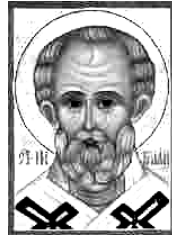


December 7, 2008
St Ambrose of Milan

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
412-331-1053
<http://www.stnicholas-oca.org>
info@stnicholas-oca.org



Rev. Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
(412) 299-3942
Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell, *Attached*
Ms. Doris Wasilko, *Choir Director*

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Schedule of Services and Activities

Saturday, December 13 th – 5:00 PM	Great Vespers
Sunday, December 14 th – 10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy

We would like to thank Deacon Joseph Mell for serving the Obednitsa today and for all he does in our parish. May God grant him and Matushka Nancy many years!

Fr Tom is in Minneapolis, MN this weekend, speaking at St Mary's Cathedral on "The Goals of Christian Community" and "Servant Leadership" as the main speaker during their Advent retreat.

Our Church School students will be practicing for the Yolka (Christmas program) on the stage in the church hall for the next three Sundays at 9:15 AM. Parents, please make sure that your children are practicing their parts during the week and that you bring them to the practices on Sunday morning. Our Yolka will be held on Sunday, December 21st after the Divine Liturgy. Thank you to Matushka Joni for organizing the program. Any students who wish to perform a song on an instrument or sing should sign up with Matushka.

Our Christmas Gifts for Families in Need project will continue again this year. All gifts are due today. Please put the gifts under the icon of St Nicholas as you bring them to Church. Gifts should be for children ages 6 - 18 and should be **unwrapped**. Please contact Donya Yewisiak with any questions. Gifts will be distributed by the Holy Family Institute of McKees Rocks. Thanks for your support!

Please remember that we are now in the Christmas Fast. Please make every effort to keep the fast and attend Church as we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. This season is an excellent time to prepare ourselves by receiving the sacraments of confession and communion.

The Sisterhood will be hosting the annual St. Nicholas Day Dinner next **Sunday, December 14th** immediately following Liturgy. The Lenten meal will be catered by Janice's and ticket prices are as follows: Adults are \$12.00; Children ages 3-12 are \$6.00 and children 2 and under are free! See Melissa Westling or Matushka Joni after Liturgy in the vestibule or during coffee hour. Please support our Parish and purchase tickets in advance! Remember to invite family and friends to join us!

Everyone is invited to join us in Christmas caroling to our elderly parishioners and shut-ins after the Yolka on Sunday, December 21st. Last year's event was a great success! After the caroling, Melissa and Nathan Graff have graciously opened their home for some post-caroling fellowship and refreshments.

St. Nick's Corner News: Our showcase is overflowing with new merchandise! Please stop by and check out the dozens of beautiful ornaments, glass tealight holders and assorted wooden boxes, dolls, eggs, icons, and much more. Also available are several boxes of Christmas cards. See Michelle Bittner or Marsha Wasilko for assistance.

Our condolences to the Porvaznik/Robes family on the loss of Georgiann Robes' father, George Porvaznik, a beloved parishioner of our parish. May his memory be eternal.

Congratulations to Teresa and Robert Robes on the birth of their new baby daughter, Anna Elizabeth! Anna was born on Wednesday at Ohio Valley Hospital and weighed 8 lbs 8 oz at birth. Everyone is healthy and doing well. May God grant the Robes family many years!

Congratulations to April and Steve Pituch on the birth of their new son, Alexander, who was born November 19th at Sewickley Hospital. Alexander was 7 pounds, 2 ounces and 20 inches long at birth. May God grant the Pituch family many years!

