

**Transfiguration of Our Lord Church**  
**240 Center Street – Nanticoke, PA 18634**  
**Nanticoke Rectory: (570)735-2262**



**Church Email: TransfigurationUCC@comcast.net**

**Website: www.transfigurationucc.org**

**Pastor; Fr. Walter Pasicznyk CELL PHONE NUMBER: (570)-406-5882**



**Divine Liturgy Schedule**  
**November 30, 2024, A. D.**  
**Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!**  
**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!**



**Saturday, November 30**  
**6:00 PM**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
✠Julia Yurchak - Carl & MaryAnne Granitski

**Sunday, December 1**

**NO SUNDAY LITURGY AT TRANSFIGURATION OR ST.**  
**PETER & PAUL CHURCH (PLYMOUTH).**  
**Plan to attend a Saturday Liturgy.**

**Wednesday, December 4**

**10:00 AM**

✠LaDawna Clancy - Becker Family

**Thursday, December 5**

**10:00 AM**

God's Blessings for America - Tom & MaryAnn Potsko

**Friday, December 6**

**10:30 AM**

**HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS-BISHOP OF MYRA**

With myrovinya

✠Deceased Members of the Homishak Family

**\*\*\*HOLY DAY AT St. PETER & PAUL(Plymouth) IS at 8:30 AM.\*\*\***

**Saturday, December 7**

**8:00 AM**

**Conversion of All Lost Souls/Conversion to Catholicism**

**Saturday, December 7**

**6:00 PM**

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

✠Ed Schwartz - Christine Ferrato

**Sunday, December 8**

**10:30 PM**

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

✠Ryan Yanoshak - Yanoshak Family

**Saint Peter & Paul Church (Plymouth)**

**Divine Liturgy: Saturday 4:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 AM**

**November 30, 2024**

**TROPAR:** Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead; He saved us from the abyss of Hades and granted great mercy to the world.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and forever and ever. Amen.**

**KONDAK:** You rose from the tomb, O almighty Savior; and Hades, seeing this wonder, was stricken with fear; and the dead arose. Creation saw and rejoices with You, and Adam exults. And the world, my Savior, sings Your praises forever.

**PROKIMEN:** Sing to our God, sing; sing to our King, sing. Clap your hands, all you nations, shout unto God with the voice of joy. Sing to our God, sing; sing to our King, sing.

**A Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians 1:12-18:**



Brethren, we continually give joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

**ALLELUIA:** (3). In You, O Lord, have I hoped that I may not be put to shame for ever. Alleluia (3). Be a protector unto me, O God, and a house of refuge to save me. Alleluia (3).

## Gospel of St. Luke 18:18-27



At That time a certain man approached Jesus and asked him, saying, “Good Master, what shall I do to gain eternal life?” But Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but only God. You know the commandments: You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.” And he said, “All these I have kept ever since I was a child.” But when Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing is still lacking to you; sell all that you have, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When he heard these things, he was much grieved, for he was very rich. But Jesus, seeing him become sad, said, “With what difficulty will they who have riches enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And they who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus said to them, “Things that are impossible with men are possible with God.”

**COMMUNION VERSE:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Alleluia (3).

**Petitions & Prayers for Our Parishioners:** Please pray for our Parishioners: **Assisted Living:** Mary Hoolick. **At Home:** Geraldine Adamchak; Shirley Kozar, Dolores Miller, Rita Kurtz, Diane Petry, Mary Louise Bailey. **Away:** Leona Kobela. **Prayer Request:** Michelle Miller; Kerri; Ellen Kobela, Fr. Peter Waslo; Sister Evhenia Prusnay MSMG; Mary Oresick; Fr. Paul Wolensky, Pavlyk Motychka (baby in Ukraine with SMA); Joyce Kishbaugh, Ken Weber; Marie Slota; Fr. Gregory Maslak, Angel Ocasio, Elizabeth Biasci, Dolores Jennings, Mike Oresick, Mark & Debbie Schwartz, Mary Schwartz, Helen Lipowski, Raquel Camelia, Marie Neimeyer & all Parishioners who are experiencing health issues.

