

ST. JOHN'S RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
V. REV. MITRED ARCHPRIEST JOHN D. SOROCHKA, RECTOR  
PRIEST NATHANIEL SOROCHKA

Fr. John's Cell # (570-335-3763)

Fr. Nathaniel's Cell # (570-466-5399)

PROTODEACON STEPHEN HOWANETZ

PROTODEACON DIMETRIOS KRENITSKY

706 HILL STREET MAYFIELD, PA 18433-2015  
RECTORY (570) 876-0730 - FAX (570) 876-2534

WEBPAGE – www.stjohnsmayfield.org

SERVICES ON LIVESTREAM FROM WEBPAGE

SUNDAY RADIO LIVE BROADCAST –WTRW – 94.3 THE TALKER

DECEMBER 2/15, 2024

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25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TONE 8

Prophet Habakkuk. Martyr Myrope of Chios. Sts. John, Andrew, Heraclemon, and Theophilus, hermits of Egypt.

EPISTLE: Eph. 4:1-6

GOSPEL: Luke 18:18-27

NATIVITY FAST: Fish, wine and oil allowed.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun., Dec. 15: MATINS – 8:00 AM

DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 AM

LITIYA FOR:

Monk Michael

John Terpak by friends (4<sup>th</sup> day)

Thomas Paskewitz by Susan Uram

Nicholas Tihanitch by family

Marianne Yarnes by her daughters

Anna Dragon by son, Nicky

Joseph Fedorchak by daughter, Sasha

Olga Fedorchak by daughter, Sasha

John Hudak by niece, Sasha Fedorchak

Helen Hudak by niece, Sasha Fedorchak

Debbie Sabric by Sasha Fedorchak

Walter Nemkovich by Sasha

Frank Kozup by daughter, Karen Craparo

Barbara N. Benaglia by niece, Ellen Barn

Mon., Dec. 16: VESPERS – 6:30 PM followed by Litiya for deceased members of St. Barbara's Society

Tue., Dec. 17: FEAST OF ST. BARBARA – DIVINE LITURGY – 8:00 AM

Wed., Dec. 18: VESPERS w/Litiya– 6:30 PM

Thur., Dec. 19: FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS – DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 AM

Sat., Dec. 21: CONFESSIONS – 3:30 PM

GREAT VESPERS – 4:00 PM

Sun., Dec. 22: MATINS – 8:00 AM

DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 AM

LITIYA FOR:

Archpriest Michael Evans

Monk Michael

Sergius Chwastiak, Sr. by his family

John Chwastiak, Sr. by his nieces & nephews

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EVENTS:

Tue., Dec. 17: CHURCH CLEANING – 6:00 PM

Thur., Dec. 19: COOKIE DROP-OFF – Center will be open from 8 AM to 6 PM – Ordering Cut-off for December 23 Sale is today.

Sat., Dec. 21: BREAD BAKING – 7:30 AM

Mon., Dec. 23: PIROGE, BREAD, KOLACHI & COOKIE SALE – 10 AM to 6 PM

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ALTAR FLOWERS: God's blessings and good health upon DIMITRI & JOHN by Deda & Baba. MANY YEARS!

ALTAR VIGILS: IMO NICHOLAS PETROCHKO by grandson, Fr. Gregory. MEMORY ETERNAL!

TABLE OF OBLATION: God's blessings upon ST. JOHN'S CHOIR by Gary. MANY YEARS!

HIGH PLACE: Asking for God's Blessings and good health upon FR. JOHN by Bonnie Mashin. MANY YEARS!

BALDACHINO CANDLE: Asking God's blessings and good health upon JOSEPH CRAPARO by Bonnie Mashin. MANY YEARS!

BALDACHINO CANDLE: Asking for God's blessings and good health upon LILLIAN BROWNELL on her birthday. MANY YEARS!

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DECEMBER RADIO BROADCAST: IMO JOSEPH, SR. & TAMARA MARESKI by family.

