

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: 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

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 7th & 14th, 2024: Two-Week Bulletin

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th: FEAST OF THE NATIVITY!

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 **Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12 **Troparia:** p 109-11

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT will be served at 10 AM. It is a rare pleasure to celebrate our Lord's Nativity on a Sunday and every year, we look forward to the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

HOLY COMMUNION is 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 OIL (*MIROVANIJE*) & **BLESSED BREAD** will offered after Divine Liturgy to all faithful and visitors. The blessed bread comes from Holy Protection Monastery in White Haven, PA, blessed during Nativity Eve Vigil last night. *May God grant to all many happy & blessed years!*

COFFEE/DESSERT HOUR: A special thank you to the Altar Society and all contributors for organizing and providing delicious desserts for everyone to enjoy today. After Liturgy, join us in our Main Hall downstairs for fellowship!

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



Office of the Metropolitan 312 Garfield Street Johnstown, PA 15906

CHRISTMAS ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE December 25, 2023 / January 7, 2024

Protocol No. 10/2023

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today I greet you with great joy and love in the Name of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us give thanks to Almighty God, by whose grace we have been given this opportunity to celebrate the Birth of His Son.

As we look around ourselves, we find mistrust, suffering, hatred, homelessness, drug overdoses, crime, and senseless killings and the absence of peace and love in our homes, neighborhoods, cities, country and in fact the whole world. This reality in our lives makes us to want to cry out for God's help, assistance and intervention.

My beloved ones, despite all the suffering, sorrow and injustice in our world, today we rejoice because hope comes to us once again. This is why at this blessed time of the year we look forward to the arrival of the new born King.

Therefore, let us celebrate the miracle of His Birth. Let kindness come with every gift. Let compassion, forgiveness and love come with every greeting. Let our hearts be filled with prayer, charity, and reconciliation for one another.

May all of us, Priests, Panis, Deacons, Sub-Deacons, Readers, Acolytes, Archons, Parish Officers, Teachers, Parishioners (young and old), Friends and Supporters of our God-protected Diocese experience the joy and wonders of the Shepherds and the awe and respect of the Three Wise Men at the arrival of the Messiah, our new born King. Christ is Born!

Greetings from Johnstown with much love,

+ Metropolitan X hegory

+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

To be read as the sermon 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.

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

ETERNAL MEMORY! May God grant eternal rest to the handmaiden of God +Helen Kindya Lewis, who reposed the Lord on the night of Thursday, January 4th. Services for Helen will take place this week: Wednesday viewing hours between 2-5 PM and 7-9 PM at Scarpaci Funeral Home, Parastas at 8 PM. Funeral service will be Thursday at St. Nicholas Church at 10:30 AM, with burial at Green Wood Cemetery to follow. *May her memory be eternal! Vičnaja Jej Pamjat!*

DURING THE WEEK

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10th - Daily Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM (Cancelled this week)

- Parastas @ 8 PM: +Helen Kindya Lewis, Scarpaci Funeral Home, 1401 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Viewing from 2-5 PM, 7-9 PM.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11th - Funeral Service @ 10:30 AM: +Helen Kindya Lewis, burial at Green Wood Cemetery to follow.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13th - Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's Church)

- Great Vespers @ 6 PM
- New Year's Celebration @ 8 PM, Sirico's Catering, Brooklyn, NY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14th: SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY/ THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD/ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12 **Gospel:** Luke 2:20-21; 40-52 **Troparia:** p 115-117 (Sunday After), p 117-119 (Feast & St. Basil)

THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD is a celebration of our Lord and Savior's entrance under the Law of Israel, the same Law that He gave from Mt. Sinai; the Law-Giver place Himself under the Law, being that same Law to Whom we bind ourselves and grow in the life-giving grace of God. It was on this day that He was circumcised as a sign, but also received His Name and laid in the arms of Righteous Simeon, who spoke those words we hymn every Vespers: "Now let your servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people. A light of revelation for the gentiles, and the glory of Your people, Israel." Simeon would go on to warn the Mother of God that a sword would pierce her heart also, foreshadowing our Lord's Passion & Crucifixion, and the Prophetess Anna who worshipped day and night at the Temple began to tell all about the Child and the redemption He would bring.

THE BAPTISM OF THE CHILD OF GOD ANASTASIA MARIE FONTANEZ will take place at 9:30 AM before Divine Liturgy. All are encouraged to come early to celebrate with Anastasia's family and to offer prayers for Anastasia Marie on the day she enters into the Body of Christ, God's Holy Church.

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT will be served at 10 AM. It is another rare pleasure to celebrate the Liturgy of St. Basil, this time on his Feast Day.

