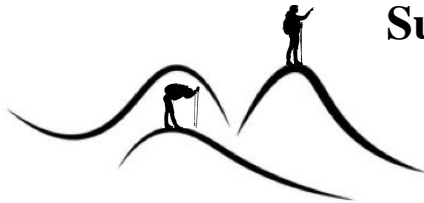




ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

288 E. 10th Street, New York, NY 10009



Sunday Divine Liturgy: **9:30 AM**

Pastor: Rev. Fr. William Bennett

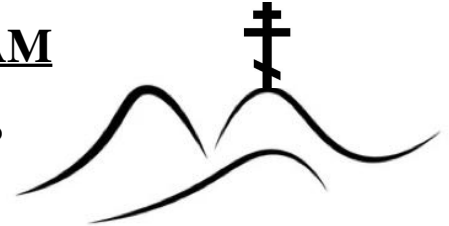
Cantor & Choir Director: Nicholas Timko

Asst. Cantor: Reader Robert Zizik

Hours: Reader Alexander Ioukliaevskikh

Church Phone #: 212-254-6685

Church Website: www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org Church Email: info@stnicholaschurchnyc.org



WELCOME, ALL ST. NICHOLAS FAITHFUL & VISITORS!

For Online Streaming Service: 10 minutes prior to service, visit our website (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 / Follow us on Instagram: "10thSt.Orthodox"

January 5th & 12th, 2024: Two-Week Bulletin

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5th, 2025: Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 **Gospel:** Matthew 1:1-25 **Troparia:** p 43 (Tone 3), p 107-8

THE HOLY FATHERS are celebrated in the Church on the Sunday before the Nativity, on the occasion of the reading of the genealogy of Christ from the Gospel of Matthew. This day, we honor all that came before Him, all in the awareness that as we are living in the days SINCE Christ's Birth, their days were simply UNTIL His Birth. Holy Fathers, intercede for us!

SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY MOVED UP TO 9:30 AM! In respect of the congestion pricing taking effect this weekend in NYC, parishioners are encouraged to cross into Manhattan (below 60th street) before 9 AM from here on in order to avoid higher charges. Please see the expanded announcement in the bulletin for more.

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.*

THE VENERATION 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!*

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM! CHRISTOS RAŽDAJETSJA! SLAVITE JEHO!

THE NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES! *As we travel through the Fast 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.*

PANACHIDA will be celebrated for the servants of God +Michael (23 yrs) & Anna Vislocky Salony (12 yrs), offered by daughters Merka, Helenka, & Stephanie as an anniversary remembrance. May their memory be eternal! *Vičnaja Jim Pamjat!*

COFFEE HOUR will take place after Divine Liturgy. A special thank you to everyone who makes it possible have coffee hour without fail, especially to our teams and Sunday regulars. *If you are not a part of a coffee hour team and would like to be, please see Debbie Derevjanik.*

A NATIVITY HYMNS CLASS W/ PANI ILEANA will take place in the choir loft toward the end of coffee hour. This is *perfect* for anyone wanting to better learn the church's carols and hymns. See you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME: Dawn's Confession Class will meet 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 RESUMES @ 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.

FOR NATIVITY: BRING A DESSERT! The Altar Society is pulling together the special coffee hour on Nativity, please bring a dessert to offer for the celebration. *God grant our Altar Society members and all those who make our coffee hours possible many happy & blessed years! Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5th:

MONDAY, JANUARY 6th - ROYAL HOURS FOR THE NATIVITY @ 8 AM

- NATIVITY EVE VIGIL @ 7 PM; NATIVITY EVE SUPPER, TO FOLLOW

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7th - ST. BASIL DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30 AM, FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8th - VESPERS, MEAL, & SCRIPTURE @ 6:30 PM: We are continuing Vespers services on Wednesdays, followed by a brief meal and reading. Starting this week, we are continuing our reading on God's Revelation to the Human Heart by Seraphim Rose. All are welcome to attend!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11th - DIVINE LITURGY @ 8 AM, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, 7th ST, NYC

- GREAT VESPERS @ 6 PM



Office of the Metropolitan

*312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906*

CHRISTMAS ARCHPASTORAL LETTER

December 25, 2024/January 7, 2025

Protocol. No. 8/2024

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

As we celebrate this joyous Feast of the Nativity in the flesh of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, I wish to share with you one of my favorite Christmas homilies from the Church Fathers concerning this day. St. John Chrysostom spoke on the Incarnation with these words:

"I behold a new and wondrous mystery!

My ears resound to the shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but loudly chanting a heavenly hymn!

The angels sing!

The archangels blend their voices in harmony!

The cherubim resound their joyful praise!

The Seraphim exalt His glory!

All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead herein... on earth and man in heaven. He who is above now, for our salvation, dwells here below; and we, who were lowly, are exalted by divine mercy!

Today Bethlehem resembles heaven, hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices and, in place of the sun, witnessing the rising of the Sun of Justice!

Ask not how this is accomplished, for where God wills, the order of nature is overturned. For He willed He had the powers He descended. He saved. All things move in obedience to God.

