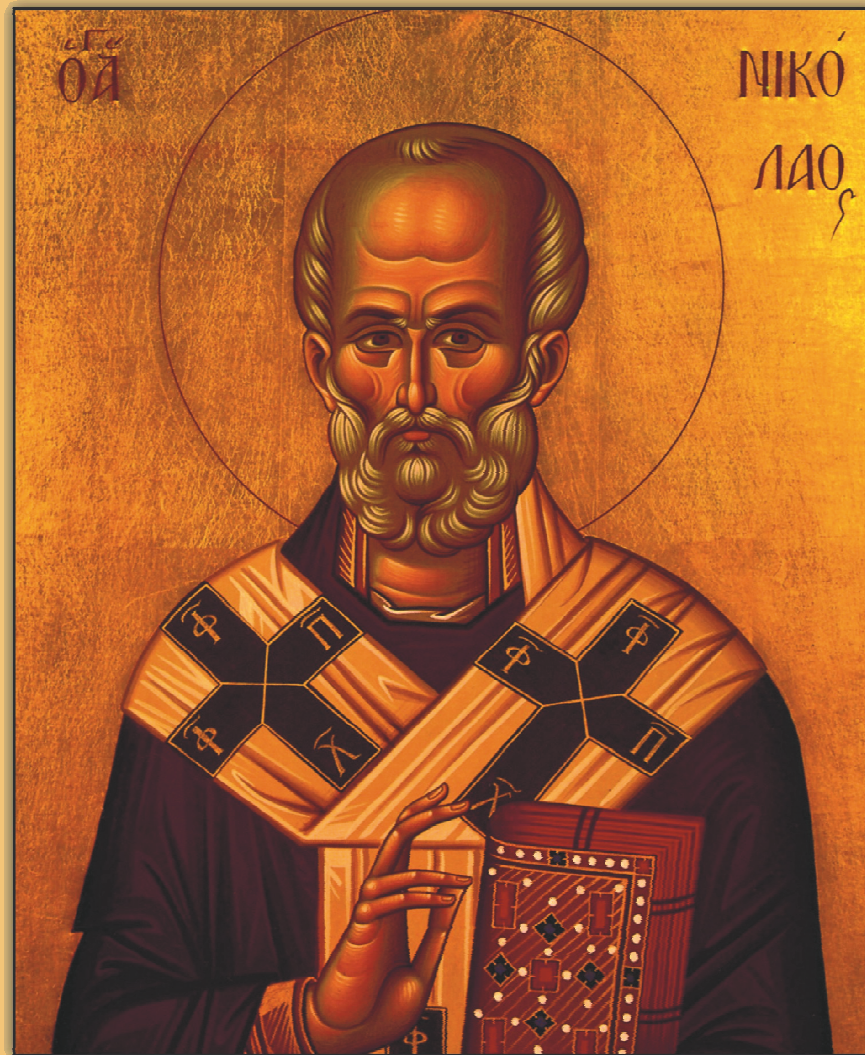


TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Nicholas of Myra -- 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

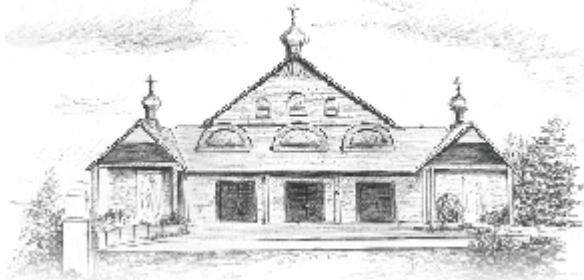
daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving 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.

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

8111 Brecksville Road ☒ Brecksville, Ohio 44141

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Feast of St. Nicholas

Last December, on the feast of St. Nicholas, a group of excited preschool children gathered around a priest in a classroom in the remote village of Jakubany in eastern Slovakia. Father Damian Saraka was there to usher in an annual custom: to greet the beloved St. Nicholas and his scary sidekick, the devil. This year, the young Greek Catholic priest had another reason for attending the event. Dorothy, his daughter, sat among the giddy children.

Every feast of St. Nicholas, the bishop and his less than saintly companion visit Jakubany, checking whether or not children know their prayers. St Nicholas rewards those who do with candy and other goodies. The devil threatens to punish those who do not.

Under communism, authorities discouraged the custom in favor of the more secular Santa Claus. But in this Rusyn Greek

Catholic village, residents flouted the restriction and continued to host the saint and the imp, impressing upon their children the necessity of prayer.



