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1.

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, our Heavenly Patron  
Hebrews 13:17-21; Ephesians 5:9-19 | Luke 6:17-23, Luke 17:12-19

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May the prayers of St. Nicholas, our beloved patron and intercessor, be with all of you! May he ask the Lord Jesus to give you good strength to complete the time of the fast, and for the joyful anticipation of the feasts of our Lord's incarnation to grow fervently in your hearts and homes. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate and clean the temple.

Please make all contributions by the end of the month for the year. Pledge forms and envelopes will be available next Sunday.

**The Wednesday night Inter-parish book study** via zoom is reading "Orthodox Worship: A Living Continuity with the Synagogue, the Temple, and the Early Church" at 7pm. 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.

The schedule for Nativity/New Year/Theophany services will be released soon. As a member of the Body of Christ in good standing, please schedule a time during this season with Fr. John to give confession and prepare to receive Holy Communion. Confessions can be done virtually, for a time, to accommodate those who are refraining from in person attendance. Fr. John is also willing to have liturgies for the "vulnerable," for those who would not normally attend Sunday during this crisis, or is also willing to bring Holy Communion to you. As always, regular, frequent reception of Communion is encouraged, to strengthen us in virtue and the struggle against the flesh, and to unite ourselves to Christ and His Church. Those receiving weekly should also aim to confess regularly, every 1-3 months or so.

### SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

#### Wed. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>

**9:00am** Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist in Canonsburg, for feast of the conception of St. Anna, Grandmother of Christ

**6:30pm** – Compline & Reading from the 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. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>

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

#### Sat. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>

**4:30pm** – Great vespers, followed by confession

#### Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

**9:00am** – Epistle bible study

**10am** – Divine Liturgy, hours @ 9:40

### Prayer List Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

*Mary Behanna* – in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat

*Sandy Klizas* – in memory of Jean Zajac / in memory of Stephen & Helen Drake / in memory of Frank & June Drake / birthday blessings for Dimitri Petro

*Dimitri & Pauline Petro* – for birthday of cousin, Sandy Klizas / memory of Priscilla Kaluponov on her 40<sup>th</sup> day / for health of Nick, Christine, Alexandra & Nicholas / for health of Adam, Kyra, Luke & Noah / for health of Natalie, Rob, & Stephanie / for health of Tom, Shelley, Russel & Rachel / for health of Fr. Igor / for health of Ted, Joceline, Jonah, Catherine

*Pauline Aitken* – in memory of departed son, Kevin, Grandson, Nicholas, and husband Lee / health of son Bart & Daughter-in-law Tammy

*Michael Horan* – in memory of my beloved wife, Rebecca / for special intentions / for health of Cindy / for safe travel for Janine

*Fr. Igor* – in blessed memory of Mat. Irene / for health of son, Philip

*Mark Soroka* – for health of Father, Fr. Igor

*Sandy Aitken* – in memory of godson Nicholas, dad Lee / health of mother Pauline, Bart, Tamara, Fr. Igor, Fr. Patrick / birthday blessings for sister, Natalie

*Nick & Christine Milchovich* – birthday blessings for Dad, Dimitri Petro / for health of Fr. Igor

*Alexandra & Nicholas Milchovich* – birthday blessings for grandpa

### **Altar Candles Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

Phillip Kaluponov— in memory of Priscilla on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after her repose  
(12/4/2020)

*The Kaluponov Family would like to give a sincere thank you to St. Nicholas Church and to Fr. John for the thoughts, prayers, and services for our beloved mother Priscilla. Memory Eternal!*

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## *The Longing for Christmas Joy*

*“Hope takes on a new meaning this time of the year. It starts with Thanksgiving and it grows with the decorations and the festivities. It is a hope embodied in the words, “O Come, O come Emmanuel...” They strike a chord in the soul, a longing, that defines us.*

*This is the purpose of Advent: to stir up this longing.”*

*–Fr. Peter Kavanaugh*

## *What is the Grace of God?*

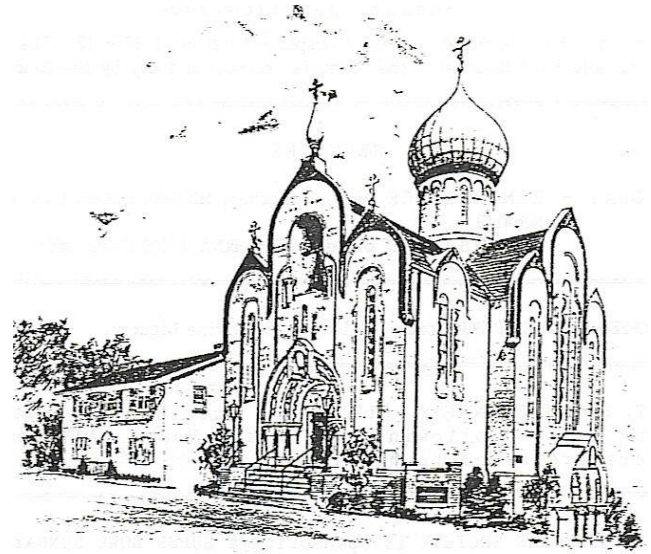
In the physical world many things are invisible to us, but we nevertheless know that they exist – most often due to their consequences. For example, no one sees electricity, but even someone completely skeptical about electricity can feel it. He touches a live wire and he immediately feels a bad shock, and understands that the invisible exists. It is the same with God's grace – it is known not by its essence, because the nature of grace is hidden from us, but by the traces that grace leaves in our lives.

Contemplating this theme, St. Macarius of Egypt teaches: Grace is where reason is; grace is where holiness is; grace is where good will is. That is, grace is realized in the way that it brings man goodness, kindness, peace, comfort, and love. It is through these signs of the presence of God's grace that people recognize what grace is, and by the same experience discern how God reveals himself to people. In other words, divine grace is the presence of God in human life and history; it is the power of God and the light of God, the perception of which is given to us through our spiritual experience. Where and how can we acquire this experience? First of all, we acquire it when we turn our hearts to God and the Lord Himself comes to meet us.

## *The Grace of the Eucharist*

This happens every time we celebrate the Divine Eucharist, when as we break and bless the bread and wine according to the Savior's commandment, we serve in remembrance of Him the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. And through contact with His Body and Blood, the Lord grants us divine grace, which must undoubtedly resound in our hearts, transforming our mind, our will, and our feelings. And when this happens, we feel the presence of the divine in our lives. Every believing person experiences to some degree a particular spiritual state of the soul when he partakes of the Body and Blood of the Savior, when he turns to God with sincere prayer, and the Lord answers that prayer. Each of us is granted a feeling of this, and the understanding that it is a living religious experience, a living experience of faith, and it gives us the opportunity to see and feel divine grace. This means also the presence of God in our lives.

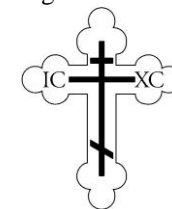
- from the homilies of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow



*“Children, I beseech you to correct your hearts and thoughts, so that you may be pleasing to God. Consider that although we may reckon ourselves to be righteous and frequently succeed in deceiving men, we can conceal nothing from God.”—St. Nicholas of Myra*

## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA  
Organized 1916



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

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