

HAPPY SAINT NICHOLAS DAY!



*May St. Nicholas,
patron saint of children,
bless and keep
our parish youth!*

BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 6-19, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Tuesday, Dec. 8	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Special Intention: All Sick, Recovering & Homebound</i>
Wednesday, Dec. 9	6:00 PM	Conception of the Mother of God by St. Anna Prayer Service (Moleben) to the Mother of God and Short Bible Study on the Nativity in St. Luke's Gospel (<i>Live Streamed</i>)
Thursday, Dec. 10	8:30 AM	***Diocesan Day of Prayer*** Prayer Service for the Nativity Fast (<i>Live Streamed</i>)
Saturday, Dec. 12	6:00 PM	Vespers
Sunday, Dec. 13	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy (<i>Live Streamed</i>) Election of Officers Meeting Board Meeting (Note Change in Date!)
Tuesday, Dec. 15	8:30 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Special Intention: Peace in Our Country & Throughout the World</i>
Wednesday, Dec. 16	6:00 PM	Prayer Service (Moleben) for the Nativity Fast and Short Study of Nativity Icon (<i>Live Streamed</i>)
Saturday, Dec. 19	6:00 PM	Vespers
Sunday, Dec. 20	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy (<i>Live Streamed</i>) <i>Panachida: ++Tripp Family (Perpetual) +John & +Helen Andras (Perpetual) ++Latcheran Family (Perpetual)</i>



Our condolences are expressed to all family and friends at the passing of +ANNE KUDELKO on December 1, 2020. We offer prayers for her blessed repose and eternal memory! Vičnaja jej pamjat!



The Nativity Fast (Advent) Continues!

Please keep up with your spiritual efforts of fasting, increased prayer, and acts of charity. Come to additional services as you are able; many weekday services will be live streamed as well. Be sure to offer the Daily Nativity Fast Prayer from Metropolitan Gregory. Ample time has been set aside for the Confession. *“Let every heart prepare Him room...”*

Confession Times

During the Nativity Fast, Fr. David will be hearing Confessions:

- **8:20 to 8:50 AM before Sunday Liturgy**
- **5:30-5:50 PM before Wednesday Evening Services**
- **By Appointment – Contact Fr. David to arrange a time!**

Please wait in the front pew on the left side of the church. When the door to the side room is *open*, just walk right into the Confessional. (You don't need to be “waved in” by Fr. David.)

Diocesan Day of Prayer during the Nativity Fast will be on Thursday, December 10th. Twelve hours of continuous services will be live streamed by 24 parishes throughout our Diocese. **Our church will be offering a Moleben (Prayer Service) for the Nativity Fast on Thursday, December 10th at 8:30 AM.** You are welcome to come in person or join in with this via live stream. You are also encouraged to participate virtually in the services throughout the day. Visit acrod.org or the Diocesan Facebook page for more information!

Annual Election of Officers Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 13 and will be announced publicly on Sundays November 29, December 6, and December 13 in conformity with our By-Laws.



Joyous Birthday Greetings to **Katie Hartley** who turns 90 on December 12th! May God grant her many, blessed years! *Na mnohaja i blahaja lita!*

THANK YOU!

We are grateful for all the gifts and offerings made by our faithful throughout the year, especially in light of the challenges and difficulties we have faced. Please continue to keep up with your Stewardship Pledge and Diocesan Assessment for 2020, and we look forward to your continued support in 2021!

Offering Envelopes for 2021 will be available starting December 13th. Please make sure that you get your envelopes and use them throughout the year. If you would like to receive a box of envelopes, please speak with Stephanie Shumkaroff.

Pick Up Your 2021 Calendar! 2021 Wall Calendars, donated by Tomon's Funeral Home, are available in the fellowship hall. Please help yourself!

Shop at Saint John's! When doing your Christmas shopping, don't forget about the opportunities we have at our church. Our **Showcase** stocks a variety of religious items and folk crafts from around the world. Visit the **Smart Money** counter for gift cards for a large number of stores.



A Poem About Saint Nicholas

Holy Bishop Nicholas
Lived so long ago.
Let us listen carefully.
His story we will know.

In the town of Myra
Nicholas lead his flock
Teaching them the one true faith,
As solid as a rock.

Once he went to meet and talk
In Nicaea town,
Where the Fathers wrote the Creed
And to us handed down.

During Sunday Liturgy,
We stand and say the Creed.
Thank you Father Nicholas
For doing this great deed!

Sailors tossed into the wind
And mighty storms at sea,
Saw a vision of the saint
Who guided them home free.

As the sailor's patron saint,
They venerate him yet.
Sometimes icons show him with
A boat and fisher's net.

Giving money to poor girls,
Unmarried, in dismay,
Made our Nicholas famous,
Remembered 'till today.

With dowry in their outstretched hands
Quickly they were wed.
"May God bless and keep you, dears!"
Our holy Nicholas said.

He's the patron saint of kids.
His love for them rings true.
He still goes around the globe
Bringing joy—and presents, too.

Dressed in robes or Santa's red,
He is one and the same—
Jolly, friendly, good old man,
His greatness we proclaim!

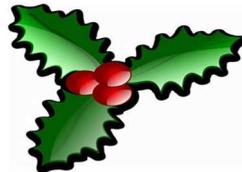
Call him "Santa", call him "saint,"
They both mean the same.
And his common nickname "Claus"
Is short for Nicholas' name.

Many kind and gentle acts
Nicholas rushed to do,
Giving food, and coins, and more,
Like presents that were new.

All the world remembers him,
A good and holy man.
Be like him in charity:
Help those whom you can.

Giving gifts was what he did.
And we do this today.
Kindness done in Our Lord's name
Forever it will stay.

Nicholas was, and he still is,
a hero to us all.
Pray for us, Saint Nicholas,
and may we heed your call!



THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

By Dan Hromyak

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, put us on a path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.



You are now able to **DONATE ONLINE** through our website, stjohnacroc.org. Just click on the "Donate" tab at the top of the page.

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

3180 Morefield Road • Hermitage, PA 16148
Office: 724-981-0571 • Rectory: 724-346-4457
Fax: 724-308-6615 • Website: www.stjohnacroc.org

Clergy:

Rev. Father David Mastroberte
Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Polanichka
Rev. Deacon John Anderson

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.

Website: stjohnacroc.org

YouTube: youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon

Facebook: facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA

Instagram: instagram.com/saintjohnhermitagepa

Diocese: acrod.org



CANDELABRUM SPONSOR

December 13

In honor of

Katie Hartley

90th Birthday on December 12

By: Katie's Grandchildren

Bulletin Sponsors

December 13

In honor of

Katie Hartley

90th Birthday on December 12

By: Ed & Mindy Hartley, Paul Hartley
& Kathy & Steven Baronowsky

Happy December Birthday!

December 9th Debbie Anderson

December 9th Shannon Solvesko

December 12th Katie Hartley

December 16th Sue Bouslough

December 16th Donnie Nameth

December 16th John Ristvey

December 18th Betty Jo Patterson

MEN TO HOLD CANDLES

Sunday, December 13

Robert Miller

John Moon

John Parimuha

Tom Patrick

Dan Ristvey

Sunday, December 20

Joel Ristvey

Matt Ristvey

Tom Ristvey

Pete Roman

Steve Saluga

Eternal Lamp Sponsor

December 6

In honor of

Debbie Anderson's

Birthday on December 9

By: Debbie & Greg Cross

