



# ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE AMERICAN CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

288 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10009



## Sunday Divine Liturgy: 10 AM

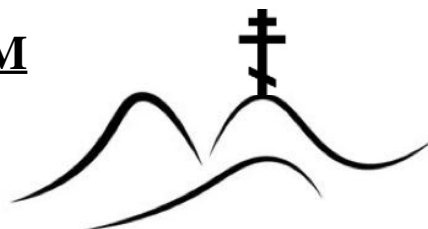
Pastor: Rev. Fr. William Bennett

Cantor & Choir Director: Nicholas Timko

Asst. Cantor: Reader Robert Zizik

Hours: Reader Alexander Ioukliaevskikh

Church Phone #: 212-254-6685



Church Website: [www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org](http://www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org) Church Email: [info@stnicholaschurchnyc.org](mailto:info@stnicholaschurchnyc.org)

## WELCOME, ALL ST. NICHOLAS FAITHFUL & VISITORS!

*For Online Streaming Service: 10 minutes prior to service, visit our website ([www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org](http://www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org)) and scroll down and press play on our live service feed. If using a smartphone, use our YouTube Channel: "St. Nicholas of Myra Orthodox Church NYC"*

*At this time, we will livestream only for Lenten services, Saturday evening Vespers & Sunday morning Divine Liturgy.*

*Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StNicholas10street](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholas10street) / Follow us on Instagram: "10thSt.Orthodox"*

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 2024: Hieromartyr Clement of Rome

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 Troparia: p 47 (Tone 7)

### TODAY: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th

**HOLY HIEROMARTYR CLEMENT** was the Bishop of Rome from the year 92 AD to 101 AD, when he died a Martyr. He was himself baptized by the Holy Apostle Peter, the founding Bishop of both Rome & Antioch. We carry on several of Clement's own letters today. As such, we refer to him as one of the Apostolic Fathers and among the most dear. In his words: "Let us attend to what is good, pleasing, and acceptable in the sight of Him who formed us. Let us look steadfastly to the blood of Christ, and see how precious that blood is to God, which, having been shed for our salvation, has set the grace of repentance before the whole world." **Holy Father Clement, pray to God for us!**

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be distributed toward the end of Divine Liturgy for all repentant Orthodox Christian faithful who are prepared. *If you would like to make a bread offering for a Liturgy, please see Fr. William.*

**FESTIVE ANOINTING (MIROVANIJE) & BLESSED BREAD** will be offered after Divine Liturgy for all faithful and visitors after Divine Liturgy. *May God grant you all many happy & blessed years!*

**COFFEE HOUR** will take place after Divine Liturgy in the #2 Hall, all are welcome! And a special thank you to everyone who makes it possible to have our coffee hour; our teams, our volunteers, all without fail. God grant them many years! *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

***THE NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES!*** As we travel through the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord by fasting from foods, use this time to slow things down, to fast even more from sin, and give special attention to your daily prayers to God while creating more time with Him and reflection.

***SCHEDULE YOUR CONFESSION:*** Make time for Holy Confession with Fr. William. There can be no growth in the Orthodox Faith without Confession, and it is necessary for your membership in God's Holy Church. These past couple years have been difficult to maintain participation together but the Church is open and the time is now. Father will be available before every Divine Liturgy, you can come early, or at Saturday Vespers services.

**TODAY IS COOKIE WONDERLAND TRANSFORMATION DAY!** Please stay and help us as we empty boxes, cut ribbons, hang decorations, set-up our areas and have fun. We may have a few doughs to roll as well. All hands are needed.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Dawn's Confession Class will meet next week as scheduled with student families; for pre-Confession children, there will be a brief lesson available downstairs on the stage with Stephanie, as she is able.

**WEEKLY POST-CONFESSION SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS @ 7 PM!** Students will meet in the evening online with Fr. William for a 30-minute session with an activity and a lesson. Fr. William sent out an invitation to all parish families with students by email. If you did not receive that invitation, please contact Fr. William immediately.