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 OIL (*MIROVANIJE*) & BLESSED BREAD will offered after Divine Liturgy to all faithful and visitors. *May God grant to all many happy & blessed years!*

COFFEE HOUR will be generously provided by the the family of the newly-Baptized Anastasia, supported by parish friends and additional family. A special thank you to everyone who make 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*.

DURING THE WEEK

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17th - Daily Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM: Anyone and everyone with time during the week is welcome to come for a brief vespers service, to enjoy some homemade food, and to learn scripture together for a little while. For those who stay, we will continue study of the Psalms through Christ in the Psalms, by Fr. Patrick Reardon, available for \$25.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18th - Royal Hours for Theophany @ 9 AM
- Theophany Eve Vigil @ 6 PM, w/ Great Blessing of Water

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th - Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM, the Feast of the Theophany of our Lord!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th - Home Blessings Begin! (No Services)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st: SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 **Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-17 **Troparia:** p 48 (Tone 8), p 123-24 (Sunday After)

THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD is the great and wonderful moment where Jesus of Nazareth came under the hands of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John in Baptism. Baptism as we know it now is entrance into the Body of Christ but at that time, it was an act of repentance in asking God to wash away our iniquity. Now, the One through Whom all sin is cleansed passes through the cleansing waters of repentance, not needing it Himself but vesting Himself in ALL creation by it as He takes on sin & death itself. In that moment, the waters of the Jordan River turn back just as death itself will turn back. This celebration of the Theophany of our Lord is even older than the celebration of our Lord's Nativity itself, which speaks to the great significance of this moment in the life of the Church and the salvation of Her people.

THE BAPTISM OF THE CHILD OF GOD LUCA MAXIME GRADASSI will take place at 9:30 AM before Divine Liturgy. All are encouraged to come early to celebrate with Luca's family and to offer prayers for Luca on the day he enters into the Body of Christ, God's Holy Church.

THE ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH CHOIR will lead responses to Divine Liturgy that day, led by Choir Director Nicholas Timko. *Anyone wishing to join our choir that day is welcome to join in upstairs!*

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*.

WITH GRATITUDE FOR ALL YOUR NATIVITY DONATIONS

ITEM:	DONATED BY:	FOR:		
14 Decorated Candles on the Altar	Stephanie Salony	In Memory of Parents Michael & Anna Salony		
6 Main Altar Candles	Charles Honara	In Memory of Parents Charles & Helen, and Brother Steven, & Merry Christmas to all!		
Triple Bar Cross of Votives (Lord's Side)	Jan Kormanik & Family	In Memory of Wife & Mother Betty Kormanik		
Triple Bar Cross of Votices (Theotokos Side)	Zizik & Fornazor Families	In Memory of Grandparents M/M Peter Ceselka		
2 Large Side Altar Candles (Christ in Garden)	Bob & Debbie Zizik	In Memory of Parents Frank & Mary Zizik, Uncle John & Aunt Helen Fornazor		
2 Large Side Altar Candles (Baptism of Christ)	M/M Ondrej Sikorjak	In Memory of Sikorjak & Bubniak Families		
Vigil Light - Side Altar (Nativity of Christ)	Lillian Benc	In Memory of the Husband Andrey Benc		
Vigil Light - Side Altar (Resurrection of Christ)	Lillian Benc	In Memory of the Benc, Bulko, & Kramer Families		
Sacramental Wine	M/M Paul Krzyzanowski	In Memory of Father Serge Krzyzanowski		
Festive Oil	Ivette Canjura	In Memory of the Halama Family		
Eternal Lamp Center of Church	M/M Paul Sikoryak & Family	In Memory of John Benyo Jr. on his Birthday		
Charcoal	The McAusland Family	In Memory of the Benc & Bulko Families		
Altar Boy Candles	M/M Vasil Rusinak	For the Health of the Rusinak, Matlak, & Petrik Families		
Incense	The McAusland Family	In Memory of the Benc & Bulko Families		



ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, please contact Fr. William directly: <u>fr.william.bennett@gmail.com</u>

CONTINUOUS: Phyllis Kanya Adams, Matuska Olga Andrejuk, David Bulko, Kim Busel, Peter & Maria Ceselka, Tony Ceselka, Stephanie Downes, Cassandra Eddy, Mary & Tommy Fackovec, Gia Fazio, Helen Gaydos, 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, Michael Kormanik, Anna Mamrillova, Alex & Holly Marchak, Luboš Matlak, Richard McCullough, Stephanie McNellis, Christine Merriam, Sean Merriam, Christine & Rick Martines, Lucia Matišinova, Deacon Michael Pirich, Gregory Rydzyk, Rastislav Salon, John Salony, Mary Seewald, Paul Sikoryak Sr, Toni Sikoryak, George Sipko, Michael Slavkovsky, Miroslav Strenk, Katherine Tam, Teri Upton, Tim Upton, Marek Vattek, Lorraina Vira, Ann Vislocky, Bill Vislocky, Sandy Wagner, Cathryn Walker, Dennis & Cathy Walsh, and Reader Bob & Debbie Zizik.

