



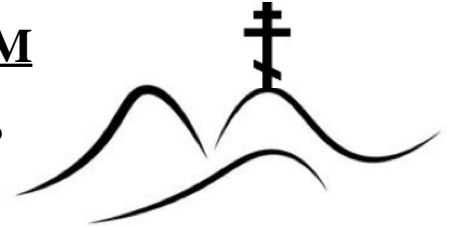
ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE AMERICAN CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE
288 E. 10th Street, New York, NY 10009



Sunday Divine Liturgy: 10 AM

Pastor: Rev. Fr. William Bennett
Cantor & Choir Director: Nicholas Timko
Asst. Cantor: Reader Robert Zizik
Hours: Reader Alexander Ioukliaevskikh
Church Phone #: 212-254-6685



Church Website: www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org Church Email: info@stnicholaschurchnyc.org

WELCOME, ALL ST. NICHOLAS FAITHFUL & VISITORS!

*For Online Streaming Service: 10 minutes prior to service, visit our website (www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org) and scroll down and press play on our live service feed. If using a smartphone, use our YouTube Channel: "St. Nicholas of Myra Orthodox Church NYC"
At this time, we will livestream only for Lenten services, Saturday evening Vespers & Sunday morning Divine Liturgy.
Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StNicholas10street / Follow us on Instagram: "10thSt.Orthodox"*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ndth, 2024: Conception of the Mother of God

Epistle: Ephesians 5:5-19 Gospel: Luke 17:12-19 Troparia: p 41 (Tone 1)

TODAY: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

THE CONCEPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD BY ST. ANNA is counted among the celebrations of the Church. Joachim and Anna were well-advanced in years and without child, despite trying. Anna was the daughter of the Priest Matthan, along with sisters Mary and Sobe. Mary was married in Bethlehem and gave birth to Elizabeth, the mother of St. John the Baptist. Taking comfort in the fact that Father Abraham and Sarah were well-advanced in their years themselves before having children, Joachim and Anna retreated into great prayer. It was God's providence that they bore no children yet for, in their waiting and trying, they were gifted a child by God. An Angel of the Lord told Anna that her prayer had been answered and would bear a daughter, Mary, through whom all the peoples in the world would be blessed. She was born as all men were born, into humanity in its fallen state and subject to temptation, yet was so pure in her life and thought that she committed no sin. Sts Joachim & Anna, pray to God for us! Holy Mother of God, save us!

THE ST. NICHOLAS CHOIR will lead responses in the Liturgy, led by Choir Director Nicholas Timko.

HOLY COMMUNION will be distributed toward the end of Divine Liturgy for all repentant Orthodox Christian faithful who are prepared. *If you would like to make a bread offering for a Liturgy, please see Fr. William.*

HOLY ANOINTING (MIROVANIJE) & BLESSED BREAD will be offered after Divine Liturgy for all faithful and visitors after Divine Liturgy. *May God grant you all many happy & blessed years!*

THE NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES! As we travel through the Fast of the Nativity of our Lord by fasting from foods, use this time to slow things down, to fast even more from sin, and give special attention to your daily prayers to God while creating more time with Him and reflection.

SCHEDULE YOUR CONFESSION: Make time for Holy Confession with Fr. William. There can be no growth in the Orthodox Faith without Confession, and it is necessary for your membership in God's Holy Church. These past couple years have been difficult to maintain participation together but the Church is open and the time is now. Father will be available before every Divine Liturgy, you can come early, or at Saturday Vespers services.

PANACHIDA will be celebrated for the servant of God +Nicholas Timko Sr., offered by the Timko Family as a birthday remembrance. May his memory be eternal! *Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat!* **FLOWERS** were also generously today in memory of +Nicholas Timko Sr.

ST. NICHOLAS DAY BRUNCH: The Altar Society is hosting the Annual St. Nicholas Day festivities today. The cost is \$20 for adults for a delicious brunch menu. Ages 13-16 are \$10, Children 12 and under are free! We will also have games, a raffle, Christmas caroling and a visit by St. Nicholas.

***NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22nd:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25th - *NO SERVICES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28th - *NO SERVICES

- **OCF COLLEGE CONFERENCE:** Fr. William, AJ Ioukliaevskikh, & Daniel Lai will be traveling this week to Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA for the Annual OCF College Conference, where ~100 College Students from across the East will be gathered for retreat and fellowship. Please keep them in prayer and all those who will be traveling.

NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29th, 2024

DIVINE LITURGY will be served by Fr. Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh. May God grant to Fr. Alexandre & his family many happy and blessed years! *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

HOLY COMMUNION will be distributed toward the end of Divine Liturgy for all repentant Orthodox Christian faithful who are prepared. *If you would like to make a bread offering for a Liturgy, please see Fr. William.*

THE VENERATION CROSS & BLESSED BREAD will be offered after Divine Liturgy for all faithful and visitors after Divine Liturgy. *May God grant you all many happy & blessed years!*

***NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WE ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE FLEMINGTON AREA FOOD PANTRY! With the help and arrangement of Elizabeth Krzyzanowski, we are donating our food collection going forward toward the food

pantry in Flemington, NY. The parish will continue to make a dedicated push, please look to purchase something extra on your next grocery trip and bring it to our food bin in the #2 Hall.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES PRAYER LIST WAS RESET! There is a birthday/anniversary form in the back of the church for the current church attending and their families. Please fill one out for you and your family to be prayed for in the Divine Liturgy each week when the special occasion comes around. The list was officially reset last Pascha Sunday, May 5th. Submit a copy to the office or hand directly to Fr. William, if you haven't yet.

LAST WEEK: ST. NICHOLAS COOKIE WALK 2024



**Photos by Stacie Joy*



THE RICH YOUNG MAN

By Hieromonk Theoktist (Igumnov), from last week's Gospel Reading

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God (Luke 18:18–27)

Among the Gospel passages, there are many that can be called self-evident—those that require no explanation or interpretation, as they are already expounded and clarified by the Gospel text itself. The passage we heard today belongs to this category. Its general meaning is perfectly clear: riches can deprive a person of the Kingdom of Heaven, but not in and of themselves; only if a person becomes attached to them, if possession of earthly and visible goods becomes a small “god” that overshadows the true God.

However, despite the evident overall meaning of today's passage, it contains much that is curious and beneficial for us to consider. The first point of interest is the personality of the young man who approached the Lord Jesus Christ with his question. We are told that he was rich and that he had authority—he was a ruler. From both our personal experience and humanity's collective experience, we know well that the combination of youth, wealth, and power in one person almost inevitably deprives them of any lofty religious aspirations. Often, any one of these—youth, wealth, or power—is enough to entirely erase or prevent any interest in the spiritual realm, let alone in eternal life and life beyond the grave.

Yet the hero of today's story somehow managed to preserve himself not only from obvious sin but also from complete immersion of his thoughts and desires into the material world. Without a doubt, he was an extraordinary young man—unusual and sincere. So sincere and pure, in fact, that the Apostle Mark, in his Gospel's account of this episode, includes an intriguing detail: The young man did not merely approach the Lord Jesus Christ but knelt before Him—a gesture quite uncharacteristic of someone who, as the subsequent narrative shows, saw no sin in himself.

It is clear that we cannot accuse this young man of deceit or cunning when he begins his question with an unconventional address, which might seem flattering: “Good Master.” As it is written: And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God (Mark 10:18). Goodness is a natural and unchanging attribute of God, but it is not inherent to man. Human goodness or kindness is a matter of will, and the same person can change and cease to be good or kind at any moment. Often, all it takes is a split second, a single unpleasant word addressed to us, or one disagreeable look.

Christ's response to the young man's words serves two purposes. On the one hand, it reminds us of our human instability in goodness and kindness. On the other, it underscores the unique attribute of God—His divine goodness, which is most evidently manifested in His providential care for us. Christ reminds us of this so that we do not place our trust in human goodness but always remember that God exists and that He cares for each of us more than even the kindest and most loving person could ever care. All that is required of us is to trust in our Creator and Provider in all things.

(Taken from www.orthochristian.com)



LEFT: GET YOUR 100th ANNIVERSARY CHURCH CALENDAR TODAY! Those at the Kermeš were treated to a calendar designed with the help of Mike Kormanik & Justina Ryan, and were generously printed & donated by the (Patrick) Ryan Family in honor of Anna & Michael Salony's 50th Wedding Anniversary.