## **DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8th:**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY - COOKIE WALK BAKING WEEK!**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11th - VESPERS, MEAL, & SCRIPTURE @ 6:30 PM:** We are continuing Vespers services on Wednesdays. Reading materials will be provided from the Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers (4th Century onward) to read on your own and something brief to eat.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14th - DIVINE LITURGY @ 8 AM, St. Mary's Church, NYC**  
- **COOKIE WALK @ 11 AM - 4 PM**  
- **GREAT VESPERS @ 6 PM**

## **NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 2024**

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be distributed toward the end of Divine Liturgy for all repentant Orthodox Christian faithful who are prepared. *If you would like to make a bread offering for a Liturgy, please see Fr. William.*

**VENERATION OF THE HAND CROSS & BLESSED BREAD** will be offered after Divine Liturgy for all faithful and visitors after Divine Liturgy. *May God grant you all many happy & blessed years!*

**ST. NICHOLAS COOKIE WALK! 12 - 3 PM** There will be no formal coffee hour; all are invited to come and participate in the Cookie Walk.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Dawn's Confession Class will meet next week as scheduled with student families; for pre-Confession children, there will be a brief lesson available downstairs on the stage with Stephanie, as she is able.

**WEEKLY POST-CONFESSION SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS @ 7 PM!** Students will meet in the evening next week online with Fr. William for a 30-minute session with an activity and a lesson. Fr. William sent out an invitation to all parish families with students by email. If you did not receive that invitation, please contact Fr. William immediately.

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ST. NICHOLAS DAY BRUNCH:** The Altar Society will be hosting the Annual St. Nicholas Day festivities on December 22nd. The cost is \$20 for a delicious brunch menu. Children 12 and under are free! We will also have games, a raffle, Christmas caroling and a visit by St. Nicholas. Stay tuned for more details.

**WE ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE FLEMINGTON AREA FOOD PANTRY!** With the help and arrangement of Elizabeth Krzyzanowski, we are donating our food collection going forward toward the food pantry in Flemington, NY. The parish will continue to make a dedicated push, please look to purchase something extra on your next grocery trip and bring it to our food bin in the #2 Hall.

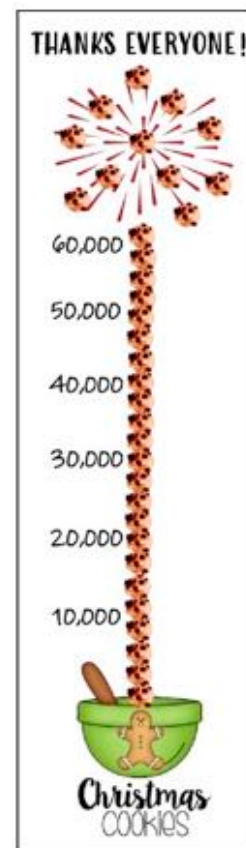
**BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES PRAYER LIST WAS RESET!** There is a birthday/anniversary form in the back of the church for the current church attending and their families. Please fill one out for you and your family to be prayed for in the Divine Liturgy each week when the special occasion comes around. The list was officially reset last Pascha Sunday, May 5th. Submit a copy to the office or hand directly to Fr. William, if you haven't yet.

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## **WELCOME TO COOKIE WALK 2024!**

