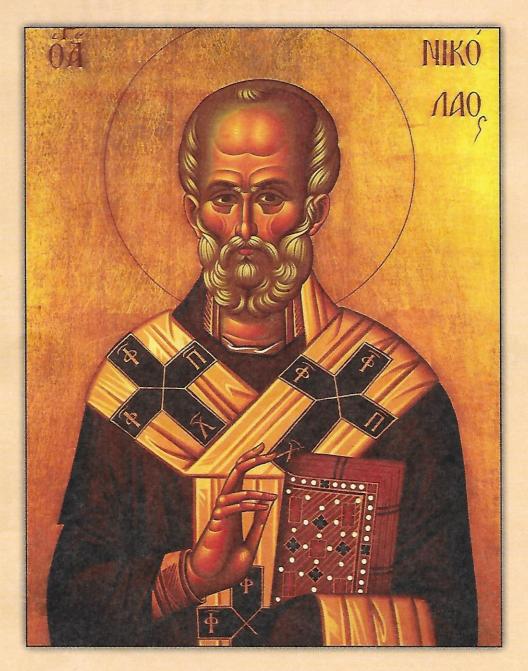
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th

The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the "hard facts" of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was

unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.



Saints Peter & Paul Frainian Catholic Church

Hurst Street at Union Avenue Post office Box 126 Bridgeport, Pennsylvania 19405 www.sspeterpaulukrchurch.us

"Slava Isusu Khristoo!"
"Glory to Jesus Christ!"

December 1, 2019 Thanksgiving Sun.

ON THIS THANKSGIVING WEEKEND we are all called to give thanks to God for all our many blessings we have received this year, even as the Pilgrims in Plymouth, MA. THANKED God in the fall of 1621. We thank the God of love, Father, Son and Holy spirit, for our life and our love, our parents and grandparents, our children and grandchildren, the food on our table and roof over our heads, our health and good age, our beautiful church and rapidly aging priest. our healthy minds and memory. Thanks be to God for all we have and all we are!

ON FRIDAY we sang the burial prayers for +Palma Theresa Denaro, whose son Michael brought her home to Bridgeport from Florida for burial. May the Loving Lord now take +Palma to her eternal home in Heaven.

ON SATURDAY we sang the burial Liturgy for +Helen Guman, 93, widowed mother of Kathleen DeStefano and Gerry Guman. grandmother of Jennifer and Jeffrey. Helen was a pioneer parishioner and leader in our Parish Catering Ministry for many years. May God grant her "Vichnaya Pamyat!

THE FINAL MEETING OF OUR Archdiocese-wide Synod (Sobor) will take place next Saturday, Dec. 6 at our Cathedral in Philadelphia, at 10 am. Our parish representatives are: Dottie Dolgash, Yurij Danyliw, Borys Pawluk, Neonila Pawluk, John Kopcha, Kathy Plush and Lois Paul. We thank all these good folks for their efforts and love for the Lord.

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL will be in recess this week for the semester break and Thanksgiving holyday. Next Sunday, Dec, 8, our students will have their final play practice to present on Sunday, Dec. 15.

OUR GALA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM is all set for Sunday, Dec. 15 in our beautiful parish hall at 10:30 am. Our school students will perform an original Christmas play, followed by a Visit from St. Nicholas and a delicious sampler of all the 12 dishes served on Christmas Eve by our People Every family, every parishioner and child are expected and urged to attend. It's all free and all for you!

FATHER RONALD THANKS all the good people for all their kind words and cards this Thanksgiving, as well as all the good people with their Christmas cards and wishes. Our church is truly blessed to have so many thoughtful and generous folks, who love the Lord and His Holy Church here in Bridgeport God bless all of you! DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm +Anna Kerick (Daughter Theresa) Sunday, 9 am +George Halas (The Parish Ushers)

Thursday, 7 am +The Fonock and Maruszczak Family (Bill and Bridget) Friday, 7 am Health of the fedoryshyn Family 90ksana Fedoryshyn) Saturday, 8 am +Helen Brady (Son Dennis) Saturday, 6 pm +Dr. Noelle Rotondo (All the Rotondo Family)

Sunday, 9 am Health of the Mark Kohanowsky Family (The Plush Family) ST. NICHOLAS TROPAR: Christ showed you, St. Nicholas, as a model of Faith to your flock, as an example of humility and teacher of love. You attained great things by your generosity and

great moral riches by your poverty, pray for us today for our souls. GLORY TO THE FATHER AND THE SON, ... ST. NICHOLAS KONTAK: O St. Nicholas, teach us to be generous to the needy, loving to our neighbors, thankful to the Lord Jesus, humble in our souls, and giving in our hearts, for you

are our guide to a happy life, both here and in heaven, amen. ST. NICHOLAS PROKIMEN: The preaching of St. Nicholas went throughout the earth, your deeds all over the world, amen.

TR. Konold