Giving Tree

Donations for this year's **Giving Tree** recipients (Mary Queen of Peace Parish/School in Cleveland and St. Joe parishioners in need of assistance) are **due by next weekend**. Place the envelope in the collection basket or send it via U.S. mail. (For those who haven't been in church and still want to donate, just send your check to the church appropriately marked with checks made payable to **St. Joseph A-OK Club**).



December 6, 2020

Christ is Among Us!

Liturgy Schedule

Monday	December 7	8:00 a.m.	†John Macik by Betty Macik
Tuesday	December 8		Solemn Holyday: Immaculate Conception
		7:00 p.m.	†Mae Misconish by Deacon Bill/Nancy Fredrick
Wednesday	December 9	8:00 a.m.	†Nancy Mahon by Barb Fortlage and Becky
Thursday	December 10	8:00 a.m.	†Guy Liggot by Mike/Jean Karaffa
Friday	December 11	8:00 a.m.	†Mary Lukas by Jeff/Jan Lukas
Saturday	December 12	2:00 p.m.	Wedding of Brandon St. John and Bianca Edeah
			Vigil Liturgy
		4:00 p.m.	Intention of the Parishioners
Sunday	December 13	10:30 a.m.	†Antonia Baumgartner by son Andy

		Altar Servers	Lectors	Greeters
December 12	4:00 p.m.	S. Lupia & J. Mosgo	B. Fortlage	—
December 13	10:30 a.m.	A. & R. Percic	J. Waski	—

The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic His giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves. — St. Nicholas of Myra



As we enter the month of December, you might be curious as to what “options” you might have come Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in terms of “church.” At last month's **Advisory Board** Meeting the consensus was that what we have in place should be sufficient to meet the demand for seating. The “key” here is our closed-circuit broadcast in the hall. Once the church is filled to it's optimum “safe capacity” the usher's will direct folks downstairs where there will be plenty of social-distanced seating available. You will also still have

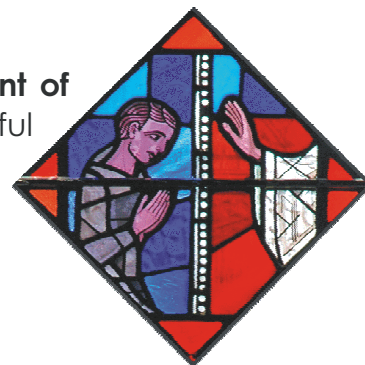
the choice of listening to the liturgy from anywhere in the parking lot on 104.3. I would think the Eucharist for Christmas would be extremely important, but for those who have health reasons to stay away, both liturgies will be live-streamed on YouTube via our website (or by subscription). Next weekend your options are as described above.

During this time of preparation for the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity, let's continue to be faith driven with a solid focus on the Christ Child who came into the world as Our Savior!

Confession Opportunities

There are some additional times set aside for the **Sacrament of Confession**. Consider taking advantage of this beautiful instrument of God's mercy prior to the Feast of His Holy Birth.

December 19...2:45-3:45
December 20...9:30-10:15
Christmas Eve...2:00—4:00





The **50/50 Club Grand Drawing** was held on November 22 in the hall after liturgy. This year, because there was not a banquet, an additional \$2,500.00 in prize money was given away. Here's a list of all the lucky winners.

\$1,500	Jill Sprecher	#211
500	Gail Weisman	#138
300	Carol Csornok	#47
200	Lee Schomer	#244
100	Wm. Bockanic, Jr.	#152
100	Michelle Dirda	#123
100	Mary Jo Keshock	#231
100	Tyson Tinter	#67
100	David Kovach	#276
100	Linda Szucs	#40
100	Michele Nebelski	#223
100	Linda Londrico	#75
100	Laura Aylward	#253
100	Barbara Zaborowski	#50
100	Carol Csornok	#107
100	Jeff Cifranic	#285
100	Tom Deka	#83
100	Bill Fejes	#93
100	Mary Ann Borrelli	#130
100	Chris Mouhlas	#57
100	Judy Makaryk	#39
100	Barry Diedrick	#167
100	Jack Pinchot	#135
100	Virginia Ruzinok	#18
100	John Balla	#206
100	Rachel Arrowood	#139
100	Jennifer Mosgo	#121
100	Joe Steets	#65
100	Charles Hallis	#60
100	George Prochasa	#280
100	Carol Kwiatkowski	#143
100	John Morselli	#106
100	Pamela Parker	#288
100	Kathleen Bockanic	#193

You can join the fun by calling **Joe Csornok (216-524-6344)**. He has numbers available for the new session. The cost is \$70 for the year and makes you eligible for the weekly \$60 prize. It also gives you a seat at the Banquet in November (food, drinks, music, grand drawing) which we anticipate being able to hold.

