

An icon of St. Nicholas of Myra, Bishop of Myra. He is depicted from the chest up, facing forward. He has a round, balding head with a halo, a full white beard, and a stern expression. He is wearing a dark blue or black robe with a wide, patterned border. The border features a repeating geometric design of interlocking squares and diamonds, with Greek letters (Phi, Pi, Chi, Rho) inscribed within them. He holds a large, ornate book in his left hand, which is decorated with a grid of small white dots and blue crosses. His right hand is raised, holding a small cross. The background is a solid, warm gold color. In the top left corner, there is a small, faint inscription in Greek. In the top right corner, the name 'NIKÓ' is written in large, bold, black capital letters, with 'ΛΑΟ' and a small 'ς' below it.

St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
(Under the Holy Protection of the Mother of God)



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Rev. Father James Fraser

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Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: ¹/₂ hour before Liturgy or by appointment

Holy Mystery of Anointing: prior to surgery or whenever requested

Holy Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation: Arrange with Father Jim

New Parishioners: Welcome! Please see Father for registration



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR DEC 3rd to DEC 13th, 2023

Sunday Nov. 3rd 10:30 a.m.	27th Sunday After Pentecost - p 130 Readings: Eph 6:10-17; Lk 18:18-27 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish
Wednesday Dec. 6th 7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy - Nicholas of Myra - p274 Readings: Heb 13:17-21; Lk 6: 17-23 Intention: George & Christine Hatcher, In-laws, given by Sam Mazza
Sunday Dec. 10th 10:30 a.m.	28th Sunday After Pentecost - p 135 Readings: Col 1:12-18; Lk 17:12-19 Intention: For the people of St Mary's Parish
Wednesday Dec. 13th 7:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy - 135 Readings: Heb 13:17-21; Lk 6: 17-23 Intention: Open

CHOOSE LIFE! That the people of this nation may come to fully understand that abortion means the violent death for an unborn child, we pray to the Lord.



ST. MARY'S HOLY PROTECTION CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

We are selling our delicious Nut, Poppy Seed, & Apricot rolls for \$12 each & Christmas cookies - Small Nut Rolls, Cowboy Cookies, & Lady Locks - for \$15/dozen. **Deadline to place an order is December 13th.** Baked goods to be picked up at St. Mary's (2115 Listravia Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505) on December 20th. Please contact Ellen at 304-282-0431 to place your order.



Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia - December 6

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.



From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him.

Read more - <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2016/12/06/103484-saint-nicholas>



Pray for the Sick, Recovering, and Shut-Ins:

Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, Thank You for Your Mercy

May we keep all our ailing and healing parishioners in our prayers every day.

Please let Father Jim know to include any family and parish members who are ill, hospitalized, or need a visit for blessing, anointing, confession, or request of prayers. Kindly call Father Jim at (304) 918-3297 Thank You.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES go to:

Sandra Bane on Dec. 5th

May God bless you with Peace, Health, and Happiness!
For many happy and blessed years!



O Holy Spirit,

I have my own expectations about what I should and should not do.
I surrender to You my ideas, my limitations, my preferences, and my goals.
Fill me, Holy Spirit, with Your supernatural gifts!
Empower me to accept and grow in the supernatural life as much as the early disciples.
I want to be useful to You. I want to go where You lead me.
Holy Spirit, send me forth gifted and empowered to make a difference spreading the
Good News of God's forgiving love.



Offertory Collection for Nov. 26th, 2023

Envelope Offerings	Loose Offerings	Candles	Christmas Flowers	Cabbage Rolls	Total
\$350	\$10	\$17	\$100	\$2448	\$2908

Church Attendance for Sunday was: 32



Deanery Nativity Gathering

Sunday, December 10th at 2pm at St. John the Baptist Church, Scottdale, PA.
Akathist to the Theotokos, Searcher of the Lost
A spiritual presentation by Fr. Stephen Wahal.
Confessions after the presentation. Then social and refreshments.



Nativity Fast

- Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for our sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is a gift from God that is not bought by our hunger or thirst.
- We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God’s gift of Salvation may bear fruit in us.
- We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and prayer go together.
- Fasting is not irrelevant. Fasting is not obsolete, and it is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.
- Most of all, we should not devour each other. We ask God to “set a watch and keep the door of our lips.”



<https://www.holycrossonline.org/nativity-fast>



Conception of Our Most Holy Theotokos by St. Anna - December 8



St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married St. Joachim, who was a native of Galilee. St. Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by St. Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by St. Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot. There are also icons in which St. Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On St Anna’s face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in Russia. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women.

The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was

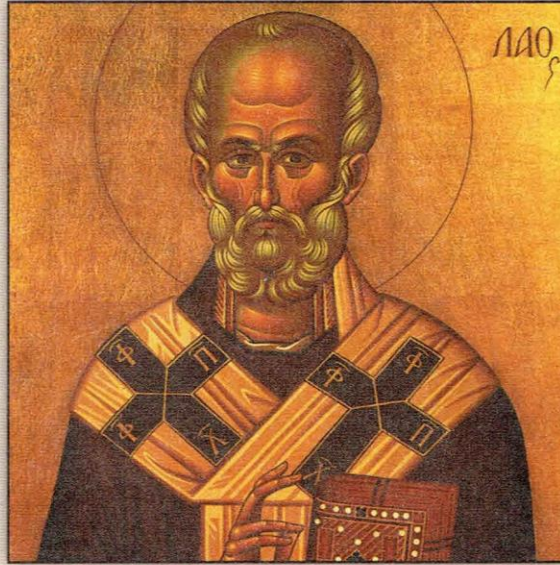
unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man’s window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint’s feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.

CHRISTMAS AND THEOPHANY THE INCARNATION AND MANIFESTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker *December 6th*

We have gathered to celebrate and to praise with song the model of bishops and a glory to the fathers, a fountain of miracles and a great helper of believers. Let us sing to the saintly Nicholas: Rejoice, O Protector of Myra who was revered as its leader and strongest pillar. Rejoice, O Radiant Star whose light of miracles shines throughout the world. Rejoice, O Divine Joy to those in sorrow. Rejoice, O Defender of those who are oppressed; for even now, all-holy Nicholas, you still pray to God for us who celebrate your feast with faith and who honor you with zeal and joy.



Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, the Patriarchs

Today we commemorate the ancestors of Christ. Sing with fervor a hymn of praise to Christ the Savior who exalted them among all nations. He is the Lord who does wondrous deeds because He is powerful and mighty. From them He brought forth a royal scepter, the immaculate maiden of God and virgin Mary. From her, Christ our God came forth to give life and eternal salvation for all. O believers, let us give praise today to all the Fathers who lived before the Law: Abraham who was beloved by God, Isaac who was born according to the promise, Jacob and the twelve Patriarchs, the very meek David and the favored prophet Daniel. Let us also glorify with them the three youths who changed the fiery furnace into a place of refreshing dew. Let us beg forgiveness of our sins from Christ our God who is glorified in his saints.

