

December 6, 2009 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 1. St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (ca. 345). **Epistle:** Hebrews 13:17-21. **Gospel:** Luke 6:17-23.

Next Sunday, Dec. 13 – 27th Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Forefathers of Christ – Tone 2. **Epistle:** Col. 3:4-11. **Gospel:** Luke 14:16-24.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (Dec. 6, 2009)

TODAY

11:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class
12:00 PM Christmas Program Practice
6:00 PM St. John's Society (for teens)

TUESDAY

1:00 PM Sisterhood Luncheon (at Leo's)
6:00 PM Vespers
6:30 PM Parish Council

WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy: reading from Prologue
11:00 AM Reading Group (at Borders Café)

THURSDAY


6:30 AM Matins

SATURDAY

9:30 AM Teen Retreat (St. John's Monastery)
6:00 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY (December 13)

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy: Holy Forefathers
11:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class
12:00 PM Christmas Program Practice

 **Christmas Food Boxes will be distributed on Dec. 21, so please help us re-stock our food pantry with non-perishable food items: canned goods, box mixes, pasta, and cereals, etc. A sign-up list for whole ham donations will be posted on the candlestand.**



SAINT NICHOLAS OR SANTA CLAUS

Icon in the Temple of God or photo op at the Mall
native of Patara & Myra in Lycia or inhabitant of the North Pole
Confessor imprisoned for Christ or pal of Frosty and the Grinch
miracle-worker of love or worker of "holiday" magic
Defender of the Faith (325) or rewarder of child behavior
Archbishop of the spiritual flock or leader of elves and reindeer
imitator of Christ and saint or marketing image for profit
historic person of God or character of many legends

The name *Santa Claus* is derived from *Saint Nicholas*, but the Santa Claus familiar to most people in our American culture IS NOT the same person as the Saint Nicholas we know from Orthodox history and Tradition. Except for their similar names, the two personages have very little in common.

Let us venerate the true Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, and not bow to a popular caricature. The saint suffered for the Faith under the Roman emperor Diocletian (ca. 286), was present at the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea (325) where he confronted the heretic Arius, and led his Diocese, continuing to provide for the needs of people even today!

The reputation of St. Nicholas is known throughout the world. The saint's reknown should always resound to the glory of Jesus Christ, the God-man, Who is born to give us grace and life in the Communion of the all the faithful.

*You were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence.
Because of your lowliness, heaven was opened to you,
because of your poverty, riches were granted you.
O Holy Bishop Nicholas, pray to Christ our God
that our souls may be saved. (Hymn of the Saint)*

The Friend of the Bridegroom

"He Must Increase and I Must Decrease" (John 3:29-30)

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church Orthodox Church in America

2220 Reeves Road NE Warren, Ohio 44483
Church Phone: 330-372-3895 www.stjohnswarren.com
General Office Hours: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (TThF)

Fr. Jonathan H. Cholcher, Rector...330-980-0134 (Cell)
Pastoral Emergencies 10 PM - 7 AM ... 330-469-2907
Judy Reed, Sisterhood/Repasts...Home: 330-793-5145
Cell: 330-519-5730
John Tutoki, Hall Coordinator.....330-469-9531

Saturday: Vespers at 6:00 PM Sunday: Liturgy at 9:30 AM
Feast Day Liturgy – 9:30 AM Sunday School (after Liturgy)

GENERAL INFORMATION

11-29-09: 110 (attendance); **\$2,240.00** (collection).
12-06-09: candle commemorations – Theotokos: blessed memory of Taylor Nelson; **Altar:** blessed memory of the Stan and Farkas families; **Christ:** blessed memory of Stephen Beskid.

