

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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www.holycrossmedford.org

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, December 4, 2022

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Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Commemorated December 6

Saint Nicholas of Myra (traditionally 15 March 270 – 6 December 343), also known as **Nicholas of Bari**, was an early Christian bishop of Greek descent from the maritime city of Myra in Asia Minor (modern-day Demre, Turkey) during the time of the Roman Empire. Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as **Nicholas the Wonderworker**. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students in various cities and countries around Europe. His reputation evolved among the pious, as was common for early Christian saints, and his legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus ("Saint Nick") through Sinterklaas.

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. In one of the earliest attested and most famous incidents from his life, he is said to have rescued three girls from being forced into prostitution by dropping a sack of gold coins through the window of their house each night for three nights so their father could pay a dowry for each of them. Other early stories tell of him calming a storm at sea, saving three innocent soldiers from wrongful execution, and chopping down a tree possessed by a demon. In his youth, he is said to have made a pilgrimage to Egypt and Palestine. Shortly after his return, he became Bishop of Myra. He was later cast into prison during the persecution of Diocletian, but was released after the accession of Constantine. he council.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council.

Liturgical and Events Schedule

Sunday, December 4

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy followed by children's Sunday School & Social

Monday, December 5

7:00 PM: Vespers Liturgy for St. Nicholas

Wednesday, December 7

7:00 PM: Presentation by Dr. Ed Siecienski on "The Theotokos & the Church" by Zoom

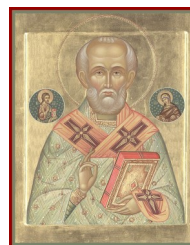
Saturday, December 10

5:00 PM: Great Vespers

This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Read more about St. Nicholas at oca.org



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amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Christmas Gift-Giving Campaign
Benefits: Providence House of Catholic Charities

Westampton, NJ

Sponsored by: Inreach/Outreach Committee

We have an opportunity to make a teen's Christmas a little brighter this year by donating gifts and gift cards to the Providence House domestic violence shelter here in Burlington County. We're focusing on the teens this year as they tend to be the most "overlooked" group.

There are three weeks left in which to donate, and time is flying! So when you are doing your Christmas shopping, please remember to pick something up—any gift or gift card from the list would be appreciated! Then bring your NEW AND UNWRAPPED GIFT to church and place it in the Christmas box in the vestibule. Thank you very much!

Days left for donating: Dec. 4 Dec. 11 Dec. 18

Gifts

Apple products/
accessories
Drones
Funko Pop!
Hair accessories
Hair styling tools
Hair dryer, curling iron,
Flat iron
Instant cameras
Jewelry
Journals
Makeup/Perfume
Pajamas/Slippers
Room decor
Scarves/Belts
Skateboard
Sports equipment
Sports team apparel
Sweatshirts/Hoodies
Play Station (nonviolent)
video games
Xbox/Nintendo

Gift Cards

Amazon
Bookstores
Dunkin' Donuts
Hair and nail salons
iTunes
Kohl's
Mall
Movies
Restaurants
Starbucks
Target
Visa
Walmart
Wawa



LumiNature at the Philadelphia Zoo

With more than a million twinkling lights across 14 one-of-a-kind illuminated zones, LumiNature takes guests on a magical journey celebrating the wonder of wildlife and the beauty of our planet during the holiday season.

When: Thursday, December 29, 2022—6:00 PM

Where: Philadelphia Zoo, 3400 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia, PA

Prices: Adults & Children (above age 2) - \$20.00

Children (under 2) -free

Parking : \$17.00

Make checks payable to *Judy Clyde* Deadline for payment: Sunday, December 11, 2022

Give (or mail) payment to *Judy Clyde, 9 Bon Air Drive, Marlton, NJ 08053* with below form



Name(s)	Ticket Price
1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	
Total # of tickets: _____	Total price: \$ _____

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A St. Nicholas Tradition

St. Nicholas Day has remained a time when children are given special cookies, candies, and gifts. In many places, children leave letters for St. Nicholas and carrots or grass for his donkey or horse. In the morning, they find small presents under their pillows or in the shoes, stockings, or plates they have set out for him. Oranges and chocolate coins are common treats that represent St. Nicholas's legendary rescue of three impoverished girls by paying their marriage dowries with gold. Candy canes, which have the shape of a bishop's crosier, are also given.

<https://>



DID YOU KNOW...