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Today He Who Is, is born! And He Who Is becomes what He was not! For when He was God, He became man-while not relinquishing the Godhead that is His...

And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him angels, nor archangels, nor thrones, nor dominions, nor powers, nor principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He has come forth from a spotless womb.

Yet He has not forsaken His angels, nor left them deprived of His care, nor because of His incarnation has He ceased being God. And behold *Kings* have come, that they might serve the Leader of the Hosts of Heaven; *women*, that they might adore Him Who was born of a woman so that He might change the pains of childbirth into joy; *virgins*, to the Son of the Virgin...

Infants, that they may adore Him who became a little child, so that out of the mouths of infants He might perfect praise;

Children, to the Child who raised up martyrs through the rage of Herod; Men, to Him who became man that He might heal the miseries of His servants;

Shepherds, to the Good Shepherd who was laid down His life for His sheep;

Priests, to Him who has become a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek;

Servants, to Him who took upon Himself the form of a servant, that He might bless our stewardship with the reward of freedom (Philippians 2:7);

Fishermen, to the Fisher of humanity;

Publicans, to Him who from among them named a chosen evangelist;

Sinful women, to Him who exposed His feet to the tears of the repentant woman;

And that I may embrace them all together, all sinners have come, that they may look upon the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

Since, therefore, all rejoice, I too desire to rejoice! I too wish to share the choral dance, to celebrate the festival! But I take my part, not plucking the harp nor with the music of the pipes nor holding a torch, but holding in my arms the cradle of Christ!

For this is all my hope!

This is my life!

This is my salvation!

This is my pipe, my harp!

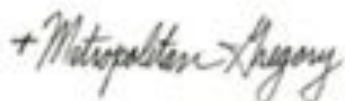
And bearing it, I come, and having from its power received the gift of speech, I too, with the angels and shepherds, sing:

"Glory to God in the Highest! and on earth peace to men of good will." Amen.

Personal Greetings

May, you, the Priests and Panis, Deacons, Subdeacons, Readers, Parish Officers, Parishioners, (young and old) Friends and Supporters of our God-protected American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese experience the joy and wonder of the Shepherds and the awe and respect of the Three Wise Men at the arrival of Messiah, our Newborn King. Christ is Born!

Greetings from Johnstown with much love.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "+ Metropolitan Gregory".

+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

To be read as the sermon and distributed in all Churches of the Diocese at the Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th, 2025: Sunday after Nativity/Righteous Joseph, King David, & Apostle James, Cousin of our Lord

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 **Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-23 **Troparia:** p 115-7

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.*

HOLY 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!*

PANACHIDA will take place after Divine Liturgy for the servants of God +Mary & John Kmech, John Kmech Jr., & Joseph Kmech, offered by Anna Kmech Lasley. *May their memory be eternal! Vičnaja Jim Pamjat!*

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: 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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SPONSOR NATIVITY ITEMS! Every year, we make a list of 'donatable' items towards our Nativity celebration and we list them and their intentions. That list is in the office and still has lots of room. Make a donation today!

~~14 Decorated Altar Candles~~

~~6 Main Altar Candles~~

~~Triple Bar Cross (Lord's Side)~~

~~Triple Bar Cross (Virgin Mary's Side)~~

~~2 Large Side Altar Candles (Right)~~

2 Large Side Altar Candles (Left)

Vigil Light

Vigil Light

Sacramental Wine

Festive Oil

4 Red Vigil Lights (Vigil Stands)

Eternal Lamp

Charcoal

~~Altar Boys Candles~~

Incense

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.



PEACE ON EARTH - A REFLECTION ON THE NATIVITY

By +Metropolitan Nicholas Smisko, of Thrice-Blessed Memory, Former Pastor of St. Nicholas Church

At this special time of the Christian year, we thrill to hear the story of the birth of Christ. St. Luke's account of the Angel's announcement of this good news to the shepherds closes with these words: "And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men of good will" (Luke 2:14)

This 'peace' was not a dream of the angels. It was a real message from God to man. It was the embodiment of a divine and providential plan for human life. This plan was for charity and justice among all people, for as the great apostle of Gentiles wrote to the people of Corinth, "...God is not the God of dissension but of peace." (I Corinthians 14:33)

It was a solemn promise that God renewed when his Son appeared in the midst of men. Only our sins could destroy that peace which never can be assured to those who make their 'lifetime sins' a stumbling block on this divine highway to heaven.

With the spectacle of warring nations before us in these present days, we are tempted to despair; yet the day of hope is on its way. On that day, even the greatest sinner will listen to St. Paul saying, "For the rest, brethren, rejoice, be perfect, take exhortation, be of one mind, have peace, and the God of peace and of love will be with you " (2 Corinthians 13:11).