Please Pray for:

Living: Vera (Campbell, at home); **Linda** (Keriotis); **Chariessa** (Stitchik, sister of Mark Malacky); **Lillian** (Motil, cousin of Pauline Struble); **Charles & Ed** (co-workers of Diane Cholcher); **Kerya** (Brisbine); **Melanie** (Smith, cousin of Vera Campbell); **Ann** (Gyurek, surgery in Columbus); **Aaron** (Meterko, at Trumbull Memorial); **Helen** (Stan); **Maryann** (Lalli) & **Craig** (Parana, friends of the DiGiacobbes); **John** (Teresko, at home).
Departed: William (Barrass; d. 11/9/09); **Helen** (Mindek; d. 11/14/09); **Teresa** (Kloss, aunt of Vera Campbell); **Mary** (Wainwright; d. 11/28/09, aunt of Karen and Norman George); **Jason** (Tutoki; d. 11/25/09).

This Month's Charity – December 2009:

[charity envelope or baskets after Liturgy]

St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Monastery (in Cleveland)

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Dec. 12-13 Youth (Teen) Retreat at St. John's Monastery** (in Hiram, OH)
- Dec. 19 Hierarchical Liturgy & Ordination of Reader Samuel Bagby to the Holy Diaconate (NOTE: THIS HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE SPRING)**
- Dec. 20 Children's Christmas Program**
- Dec. 21 Christmas Food Box distribution**



SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

1) Church (Sunday) School & Bible Class:

for all ages, following Divine Liturgy – adults are studying the Divine Liturgy.

2) Path to Salvation Class:

Tuesdays following Vespers (about 6:30 PM) – currently studying the Life and Feasts of the Theotokos;

3) Classic Literature Reading Group:

Wednesdays, 11:00 AM, at Borders Café (near the Eastwood Mall) – currently reading *Siddhartha*, by Hermann Hesse; engaging the culture with the Faith!

4) St. John's Society (for teens):

most Sundays at 6:00 PM, for fellowship, mutual education, service, and encouragement!

+ **Charity of the Month for December: St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Monastery.** St. Mary's Monastery is led by Abbess Mother Theonymphie and provides valuable physical and spiritual assistance to many needy persons and families in the heart of Cleveland. For more information, you may visit the Monastery website, www.saintmaryofegypt.org, or see its newsletter on the bulletin board.

+ **Holy Resurrection Church Christmas Nut-roll and Sausage Sale – see the flyer on the bulletin board – orders taken through December 13.**

+ **Holy Resurrection Church** is sponsoring a **Retreat on Confession** Saturday, **December 12, from 10 AM to 4 PM**. On the same day, they have invited all to share Christmas carols beginning at 6 PM. We will not be participating officially due to our Great Vespers at 6 PM, but you are invited to attend as Vespers will be served at Holy Resurrection at 5 PM prior to the singing of carols.

+ With Christmas approaching, we will again provide gifts through **The Giving Tree gift program** through Children's Services of Trumbull County, for **the Cox family** (at St. Vladimir's Seminary), and for **children of families we help with food** for the holidays. You may volunteer to help by taking a card, or cards, with a child's name and needs at the candlestand. Please return wrapped gifts to Church by December 16.

+ In the month of November, \$1,386 was given at St. John's for the Archpriest Michael Mihalick and his family (of Johnstown, PA). Thank you to everyone who contributed for their well-being, and may God continue to grant the Mihalicks peace, health, and salvation.

+ **Please note – the monthly *Sisterhood Luncheon* will take place this TUESDAY, Dec. 8, at 1:00 PM at Leo's Ristorante in Howland, not Monday as in the past. All ladies are invited!**

+ *Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Academy and Preschool* presents **The Secret of Santa** on December 16 at 6:30 PM at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church (on North Road). All are cordially invited to attend; refreshments will be served after the play.

+ The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with the Ordination of Reader Samuel Bagby to the Holy Diaconate scheduled for this coming December 19 has been postponed until the Spring. This will allow a little more time for necessary preparations. Upon ordination, Samuel will be *our Parish Deacon* to attend to both liturgical and charitable needs within the Church.

+ **Looking ahead...**the *annual Blessing of the Waters of the Mahoning River* will take place on Theophany, January 6, at 4:00 PM. This will allow for our children to participate after school. We also plan to provide a brunch after Liturgy on our patronal Feast Day, Jan. 7, *the Synaxis (Gathering) of St. John the Baptist*.