**BOOK(s) OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER** - Suggested Reading Material:

THE WAY OF THE FATHERS, John Chryssavgis

ISBN: 0-880971-81-X

ON THE SAINTS, Sermons by Gregory Palamas; Mount Thabor Press.

ISBN: 978-0-9774983-6-9

## Psalm 4

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

How long will you people turn my glory into shame?

How long will you love delusions and seek false gods[b]? Know that the LORD has set  
apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

Tremble and[d] do not sin; when you are on your beds search your hearts and be silent.

Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD.

Many, LORD, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?"

Let the light of your face shine on us. Fill my heart with joy  
when their grain and new wine abound.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD,  
make me dwell in safety.



## DECEMBER CANDLES

**The Candles on the Tetrapod** are given by Father Walter Pasicznyk

In living memory of Ihor & Olympia Pasicznyk.

The **Eternal Light** is given by the Yanoshak Family

In loving memory of Randy Yanoshak.

The **Altar Candles** are given by Tom & MaryAnn Potsko

in loving memory of Helen Heylek.

The **Candle Before St. Nicholas** is given by Gerry Adamchak

In loving memory of Nicholas & Julia Salonski.

The **Candle Before the Icon of the Theotokos**

is given by the by MaryMae Alberola for

God's Blessings & Good Health for J.D. & Josh Alberola.

The **Candle Before the Icon of Jesus Christ** is given by

is given by Lisa Placek for God's Blessings on Helen & Marc Lipowski.

The **Candle Before the Icon of the Transfiguration** is

Given by the Slota Family in loving memory of

Peter & Pauline Slota and their granddaughter, Jennifer Wetzel.

The **Candle Before the Icon of John the Baptist** is given

By Lisa Placek for God's Blessings & Good Health

For Nikolas & Benjamin Placek.

**CHURCH NEWS .... Every day is a Holy Day of Opportunity. Pray Always.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** A Very Happy Birthday to MaryAnn Kelly who celebrates her Birthday on December 1<sup>st</sup>! A Very Happy Birthday to Christine Ferrato who celebrates her Birthday on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Mnohaya Lita! May God Grant them and their Families Many Happy Blessed Years!

**PYROHY:** Our church will be selling frozen Potato Pyrohy for \$12.00/dozen, call the rectory at 570-735-2262. **EAT MORE PYROHY.**



**FLEA MARKET & HOT FOOD:** The remaining date for the Flea Market is December 7<sup>th</sup>. Help is needed. Please call Bob or Johanna at 570-592-5776 to volunteer to HELP. Come out and buy a weekend lunch!

**RAFFLE BASKETS:** Thank you to everyone who donated baskets or helped with the raffle! We have a great selection! **Make sure you come out and take a "chance" on a basket- they make great gifts.**

**DONATE A HAM:** Thank you to the Parishioners who donated their boneless hams!



**CHRISTMAS TEA:** We will have a Christmas Tea next Sunday, December 8th at Transfiguration of Our Lord Church Basement immediately following Divine Liturgy. The Tea will start at noon. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dozen cookies to share and a dozen cookies as gifts for parishioners unable to come to Liturgy. (The children will be helping with the Tea and delivering the cookies to our Parishioners with a Smile and a Christmas Carol.) If you cannot bring cookies, bring chocolate for example to be used in the cookie trays. **If you have items to drop off, they can be left at Transfiguration of Our Lord Church immediately before or after the Saturday Liturgy or call Lisa at 570-574-1016 for additional help or drop off.**

**CAN YOU HELP?:** Everyone loves the Christmas Tea, but this year we need help with sandwiches, cookies, a monetary donation, etc. Can you lend a hand please call Ali at 570-709-2514 or Lisa at 570-574-1016.

## The Gift of Tears

**There is an old legend according to which God said to one of His angels: “Go down to earth and bring back the most precious thing in the world.”**

One angel brought a drop of blood from a person who had sacrificed his life to save another. God said, “Indeed, O Angel, this is precious in My sight, but it is not the most precious thing in the world.” Another angel caught the last breath of a nurse who died from a dread disease she contracted in nursing others to health. God smiled at the angel and said, “Indeed, O Angel, sacrifice in behalf of other is very precious in my sight, but it is not the most precious thing in the world.

