



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church

1773 Woodbourne Road \* Levittown, PA 19057  
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Rev. Myron Badnerosky – Pastor Emeritus

## Liturgical Schedule

### for the Week of December 4, 2016

**Sunday, December 4 ~ 29<sup>h</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**9:00 AM** For the Parish Family  
of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

St. Nicholas Celebration Following the Divine Liturgy

**Monday, December 5 ~ Vigil of St. Nicholas**

**7:00 PM** Vespers and Divine Liturgy  
For the Parish Family  
of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Tuesday, December 6 ~ Feast of St. Nicholas**

**8:30 AM** Special Intention

**Wednesday, December 7 ~ Vigil – Maternity of Anna  
Conception of the Mother of God**

**7:00 PM** Vespers and Divine Liturgy  
For the Parish Family  
of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Thursday, December 8 ~ Maternity of Anna**

Conception of the Mother of God

**8:30 AM** Special Intention

**Sunday, December 11 ~ Sunday of the Forefathers**

**9:00 AM** For the Parish Family  
of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Festal Anointing in celebration of the Maternity of Anna  
and St. Nicholas will follow the Divine Liturgy



**SUNDAY COFFEE SOCIAL** – Our next  
coffee social will be on **December 11** with  
team 1 is in charge. (There will be no  
coffee social on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.)

## CANDLE DEDICATION FOR DECEMBER

### Tetrapod

In Honor of all the ECF Children by  
M. Catherine McFarland

“Remembering that a child led the way...”

### Altar of Preparation

In Memory of Nelli G. Donatelli,  
my grandmother by Robert P. Donatelli

### Blessing Altar

In Memory of Frank Scalia, my father by Nora Scalia  
Downs & Greg Downs

### Candle Dedication for 2017

Kay McFarland is taking reservations for candle intentions for 2017  
– a few dates are still available. Please get in touch with Kay. **Please  
note that in 2017 the candle intentions will be listed only on the  
first weekend of the month.**



## 2017 LOTTERY CALENDARS

Margaret Churilla will have  
2017 Lottery Calendars for sale  
at \$20.00 per calendar. Every  
night a possible winner based  
on 3 digit PA Evening Daily  
Number. Prizes vary from \$20 to \$200.



## Holy Supper Svjatyj Večer

Fr. Ed has the tradition of preparing Holy Supper  
for his family and friends on Christmas Eve. The  
parish Family of OLPH is also invited. If you  
would like to attend, please sign up on the sheet on  
the table at the entrance of the church by  
**December 11** so he can prepare. Holy Supper will  
be held in the Parish Hall at 4:30 PM. If you  
would like to bring something or help, please let  
Fr. Ed know. (It is not necessary to bring  
something)

### Offertory – November 27, 2016

Weekly Offerings - \$1,677.00

Entrance of the Mother of God - \$55.00

Memorial for Michael A. Macinsky - \$75.00

Personal Assessment \$50.00

**Attendance ~ 63**

## PERSONAL ASSESSMENT 2016

*Special Thanks to those who have responded to  
OLPH Special Assessment Fundraising Drive*

\$ 1000 - George & Roberta Potzgo

\$500 - The Barr Family

\$400 - Anna Macinsky

\$300 - Nora & Greg Downs, Drs. Joseph & Joan Philip  
\$250

Marie Burtis, Margaret Churilla, Fr. Ed Cimbala  
Margaret Danka, Betty Dubinsky, M/M Thomas Dulin,

Dennis J. Flanagan, Debbie Coval-Grant

Tom & Fran Hadzick, Marijean Harmonis

M/M Michael Kakuk, M/M John Karmazin

Eileen Kelly, Rhonda King, M/M Harry Koehnlein

Susan Kondrach, Nadia Kopcho,

M/M Edward Kravcak, Stephen Macinsky,

M. Catherine McFarland, Patricia Marks,

Dan & Betty Slezak,

Jon & Natalie Slezak, Marge Slezak,

Jennifer & Daniel Starrs

Maura & Michael Sudik, Michael J. Swider

Dr. Daniel J. Tisak, Helen Yatsko

\$ 150 - M/M Richard Zadnik

\$ 130 - Robert P. Donatelli

\$ 125

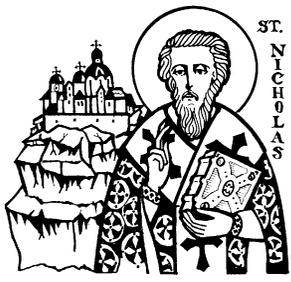
Rita M. Lauderman, Michael A. Macinsky III,

Dolores Price

\$ 100 - Helen Snyder, Donna Rayner

\$ 50 Margie Zapko

*If you haven't contributed, please do so as soon as  
possible. While the suggested amount  
is \$250.00 per family,  
all contributions no matter what size are appreciated.*



*St Nicholas the Wonderworker  
and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia  
Commemorated on December 6*

Saint 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 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 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 sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his 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 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 entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by 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

Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshipping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly 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 into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, 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."

