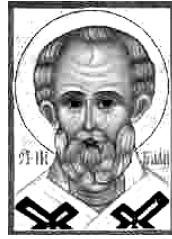


December 20, 2009
St John of Kronstadt

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*

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

Schedule of Services and Activities

Today after the Divine Liturgy

In Memory of John Lychkoff from his daughter, Leslie Ann Lutz
Due to last week's storm will also commemorate Stella Saban and Anne Hruch

Trisagion for the Departed

Wednesday, December 23rd – 10:00 AM

Royal Hours of the Nativity

Thursday, December 24th – 9:30 AM

Vespers Divine Liturgy

Thursday, December 24th – 8:00 PM

Vigil (Nocturn and Matins)

The Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

Friday, December 25th – 10:00 AM

Festal Divine Liturgy

The Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

Saturday, December 26th – 10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Synaxis of the Mother of God

No Great Vespers this Saturday

Sunday, December 27th – 10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy



Our Annual Yolka will be held today after the Divine Liturgy. Please support our Church School students! Everyone is encouraged to attend! Thank you especially to Matushka Joni for all of her hard work in preparing the program and children for today.

Everyone is invited to join us in Christmas caroling to some of our elderly parishioners and shut-ins after the Yolka today. 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 2010 Calendars are now available at the candle kiosk.

Next Sunday after the Divine Liturgy we always share our "leftover" cookies with one another. Please bring your cookies and pastries for our annual Cookie Sunday during coffee hour!

We would like to express our sincere condolences to lifelong parishioner Stephanie Kowal on the passing away of her beloved husband, Martin. Visitation will be tomorrow at Szal's Funeral Home

from 2:00-8:00 PM, and the funeral will be held St Malachy Catholic Church in Kennedy Township on Tuesday morning. May God grant him rest eternal!

Archbishop Job of the Midwest Diocese died suddenly on Friday morning after a brief bout with pneumonia. The Funeral Liturgy with interment will be held on Saturday, December 26th at St John the Baptist Church in Black Lick (Blairsville), PA beginning at 10:00 AM.

Divine Liturgy on New Year's Day (St Basil's Day) will be held on Friday, January 1st at 10:00 AM.

Our grateful thanks to parishioner Steve Meno for beautifully decorating the church (trees, garland, roses) for our celebration of St Nicholas day and the upcoming Nativity feast. Steve is dedicating the roses which adorn the Christmas trees in memory of Matushka Olga Soroka (2nd anniversary Dec 31), whose favorite flower was the rose. May God richly bless him for his love of the beauty of God's house! Please support his outstanding business: **Della Robbia Flowers and Gifts** 842 Gill Hall Road, Clairton, PA 15025-3236 (412) 650-4200.

St. Nick's Corner News: A beautiful DVD is available chronicling the consecration of His Grace, Bishop Melschisedek this past summer at St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park. \$25 each.

Thank you to our December donors! **Altar Candles** (\$50 – Christmas) from Donya Yewisiak in memory of mother, Matushka Olga Soroka. **Holy Bread** (\$50) from Alexandria Tirpak for the health of John, Theodore, Amelia, Andrea, Nicholas, John, Charles and families, the Community of St Nicholas Parish, Matushka Martha, and Fr Thomas and family. **Communion Wine** (\$40) and **Incense** (\$10) from Paul, Lois, and Katharine Fuller for the health and safety of soldier, Justin (son and brother).

(The 2010 donation schedule is available for sign up at the candle kiosk.)

Please remember that Christmas eve is a strict fasting day. On that day, it is the tradition of many of our people to have a "Holy Supper" consisting of up to 12 dishes. Let us be mindful of our beautiful traditions which help us to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord.

On Friday, our St Nicholas parish took possession of the St Mark's properties next door. As plans are being formulated, please pray that God would guide our decisions. Our grateful thanks to the Maronda Foundation for their very generous donation.

"With the God-man Christ, all that is God's has become man's, human, ours, so that each of us individually and all of us assembled together in the Divine-human body of Christ, the Church, might become god-men, having attained 'to the perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ' (Eph 4:12-13). Therefore Christmas, the day of the birth of the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the greatest and most important day in the history of all the worlds in which man moves and lives."
(St. Nikolai Velimirovich)

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A parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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December 20, 2009

Sunday before 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 Forefeast

Great are the accomplishments of faith,

for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;

and the Prophet Daniel appeared

a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.

So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 2

Troparion of the Fathers

Great are the accomplishments of faith,

for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;

and the Prophet Daniel appeared

a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.

So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 1

Kontakion of the Fathers

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha!

The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.

The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,

and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Tone 3

Kontakion of the Pre-feast

Today the Virgin comes to the cave

to give birth to the Eternal Word.

Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!

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

*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.*

(from last week's bulletin)

Vigil Light Donations *(Please remember the following people in your prayers)* **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, George, Ray Cobb, Fr. Vladimir & Mat. Olga, Darius Walat; for the health of Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Dick, Jared, Helen March Shancey, Stephanie Kowal, the Tichy, Fuller, Kasnot, Speth, Wasilko, Barsom, Soroka and Mell families. **From Helen March Shancey** for the departed servants, her husband, Richard Shancey, Norma Jean Evans, Joyce Duster, Ray Cobb, Ann Hruch, Mat. Olga, Melissa Torok and all deceased members of the Halajcio & Shancey families; for the health of Dr. Chris Baxter & family, Halajcio & Shancey families, Dale Halajcio, Linda Halajcio, Larry Halajcio, Dick Hassenmiller & family, Marion Geyser & family, Jim & Leslie Wokutch, Helen Cobb, Olga Novak & son, Marsha Namisnak & family, the Bittner, Hruch, Wasilko, Kasnot, Barsom, Kovacs, Kowalcheck and Robes families, Peter & Garnette, Reader Michael Soroka, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. God bless our service men and women. **From Michelle Bittner** for the departed servant, Thelma Hruch. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servants, Mat. Olga and Very Rev. Fr. Vladimir Soroka; for the health of grandson, Michael Lopez Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, Peter Kerchum and George Shaytar. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. **From David Namisnak** for the departed servant, Melissa and Frank & Anna Namisnak; for the health of Marsha, Aaron, Rihn, Michele and Ella. **From John A. Tirpak** for the health of Alexandria & John Tirpak and family. **From Tom & Georgiann Robes** for the departed servants, George, Beverly & Johanna Porvaznik and Victor Robes; for the health of the Robes family; protect our servicemen and women. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the newly departed servant, (cousin) Robert Medwid; for the health of John & Alex on their birthdays and St. Nicholas Church. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, (parents & grandparents) Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, (brother & nephew), Nicholas & Nicholas; for the health of Amelia, Andrea, Richard & their families, John, Theodore, Mat. Martha on her birthday, community of St. Nicholas Parish; men & women serving our country; God Bless America; special intentions. **From Carol Kowalcheck** for the health of our son, Nicholas on his Name's Day (12/6) and our St. Nicholas family. **From John & Carol Kowalcheck** for the health and salvation of our family. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Ann Kowalcheck. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (grandmother) Katherine Dyczko and Lorie Galvin. **From Raisa Burd** for the departed servants, Agrippina, Stepan, Anna, Denise, Ivan, Vladimir, Vassili and Lena; for the health of Marina, Vladimir, Polina, Roman, Lena and all our relatives & friends. **From Geroge & Nancy Shaytar** for the health of George Shaytar, Tony Bertram and Peter Kerchum.