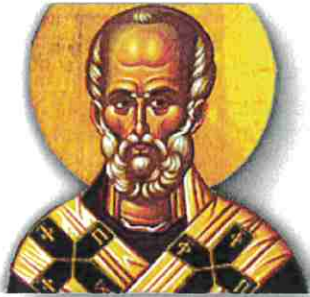


DECEMBER 27, 2020 – Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Commemorating Joseph the Betrothed of Mary, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord; the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen; Theodore the Confessor, called the “Branded;” and Theodore, Patriarch of Constantinople.

Tone 4

Orthros Gospel 7



WELCOME TO ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL!

VISIT www.stnickspgh.org TODAY for news and updates about our parish!

CLERGY: Rev. Fr. Christopher Bender and Rev. Dn. Robert Lykos

Father's Cell & Email: 724-630-3483; frchbender@verizon.net

PROTOPSALTIS: Konstantinos Fekos

CHANTERS: Steve Andrews, & Michael Rodites

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Steve Andrews

ORGANIST: Haley Cobb

ALTAR BOY CAPTAINS: TBA

Questions about our Parish? Email church@stnickspgh.org or call 412-682-3866

Our Sunday worship schedule: September 1 – June 13: Orthros 8:45 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- Tuesday, Dec 29: **NO Bible Study**
 - Friday, Jan 1: **St Basil the Great & Circumcision of Christ Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10 am**
-

Watch Sunday services streaming live from St Nicholas Cathedral at www.stnickspgh.org and click on “Live Streaming Click Here.”

On-Line Giving donations are up and running on our web page www.stnickspgh.org by clicking please donate button - or you may access the donation page by using <https://abundant.co/stnickspgh/give>

New Church Website - We are working with an outside vendor to develop a NEW church website, and are very excited about our progress! If you are interested in helping - in any way - please contact Bunny at the Church Office. We welcome your contribution!

We are also looking for GREAT photos to add to our site. If you have any, kindly email them to Stacie de la Parra, Event Coordinator at events@stnickspgh.org.

Sincere thanks from the Website Committee!
Bunny, Stacie, Michelle Kotsagrellos, Sophia Panagis

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Tone 4

Orthros Gospel 7

SPECIAL HYMNS OF THE DAY (SMALL ENTRANCE):

First to be chanted as the priest exits the Altar at the Small Entrance is the Christmas Apolytikion (Tone 4):

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως, ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν, Κύριε δόξα σοί.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For thereby the worshipers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as the Dayspring from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Then, the usual Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) in Tone 2 is chanted:

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι Ἀλληλούϊα. “Come let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us O Son of God, who arose from the dead. We sing to you, Alleluia.”

After this, the Resurrection Apolytikion in Tone 5 is chanted, (See p. 171 in the Divine Liturgy books.), followed by the repetition of the Nativity hymn. Then we hear the Apolytikion for the Holy Fathers:

Εὐαγγελίζου Ἰωσήφ, τῷ Δαυὶδ τὰ θαύματα τῷ Θεοπάτορι· Παρθένον εἶδες κυοφορήσασαν, μετὰ Μάγων προσεκύνησας, μετὰ Ποιμένων ἐδοξολόγησας, δι’ Ἀγγέλου χρηματισθεὶς. Ἰκέτευε Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. You have seen a Virgin great with child; you have given glory with the shepherds; you have worshipped with the Magi; and you have been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

The Hymn for the Protomartyr in Tone 4 follows:

Βασιλεῖον διάδημα, εστέφθη σὴ κορυφή, ἐξ ἀθλῶν ὧν υπέμεινας, υπέρ Χριστοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, Μαρτύρων πρωτόαθλε, σὺ γὰρ τὴν Ἰουδαίων, ἀπελέγξας μανίαν, εἶδές σου τὸν Σωτήρα, τοῦ Πατρὸς δεξιόθεν, Αὐτὸν οὖν ἐκδυσώπει αεὶ, υπέρ τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν.

For the struggles you endured for Christ God, a royal diadem crowns your head, O First Champion of Martyrs. For you refuted the folly of the Jews and beheld your Savior on the right of the Father. Ever beseech Him, therefore, for our souls.

