



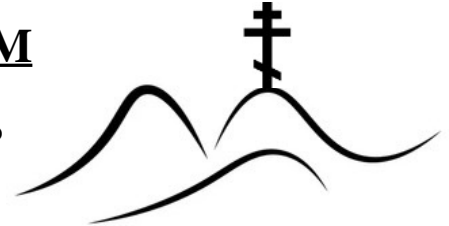
# ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE AMERICAN CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE  
288 E. 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org) Church Email: [info@stnicholaschurchnyc.org](mailto:info@stnicholaschurchnyc.org)

## WELCOME, ALL ST. NICHOLAS FAITHFUL & VISITORS!

*For Online Streaming Service: 10 minutes prior to service, visit our website ([www.stnicholaschurchnyc.org](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholas10street) / Follow us on Instagram: "10thSt.Orthodox"*

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29th, 2024: Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

**Epistle:** Colossians 3:4-11 **Gospel:** Luke 14:16-24 **Troparia:** p 42 (Tone 2), p 105-106

### TODAY: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29th

***THE HOLY FOREFATHERS** are celebrated in the Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before the Nativity, honoring those who came before the birth of Jesus Christ. They conversed with the Lord and entered into salvation history as they prepared a way for the Son of God to come into the world. God gave His Word to them that He would come down and dwell with His people. For a great many of them, from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to the Kings David and Solomon, Christ would be their direct descendants by blood. We can refer to the genealogies listed in the Gospels of Matthew (1:1-17) & Luke (3:23-38) for the parentage of Jesus Christ. The Kondak of the day comes from the Three Holy Youths(Ch. 3). This is another celebration done in anticipation of Christ's life, as Christ was revealed in that same fiery furnace. **Holy Forefathers, intercede for us!***

**DIVINE LITURGY** is being served by Fr. Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh while Fr. William attends to the OCF College Conference at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA with a couple of our students. 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!*

***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 servants of God +Maria Chanatova & Vasil Chanat, offered by the Korčak Family. May their memory be eternal! *Vičnaja Jim Pamjat!*

**\*NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

### **DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29th:**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1st - VESPERS, MEAL, & SCRIPTURE @ 6:30 PM:** We are continuing Vespers services on Wednesdays, followed by a brief meal and reading. Starting this week, we are reading and reflecting on God's Revelation to the Human Heart by Seraphim Rose. All are welcome to attend!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4th - DIVINE LITURGY @ 8 AM, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, 7th ST, NYC**  
**- GREAT VESPERS @ 6 PM**

### **NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY, JANUARY 5th, 2025**

**SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY MOVES UP TO 9:30 AM!** In respect of the congestion pricing we expect to take effect next weekend in NYC, parishioners are encouraged to cross into Manhattan (below 60th street) before 9 AM in order to avoid higher charges. Please see the expanded announcement the bulletin for more details.

**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!*

**A NATIVITY HYMNS CLASS W/ PANI ILEANA** will take place in the choir loft toward the end of coffee hour. This is *perfect* for anyone wanting to better learn the church's carols and hymns. See you there!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME!** Dawn's Confession Class will meet next week as scheduled with student families; for pre-Confession children, there will be a brief lesson available downstairs on the stage with Stephanie, as she is able.

**WEEKLY POST-CONFESSION SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS RESUMES @ 7 PM!** Students will meet in the evening online with Fr. William for a 30-minute session with an activity and a lesson. Fr. William sent out

an invitation to all parish families with students by email. If you did not receive that invitation, please contact Fr. William immediately.

