

Transfiguration of Our Lord Church
240 Center Street – Nanticoke, PA 18634
Nanticoke Rectory: (570)735-2262
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Pastor; Fr. Walter Pasicznyk CELL PHONE NUMBER: (570)-406-5882



Divine Liturgy Schedule
December 22, 2024, A. D.
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!



Saturday, December 21

6:00 PM

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

† Pearl Shalaida- Barno Family

Sunday, December 22

10:30 PM

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

† Sophie Staronka- Lisa Placek (3rd Anniversary)

*****Christmas Eve is a Fast from Meat and Dairy Products & the end of Phillips Fast.*****

Tuesday, December 24

8:00 PM

Christmas Eve (w/Myrovania)

Great Compline/Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

† Barnett Kurtz- Janice Lee

Wednesday, December 25

10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY (w/Myrovania)

† Anna Kutsup- MaryAnn Medlin

Thursday, December 26

10:30 AM

SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD(w/Myrovania)

† Ted Weron- Donna Lee

Friday, December 27

10:00 AM

FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR(w/Myrovania)

God's Blessings for America- Tom & MaryAnn Potsko

Saturday, December 28

6:00 PM

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

† Ted Weron- Tom & MaryAnn Potsko

Sunday, December 29

10:30 PM

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

HOLY INNOCENTS

God's Blessings for Mary Hoolick- Peggy Hoolick



Saint Peter & Paul Church (Plymouth)

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



SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
December 22, 2024



TROPAR: Angelic powers were upon Your tomb and the guards became like dead men; Mary stood before Your tomb seeking Your most pure body. You captured Hades without being overcome by it. You met the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory be to You!

TROPAR: Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flames, the three holy youths rejoiced as by the water of rest, and the prophet Daniel was revealed shepherding lions like sheep. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls. **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and forever and ever. Amen.**

KONDAK: Armed by the Being that defies description, you defied the man-made idol, O thrice blessed youth. In the midst of the unbearable flames you stood and cried out to God: "In Your mercy, O gracious One, hasten and come to our aid," for You can do whatever You will.

PROKIMEN: Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever. For You are righteous in everything that You have done to us. Blessed are You, Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name forever.

A Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10,17-23,32-40):

Brethren, by faith Abraham abode in the land, dwelling in tents, with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise. For he looked for a city that has foundations; whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered Isaac: and he that had received the promises, offered up his only begotten son; (To whom it was said: In Isaac shall your seed be called.) Accounting that God is able to raise up even from the dead. Whereupon also he received him for a parable. By faith also of things to come, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and adored the top of his rod. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the going out of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months by his parents; because they saw he was a comely babe, and they feared not the king's edict. And what shall I yet say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barack, Sampson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets: Who by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, put to flight the armies of foreigners: women received their dead raised to life again. But others were racked, not accepting deliverance, that they might find a better resurrection. And others had trial of mockeries and stripes, moreover also of bands and prisons. They were stoned, they were cut asunder, they were tempted, they were put to death by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being in want, distressed, afflicted: of whom the world was not worthy; wandering in deserts, in mountains, and in

dens, and in caves of the earth. And all these being approved by the testimony of faith, received not the promise; God providing some better thing for us, that they should not be perfected without us.



ALLELUIA: (3). O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the work You did in their days. Alleluia (3 You saved us from our oppressors and put to shame those who hate us. Alleluia (3).

Gospel of St. Matthew 1:25



The book of the origin of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot Judas and his brothers. Judas begot Phares and Zara of Tamar, Phares begot Esron, Esron begot Aram. And Aram begot Aminadab, Aminadab begot Naasson, Naasson begot Salmon. Salmon begot Booz of Rahab. Booz begot Obed of Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David the King. And David the King begot Solomon of the former wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Roboam, Roboam begot Abia, Abia begot Asa. And Asa begot Josaphat, Josaphat begot Joram, Joram begot Oziah. And Oziah begot Joatham, Joatham begot Achaz, Achaz begot Ezechiah. And Ezechiah begot Manasses, Manasses begot Amon, Amon begot Josiah. And Josiah begot Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the carrying away to Babylon. And after the carrying away to Babylon Jechoniah begot Salathiel. Salathiel begot Zorobabel. And Zorobabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliachim, Eliachim begot Azor. And Azor begot Sadoc, Sadoc begot Achim, Achim begot Eliud. And Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Mattan, Mattan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the carrying away to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the carrying away to Babylon to Christ fourteen generations. Now the origin of Christ was in this wise. When Mary his mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit. But Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins.” Now all this came to pass that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son; and they shall call his name Emmanuel;” which is interpreted, “God with us”. So Joseph, arising from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took unto him his wife. And he did not know her till she brought forth her firstborn son. And he called his name Jesus.



COMMUNION HYMN: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. Rejoice in the Lord, O you just; praise befits the righteous. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



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.

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

ISBN: 978-0-9774983-6-9

Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Ss. Peter and Paul (Plymouth)



Tuesday, December 24
4:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Great Compline and Divine Liturgy with Myrovania

Wednesday, December 25
8:30AM

Christmas

Divine Liturgy with Myrovania

Thursday, December 26
8:30AM

Synaxis of the Holy Mother of God

Divine Liturgy with Myrovania

Friday, December 27

No Liturgy



Psalm 3

LORD, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me,
“God will not deliver him.”