This peace among men was a gift of God. It was a gift that "surpassed all understanding". But like every gift, it could be subject to abuse. It could also be misunderstood, sold out, broken and betrayed. In fact, peace has been subjected to all these. There have always been men and women who were anxious to conceal their real will and befoul this peace-gift from God. They came, the little and the great, the leaders and the led, often without power or influence, but also always without compassion, trying to persuade their respective generations that peace was just a dream of the angels and of Christ. They have come in every generation, and the present is no exception

But peace was a promise and not a dream! It was a solemn promise that God renewed when His Son appeared in the midst of men. We read this in the Acts of the Apostles: "God sent the word to the children of Israel preaching peace by Jesus Christ" (Acts 10:36). Only the sins of men could destroy it, and men have tried ever since.

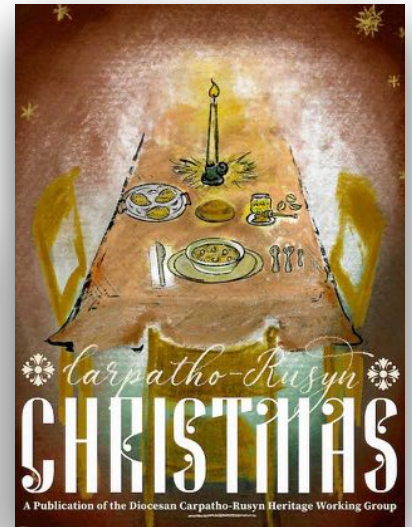
There is in every person a desire for peace in his own soul. There is the desire for peace with man; there is the desire for peace with God. To have it, we must listen and obey, and become hopeful and courageous. We must believe with the supreme faith of St. Paul, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

It is in this strength of Christ that we find our peace. It is only in His principles of charity and justice that it can be bought, and then men of good will become men of God's will.

Beginning with this Christmas Day, men and women of good will, cultivate peace in your hearts with God and with your fellow human beings. Millions of such hearts will make peace in the nation and in the world. To you, men and women of good will, consider the advice of the Blessed Augustine to the early Christians: "This peace, the very name of which you so love and cherish, go after it, desire it, love it in your homes, in your wives, in your children, in your servants, in your friends and in your enemies".



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 of Myra Orthodox Church
cordially invites you to our
Puščaňa
Krojova Žabava
a Rusyn Prelenten Celebration
Saturday, March 1, 2025
St. Nicholas Church Hall
288 East 10th Street, New York City
Elevator entrance on Avenue A
8:00 PM - 2:00 AM
Music By: *Vox Ethnika*
Buffet Dinner, Desserts, Coffee,
Midnight Snack & Open Bar
Adults: \$125 Children 16 and under \$75
Tickets available through February 22, 2025
Magda Matlak Danuta Horbal Helena Gajdos
718-373-2279 347-724-9944 917-498-9556
No Tickets Sold at the Door
Please dress in your Kroj or Ethnic Attire



**LEFT: LOOK FORWARD
TO A PRE-LENTEN
CELEBRATION WITH
THE PARISH! SEE YOU
THERE!**

ANNOUNCEMENT:

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

With the start-up of NYC Congestion Pricing as of Sunday January 5th, regular Sunday Divine Liturgy is 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

CONTINUOUS: Matuska Olga Andrejuk, David Bulko, Kim Busel, Peter & Maria Ceselka, Tony Ceselka, Stephanie Downes, Mary & Tommy Fackovec, Gia Fazio, Priest Andrew Fetchina, 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

John Stutts

Rachel Soh Young Yi

Nathan Deutsch

Daniel Lai

Maryam Gueye

Yoelvi Maria

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 & next week, especially to Matthew Stack, Debbie Derevjanik, & Kevin Ryan! And to Michael McAusland, Jessica Kormanik, & Luke Petricha! *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

SPECIAL INTENTIONS:

For the servants of God +Michael (23 yrs) & Anna Vislocky Salony (12 yrs). *Vičnaja Jim Pamjat!*



FOLLOW THE DIOCESE ONLINE:

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/acroddioecese

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



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

JAN - FEB 2025

*Shaded areas indicate days of fasting

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>JAN 5</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM </div> <p style="text-align: center;">- <i>Panachida for +Michael & Anna Salony</i> - <i>Nativity Hymns Practice w/ Pani Ileana</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Royal Hours @ 8 AM</i> - <i>Nativity Eve Vigil @ 7 PM, Holy Night Supper, to follow.</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - <i>Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM</i></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>Great Vespers @ 6 PM</i></p>
<p>JAN 12</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM</i> - <i>Panachida for +Mary & John, John Jr., & Joseph Kmech</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Great Vespers & Divine Liturgy @ 6 PM</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD/ ST. BASIL THE GREAT</p>	<p>15</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>Theophany Vigil w/ Blessing of Water @ 6 PM</i></p>
<p>JAN 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>FEAST OF THEOPHANY</u> <i>Baptism of Nathan Deutsch & Daniel Lai @ 9 AM</i> - <i>Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM</i> - <i>Parastas for +John Ochlan</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>Great Vespers @ 6 PM</i></p>
<p>JAN 26</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM</i></p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>FEB 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>Great Vespers @ 6 PM</i></p>

TRZASKA FUNERAL HOME, INC.

ALEXANDER MARCHAK, JR. – Licensed Funeral Director & Owner

Services available whenever and wherever needed

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