## **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.

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## **LAST WEEK: ST. NICHOLAS DAY BRUNCH, GAMES, & VISIT!**



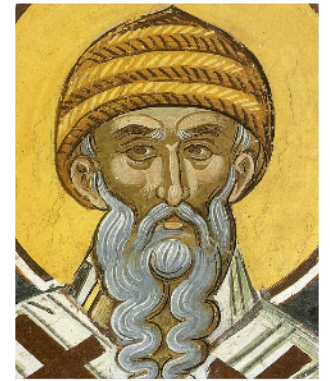
*May God bless & grant many blessed years to the Altar Society, who pulled together the brunch, and all the families who came together to celebrate!*



## HOLY HIERARCH ST. SPYRIDON OF TREMITHUS

*Commemorated on December 25th!*

*Holy Hierarch St. Spyridon of Tremithus was born at the close of the 3rd Century on the island of Cyprus. Little information about his life has survived. We know that he was a shepherd, and had a wife and children. He would give away all of his possessions to help his neighbors and pilgrims; in return for this, the Lord awarded him with the gift of working miracles. He would heal those with incurable diseases, and would drive out demons. After his wife's death, during the reign of Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337), he was chosen to be bishop of the city of Tremithus. As a bishop, the Holy Hierarch did not alter his manner of life, combining pastoral care with acts of charity. According to church historians, in the year 325, Holy Hierarch Spyridon took part in the work of the First Ecumenical Council. At the Council, the Hierarch debated a Greek philosopher who defended the Arian heresy. St. Spyridon's simple words showed everyone the impotence of human wisdom before the True Wisdom of God: "Listen, philosopher, to what I tell you. We believe that with His Word and Spirit, Almighty God created the heavens and the earth, man, and the entire visible and invisible world out of nothing. The Word is the Son of God, who came down to earth on account of our sins, was born of the Virgin, lived among people, suffered, died for our salvation, and then was resurrected, having atoned for original sin by His passion, and with Himself resurrected the human race. We believe that He is of One Essence with, and is equal in honor to, the Father, and we believe this without any evil fabrication, for this mystery is beyond comprehension to human reason."*



*If we don't celebrate Christmas until January 7th, then who does our church celebrate on December 25th?*

*St. Spyridon!*

*As the result of their talk, this enemy of Christianity became its staunch defender, and accepted Holy Baptism. After his talk with St. Spyridon, the philosopher addressed his friends and said, "Listen! As long as debate with me rested on proofs, I would counter one proof with another, and through my proficiency in debate could rebut everything posed to me. However, when instead of logical proofs, from the lips of this Elder there came some special power, my proofs became powerless against it, for man cannot stand up against God. If any of you is able to think as I do, let him believe on Christ and together with me follow after this Elder, through whose lips God Himself spoke."*

*At the same Council, Holy Hierarch St. Spyridon gave the Arians a graphic proof of the Unity within the Holy Trinity. He took a brick into his hands, and squeezed it. Immediately, flame shot up from it, water poured down from it, and clay remained in the hands of the miracle worker. Then St. Spyridon said, "Here are three elements, but the plinth (the brick) is one. So it is with the Most Holy Trinity: Three Faces, but One Divinity." The Holy Hierarch very lovingly cared for his flock. By his prayers, a drought was replaced by abundant rainfall, and with the constant rains, coming down in buckets, the sick would be healed, and demons cast out. On one occasion a woman came to him with a dead child in her arms, and asked for his intercession. Praying, he returned life to the child. The mother, overcome with joy, fell dead. However, the Saint's prayers brought her back to life as well.*

*It so happened that while the Holy Hierarch was rushing to save a friend who had been slandered and condemned to death, his way was blocked by a stream formed by a flash flood. The Saint ordered the flood, "Stop! So commands the Lord of the entire world, so that I might cross and save the man to whom I am*

rushing.” The flood obeyed, and the Saint successfully crossed to the other shore. The judge, apprised of the miracle that had taken place, greeted St. Spyridon with due honor, and released his friend to go in peace.

Another incident from the Saint’s life is known to us: He happened to enter an empty church, and, ordering the candles and vigil lamps to be lit, began the Divine Service. Having said “Peace be unto all,” he and his deacon heard in response from above a great multitude of voices exclaiming “And to thy spirit.” That choir was great and more melodious than any human choir. At every litany, the invisible choir sang “Lord have mercy.” Attracted by the sound of chanting coming from the church, people from the surrounding area rushed to the church. The closer they came to the church, the more the marvelous chanting filled their ears and touched their hearts. However, upon entering the church, they could see no one other than the bishop and a few Altar servers, and to their utter amazement, they could no longer hear the heavenly chant.