**IT'S HERE!** Today starts the last week to CW 2024, Dec 14-15th. Some important notes:

- 1) We made it** – we have over 60,000 cookies made and ready to bake with many more to do this upcoming baking week. Thank you to everyone that stayed and rolled doughs these past weekends. We really appreciate you.
- 2) Today is the last day to turn in your pre-order form.** Many thanks for Mary and Amanda K who will be packing all of the pre-orders. You can find them in #2 Hall.
- 3) A big shout-out to Juliana last week as we tried to roll koulourakia, a Greek twist cookie.** Some of us did better than others with Natalie Stack as a bright star. Lorraine and Johnny Gidicsin were exceptional as well. Others, like me (Kim Busel), need a bit more practice. It was a fun adventure and we thank Juliana for sharing her knowledge (and skill) with us.
- 4) TODAY is COOKIE WONDERLAND transformation day.** Please stay and help us as we empty boxes, cut ribbons, hang decorations, set-up our areas and have fun. We may have a few doughs to roll as well. All hands are needed.
- 5) Have you signed up for Baking Week yet? Please see Bogdan or John Busel.** We start baking tomorrow in 3 shifts. Everyone is welcome – no baking experience needed! We will be providing a nutritious lunch each day (thank you Father William!). There will be snacks and drinks available throughout the day.
- 6) There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Hall for volunteers to work the Cookie Walk** by designated area. Please make sure your name is there or sign-up where you would like



to be. This is very important. If we do not know you are coming, I cannot promise to find you a place immediately. Not going to be here this Sunday? Email me (kimbusel@gmail.com) and I will let you know what's available.

**7) Parents with little ones – we will have an area for you in the Main Hall** (room next to the stage on the left) where you can hang out and be near the action. We will have activities and crafts for little hands.

## **CW WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

**Dec 14th – Arrive 9:00 - 9:30 am** if you want to pack a box or two prior to the opening. We will be closing the pre-order area by 10:00 am so we can clean-up and prepare for 11:00 am opening. For those who are not packing boxes, please arrive by 10:00 am.

**10:30 am – Prayer and group picture**

**11:00 am – Opening** – For those who have not been at the Cookie Walk, the first few hours are crazy. We normally have a line outside and inside. Every year is different but based on the website traffic (stnicholascookiewalk.com) to date, it should be a great year!

**Noon – Lunch will be available in #2 Hall.** Please do not leave your area until someone comes to take your place. We will have floaters who will relieve you for a break. Thanks.

**4:00 pm – Closing.** Please plan to stay for 15-30 minutes after to help clean the hall and prepare for the next day.

**Dec. 15th - Opening after the conclusion of Liturgy – 3 pm.** This is a more laid-back day, except in the kids areas – and those tend to be more crowded. Please plan to stay until 4:00 to clean, pack boxes and turn the hall back to its normal configuration. While some decorations remain, we need to get the hall ready for St. Nicholas Day the following weekend.



## **RAISING YOUR CHILDREN IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT:**

### **Homily on the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**

By St. Luke, Archbishop of Crimea (1958)

*From statistical data on people who have reached extreme old age, we learn that there are especially many of them among those living in the high mountains of the Caucasus, Azerbaijan, and other high-elevation regions. Even in our time, there is an extraordinary elder somewhere in Azerbaijan who has reached the age of 150, and centenarians there are quite common.*

*What explains this remarkable influence of high mountains on human longevity? Undoubtedly, it is largely due to the fact that mountain dwellers spend their lives breathing the purest air and subsist mainly on dairy products and the meat of healthy sheep. In contrast, in vast cities with populations reaching millions, people breathe air that is far from healthy, laden with miasma from various infectious diseases. Many also live in apartments and houses contaminated with tuberculosis bacteria, which are extremely difficult to eradicate. Towering multi-story buildings block the life-giving rays of the sun. Moreover, the diet of city dwellers is, of course, much poorer in quality than the food consumed by those living in high mountain regions.*

*It is therefore entirely understandable that the lifespan of city residents is much shorter than that of mountain people and even of peasants living in healthy and sunlit villages.*



*But it is not only the life of the body that matters to us; the conditions in which the spiritual life of children, adolescents, and youth develops are of utmost importance. The influence of the social environment in which they grow up is crucial. The spiritual growth of children and young people of both genders sometimes depends entirely on the example set by parents and other close individuals. Children of drunkards, thieves, and bandits—whose way of life is even more destructive than tuberculosis bacilli or the microbes of any other infectious disease—are often morally and spiritually ruined. Children are deeply impressionable, and everything they see and hear around them leaves a lasting mark on their minds and hearts.*