Vigil Light Donations (Please remember the following people in your prayers): **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; "O Holy Father Nicholas, Pray for Us". **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha, Tom Robes, Carol Kowalcheck, Anita Wasilko and Garnette Kerchum. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents), Charles & Mary; for the health of the Wasilko family, Tom & Georgiann Robes and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Helen M. Shancey** for the departed servants, her beloved husband, Richard Shancey, Norma Jean Evans, Joyce Duster, Ray Cobb, Joseph Kovacs, Ann Hruch, Steve Gulewicz & wife, Mat. Olga, Melissa Torok, Aleksandra Koroleva and all deceased members of the Halajcio & Shancey families; for the health of Dr. Chris Baxter & family, Shancey & Halajcio families, Jim & Leslie Wokutch, Helen Cobb, Olga Novak & son, Bittner family, Hruch family, Wasilko family, Kasnot family, Namisnak family, Barsom family, Kovacs family, Carol Kowalcheck family, Garnett & Peter Kerchum, Michael Lopez, Jr., Robes family, Pravlochak family, Kowal family, Steve Meno, Reader Michael Soroka, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and all their families and all parishioners. God bless all our service men & women. God bless America. **From David Namisnak** for the departed servants, Melissa, Frank & Anna Namisnak and Richard Shancey; for the health of Marsha, Helen Shancey, Andrew Kasnot and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Susan Sipes Stroehlen** for her departed husband, Jon. **From Carol Kowalcheck** for God's grace & mercy. **From John A. Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Ann Kowalcheck. **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, Ray Cobb, Mat. Olga, Richard Shancey, Darius, Joseph Kovacs, Ann Hruch, Steve Gulewicz; for the health of George, Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Dick, Jared, Kowal family, Tichy family, Fuller family, Kasnot family, Wasilko family, Barsom family, Speth family, Helen M. Shancey & family, Kowalcheck family, Fr. Soroka, Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. God bless all our service men and women. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servant, Val Prescop; for the health of Carol Kowalcheck. **From Alexandria Hanich Tirpak** for her departed parents & grandparents. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health of Grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, David Zeronki and Zoe Fedderoff. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Helen (Belosky) Oschip; for the health of Carol Kowalcheck, Tom Robes, Michael Soroka, Garnette Kerchum and Dolly Lyle. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servants, (parents) Andrew & Anna Shaytar; for the health of George and Garnette Kerchum. **From Paul & Lois Fuller** for the health of the Soldier Justin and Katharine on her birthday (Dec. 2nd). **From Chuck Conrad** for the health of Barb Fitzgerald-heal her cancer. **From Peter Kerchum** for the health of Garnette.

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December 7, 2008

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 8

Troparion of the Resurrection

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: Glory to Thee.

Tone 8

Kontakion of the Resurrection

By rising from the tomb Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy resurrection,
And the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One.

Tone 6

Kontakion of the Theotokos

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
constant advocate before the creator,
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our intercessions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos
For you always protect those who honor you.

Tone 8

Prokeimenon of the Sunday (Psalm 76)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

Epistle (Ephesians 4:1-6)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel (Luke 17:12-19)

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Welcome to our visitors!

Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service. Please join us downstairs for coffee hour following today's service.

Nativity Fasting Guidelines: Eating of fish is permitted on all Saturdays and Sundays of the Fast. Likewise, eating of fish is permitted on some other feasts during the fast - check your church calendar. Consumption of wine and oil is permitted on all Tuesdays and Thursdays of the Fast. On all other days of the Fast, we abstain from eating fish, wine or oil. On the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, there is no fast, regardless of the day on which the Feast might fall.

For us, the Nativity Fast serves to refresh the last part of the year - mystically renewing our spiritual unity with God and preparing us for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ.

St. Leo the Great wrote: "Four periods [of the year] have been set aside as times of abstinence, so that over the course of the year we might recognize that we are constantly in need of purification, and that amid life's distractions, we should always strive by means of fasting and acts of charity to extirpate sin, sin which is multiplied in our transitory flesh and in our impure desires."

According to St. Simeon of Thessalonica, "...the Nativity Forty-day Fast represents the fast undertaken by Moses, who, having fasted for forty days and forty nights, received the Commandments of God, written on stone tablets [of the Law]. And we, fasting for forty days, will reflect upon and receive from the Virgin of the living Word - not written upon stone, but born, incarnate, and we will commune of His Divine Body."

The Nativity Fast was established to allow us through repentance, prayer and fasting to cleanse ourselves before the Nativity of Christ, so that with clean heart, soul, and body, we might reverently meet the Son of God, Who has come into the world and so that in addition to bringing the usual gifts and sacrifices, we might bring Him our clean hearts and a desire to follow His teachings.

May God grant that we all spend the salvific days of the Nativity Fast in such a way as to be a great benefit to our souls.