After his consecration as archbishop, St Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of St Constantine (May 21) as emperor, St Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

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

St 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.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by St Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of St Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to St Constantine in a dream, St Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, St Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).

The name of the 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. It is impossible to list all the grace-filled icons of St Nicholas, or to enumerate all his miracles.

St Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

### **PRAYER TO ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA**

O Saint Nicholas, bountiful Father and special Patron of our Byzantine Catholic Church, You are a shepherd and teacher to all who invoke your protection, and who, by devout prayer, call upon you for aid. Hasten and save the flock of Christ from ravenous wolves; and by your holy prayers protect all Christians and save them from worldly disturbances, earthquakes, attacks from abroad, from internal strife, from famine, flood, fire, sword, and sudden death. As you had mercy on those three men in prison and saved them from the king's wrath, now also have mercy on me who by word, deed, and thought have sunk into the darkness of sin, Save me from the just anger of God, and from eternal punishment. Through your intercession and aid as well as through his own mercy and grace, may Christ our God allow me to lead a tranquil and sinless life, and save me from standing at "his left," but deem me worthy to stand at "his right" with all the saints. Amen.

**A SPECIAL GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS** – A special gift for Christmas is a fitting way to thank God for coming to us and showering us with His Light. As Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, please use your Sunday envelope in addition to the special Christmas envelope. **Thank you for your generosity.**

## **Special Liturgical Celebrations During December**

### **Christmas Confessions**

Saturday, December 17

Stop in Between 10:30 AM and Noon

Guest Confessors

### **Christmas - The Nativity of Our Lord**

Saturday, December 24

7:15 PM – Grand Compline

8:00 PM – Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 25

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

### **Synaxis of the Theotokos**

Monday, December 26 - 7:00 PM - Divine Liturgy

### **Stephen - Protomartyr**

Tuesday, December 27 - 8:30 AM - Divine Liturgy



## **The Conception of the Holy Mother of God by Saint Anna**

Celebrated December 8/9

St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married St. Joachim who was a native of Galilee. For a long time St. Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them the Conception of a Daughter, Who would bring blessing to the entire human race.

The Conception by St. Anna took place at Jerusalem, where also was born the Most Holy Virgin Mary by name. The majority of icons dedicated to the Conception by St. Anna, portray the Most Holy Virgin trampling the serpent underfoot.

“In the icon Sts. Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, Who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under Her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power.”

There are also icons in which St. Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On St. Anna's face is a look of reverence. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women.



## **Preparing for Confession**

How can one prepare for Holy Confession? Preparation for Holy Confession is a prayerful examination of feelings, thoughts, words, acts, attitudes, habits, values, priorities, goals, direction and way of life. This prayerful self-examination includes not only the personal religious life, but also family relationships, social activities, job conduct, business dealings, political commitments and even recreational pursuits, because our entire existence should be lived in under the light of the Holy Spirit is not to condemn ourselves, but to affirm our true selves in Christ who has given us access to God's mercy and forgiveness and who has taught us to live for God's glory. Pray and think and your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and to make a thorough confession of them. **Christmas Confessions will be heard on Saturday, December 17 from 10:30 AM to Noon.**

**WELCOME VISITORS!**  
**“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
**FOR ALL PEOPLES.”** - Isaiah 56: 7

If you are a visitor to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we want you to know how welcome you are; whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish. We hope you find our worship true and reverent and our people here friendly and cordial. If you are seeking a spiritual home, we would be honored by your presence in our family. For more information about becoming a parishioner, please see Fr. Ed.



Take a tag from the tree and **LOOSLEY** attach it back on your gift package so we can collect the tags for next year. Please mark the age and sex of the child on the outside of the wrapped package. Gifts are due before the Divine Liturgy on December 18. Thank you for your support of this very special program which benefits the Children's Home Society of New Jersey.