RIGHT: PURCHASE A NEWLY-RELEASED CARPATHO-RUSYN CHRISTMAS BOOK! Put together by the Diocesan Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Working Group, headquartered here at the parish, this is a beautiful work. It is for sale at the gift case for \$15.



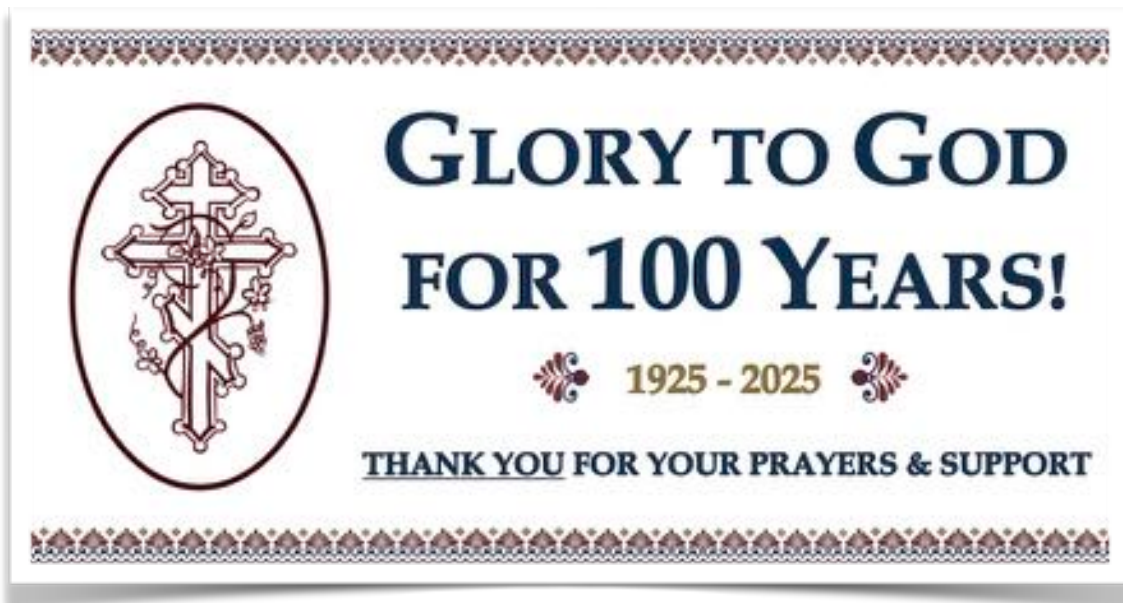
ANNOUNCEMENT:

CHANGE OF SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY START TIME, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 5th, 2025: ~~10:00 AM~~ 9:30 AM

With the city announcing again the start-up of NYC Congestion Pricing as of Sunday January 5th, regular Sunday Divine Liturgy will be moved up half an hour to 9:30 AM.

Plan to enter southern Manhattan (below 60th St) before 9 AM, when Peak Hours begin with a charge of \$9 for each passenger vehicle, in addition to regular tolls.

Parishioners are also encouraged to travel together whenever possible and to be there for one another if there is a financial burden. Please note that on weekdays, Peak Hour charges begin at 5 AM. During all Peak Hours, E-ZPass holders through the tunnels will receive up a \$3 credit on the \$9 charge. All travelers will be charged only once per day. A Low-Income Discount Plan and a Low-Income Tax Credit for residents was also announced; go to <https://www.portal.311.nyc.gov> and search "Congestion Pricing Program" to learn more.





ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, please contact Fr. William directly: fr.william.bennett@gmail.com

CONTINUOUS: Matuska Olga Andrejuk, David Bulko, Kim Busel, Peter & Maria Ceselka, Tony Ceselka, Stephanie Downes, Mary & Tommy Fackovec, Gia Fazio, John Geida, Julius Gontkovsky, Olga Gubinski, Diana Hannan, Todd Henderson, Priest Joseph Hoffmann, Noah Homyak, Aleksandra Horbal, Luke Iera, Magdalena Ilanovska, Jana Johnson-Plutchok, Michael Kerr, Paul Koehler, Joanna Kolaczko, Maria Koneval, Michal Kormanik, Alex & Holly Marchak, Luboš Matlak, Richard McCullough, Christine Merriam, Sean Merriam, Christine & Rick Martines, Lucia Matišinova, Troy Oset, Nadežda Bulikova Petrikova, Deacon Michael Pirich, Gregory Rydzyk, Rastislav Salon, John Salony, Mary Seewald, George & Ondrej Sikorjak, Paul Sikoryak Sr, Toni Sikoryak, George Sipko, Michael Slavkovsky, Miroslav Strenk, Katherine Tam, Teri Upton, Tim Upton, Marek Vattek, Ann Vislocky, Bill Vislocky, Sandy Wagner, Cathryn Walker, Dennis & Cathy Walsh, and Reader Bob & Debbie Zizik.