Someone you know may need this information:

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Your Weekly Offering

November 22, 2020

Sunday:	\$3,069.00
e-giving:	185.00
8 Student Envelopes:	8.00
Cash:	—
Candles:	78.00
Holy Days:	221.00
Building Fund:	2.00
Thanksgiving:	200.00
Total:	\$3,763.00

November 29, 2020

Sunday:	\$4,910.00
e-giving:	235.00
6 Student Envelopes:	10.00
Cash:	45.00
Candles:	97.00
Holy Days:	15.00
Flowers:	30.00
Thanksgiving:	3909.00
Christmas:	70.00
Total:	\$5,802.00

Catholic Communication Campaign

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the **Catholic Communication Campaign** as requested by the Diocese. A check in the amount of \$130.00 will be sent to the Chancery.

Stewardship Update

Donors: 52
Amount: \$10,630.00
Goal: \$23,000.00

(A reminder that your pledge and check should be sent directly to the Chancery Office in Independence.)

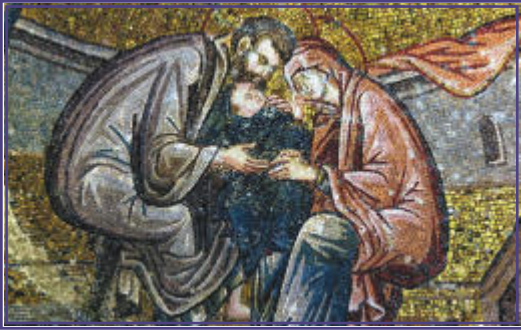
Banns of Marriage III

Bianca Eadeh & Brandon St. John



Donation Envelopes/Calendars

Next weekend envelopes and calendars for the year 2021 will be available in the vestibule. (If you have been attending and would like to formally join, there will be a list for you to sign with your name and phone number.)



Immaculate Conception:

December 8

In relation to the redemption of mankind, Mary's position was obviously unique and it should not be surprising that her personal redemption by her divine Son was unique. She was not delivered or liberated from sin into which she had fallen, nor was she cleansed from sin with which she had been infected; rather she was preserved and kept from falling into sin, the infection of original sin was prevented in her case and at the very first instant of her existence in her mother's womb. She was conceived immaculate by her mother—free from sin and endowed with the grace of Christ by reason of the anticipated merits of his passion and death.

The preservation of Mary from inheriting the state of original sin is commonly called her Immaculate Conception. This does not mean, as so many erroneously think, her virginal conception of Christ, and it is not bound up with the fact that Christ had no human father but was miraculously conceived by Mary. Nor does it mean that Mary was conceived by her mother in a miraculous manner, without marriage relations with her husband. No, as far as Mary's parents were concerned, she was conceived in the natural manner of human reproduction. Being conceived in the natural manner, Mary would have been conceived without the grace of God and would have inherited the state of lost innocence, as do all those who descent from Adam by natural human generation. But God saved her from it because of the part she was to play in his divine plan.

The faith of the Catholic Church in the Immaculate Conception is thus simply expressed: The Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first moment of her conception, by a singular privilege of Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, was preserved from all stain of original sin.

Tuesday is a Solemn Holyday. The liturgy will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. We are hoping to have it live-streamed.

Altar Server Gathering

The altar server Christmas gathering will be limited this year to a dinner at the London Pickle Works on **December 15 at 5:30** (no gift exchange or games back at the church). If your son(s) will be attending, please have them sign the list in the sacristy by next Sunday.

Christmas Mail

The **A-OK Club** has decided to keep the mail boxes open for the Christmas season. A bottle of hand sanitizer will be placed at the site. (It's a nickel to mail a card.)

Still Christmas Shopping?

Our religious article counter will be open after liturgy for the next two weekends.



Parish Sympathies

Mary Ann Martinek was buried this past week at the age of 90. For the past number of years she has been on our monthly Communion visitation list as a

resident at Jennings in Garfield Hts. Mary Ann was a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary, worked at our bingo when we had it, as well as our fish fries. She also helped at the Sunday coffee/donut social for many years. Her daughter **Terri** would get her to church quite often in a wheel chair when the weather was nice prior to Covid. She was a faith-filled and dedicated parishioner. Parish sympathies are extended to Terri during this time of loss.

In blessed repose grant rest O Lord to Your Handmaid Mary Ann and may her memory be eternal!

Parish sympathies are also extended to **Joan Klinkovsky** and family. Her son **Daniel** died recently at the age of 37 following a long battle with cancer.

Please Pray

Please remember all the sick/suffering in your prayers, especially **Paul Asmondy** (Medina); **Diane Balasz** (Parkside Villa; rehab); **Bill Chalfa** (Parkside Villa rehab) and **Bea Chrusic** (home).

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