



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th

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.

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Andrii Chornopyskyi – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – December 3, 2023

Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever + Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки

Confessions are available before the Divine Liturgies

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

Sunday December 3 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	(For the Parish) (+Jaroslaw and +Daria Melech from Friend)
Thursday December 7 9:00 a.m.	(Deceased of the Nagurney-Medwid Family from Irene)
Friday December 8 **6:00 p.m.**	Conception of St. Anna (Immaculate Conception) (+George Strouse from Ellen)
Sunday December 10 **10:30 a.m.**	St. Nicholas Visitation (For the Parish)

FIRST CONFESSION CLASSES TO BEGIN SUNDAY JANUARY 14

We will soon start our parish catechism classes for those children intending to make First Confession in 2024. Classes will be held on Sunday between the English and Ukrainian liturgies (approx. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM), beginning on January 14. First Confession will be celebrated on Lazarus Saturday (March 23, 2024). No class will be held on February 18. All children must be attending Divine Liturgy. If you have children of First Confession age in your family, we ask you to please contact Olya Kroytor Mulvey by email at olya.kroytor@gmail.com

WELCOME INTO THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - JOSEPH WAKEFORD

Joseph Arthur Wakeford was received into the Ukrainian Catholic Church by making a Profession of Faith and receiving the Holy Mysteries of Chrismation, Penance and the Holy Eucharist. God Bless Joseph – Mnohay Lita!

SAINT NICHOLAS PARTY ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 WITH ONE DIVINE LITURGY AT 1030 AM

Please join us at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family as we celebrate Saint Nicholas on Sunday December 10 with one Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m. Saint Nicholas will visit all of our children after the Liturgy. Refreshments will be available for everyone.

ST. PHILIP’S FAST – PYLYPIVKA 2023

In preparation for Christmas and the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, our church begins the spiritual journey of the pre-Christmas Fast. Please prepare to worthily celebrate the Birth of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a voluntary fast period. Please observe it as you are able to best prepare yourself for Christmas – Good Deeds, Volunteering, Confession, Fasting.

ST. PHILIP’S FAST CHARITY PROJECT 2023

Please bring new unwrapped baby items to donate to the Front Royal Pregnancy Center. We invite everyone to purchase and donate **NEW, UNOPENED BABY ITEMS**. The pregnancy center will accept anything that could be used by babies and mothers, Diapers (Sizes: Newborn, 3, 4, and 5), Changing Wipes, Baby Formula (8 or 12 oz. cans), Similac Sensitive Powder Formula, Similac Pro-Advance Powdered Formula, Similac Total Comfort Powdered Formula, Enfamil Gentlease Infant Formula Powder, Baby Shampoo, Boy’s Summer & Winter Clothing (New or Gently Used) (Sizes: Newborn to 3T), Girl’s Summer & Winter Clothing (New or Gently Used) (Sizes: 6 months to 3T), Boy’s Winter Jackets (Sizes: 3 months to 3T), Infant Car Seats, Parenting Books (New or Gently Used) “What to Expect When You’re Expecting” “Mayo Clinic Guide to a Healthy Pregnancy” **PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 7, 2024.**

Prayer List

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: **Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Valarie Balthis, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Terry Boyle, Taisia Bullard, Olena Chalupa, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Lilian Garland, Alice Gogniat, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Daniel Horeczko, Nila Iwaskiw, Frank Karasinski, Sarah Kelt, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Paul Marynowych, Fr. Roman Mirchuk, Michele Pretka Litvar, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Thomas Nagurney, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell, Michael Sharr, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Helen Lefcheck Torre, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Anne Woroniak, Rose Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Paul Yarrish.** If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

God With Us Catechism

The conception of the all-holy virgin Mary in the womb of Anna is celebrated on December 9 in the Byzantine tradition, for a natural reason, that the Eastern ancients thought a girl was in the womb one day less than a boy. It is clear that this is a preparation for the birth of Christ on Christmas for the first sticheron of the feast begins: “The barren Anna leaped for joy when she gave birth to Mary the Virgin who in turn will give birth in the flesh to God the Word.” Mary, the daughter of Anna and Joachim by way of natural birth, is to be the temple of the Word of God incarnate for our sake and for our salvation. the conception of the Theotokos in the womb of Anna today is our preparation for Christmas. For God took away the barrenness of one couple in a conception that would have a cosmic dimension for every one of us: the coming into the world of its Creator who would take away the curse on Adam and Eve by the birth of his Son with the power to bring us all into sinlessness. Receiving His body and blood in Communion, the priest prays, “may this be for the remission of sins and life everlasting.” The Hymn of Light at Matins thus proclaims: “Today Anna conceives the One who will give birth to the Light which illumines all creation. Therefore, let us all gather together, for the one who delivers us from the judgment of Eve now comes forth.”