

December 28, 2008  
20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia

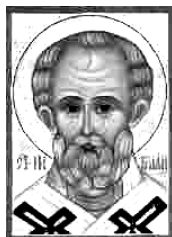
## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Rev. Thomas Soroka, *Rector*  
(412) 299-3942

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### Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

#### Schedule of Services and Activities

##### Today after the Divine Liturgy

In memory of Matushka Olga Soroka (one year)

##### Trisagion for the Departed

Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

There will be no Great Vespers next Saturday.



We will celebrate an evening **Divine Liturgy** for the feast of the Epiphany on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 PM with the Great Blessing of Water. There will be no Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

The next **Church School** will be held on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of a parent or family to sponsor the snacks for that day. Please see Matushka Joni if you can help.

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

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 starting in 2009.

Our **gracious thanks** to parishioner Steve Meno and the staff of **Della Robbia Flowers and Gifts of Distinction** for providing the beautiful decorations and flowers which adorn our temple for the feast of the Nativity of Christ. Please support this worthy business! Della Robbia, 842 Gill Hall Road, Clairton, PA 15025, phone 412-650-4200.

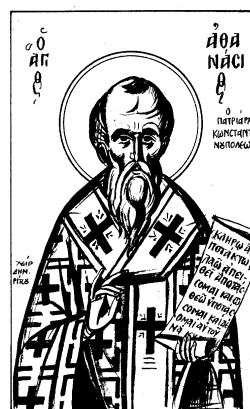
#### Thank you to our December donors!

**Christmas Altar Candles (\$125)** from the Yewisiak/Soroka families in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka

**Holy Bread (\$50)** from the Hanich/Tirpak families in memory of grandparents Marie and Nicholas Velgos and parents John and Amelia Hanich

**Communion Wine (\$40)** from Paul, Lois and Katharine Fuller for the health and safety of son, Jusin  
**Incense (\$10)** from the Hanich/Tirpak families for God's blessings on Matushka Martha and Mildred on their birthdays.

**Vigil Light Donations** (Please remember the following people in your prayers): **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary; for the health of Carol Kowalcheck, Tom Robes and Anita Wasilko. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents), Charles & Mary; for the health of the Wasilko family, Carol Kowalcheck, Tom & Georgiann Robes. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga; for the health of (daughter) Juliana. **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, Fuller, Kasnot, Speth, Wasilko, Barsom, Shancey, Soroka and Mell families. **From Paul Fuller** for the health of Lois, Katherine & (soldier) Justin; Merry Christmas to everyone. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health of Grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, Diane Zeroni and David Zeroni. **From Alexandra Tirpak** for her departed parents. **From John & Carol Kowalcheck** for the health of son, Daniel & daughter, Rachel on their Names Days (12/17 & 12/22).

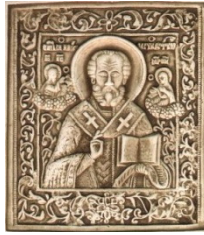


From "On the Incarnation" by St Athanasius (4<sup>th</sup> c)

*He [God] deals with them as a good teacher with his pupils, coming down to their level and using simple means. St. Paul says as much: "Because in the wisdom of God the world in its wisdom knew not God, God thought fit through the simplicity of the News proclaimed to save those who believe." Men had turned from the contemplation of God above, and were looking for Him in the opposite direction, down among created things and things of sense. The Savior of us all, the Word of God, in His great love took to Himself a body and moved as Man among men, meeting their senses, so to speak, half way. He became Himself an object for the senses, so that those who were seeking God in sensible things might apprehend the Father through the works which He, the Word of God, did in the body. Human and human minded as men were, therefore, to whichever side they looked in the sensible world they found themselves taught the truth. Were they awe-stricken by creation? They beheld it confessing Christ as Lord. Did their minds tend to regard men as Gods? The uniqueness of the Savior's works marked Him, alone of men, as Son of God. Were they drawn to evil spirits? They saw them driven out by the Lord and learned that the Word of God alone was God and that the evil spirits were not gods at all. Were they inclined to hero-worship and the cult of the dead? Then the fact that the Savior had risen from the dead showed them how false these other deities were, and that the Word of the Father is the one true Lord, the Lord even of death. For this reason was He both born and manifested as Man, for this He died and rose, in order that, eclipsing by His works all other human deeds, He might recall men from all the paths of error to know the Father. As He says Himself, "I came to seek and to save that which was lost."*

# St Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue  
McKees Rocks, PA 15136  
A parish of the Orthodox Church in America  
www.stnicholas-oca.org  
info@stnicholas.org



December 28, 2008

## Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

### Tone 3

### Troparion of the Resurrection

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm!  
He has trampled down death by death!  
He has become the first born of the dead!  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world great mercy.

### Tone 4

### Troparion of the Feast

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
hast shown to the world the light of wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,  
were taught by a star to adore Thee,  
the Sun of Righteousness,  
and to know Thee, the Orient from on High.  
O Lord, Glory to Thee!

### Tone 3

### Prokeimenon (Psalm 118)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

### Epistle of the Sunday after the Nativity (Galatians 1:11-19)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

### Gospel of the Sunday after the Nativity (Matthew 2:13-23)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

### Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure virgin Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly hosts!  
I behold a strange most glorious mystery: Heaven – the cave!  
The cherubic throne – the Virgin! The manger – the place where Christ lay!  
The uncontainable God whom we magnify in song!

### Communion Hymn (Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! Alleluia!

### Welcome to our visitors!

While Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians  
who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting,  
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 the Divine Liturgy.