ENGAGED:

Max Walker & Melia Summers

EXPECTANT:

Robert & Kristin Stack Andrew & Erin Timko

DIOCESAN CLERGY:

Priest David Mastroberte Priest Luke Mihaly Protodeacon Emil Gulick

CATECHUMENS:

Ricardo Sullivan John Stutts Donovan Valencia Rachel Soh Young Yi Nathan Mandell

DEANERY CLERGY:

Priest Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh (NY, NY) Priest David Kossey (Yonkers, NY) Priest Andrew Gromm (Seaford, NY)

SEMINARIANS: Nicholas Worobey, Seamus Murray, Ignatios Leonardo, Samuel Loposky, Timothy Paproski, Nicholas Fong, & Nicolas Laliberte. *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!*

<u>BIRTHDAYS:</u> May God grant many more happy & blessed years to those celebrating their birthdays these weeks, especially to John Rosina, Debbie Derevjanik, Matthew Stack, & Andrew Righetti! To Peter Salony, Michael McAusland, Jessica Kormanik, Luke Petricha, Nikolas Kormanik, Luba Dicova, & John Petricha! *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

ANNIVERSARIES: May God grant many more happy & blessed years to those celebrating their anniversaries these weeks, especially to Mikulas & Anna Derevjanik! *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

SPECIAL INTENTIONS:

The Newly-Departed +Helen Kindya Lewis. Vičnaja Jej Pamjat!

O HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!



OFFICIAL NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH LOCATED AT 288 EAST 10TH STREET NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10009

The regular Annual Meeting of the St. Nicholas of Myra Orthodox Church will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024, at the regular Church Meeting Hall after Church services.

In addition to the regular, old and any new business, election of Church Officers and Trustees will also be held.

The outgoing Officers are:

PRESIDENT - PAUL SIKORYAK
VICE PRESIDENT - JAN GAJDOS
TREASURER - RICH VISLOCKY
FINANCIAL SECRETARY - MAGDA MATLAK
RECORDING SECRETARY - DAWN KRZYZANOWSKI

The outgoing Trustees are:

PAUL SIKORYAK
NICHOLAS TIMKO
ROBERT ZIZIK

Should you want to run for office or wish to nominate someone, it must be done before the meeting. A Nominations Committee consisting of Bogdan Horbal, Matthew Stack and Dawn Krzyzanowski has been established. If you are interested in running or nominating someone for the above referenced positions, contact the Committee as soon as possible.

Respectively Submitted, Dawn Krzyzanowski Recording Secretary

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS COLLECTION: Consider donating an instrument that's still in good-working condition, as I will pass along to those that don't have access to playing instruments due to variety of reasons - lack of availability, limited funding for musical programs, expensive maintenance costs, or just never finding the necessary time to learn (or re-learn) a new skill. With your donation, I will make sure it goes to:



- Band and Choral Groups that need to replace or enhance their ensembles.
- Schools and Community Youth Organizations that have limited access.
- Elder-Care Communities that fondly recall playing instruments or learning a new skill.

Thank you for your generous support in helping me spread my joy and love of playing music to as many as possible. - Michael McAusland

CONTINUE TO HELP US WITH DRINK DONATIONS! We are so grateful to the teams for providing refreshments each week. As we all have seen, food and supply prices have gone up. To help our teams, we are asking you for a little help. While *shopping*, can you pick up a ready to pour (non-refrigerated) tea gallon, lemonade from the juice aisle, or a case of 8 oz bottled waters? Thank you!

WE ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE FLEMINGTON AREA FOOD PANTRY! With the help and arrangement of Elizabeth Krzyzanowski, we will be 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.



THE BOOK OF GENEALOGY

On Matthew 1:1-25, the Gospel Reading from the Sunday Before Nativity By Bishop Mitrophan (Znosko-Borovsky)

From the mouth of the apostle and evangelist Matthew, we have heard the "Genealogy of Jesus Christ." This seemingly dry Gospel reading expresses the idea of the kinship between God and man. According to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures, kinship with God is an indispensable characteristic of man, who is inseparably both "spirit" and "flesh." This position is primary to man's being, and it ceased to exist through the fault of man himself, the first Adam. Man himself was unable to return to this primary norm of life, and Christ comes to restore what has been broken. The current Gospel says that God the Creator, through His Son, has brought us closer to Himself. Today's Gospel says that God returns to man the dignity he has lost.

