



*The fruit of your good works, O holy Father,
has brought joy to the hearts of the faithful.
Who indeed has not heard of your wonderful works
and not admired your patience and humility,
the joy with which you fill the poor,
and the compassion that you show to the afflicted?
You have truly been an admirable example for all.
And now that your unfading crown has been placed on you,
O holy Nicholas, pray for our souls.*

(A Hymn from Vespers for St. Nicholas)

BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 1-14, 2024

***SUN 12/1/2024 9:00 AM** **23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 6**
 Divine Liturgy
Annual Election of Officers Meeting After Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for December 1-7, 2024:
 KUDELKO, Anne
 LUKAC, Joseph
 HNAT, Michael & Mitzi

WED 12/4/2024 6:00 PM Prayer Service (Moleben) for the Nativity Fast

FRI 12/6/2024 9:00 AM **ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA THE WONDER-WORKER (HOLYDAY)**
 Divine Liturgy
With Prayers for Weekly Perpetual Commemorations

***SUN 12/8/2024 9:00 AM** **24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 7**
 Divine Liturgy
St. Nicholas Celebration

Perpetual Commemorations for December 8-14, 2024:
 POLANSKY, Anna & George, Paul & Ann AMICO
 TRIPP, Karl, Love & Ann
 LATCHERAN, Michael, Julia, Charles, Anna, John

MON 12/9/2024 6:00 PM December Board Meeting

WED 12/11/2024 6:00 PM Prayer Service (Moleben) for the Nativity Fast

FRI 12/13/2024 9:00 AM **ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA – THE FIRST AMERICAN SAINT**
 Divine Liturgy
With Prayers for Weekly Perpetual Commemorations
And With Veneration of His Relics

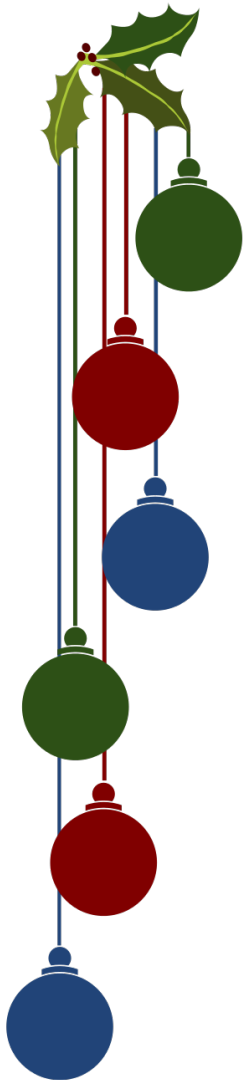
SAT 12/14/2024 9AM-1 PM Christmas Market

***SUN 12/15/2024 9:00 AM** **25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 8**
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS
 Divine Liturgy

Perpetual Commemorations for December 15-21, 2024:
 POLANICHKA, Protopresbyter Michael
 ANDRAS, John Jr. & Helen
 REPASKY, Mary Jane

Join Us for Our

CHRISTMAS MARKET



**Saturday, December 14, 2024
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

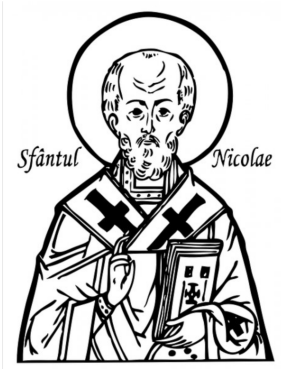
**HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS
OTHER FOODS ITEMS
SHOPPING**

- Holiday & Decorator Items
- Icons & Religious Gifts
- Jewelry
- *and More!*

All Proceeds Benefit Mercer County Charities

If you would like to bake or volunteer for this event, please speak with Renee Maceyko or Mary Ann Lavin!

—Honoring the Saints in December—



SAINT NICHOLAS

On December 6, we remember St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker of Myra. St. Nicholas is known for his deep faith and generosity. Because of this, he is beloved by Christians the world over. His holyday is also closely associated with the pre-Christmas season.

- **Vespers:** Fr. Timothy Paproski has extended an invitation for us to join in celebrating Vespers at St. Nicholas Church, 2053 North Road NE, Warren, Ohio on Thursday December 5th at 6:00 PM. A light Lenten reception will follow.
- **Divine Liturgy:** Divine Liturgy on Friday, December 6 will be at 9:00 AM. *(We will also include prayers for the weekly Perpetual Commemorations.)*
- **Celebration:** "St. Nicholas" will be making his annual visit to our church on Sunday, December 8th. We will have a potluck meal following Liturgy. Let's come together as a parish community to celebrate this great saint! You are invited to bring something to share for the meal.



SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA

St. Herman (+1837) is the first American Orthodox saint. We will have Divine Liturgy on his day – Friday, December 13 – at 9:00 AM. Fr. David has relics of St. Herman which will be placed on the tetrapod for veneration. Come and honor this American saint! *(We will also include prayers for the weekly Perpetual Commemorations.)*

STEWARDSHIP

From Dan Hromyak

"But when these signs continue to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Luke 21:28

We celebrate the Nativity Fast each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Nativity Fast season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those that are closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Nativity Fast.