Then, we hear the Apolytikion for the patron saint of our Church:

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξέ σε τῇ ποιμνῇ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτίσω τῇ ταπεινώσει τὰ ὑψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ Ἱεράρχα Νικόλαε· πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

The truth of things have revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause you have achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

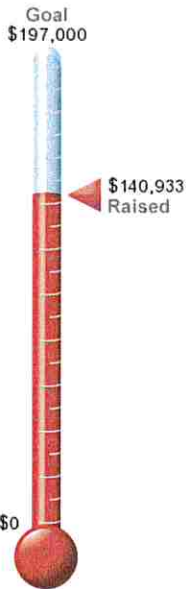
Finally, the Kontakion in Tone 4 for the Nativity of Christ (Dec. 25) is chanted:

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι. δι’ ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός. On this day the Virgin gives birth unto the Super-essential. To the Unapproachable, earth is providing the grotto. Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. He was born for our salvation,* a newborn Child,*the pre-eternal God.

Today's Epistle reading: Acts 6: 8-15; 7: 1-5, 47-60. . Mode 4. Psalm 18. His proclamation went forth into all the earth. Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God. In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?' You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and Liturgy on Sunday, December 277did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with aloud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. [RSV]

Today's Gospel reading: Luke 2:13-13. When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were Liturgy on Sunday, December 278two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene." [RSV]

2020 Stewardship Pledge Cards are in the Narthex
(Just ask a member of Parish Council)



If you have already submitted your 2020 Stewardship Commitment, THANK YOU! If not, please take the time to make your financial Stewardship Commitment today and complete the talent portion of the card to enable OUR Community to grow and carry on the mission of our faith.

HELP US REACH/ EXCEED OUR GOAL!!

"A Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven"

The Stewardship of Time
Ecclesiastes 3

<u>2020</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
Total Stewards	311 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$140,933.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$453.16

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

Updated Parish Directory – Please make sure to pick up your updated parish directory from the church office! We also appreciate if those who are able to come to church can take and deliver copies for friends/family who you may visit. If you are a newer member of the parish and have never received the binder that the printed directory goes into, we have extras and would be happy to provide one.

Food Bank – The Food Bank continues to need your support! You can donate by making a check payable to the “St. Nicholas Philoptochos Food Bank” or through United Way by designating the St. Nicholas Food Bank (#3288) through your employers United Way contribution. Questions: contact Elaine Andrianos (412-731-4334) or Denise Daugherty (412-508-1326).

Neighborhood Resilience Project Food Drive – We are collecting non-perishable items for Neighborhood Resilience Project (formerly known as FOCUS Pittsburgh). Please place non-perishable food donations in the bin outside the church office, and we will deliver them to Neighborhood Resilience Project. They appreciate your support.

FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL DESK:

On behalf of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church School students and teachers,
Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Miss Michelle

GOYA NEWS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: PASTICHIO! An annual crowd pleaser, Greek comfort food, easy to prepare and serve, made with love and delicious! The St. Nicholas GOYA is selling frozen pans of pastichio. The pans are 9"by 12" in size. Each pan is \$30. Check or cash is accepted. **For further information text Alea Melacrinos Mavrogeorgis @ 412 726 5940. Please state who you are in the text.** Pans are ready to sell for Thanksgiving and the holidays after church on Sundays or call the church office to purchase Monday-Friday.

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

Sound System Update

The Sound System has been temporarily fixed!

Parish Council has approved the audio and video upgrade proposal by Kinetics AV and the new system has been ordered. The committee has discussed recommendations from 4 vendors and reviewed their proposals before deciding that Kinetics AV will provide the best improvement and service. The effort will include new microphones, speakers, sound board, and video camera and will be digitally balanced to compensate for the poor acoustics of the church. Unfortunately, installation will not be until late January.

We greatly appreciate the donations from our parishioners who funded this major improvement to our Cathedral. This sound system contract does not address improving the Wi-Fi signal throughout the facility because that effort involves a different set of vendors. The committee is currently obtaining proposals for the Wi-Fi and we are still seeking donations for this last phase of the project.

Dec/January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Sunday after Nativity Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	28	29 NO Bible Study	30	31	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR St. Basil the Great & Circumcision of Christ Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am OFFICE CLOSED	2
December 2020						
3 Sunday before Theophany Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am VASILOPITA CUTTING	4	5 Forefeast of Theophany (Strict Fast) Vespereal Divine Liturgy & Agiasmos 6:00 pm (No Bible Study)	6 Holy Theophany of Christ Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy & Great Agiasmos 10:00 am (No fasting)	7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist – Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am	8	9
10 Sunday after Theophany Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	11	12 Philoptochos Zoom Board Meeting 7:00 pm	13	14	15	16
17 12th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24 14th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	25	26	27	28	29	30 Three Hierarchs Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
31 15th Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus) Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am						