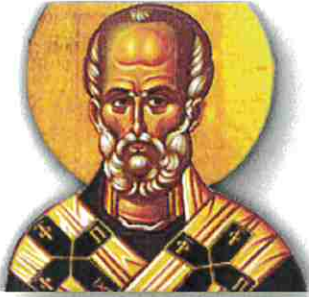


JANUARY 3, 2021 – Sunday before Theophany

Malachi the Prophet and Gordios the Martyr from Caesarea

Tone 5 (Plagal 1st)

Orthros Gospel 8



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.

TODAYS MEMORIAL SERVICE is being chanted for the soul of the servant of God, *John Kartsonas* (1 yr). May God grant him eternal rest.

TODAY: VASILOPITA CUTTING

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS:

- Tuesday, Jan 5: Forefeast of Theophany (Strict Fast) Vesperal Divine Liturgy & Agiasmos 6pm
- Wednesday, Jan 6: Holy Theophany of Christ Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy and Great Agiasmos 10:00 am (No fasting)
- Thursday, Jan 7: Synaxis of St John the Baptist Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

THE PHILOPTOCHOS OF ST. NICHOLAS will celebrate the CUTTING OF THE VASILOPITA in honor of ST. BASIL TODAY. While Fr. Christopher will cut a single loaf as usual during the ceremony, the rest of the bread will be cut and bagged for the faithful to take along with their blessed bread cubes (antidoron) at the end of services. Due to COVID-19, the usual practice of calling the leaders or representatives of various organizations to come forward will not be followed. However, donations will gladly be accepted. They can also be mailed to St. Nicholas Philoptochos at the church address: 419 S. Dithridge St, Pittsburgh PA 15213. Proceeds will benefit St. Basil Academy.

ALSO: HOUSE BLESSINGS this year will still take place beginning on January 6, but will of necessity be different from the past. The priest will stay OUTSIDE while reciting the prayers and bless the front of the house, and then leave a bottle of Holy Water for the family to use in blessing the interior. If you would like to have your house blessed, please call the Church Office (412-682-3866) and leave a message for Fr. Christopher (extension 2) with your name and the names of everyone living in your house, as well as your address and phone number. Father will let you know when he plans to come. While you do not have to be home for the prayer service to take place, it would be best if you were.

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SPECIAL HYMNS OF THE DAY (SMALL ENTRANCE):

First to be heard at the Small Entrance is the Resurrection Hymn in Tone 5: Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection. [SD]

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.”

The Resurrection Apolytikion is repeated, followed by the hymn for the Forefeast of Theophany:

Ἐτοιμάζου Ζαβουλῶν, καὶ εὐτρεπίζου Νεφθαλεὶμ. Ἰορδάνη ποταμέ, στήθι ὑπόδεξι σκιρτῶν, τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ἐρχόμενον τὸν Δεσπότην. Ἀγάλλου ὁ Ἀδὰμ σὺν τῇ Προμήτορι, μὴ κρύπτετε ἑαυτοὺς, ὡς ἐν Παραδείσῳ τὸ πρὶν, καὶ γὰρ γυμνοὺς ἰδὼν ὑμᾶς ἐπέφανεν, ἵνα ἐνδύσῃ τὴν πρώτην στολήν, Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, τὴν πᾶσαν κτίσιν, θέλων ἀνακαινίσει. Ο Ζεβουλὼν, prepare, and be ready, Naphtali. Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive the Master who is coming to be baptized. Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother. No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise; for having seen you naked He has appeared to clothe you in your former vesture. The Christ has appeared, wishing to renew the entire creation.

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 has 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. Ο Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Finally, the Kontakion in Tone 4 for the Forefeast of Theophany is chanted:

Ἐν τοῖς ρείθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, γεγονῶς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοᾷ. Μὴ δειλιάσης βαπτίσει με, σῶσαι γὰρ ἤκω, Ἀδὰμ τὸν πρωτόπλαστον. In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all cries to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Today's Epistle Reading: 2 Timothy 4: 5-8. Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. [RSV]

Today's Gospel reading: Mark 1: 1-8. The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." [RSV]

WELCOME, VISITORS! You are honored guests here at St. Nicholas Cathedral and welcome at all our services. We invite you to receive the Holy Eucharist (Communion) if you are an Orthodox Christian who has prepared yourself through fasting, prayer, and confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are Orthodox but have not prepared, we respectfully invite you instead to come forward at the end of the service for a blessing by the priest and a piece of blessed bread (antidoron).

2021 Stewardship Pledge Cards are in the Narthex
(Just ask a member of Parish Council)



If you have already submitted your 2021 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!!

"And now these three remain: **Faith, Hope and Love**. But the greatest of these is **LOVE**." Corinthians 13:13

<u>2021</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>
Total Stewards	53 (GOAL 300)
Total Pledged	\$43,355.00 (GOAL \$185,000.00)
Avg. Pledge	\$818.02

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:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Many hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, etc. were delivered to **Neighborhood Resilience Project** for their **Project Bundle-up**. We collected 29 Hats, 26 pairs of Gloves/Mittens, 6 Scarves and 1 pair of socks! Thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

Father Christopher and I are reevaluating the situation as to in person Church School versus Zoom Church School.

Thank you again, Mr. Nicholas Hages, for setting up the Zoom Church School for the month of December (and through the Spring, if need be)!

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

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.

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Sunday before Theophany Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am VASILOPITA CUTTING	4	5 Forefeast of Theophany (Strict Fast) Vesperal 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 GREEK2GO 12 – 6 pm
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						