Finally, one angel captured and brought in a small vial containing the tear of a sinner that had repented and returned to God. God beamed upon the angel as He said, “Indeed, O Angel, you have brought Me the most precious thing in the world – the tear of repentance which opens the gates of heaven.”

### **Prayer**

*Lord, the tears of Your Holy Mother weeping take us back to the tear You shed for our sins and for our salvation. Strike the rock of our harden hearts, as did Moses in the Old Testament, and let the water flow; this time the tears of our second baptism that we may be washed and cleansed as we prepare to share in the Glory of Your Resurrection.*

Let us begin by saying that tears are a gift of God. St. John Climacus (think of the Ladder of Ascent) said, “God in His love for mankind gave us tears.” In fact, the gift of tears is one of the 30 rungs on the famous ladder to heaven of St. John Climacus...Father John Chrysavvgis states that although not unknown in the West, the gift of tears was emphasized more in the East, perhaps because greater emphasis was placed in the East on the heart as a vessel of the Holy Spirit. The shortest verse in the Bible, but one full of meaning, is, “Jesus wept.” God is making sure that we know He identifies with our humanity.

*“Arise, shine out, for your light has come. The glory of Yahweh is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.”-Isaiah 60:1*

## What is the Eucharist?

It is the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, which the Lord Himself established at the Last Supper before His Passion. Indeed, at Vespers on Holy and Great Thursday we hear that the Lord *took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My Body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me* (Lk. 22:19). The Eucharist is the principal sacrament of the Church, which creates it. The Church—that is, a community of the faithful—celebrates the Eucharist, and the Eucharist transforms believers into the Church, into the Body of Christ. By partaking of the Holy Gifts, the faithful become one with Christ and with each other. The early Christians understood this very well and therefore *they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers* (Acts 2:42); *and the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul* (Acts 4: 32). Thus, there is an identical internal connection between the Church and the Eucharist.

The Catholic Church believes that Christ is really present in the Eucharist. Bread and wine become the Body and Blood of the Lord through the Descent of the Holy Spirit, by the prayer of the faithful presided over by a bishop (or a priest). This is a mystery that our mind cannot fathom, but which we accept through faith. Attempts to explain the Church sacraments only intellectually and rationalistically have always led to heresies and divisions among believers. We must not doubt what Christ has told us, namely that the bread and wine consecrated at the Divine Liturgy are transformed into His Body and Blood. If someone doubts the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, it means that he doubts both God's Incarnation and the preaching of the Gospel, which will spread throughout the world, the Church, until the end of time.

Since ancient times two Liturgies have been celebrated in the Catholic Church (especially in the East): those of St. John Chrysostom and of St. Basil the Great (both from the fourth century), and they are very similar. Both consist of two parts: the Liturgy of the Catechumens (that is, the Liturgy of those who are preparing to be Baptized, but in which the baptized also take part), and the Liturgy of the Faithful. The second part is the Eucharistic Canon, or the Anaphora, with the Epiclesis (the invocation of the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and wine), and the Communion of the Holy Gifts by the faithful. The Liturgy of the Catechumens includes readings from the Holy Scriptures (the Epistles and the Gospel), along with prayers in the form of litanies for the faithful and catechumens alike. The Liturgy is preceded by the *proskomedie*, which the priest performs in concentration before the beginning of the liturgy itself. This service is very rich and full of meaning, and the atmosphere at church is mystical. All this attunes believers to inner

concentration and contemplation of the mystery of our Savior's life. In the Liturgy His whole life is actualized—from His Nativity to Ascension to His Second Coming.

There is a profound mystery in the Catholic Church. Every prayer of a believer, even liturgical prayer, must descend from the head into the heart, encompassing his whole heart, because it is the center of a man. At the same time, the heart is the home of baptismal grace—God abides precisely in the heart of man (1 John 4:15). That is why it is so important when our mind constantly descends into the heart, and then we will find peace. When the mind and the heart are scattered, it leads to mental stress and anxiety, depression and a state of dissatisfaction. That is why concentrated individual and liturgical prayer is so vital.