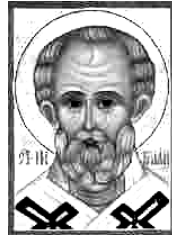


December 14, 2008
Martyr Callinicus

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-sixth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of the Forefathers

Schedule of Services and Activities

Immediately after the Divine Liturgy

9th day in memory of George Porvaznik
9th day in memory of Patriarch of Alexei II of Moscow and All Russia
Yearly anniversary in memory of Stella Saban
25th year in memory of Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemann

Trisagion for the Departed

Saturday, December 20th – 5:00 PM

Great Vespers

Sunday, December 21st – 10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Our Church School students will be practicing for the Yolka (Christmas program) on the stage next Sunday 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 next Sunday, December 21st after the Divine Liturgy.** Any students who wish to perform a song on an instrument or sing should sign up with Matushka Joni. Thank you to Matushka Joni for organizing the program.

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.



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. We hope to see you there!

The 2009 Calendars and Envelopes are now available at the candle kiosk.

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.

It's time again to update the Church directory! Please see Kristie Mertz if any changes have been made to your contact information. Additionally, we would like everyone to have their picture taken so that we

can publish a new church directory for 2009. Photographs will be taken for the next few weeks so that the directory can be made available at the yearly parish meeting, after the Divine Liturgy on the stage.

Today, Deacon Joseph and Matushka Nancy are at Indiana University of PA (IUP) attending the graduation ceremonies of their son, Gregory Nicholas Mell. Gregory is graduating today from IUP with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education (Social Studies). Gregory is completing his college undergraduate degree studies early (3 1/2 years). During his studies at IUP, Gregory attained the Dean's Honor List every semester at IUP, graduating with a 3.8 GPA. His future plans are to pursue a teaching career and Masters Degree in the Pittsburgh area. Congratulations Gregory! Many Years!

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our annual Christmas Gifts for Families in Need program this year. The gifts were delivered to a grateful Holy Family Institute which will distribute the gifts to local families. May God bless you according to your generosity.

Thank you to everyone who so generously gave of their time and efforts in helping to clean the church and prepare the temple for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ yesterday. May God richly bless you for your dedication.

Schedule of Services for the Nativity of Christ

Monday, December 22nd 5:00 PM
Tuesday, December 23rd 5:00 PM
Wednesday, December 24th 9:30 AM
Wednesday, December 24th 8:00 PM
Thursday, December 25th 10:00 AM
Friday, December 26th 9:30 AM

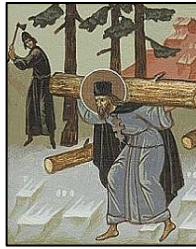
Daily Vespers
Royal Hours (OT, Epistle and Gospel Nativity readings)
Vesperal Divine Liturgy
Vigil (Compline and Matins)
Festal Divine Liturgy
Divine Liturgy

Vigil Light Donations (Please remember the following people in your prayers): **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, George Porvaznik; for the health of the Carol Kowalcheck and the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, newly departed, George Porvaznik, grandmother, Katherine Dyczko; for cousin, Michael's 60th birthday. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents), Charles & Mary and George Porvaznik; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From David Namisnak** for the departed servants, Melissa and Richard Shancey; for the health of Marsha, Helen Shancey, Andrew Kasnot, Michael Soroka and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Susan Sipes Stroehlen** for her departed husband, Jon. **From Carol Kowalcheck** for son, Nicholas on his Name's Day; 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, Wasilko family, Barsom family, Helen M. Shancey & family, Fr. Soroka, Dn. Joseph Mell and their families. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servant, Val Prescop; for the health of son, John on his birthday. **From Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health of Grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Reader Michael Soroka and David Zeroniski. **From the Yakovacs** for the departed servants, Bubba and Sara; for the health of Marilyn Swiech, Evelyn, Joel, Justin, Maggie, Eric, Brittany; special intentions. **From George & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servant, George Porvaznik; for the health of George Shaytar and the Robes family. **From Chuck Conrad** for the health of Barb Fitzgerald-heal her cancer.



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December 14, 2008

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Tone 1

Troparion of the Resurrection

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:
Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!

Tone 2

Troparion of the Forefathers

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a noble fruit:
she who without seed did bear Thee.
By their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 2

Kontakion of the Forefathers

O thrice-blessed ones,
You did not worship the image made by man,
but armed with the invisible power of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:
“Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our defense,
for Thou art merciful and able to accomplish all that Thou dost will!”

Tone 4

Prokeimenon of the Forefathers (Song of the Three Youths)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

Epistle (Col 3:4-11)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Gospel (Luke 14:16-24)

Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’”

Communion Hymn (Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Of the Forefathers

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

Welcome to our visitors!

While Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting, non-Orthodox visitors are welcomed and encouraged to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.
Please join us downstairs at our St Nicholas dinner as our guest.

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.