St. Symeon Metaphrastes, the author of the *Life of St. Symeon*, compared him in terms of hospitality to Patriarch Abraham. “You should know how he received pilgrims,” wrote Sozomen, a man who was familiar with monastic communities, and who in his “*Church History*” presented an amazing example from the life of the Holy Hierarch. It happened that during Great Lent a pilgrim knocked on the door of his house. Seeing that the traveler was quite exhausted, St. Spyridon said to his daughter, “Wash this man’s feet and offer him something to eat.” But as it was Lent, there was no food stockpiled, for the Holy Hierarch “ate food only on a certain day, and remained without food on the others.” Therefore the daughter replied that there was neither bread nor flour in the house. Then St. Spyridon asked forgiveness of his guest, and ordered his daughter to fry some salt pork that was in their larder. Seating the pilgrim at the table, he began to eat, “persuading the man to follow his example.” When the man refused, saying that he was a Christian, the Saint added “All the less reason to refuse, for the Word of God says: “unto the pure, all things are pure.” (Titus 1:15)

Another account, related by Sozomen, is likewise typical of the Holy Hierarch. It was the Saint’s custom to give a portion of the harvest to the poor, and another to those in need of a loan. He would not personally hand anything out, but would merely show them the way to the storehouse, where each person could take as much as he needed, and later return the loan in the same way, without any formal accounting.

There is an account by Socrates Scholasticus about how thieves decided to steal St. Spyridon’s sheep. Late in the night, they got into the sheepfold, but immediately found themselves bound by some unseen force. In the morning, the Saint came to tend his flock, and seeing the bound thieves, prayed, untied them, and spent a long time persuading them to abandon their criminal path and to earn their food through honest labor. Then, giving each of them a sheep and releasing them, he tenderly added, “May your audacity not have been in vain.”

Quite often, St. Spyridon is compared to the Prophet Elijah, for like him, by his prayers in time of drought, which often threatened the isle of Cyprus, rain would fall. “We behold Spyridon, like an Angel, the great Wonderworker. At one time, the land greatly suffered from drought: there was famine and plague, and a great many people died, but by the prayers of the Holy Hierarch rain came down from the heavens to the earth, and the people, spared misfortune, cried out in thanks, “Rejoice, thou who art like unto the Prophet, and who hast timely brought down the rains to take away famine and sickness.”

Throughout the entire story of the Holy Hierarch’s life, one is amazed by the remarkable simple directness and power of the miracles granted him by the Lord. At the Holy Hierarch’s word, the dead would awaken, the elements would be tamed, and the idols would be smashed. By the prayers of the Church Fathers at a Council convened in Alexandria to crush the idols and pagan temples, all of the idols fell except one, the most revered idol. It was revealed to the Patriarch in a vision that that idol remained so that it might be smashed by Holy Hierarch St. Spyridon of Tremithus. Summoned by the Council, the Holy Hierarch boarded a ship, and the moment the ship reached shore and the Saint stepped upon the land, the Alexandria idol, together with all of the pagan priests, turned to dust. By that sign, the Patriarch and all of the bishops knew that Holy Hierarch St. Spyridon was approaching.

St. Spyridon lived his earthly life in righteousness and holiness, and while praying, surrendered his soul to the Lord, ca. 348. In the history of the Church, the Holy Hierarch is revered on a par with Holy Hierarch St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia. Except for his right hand, which is in Rome, his relics are kept in the Church of St. Spyridon on the island of Corfu. (Taken from [www.orthochristian.com](http://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.