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300 CLUB WINNER: 12/08/24 - \$50 - #389 – Daniel O.; \$25 - #51 – First-born; \$25 - #1 – Judy Hine

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FROZEN PIROGIE, HOLIDAY BREAD, KOLACHI & COOKIE SALE: These food items will be available for your holiday needs on

Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Orders can be placed by calling Mott (570-335-2128), Sandy (570-876-3576), or the rectory (570-876-

0730). You can leave your orders on the rectory's answering machine. Cost for bread is \$8.00 (loaves); pirogie (\$12 dozen), and

kolachi (\$12 each). Nut, poppyseed, lekvar and apricot kolachi will be sold. The deadline for orders is December 19<sup>th</sup>.

NOTE: In conjunction with the sale on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are asking for homemade cookie donations. We would be grateful for 6 doz. of each kind you are willing to donate. Cookie boxes will be on sale along with the bread. Please consider donating.

Please bring cookies to the center on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Doors to the center will be open until 6 PM that day. Contact Malina Bazink if you are willing to participate. Thank you!

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CANDY SALE: St. Stephen's, Old Forge, is having a homemade CHOCOLATE COVERED PEANUT SALE. An order form is at the

candle table in the church vestibule. Milk and Dark Chocolate will be available. ½ lb. box - \$5; 1 lb. box - \$10.

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CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES to the newly illumined servant of God, ROBERT PERRY, his sponsor and family. May God grant them all MANY YEARS! Welcome to our parish family, Rob!

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POLKA PARTY: Our parish is holding a "POLKA PARTY" on Saturday, February 15, between 2 PM & 6 PM at our church center.

Music will be provided by JOHN STEVENS' DOUBLESHOT. Light fare and cash bar will be available. The cost is \$15 pp. Contact

any church council member, the rectory (570) 876-0730 or Mott (570-335-2128) for tickets.

**LIVE STREAMING:** Our church services are now being live streamed on the following site:

<https://vimeo.com/stjohnsroc>

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**CHRISTMAS "OPEN HOUSE":** A sign-up sheet for our Annual Christmas Open House will be available in the church vestibule. Open House will take place on Wednesday, January 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Nativity) at the parish center. Anyone willing to bring a food item for the buffet is asked to sign the list and please bring your item in disposable containers to throw away or containers you will take home. All participation in this get together will be greatly appreciated! Let's break bread together as a "family" and celebrate the Feast of Christ's Nativity together. Covered dishes are optional but appreciated. Please sign the list so we know approximately how many to set up and prepare for this gathering.

**SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST:** Several people have recently asked if we will be accepting donations for the RADIO BROADCAST FUND. This fund is a huge help financially to our parish. The cost of the broadcast is \$650 per month. As you know, this has not been a financial burden on our parish because of the generosity of our parishioners and weekly listeners. This airing of our Divine Services is an aspect of Christian love that is necessary. If you would like to donate towards this act of missionary outreach, please make your donations to **ST. JOHN'S RO CATHEDRAL**. Your donation will be greatly appreciated not only by our parish, but by those faithful listeners who tune in every week. No one knows when they might find themselves in this same situation – at home unable to get to church. All donations will be greatly accepted in helping to carry out this act of "missionary work". We are asking for families to come together and donate a month of radio broadcasts. We know that we are asking for monetary support during difficult economic times, but if you can afford to contribute to this important avenue of "outreach", it will not only be appreciated by our parish but also by those many listeners who tune in every week because they are unable to attend services in person. Thank you for your generosity and consideration.

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**CHURCH DUES REMINDER:** Susan Uram, dues secretary, is asking that church dues for 2024 and years prior be paid. She will be happy to assist you if you have any questions regarding your dues' status. Dues are \$150 per person for all who are age 21 and over. If you have not signed on as a dues paying member as of yet, please do so this year. Thank you.

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**FLOWER CLUB:** Michele Yarnes would like to close the books for 2024; however, there are several members who have not paid for this year's Flower Club, yet. If you have any questions about the status of your club, please call Michele at (570) 212-0001. Also, talk to her about joining the 2025 Flower Club. Let's keep this custom of putting beautiful floral arrangements on the Altar by joining the new Flower Club. The cost is \$40 per membership. A SIGN-UP SHEET for your weeks of commemoration will be in the church vestibule in the next week or so. Please help us continue this beautiful tradition of having floral arrangements on the Altar by signing up and becoming a member of the 2025 Club today. Thank you.