Is it not for this reason that the Church now calls us to meet the approaching feast of Theophany and the Nativity of Christ in penitential joy? Think, dear ones, is this not joy? The Creator Himself, when He took on our flesh, was not ashamed to call people like us His kinsmen, His brothers! He is not ashamed to call us His brothers, says St. Paul. Tell me, dear ones—many people are talking about the dignity of man today, but in the entire history of mankind, when and by whom was man so exalted as Christianity exalts him?

The feast of the Nativity of Christ is approaching. Remember, dear ones, about the Creator of the feast. Think about the fact that He came to you to adopt you to God the Father, so that you may become children of God, brothers of Christ. Prepare your hearts for the celebration with repentance, purity, gifts of love and mercy, so that the heart of each of you becomes a cradle in which our Savior Christ may lay down.

Are we all children of God, can we all call ourselves brothers of Christ? The apostolic reading that we heard today, listing the righteous ones of the Old Testament, the ancestors in the flesh of Jesus Christ, shows us by their examples how we must believe and live to be worthy to be called children of God. Here is Adam, who gives us an example of contrition and repentance. We sin all our lives, but do we often lament our sins? Enoch gives us an example of Godly thinking. He forgot all worldly things, being constantly with God. The destinies of the world were revealed to him until the second coming of Jesus Christ. Living in the midst of a corrupt world, Noah was subjected to ridicule and mockery, but he never wavered in his devotion to God. Eber is the only one of all the people who did not participate in the proud challenge to God, which the maddened people made in their pride: let us build a tower to heaven (they say, we will reach God), and without His participation, we will create glory for ourselves. Because of his faithfulness to God and his humble devotion to Him, Eber, together with his offspring, was favored with the mercies of God. And there is Abraham, for whom the will of God was everything, and Isaac, for whom obedience to his parents was the basis of his life. In Jacob we are given an example of patience and meekness; in Joseph, an example of gentleness and chastity; in Job the long suffering, an example of

patience in sorrow and suffering: Blessed be the name of the Lord . . . God gave and God took away exclaimed Job, having lost both his wealth and his children.

The same paths along which the above-mentioned men of the Old Testament traveled, the Provider is also leading you and me—the New Israel. And here is Moses, prophet and leader, lawgiver and miracle worker. Living in luxury and honor in the Pharaoh's palace, out of love for his people, Moses abandons everything, preferring to suffer with the people: Lord, it is better to destroy me than my people... In faith, theology, in fidelity to Christ, amidst ridicule and persecution, in humility, in devotion to His will and chastity, in sacrificial love for his God—bearing people's sufferings, in other words. In imitation of the Old Testament righteous relatives in the flesh of the Messiah of Christ, may the Savior of the world help us all to be established, for the glorification of the One lying in a manger, for Whom we are preparing. Amen.

(Taken from www.orthochristian.com)





GET YOUR NEW YEAR'S TICKETS TODAY!

Our celebration will be this Saturday, contact Magda or Helen ASAP to book your place at the table!

See you there.

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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2023

*Shaded areas indicate days of fasting

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
JAN 7 FEAST OF NATIVITY Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM - ALTAR SOCIETY Coffee Hour	8 SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	9 FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN	10 Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM	11	12	Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's) - Great Vespers @ 6 PM
		FAST-FREE WEEK New Year @ 6				

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
JAN 14 Baptism of Anastasia Fontanez @ 9:30 AM - ST. BASIL & FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM - Coffee Hour	15	16	17 Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM (Fast-Free Day)	18 Royal Hours @ 9 am - Theophany Eve Vigil & Blessing of Water @ 6 pm	19 FEAST OF THEOPHANY Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM	20 HOME BLESSINGS BEGIN! - *No Services
JAN 21 Baptism of Luca Gradassi @ 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM - Responses led by St. Nicholas Choir - Coffee Hour	22	23	Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM	25	26	27 HOME BLESSINGS BEGIN! - *No Services
JAN 28 Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM - Panachida for +John & Anna Strenk - Panachida for +Michal Gajdos - Coffee Hour	29	30	31 Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM	FEB 1	2	3 HOME BLESSINGS BEGIN! - *No Services
FEB 4 Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM - Coffee Hour - St. Nicholas Annual Parish Meeting	5	6	7 Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM	8	9	10 HOME BLESSINGS BEGIN! - *No Services

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