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." - Philippians 1:9-10

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

2024 CHINESE AUCTION

Our 50th Chinese Auction on Sunday, November 24 was a great success! We are grateful to Renee Maceyko and Mary Ann Lavin for their many hours organizing this event. We thank all the volunteers who gave of their time and talent, and all donors and contributors.

THANK YOU!

Revenue Category

Kitchen	\$277.50
Admission Tickets (183)	\$915.00
Extra Sheets	\$3,323.00
Main Raffle	\$2,198.00
Basket Raffle	\$1,290.00
Lottery Tree	\$1,230.00
50 /50 Raffle	\$490.00
Donations	\$4,610.00
\$1,000 Cash Giveaway	\$1,496.00
Total Revenue	<u>\$15,829.50</u>

Our condolences as a parish community are extended to Ken Maceyko and to the entire family on the passing of +THERESA MACEYKO on November 19th. May God grant her rest in His heavenly kingdom! Eternal Memory! Vičnaja Pamjat!



The Nativity Fast (Advent) Continues

As we journey towards our celebration of the Nativity, let us all focus more deliberately on our spiritual preparation for Christmas:

- **Fast with a joyful heart.** In addition to observing the regular weekly fast days of Wednesday and Friday, abstain from meat on additional days as you are able. *Christmas Eve is a **strict fast day** – no meat or dairy.*
- **Pray every day.** Use your prayer book. Open your Bible. Make sure you are offering the “**Nativity Fast Prayer Challenge**” from Metropolitan Gregory.
- **Attend additional services.** Over the first three weeks of December, we will have a Prayer Service (Moleben) for the Nativity Fast on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM and a Divine Liturgy on Fridays at 9:00 AM.
- **CONFESSION** is available before all morning services starting at 8:15 AM and before all evening services starting at 5:15 PM. Confessions end 10 minutes before the service start time. Remember: if the door to the “confessional” room is open and the light is on **DON’T SIT IN THE FRONT PEW AND WAIT – WALK RIGHT IN.** *“Let every heart prepare Him room!”*

There is no Christmas without CHRIST!

2025 Offering Envelopes are now available. Please use these as you make your stewardship contributions throughout the year. Online giving options are also available through our website: stjohnacroc.org.

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Website: www.stjohnacroc.org

Rev. Father David Mastroberte, Pastor

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese – Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Sacramental and Membership Information

Sick Calls can be made at any time. Please phone the rectory (724-346-4457) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit. Hospitals do *not* call to alert the parish when someone is admitted.

Marriages are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the diocesan bishop. Consult the pastor at least six months in advance and before any plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the church, or on Fridays.

Baptisms are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing at an Orthodox parish, and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

Church Funerals are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and material obligations to the parish; otherwise, the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home. **The Church does not permit cremation.**

Parishioners in “good standing” are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John's Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and financially support the parish (especially through an annual “pledge”).

Prospective members and returning members are asked to fill out an application form, copies of which are available in the church office.

Our Church's Website:	stjohnacroc.org
Our YouTube Live Stream:	youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon
Our Facebook Page:	facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA
Our Diocesan Website:	acrod.org

For Online Giving Options, please visit our website: stjohnacroc.org

Happy Birthday!

Chuck Kretchek December 2
Joshua Good December 5
Chad Fette December 8
Shannon Slovesko December 9
Katie Hartley December 12

Belated Birthday Greetings

Quinn Fabian November 18

*God Grant You
Many, Blessed
Years!*

■ Our Sponsors ■

DECEMBER 1, 2024

Bulletin Sponsor

*In Loving Memory of +Richard Hartley
as a Birthday Remembrance
By Katie Hartley and Family*

Candelabrum

*In Loving Memory of +Richard Hartley
as a Birthday Remembrance
By Katie Hartley and Family*

Eternal Lamp

*In Memory of +Anne Kudelko
on the Anniversary of Her Repose
By Bob and Lorraine Amos*

DECEMBER 8, 2024

Bulletin Sponsor

*In Memory of +William & +Mary
Taczak and +Kyle Kupensky*

Candelabrum

*In Memory of Stephen & Mildred
Repasky & Family
By Katie Hartley and Family*

Eternal Lamp

*In Memory of +Debbie Anderson
as a Birthday Remembrance
by Debbie Cross*

Schedule of Men to Hold Candles During the Gospel

December 1
Dan Ristvey
Joel Ristvey
Matt Ristvey
Tom Ristvey
Thomas Ristvey

December 8
Steve Saluga
Milan Shumkaroff
Gino Tofani
Donald Yasnowsky
Kevin Yasnowsky

December 15
Gary Yonchak
Bob Amos
Jason Baker
Dave Beight
Dennis Burprich