When does human life begin? The Orthodox Church has traditionally held that human life begins with *conception*, which it understands to coincide with *fertilization*. The various other answers that have been proposed to this long-debated question often express a political or social agenda as much as they do current knowledge of embryo development: theories include *at quickening*, when the mother first feels the infant move within in her womb; *at viability*, the earliest point at which the fetus can survive outside the womb (latest research states somewhere between 22-24 weeks gestation); *at birth*, when the baby begins to breathe on its own; and *several days after birth*, once the newborn has demonstrated its "right to live", including, among other things, the absence of any debilitating diseases or disabilities. *The more we can separate "the beginning of human life" from the point of fertilization, the greater becomes the "window" for abortion, infanticide and embryo experimentation to be sought.* According to the Guttmacher Institute, currently 12 states have banned abortion; the rest allow abortions anywhere from 15 weeks' gestation through the 3rd trimester. (Sources: **The Sacred Gift of Life: Orthodox Christianity and Bioethics** by V. Rev. John Breck, and the Guttmacher Institute, a research and policy organization advancing sexual and reproductive health worldwide.)

--"The beginning of existence is one and the same for body and soul."—St. Gregory of Nyssa

ST HELENA'S HOLIDAY ROLL SALE 2022

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

11 Wilkins Station Rd
Medford, NJ 08055

Saturday, Dec 10th—10:00 AM – Noon

All pastry rolls must be ordered in advance

Sunday delivery (after Liturgy) is available for prepaid orders only.

Coffee Hour Schedule

12/04: Marie Clifton
12/11: Plachuta Family
12/18: Open
12/25: Christmas Day

Attention! Attention!

January coffee hour schedule is wide open! Sign up sheet on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.



Happy December Birthday

7th Walter Obleschuk, Diana Pasca
8th John Hamaty
9th Melania (Lonnice) Polli
10th Stephanie Pease, Alana Kiev Matwijcow Sicienski

Thanksgiving Food Drive



"Whoever has a bountiful eye
will be blessed, for he shares
his bread with the poor."
Proverbs 22:9

*The Inreach/Outreach Ministry
thanks you for your generous
donations of foods for this
special holiday.*

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THIS JUST IN...A Day of Mourning has been called on **Saturday, Dec. 3** in honor of a baby killed in an abortion that was broadcast on an NPR show.

NPR listeners heard a baby being killed in an abortion as the mother moaned and cried. The shocking audio came from an abortion facility in Michigan where an NPR journalist watched an abortionist perform an 11-week abortion. NPR is a taxpayer-funded news organization and it came under heavy fire for glorifying the live killing and death of a human being.

Now, the pro-life group **Priests for Life** is calling for Saturday, Dec. 3 to be a Day of Mourning in honor of the baby whose life was taken on that November 3rd broadcast and to ask God for forgiveness for the legal abortion deaths of more than 65 million children in the U.S. since 1973. Prayers also will be offered for the mother who chose abortion, for the abortionists and the staffers who helped, and the NPR employees who took part in the broadcast.

“Pro-life leaders have named the child Baby Amanda Marie and we are asking every pro-life individual, organization and lawmaker to mark the day with fasting and special prayers, including Masses,” said Father Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life. “These actions can be done privately, but the more they are done in common, with groups, the better.”

“The recording picks up the moans of the mother, but her child’s scream is silent,” Father Pavone said. “The staffer with the mom says ‘You did it,’ and ‘You did great,’ when the killing was complete. There is no mention of the baby who has just died in a brutal way at 11 weeks. The baby’s humanity is not even an after-thought. **We have to re-humanize what this abortion and this broadcast de-humanized,**” Father Pavone said. “And we have to make a big deal of what this broadcast trivialized.”
The audio of the broadcast went viral on social media.

[By 11 weeks of pregnancy](#), unborn babies already have all their major organs, heartbeats and brain waves. They can respond to touch, hiccup and even [suck their thumbs](#). The report did not mention any of these details as it played the sound of the machine killing the unborn baby and the woman’s moans of anguish. Afterward, the abortion staff could be heard laughing as the woman sighed and thanked them.

May God have mercy on us all!

Submitted by Genie Skuby

Sources:

Article: Lifenews.com (Article author: Steven Ertelt; Date: Nov 29, 2022)

NPR Broadcast (<https://tinyurl.com/yc2t53fs>) **WARNING: GRAPHIC CONTENT**

National Review (<https://tinyurl.com/5ftketbu>)

Fox News (<https://tinyurl.com/3ke3r8ej>)

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
Commemorated on [December 6](#)

Troparion — Tone 4

The truth of things revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, / a model of meekness, and a teacher of temperance. / Through humility, you attained the heights; / and through poverty, riches. / O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion — Tone 3

You were shown forth in Myra as an officiant of the sacred rites, / for you fulfilled the Gospel of Christ, O Venerable Nicholas, by laying down your life for your people, / and saving the innocent from death. / Therefore, you were sanctified as a great initiate of God's grace.

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