But you, LORD, are a shield around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

I call out to the LORD,
and he answers me from his holy mountain.

I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.
I will not fear though tens of thousands
assail me on every side.

Arise, LORD, Deliver me, my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.
From the LORD comes salvation.
May your blessing be on your people.



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

CARD FOR FATHER PAUL WOLENSKY: Please take a moment and sign the card for Father Paul Wolensky to let him know we are thinking about him, even if you don't know him, you are welcomed and encouraged to sign the card. Please keep Father Paul Wolensky in your thoughts and prayers this Christmas Season.

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

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION: Father Walter will have confessions before and after each Liturgy, time permitting- please stand by the confessional. Confessions can also be heard by appointment, which many parishioners have done to accommodate their schedule. Please plan your confession.

VISITING THE SICK & HOMEBOUND: If you know someone who would like to be visited and receive Holy Communion and they were not, please contact Father Walter at the rectory at 570-735-2262.



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.

LITURGY INTENTIONS: If you are offering a Divine Liturgy for a specific day for your beloved or other intentions for 2025, please make sure you turn it into the rectory in order to make sure that you get the exact time that you would like.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

James 1:19-27; Mark 10:17-27

Someone turned to the Lord with a question: Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? (Mark 10:17) What necessitated this question? Was there no Scripture? Was the law not read every Saturday for everyone? There was everything, both the Scripture and its interpreters, but differences of opinion went around in society and muddled everyone. The Pharisees said one thing, the Sadducees another, the Essenes had their own opinion, and the Samaritans theirs. In Galilee, perhaps even pagan teachings were heard, and each side put forth its own teachings with a tone of conviction. Anyone who was zealous for salvation naturally came to the question: What should I do? What should I follow, so as to not lose my soul? Our situation now is very similar to that of those times. How many teachings are circulating in our schools, in society, and in literature! For the indifferent it is nothing, but those concerned over which teaching to follow cannot help but seek a resolution; "What should I do?" And so what is the solution? The one which the Savior gave: Believe and live as God commanded, and do not listen to people's talk; let them talk. The talk of scholars too is like rumors and fashion; today one thing, tomorrow another. But you should heed only God's Word, which abides onto the ages. What the Lord commanded; no philosophizing can revoke. Everything must be done and cannot be put off. The Judgement indeed will be according to the Word of the Lord, and not according to our philosophizing. - St. Theophan the Recluse

Merry Christmas!!

The greeting we know in English comes to us from Brittany in the Middle Ages. The word "merry" from the middle ages time means 'powerful, or mighty. Sort of changes the meaning of Robin Hood and his merry men, doesn't it? The word Christmas came to Brittany through Rome from Alexandria, Egypt, the land of St. Augustine. Christ clearly comes from the Greek Kristos as Greek was the international language. The second half of the word, 'mas' comes from indigenous Egyptians as 'mas' [NOT pronounced 'mass' but 'mahs,' [mäS]], well 'mas' means "day of birth," or "nativity of." So, Christmas literally means "The Nativity of Christ." So now you can see from putting the two together that the greeting is telling us to have a powerful, mighty or a strongly meaningful celebration of the day of the nativity of the Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. Why Christmas is NOT "Christ's Mass". The reason is because the word that becomes "Mass" in the Latin Church [Roman Catholic] is really from Latin and from the dismissal of the people following the Divine Liturgy, "Ite, missa est" meaning "go out in peace." The word "missa" was getting heard by the people as "mass" and so the Roman Rite of the Latin Church accepted by the people, the name of this rite to be "The Mass." So since "mass" is from the dismissal of the people in the Tridentine Mass and means "dismiss" so this would mean that Christmas would mean Christ's dismissal and we are definitely not dismissing Christ. We are celebrating Christ's Nativity. Further, The Mass, is about Jesus' Sacrifice on The Cross and His Resurrection from the dead, this is not what we are remembering and celebrating on Jesus' Nativity.

St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397)

“Open wide your door to the One who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all men.”

St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

“People can pass thirty nights in dancing, and no one complains about it, but if they watch through a single Christmas night they cough and claim their stomach is upset the next morning. Does anyone fail to see that the world is an unjust judge, gracious and well-disposed to its own children but harsh and rigorous towards the children of God?”

St. Anthony of Padua (1195-1231)

“O Father, in your Truth (that is to say, in your Son, humbled, needy and homeless) you have humbled me. He was humbled in the womb of the Virgin, needy in the manger of the sheep, and homeless on the wood of the Cross. Nothing so humbles the proud sinner as the humility of Jesus Christ’s humanity.”

St. Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386)

“Teacher of children became Himself a child among children, that He might instruct the unwise. The Bread of Heaven came down to earth to feed the hungry.”

Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira (1908-1995)

“On Christmas night, through the power of God, an immense impossibility becomes possible, and a shower of graces flows from Heaven to earth, turning into marvelous realities all of our impossible dreams. Because “*apparuit salvator noster Domini Nostri Jesu Christi*,” [our Savior, Our Lord Jesus Christ appeared]. The Savior becomes incarnate in a Virgin and dwells amongst men. He comes with everything He brought for men. This is more audacious than any other utopia, but grace, miracle and the power of God turn it into reality.”

St. Gregory Nazianzen (329-390)

“Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ from Heaven, go out to meet Him! Christ on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him who is of Heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy because of your hope.”