*What I have just described was well understood—not in words, but in the purity of their hearts—by the parents of the Most Holy Theotokos, the righteous Joachim and Anna. In their wisdom, they ensured that their little daughter Mary was placed in the most favorable circumstances for her upbringing in holiness, purity, and the fear of God.*

*Though it must have been incredibly difficult for them to part with the little daughter granted to them by God after decades of childlessness, they brought her to the House of the Lord. There, she was received by the priest Zacharias, the future father of John the Forerunner, who, by divine inspiration, dared to perform an unprecedented act: He brought her not only into the sanctuary of the temple, where only priests entered, but even into its holiest part, separated by a heavy veil and called the Holy of Holies, into which only the high priest could enter once a year, with sacrificial blood at that.*

*Here once stood the greatest of sacred treasures—the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the tablets given by God on Mount Sinai to the great prophet Moses, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the vessel of manna. Its ultimate fate remains unknown, but most likely, it was lost during the destruction by Nebuchadnezzar of the First Jerusalem Temple.*

*The young Most Holy Virgin Mary was granted permission by the priest Zacharias to enter the Holy of Holies daily and to pray there in the unseen presence of God’s angels. She lived in one of the small rooms built against the temple’s outer walls. These modest rooms housed those who had dedicated themselves to God, as well as unfortunate and destitute souls who needed care. It was among these needy ones that the Most Holy Theotokos lived, serving them daily with her labor and her love.*

*For her deeds of mercy, she was always surrounded by the love of those she cared for, and she lived for twelve years in this atmosphere of love. Every day, she prayed at length in the temple, breathing the pleasing fragrance of the prayers of the faithful and the incense rising from the altar. The holy and pure atmosphere of the temple was as beneficial for her spiritual growth as the pure air of high mountains is for the bodily health and longevity of mountain people. She was surrounded not by people with impure and wicked hearts, but by the good and God-fearing, who formed her blessed community, sanctified by God.*

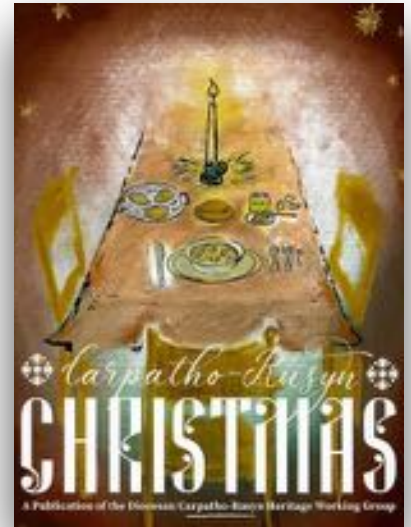
*In this environment, the Holy Virgin Mary grew and blossomed, like a resplendent flower exuding a fragrance pleasing to God and mankind. In her, the foundation was laid for her to become, in time, More Honorable than the Cherubim and Beyond Compare More Glorious than the Seraphim. O you, my beloved Christians, always remember the holy and righteous Joachim and Anna, who so wisely raised their God-given Daughter. Strive to create favorable conditions for your own children to grow in holiness, righteousness, and goodness. May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, help you in this work pleasing to Him. Amen.*

*(Taken from [www.orthochristian.com](http://www.orthochristian.com))*





**LEFT: GET YOUR 100th ANNIVERSARY CHURCH CALENDAR TODAY!** Those at the Kermeš were treated to a calendar designed with the help of Mike Kormanik & Justina Ryan, and were generously printed & donated by the (Patrick) Ryan Family in honor of Anna & Michael Salony's 50th Wedding Anniversary.