January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	


## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

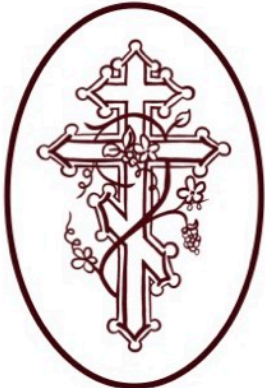
### **CHANGE OF SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY START TIME, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 5th, 2025: ~~10:00 AM~~ 9:30 AM**

*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.*






# GLORY TO GOD FOR 100 YEARS!

❁ 1925 - 2025 ❁

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS & SUPPORT**





## **ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PRAYER LIST**

*For additions or updates, please contact Fr. William directly: [fr.william.bennett@gmail.com](mailto: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 Rydzzyk, 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 Loposky! *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 Stacey Petricha. *Mnohaja i Blahaja L'ita!*

### **SPECIAL INTENTIONS:**

For the servant of God +Maria Chanatova & Vasil Chanat. *Vičnaja Jemu Pamjat!*

## **O HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!**



### **FOLLOW THE DIOCESE ONLINE:**

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org) Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/acroddioecese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)

Twitter: [http://twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews) YouTube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioecese>



# 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](mailto:fr.william.bennett@gmail.com)

## DEC 2024 - JAN 2025

\*Shaded areas indicate days of fasting

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>DEC 29</b> <i>Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM,</i> <i>Served by Fr. Alexandre</i> <i>Ioukliaevskikh</i> - <i>Panachida for +Maria</i> <i>Chanatova &amp; Vasil Chanat</i> - <i>OCF COLLEGE CONF.</i>	30 <i>OCF COLLEGE</i> <i>CONF.</i>	31	<b>JAN 1</b> <i>Vespers,</i> <i>Meal, &amp;</i> <i>Scripture</i> @ 6 PM	2	3	4 <i>Divine Liturgy</i> @ 8 AM (St. Mary's) - <i>Great Vespers</i> @ 6 PM
<b>JAN 5</b> <div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <b>Divine Liturgy</b>  <b>@ 9:30 AM</b> </div> - <i>Panachida for +Michael &amp;</i> <i>Anna Salony</i> - <i>Nativity Hymns Practice w/</i> <i>Pani Ileana</i>	6 <i>Royal Hours</i> @ 8 AM - <i>Nativity Eve</i> <i>Vigil @ 7 PM,</i> <i>Holy Night</i> <i>Supper, to</i> <i>follow.</i>	7 <b>FEAST OF THE</b> <b>NATIVITY OF</b> <b>OUR LORD</b> - <i>Divine Liturgy</i> @ 9:30 AM	8 <i>Vespers,</i> <i>Meal, &amp;</i> <i>Scripture</i> @ 6 PM	9	10	11 <i>Divine Liturgy</i> @ 8 AM (St. Mary's) - <i>Great Vespers</i> @ 6 PM
<b>JAN 12</b> <i>Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM</i> - <i>Panachida for +Mary &amp; John,</i> <i>John Jr., &amp; Joseph Kmech</i>	13 <i>Great Vespers &amp;</i> <i>Divine Liturgy</i> @ 6 PM	14 <b>FEAST OF THE</b> <b>CIRCUMCISION</b> <b>OF OUR LORD/</b> <b>ST. BASIL THE</b> <b>GREAT</b>	15 <i>Vespers,</i> <i>Meal, &amp;</i> <i>Scripture</i> @ 6 PM	16	17	18 <i>Divine Liturgy</i> @ 8 AM (St. Mary's) - <i>Theophany Vigil w/</i> <i>Blessing of Water</i> @ 6 PM
<b>JAN 19</b> <b><u>FEAST OF THEOPHANY</u></b> <i>Baptism of Nathan Deutsch &amp;</i> <i>Daniel Lai @ 9 AM</i> - <i>Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM</i> - <i>Parastas for +John Ochlan</i>	20	21	22 <i>Vespers,</i> <i>Meal, &amp;</i> <i>Scripture</i> @ 6 PM	23	24	25 <i>Divine Liturgy</i> @ 8 AM (St. Mary's) - <i>Great Vespers</i> @ 6 PM

### TRZASKA FUNERAL HOME, INC.

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