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**SEMINARY COLLECTION:** For many decades, our parish has held a special collection for our Orthodox seminaries. The collection takes place on Thanksgiving Day and continues until the end of the year. Seminaries are centers of spiritual effort and advancement, formation, academics and discipline. Remember, the seminary teaches and trains the future clergy of the Orthodox Faith, please give generously towards this important cause. *"Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."*

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**JANUARY 2025 LOTTERY TICKETS** are available in the church vestibule. The cost is **\$5.00 each** for the entire month of January 2025. The profit from this lottery pays for your Diocesan Dues for our parish. Any help will be most appreciated! **ALSO**, if you have any outstanding tickets for this Lottery, please get your money and ticket stubs to Joan Zaleski, Mott or Tanya before the 29<sup>th</sup> of December so they can be put into consecutive order for the drawings. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated – it is a time-consuming job to organize 1,000 tickets.

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**DONATIONS REQUESTED:** Anyone willing to donate towards the following for the period of the Nativity Fast as an act of almsgiving may do so by contacting Fr. John or the sextons: Altar Candles - **\$75 each**; Wine - **\$50 case**; Incense - **\$40 lb**; Oil - **\$40**.

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**BREAD BAKING:** Baking will take place on **Saturday, December 21** beginning at 7:30 AM. Only small loaves will be sold. The cost per loaf is **\$8.00**. The sale will be held on **Monday, December 23** starting at **10 AM until 6 PM**. **ORDERS PLACED by calling Mott (570)335-2128 or Sandy (570) 876-3576**. **Volunteers needed to run the sale between 2 & 6 PM**. **Please contact any council member if willing to help**.

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**ST. NICHOLAS DAY ICON FLORAL WREATH NEEDED:** A donor is needed for the wreath for the icon of St. Nicholas for his Feast Day. Please contact Malina at the Petal Pusher (570-282-0101) if you are interested in donating. Thank you!

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**SPECIAL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST:** Please contact Malina if you would like to order an arrangement for this great feast day.

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**VIGIL LIGHT COMMEMORATION LIST: VIGIL LIGHT COMMEMORATIONS:** If you have not paid for your 2024 commemorations, please do so by marking your name on an envelope, placing your \$25 into the envelope and dropping the envelope into the Candle Box. Thank you. The new lists for **2025** are now available in the church vestibule. Contemplate what dates you are interested in and sign up at your earliest convenience. Please pay for your request at the time of signing up in the envelope next to the sign-up lists.

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**2025 CHURCH ENVELOPES** are now available in the church center. Please pick yours and your family's boxes up today following services. If you can help by taking a friend's box to them, it would be greatly appreciated! Thank you.

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**ST. NICHOLAS:** In Orthodox Christianity, St. Nicholas is revered as a protector of fishermen, and the day celebrating him is an important religious holiday. St. Nicholas Day is observed on **December 19th** in the Eastern Orthodox tradition and on **December 6th** in the Western. It is a day observed with gift-giving, feasting, and children leaving out their shoes and hanging stockings so they can be filled with goodies or small gifts. Saint Nicholas is considered the patron saint of families, fishermen, millers, hunters, bankers, and traders.

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**2025 church wall calendars are available in the vestibule of the church.**

# St. Nicholas



St. 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. St. 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 the 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 as 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.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara whom St. Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to see them into slavery so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his intention, secretly visited them one night and threw a sack of gold coins through the window of their home. With the money, the man arranged an honorable marriage for his eldest daughter. St. Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St. Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on a pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to St. Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. St. Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entry of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea with his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, St. Nicholas gave thanks to the Saviour. He went to all the holy places, worshipping at each one. One night on Mount Zion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the early service of the Son of God, St. Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Zion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world and glorify My Name there." So, he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, St. Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust. In the year 325, St. Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the first seven articles of Creed, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of SS Sylvester the Bishop of Rome, Alexander of Alexandria, Spyridon of Trimythontos and other Fathers of the Council.

During his life, this saint worked many miracles. Through the prayers of this saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. The name of this 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. St. Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortune. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

**HOLY HIERARCH NICHOLAS, PRAY UNTO GOD FOR US!**