**RIGHT: PURCHASE A NEWLY-RELEASED CARPATHO-RUSYN CHRISTMAS BOOK!** Put together by the Diocesan Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Working Group, headquartered here at the parish, this is a beautiful work. It is for sale at the gift case for \$15.



## **ST. NICHOLAS MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Thank you to Matt Stack & Rich Vislocky again for pulling this report together for the parish month after month. This provides a helpful snapshot of the financial health of the parish. The more we contribute, the more that becomes possible for as a parish family, with God's help. God bless what you do!

### ***Income/Expense Report for November of 2024:***

**INCOME:** \$21,126  
**EXPENSES:** \$14,501  
**SURPLUS/(DEFICIT):** \$6,625

### ***Income/Expense Report for the last 12 Months (Dec. 2023 - Nov. 2024)***

**INCOME:** \$223,772  
**EXPENSES:** \$219,871  
**SURPLUS/(DEFICIT):** \$3,901



## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

### **CHANGE OF SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY START TIME, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 5th, 2025: ~~10:00 AM~~ 9:30 AM**

With the city announcing again the start-up of NYC Congestion Pricing as of Sunday January 5th, regular Sunday Divine Liturgy will be moved up half an hour to 9:30 AM.

**Plan to enter southern Manhattan (below 60th St) before 9 AM, when Peak Hours begin with a charge of \$9 for each passenger vehicle, in addition to regular tolls.**

Parishioners are also encouraged to travel together whenever possible and to be there for one another if there is a financial burden. Please note that on weekdays, Peak Hour charges begin at 5 AM. During all Peak Hours, E-ZPass holders through the tunnels will receive up a \$3 credit on the \$9 charge. All travelers will be charged only once per day. A Low-Income Discount Plan and a Low-Income Tax Credit for residents was also announced; go to <https://www.portal.311.nyc.gov> and search "Congestion Pricing Program" to learn more.



## **ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PRAYER LIST**

*For additions or updates, please contact Fr. William directly: [fr.william.bennett@gmail.com](mailto:fr.william.bennett@gmail.com)*

**CONTINUOUS:** Matuska Olga Andrejuk, David Bulko, Kim Busel, Peter & Maria Ceselka, Tony Ceselka, Stephanie Downes, Mary & Tommy Fackovec, Gia Fazio, John Geida, Julius Gontkovsky, Olga Gubinski, Diana Hannan, Todd Henderson, Priest Joseph Hoffmann, Noah Homyak, Aleksandra Horbal, Luke Iera, Magdalena Ilanovska, Jana Johnson-Plutchok, Michael Kerr, Paul Koehler, Joanna Kolaczko, Maria Koneval, Michal Kormanik, Alex & Holly Marchak, Luboš Matlak, Richard McCullough, Christine Merriam, Sean Merriam, Christine & Rick Martines, Lucia Matišinova, Troy Oset, Nadežda Bulikova Petrikova, Deacon Michael Pirich, Gregory Rydzyk, Rastislav Salon, John Salony, Mary Seewald, George & Ondrej Sikorjak, Paul Sikoryak Sr, Toni Sikoryak, George Sipko, Michael Slavkovsky, Miroslav Strenk, Katherine Tam, Teri Upton, Tim Upton, Marek Vattek, Ann Vislocky, Bill Vislocky, Sandy Wagner, Cathryn Walker, Dennis & Cathy Walsh, and Reader Bob & Debbie Zizik.

### **CATECHUMENS:**

Ricardo Sullivan	Nathan Deutsch
John Stutts	Daniel Lai
Rachel Soh Young Yi	Maryam Gueye

### **EXPECTANT PARENTS:**

Max & Melia Walker

### **DIOCESAN CLERGY:**

Priest David Mastroberte  
Priest Luke Mihaly  
Protodeacon Emil Gulick

### **DEANERY CLERGY:**

Priest Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh (NY, NY)  
Priest David Kossey (Yonkers, NY), for his Health and Salvation  
Priest Andrew Gromm (Seaford, NY)