CATECHUMENS:

Ricardo Sullivan
John Stutts
Rachel Soh Young Yi

Nathan Deutsch
Daniel Lai
Maryam Gueye

Yoelvi Maria

EXPECTANT PARENTS:

Max & Melia Walker

DIOCESAN CLERGY:

Priest David Mastroberte
Priest Luke Mihaly
Protodeacon Emil Gulick

DEANERY CLERGY:

Priest Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh (NY, NY)
Priest David Kossey (Yonkers, NY), for his Health and Salvation
Priest Andrew Gromm (Seaford, NY)

SEMINARIANS: Seamus Murray, Ignatios Leonardo, Nicholas Fong, Nicolas Laliberte, & Alexander Hurtsellers. The newly-graduated Nicholas Worobey & Samuel Lopsyky! *That God may grant them many more blessed years, and for more vocations to the Priesthood!*

COLLEGE STUDENTS: May God bless all of our parish college students both near & far, and members of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), especially the NYU OCF & Rutgers OCF. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

BIRTHDAYS: May God grant many more happy & blessed years to those celebrating their birthdays this week, especially to Christina Bankovic. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

SPECIAL INTENTIONS:

For the servant of God +Nicholas Timko Sr. as a Birthday Remembrance. *Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat!*

For the servant of God +Mikulaš Salon, as a 126th Birthday Remembrance. *Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat!*

For the handmaid of God +Nadežda Salonova Džuganova, as a 101st Birthday Remembrance. *Vičnaja Jej Pamjat!*

O HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!



CHURCH SERVICE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Note from Fr. William: If you would like anyone remembered or prayed for during the course of the week or would like someone remembered in a memorial service, please see Fr. William or simply email: fr.william.bennett@gmail.com

DEC 2024 - JAN 2025

*Shaded areas indicate days of fasting

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
DEC 22 <i>Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM</i> - ST. NICHOLAS DAY BRUNCH	23	24	25 <i>*No Services</i>	26	27 <i>OCF COLLEGE CONF.</i>	28 <i>OCF COLLEGE CONF.</i> - <i>*No Services</i>
DEC 29 <i>Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM, Served by Fr. Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh</i> - OCF COLLEGE CONF.	30 <i>OCF COLLEGE CONF.</i>	31	JAN 1 <i>Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM</i>	2	3	4 <i>Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>Great Vespers @ 6 PM</i>
JAN 5 <div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM </div> - <i>Panachida for +Michael & Anna Salony</i> - <i>Nativity Hymns Practice w/ Pani Ileana</i>	6 <i>Royal Hours @ 8 AM</i> - <i>Nativity Eve Vigil @ 7 PM, Holy Night Supper, to follow.</i>	7 FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - <i>Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM</i>	8 <i>Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM</i>	9	10	11 <i>Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>Great Vespers @ 6 PM</i>
JAN 12 <i>Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM</i> - <i>Panachida for +Mary & John, John Jr., & Joseph Kmech</i>	13 <i>Great Vespers & Divine Liturgy @ 6 PM</i>	14 FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD/ ST. BASIL THE GREAT	15 <i>Vespers, Meal, & Scripture @ 6 PM</i>	16	17	18 <i>Divine Liturgy @ 8 AM (St. Mary's)</i> - <i>Theophany Vigil w/ Blessing of Water @ 6 PM</i>

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YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE ANNUAL

St Nicholas Day

BRUNCH



Join us for a festive celebration filled with a delicious menu, games, raffle, caroling and of course, a visit by St. Nicholas



SUNDAY | **22** | DECEMBER
After Liturgy | 2024



COST: \$20 FOR ADULTS
\$10 FOR AGES 13-16
FREE FOR AGES 12 & UNDER