**SEMINARIANS:** Seamus Murray, Ignatios Leonardo, Nicholas Fong, Nicolas Laliberte, & Alexander Hurtsellers. The newly-graduated Nicholas Worobey & Samuel Loposky! *That God may grant them many more blessed years, and for more vocations to the Priesthood!*

**COLLEGE STUDENTS:** May God bless all of our parish college students both near & far, and members of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), especially the NYU OCF & Rutgers OCF. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

**BIRTHDAYS:** May God grant many more happy & blessed years to those celebrating their birthdays this week, especially to Abigail Petrik! Belated wishes to Anastasia Fontanez & Davion Spontak. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

### **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:**

For the newly-added Priest Andrew Fetchina, Anne McCartney, and Christina Sakmar. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*  
For the servant of God Thomas Fackovec, for his health and salvation. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*  
For the servant of God & Priest Frank Miloro, newly-retired Chancellor of our Diocese. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*  
For the servant of God & Priest Stephen Loposky, newly-appointed Chancellor of our Diocese. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*  
For the departed handmaid of God Maria Vislocky as a 53rd Anniversary Remembrance. *Vičnaja Jej Pamjat!*

## **O HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!**





# CHURCH SERVICE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

**Note from Fr. William:** If you would like anyone remembered or prayed for during the course of the week or would like someone remembered in a memorial service, please see Fr. William or simply email: [fr.william.bennett@gmail.com](mailto:fr.william.bennett@gmail.com)

## DEC 2024 - JAN 2025

\*Shaded areas indicate days of fasting

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>DEC 8</b> <i>Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM</i> - <i>Cookie Walk</i> <i>Transformation Day!</i>	9   <i>CW</i> <i>BAKING</i> <i>WEEK</i>	10   <i>CW</i> <i>BAKING</i> <i>WEEK</i>	11 <i>Vespers, Meal,</i> <i>&amp; Scripture</i> <i>@ 6 PM</i> - <i>CW</i> <i>BAKING</i> <i>WEEK</i>	12   <i>CW</i> <i>BAKING</i> <i>WEEK</i>	13   <i>CW</i> <i>BAKING</i> <i>WEEK</i>	14 <i>Divine Liturgy</i> <i>@ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>ST. NICHOLAS</i> <i>COOKIE WALK @</i> <i>11 AM - 4 PM</i> - <i>Great Vespers</i> <i>@ 6 PM</i>
<b>DEC 15</b> <i>Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM</i> - <i>ST. NICHOLAS COOKIE</i> <i>WALK @ 12 PM - 3 PM</i>	16	17	18 <i>Vespers &amp;</i> <i>Divine Liturgy</i> <i>@ 6 PM</i>	19 <i>FEAST OF</i> <i>ST.</i> <i>NICHOLAS</i> <i>OF MYRA</i>	20	21 <i>Divine Liturgy</i> <i>@ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>Great Vespers</i> <i>@ 6 PM</i>
<b>DEC 22</b> <i>Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM</i> - <i>ST. NICHOLAS DAY</i> <i>BRUNCH</i>	23	24	25 <i>*No Services</i>	26	27 <i>OCF</i> <i>COLLEGE</i> <i>CONF.</i>	28 <i>OCF</i> <i>COLLEGE</i> <i>CONF.</i> - <i>*No Services</i>
<b>DEC 29</b> <i>Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM,</i> <i>Served by Fr. Alexandre</i> <i>Ioukliaevskikh</i> - <i>OCF COLLEGE CONF.</i>	30 <i>OCF</i> <i>COLLEGE</i> <i>CONF.</i>	31	<b>JAN 1</b> <i>Vespers, Meal,</i> <i>&amp; Scripture</i> <i>@ 6 PM</i>	2	3	4 <i>Divine Liturgy</i> <i>@ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>Great Vespers</i> <i>@ 6 PM</i>

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/acroddioecese](http://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/acrodnews> YouTube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioecese>

