

PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY
(Pokrov)

Decemberr 5th 2021

5 2nd Street
Herminie, PA 15637
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy
Sunday: 9 am
Holyday: 9 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or
by appointment

Served By

Rev. Michael J. Huszti
Cell Phone: 7245500063
150 Alamedia Road
Butler, PA 16001

St. Athanasius – The Lord expressed love for the one who was thankful, but He was angry with the ungrateful ones because they did not acknowledge their Deliverer. They thought more highly of their cure from leprosy than of He who had healed them. ... The one who returned to give thanks was given much more than the rest. Besides being healed of his leprosy, he was told by the Lord, "Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you."

Saint Nicholas

O holy father,
The fruit of your good works enlightens and
delights the hearts of the faithful.
Who cannot wonder at your measureless patience
and humility?

At your tender care for the poor?
At your compassion for the afflicted?
O holy Nicholas,
You have divinely taught all things well,
Now wearing your unfading crown,
You intercede for our souls.
(From the Vespers of St. Nicholas) Saint John
Chrysostom

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Tone ²

Our venerable and divinely inspired father, St. Sabbas, Hegumen-Abbot. He rendered great service to the Eastern Church against the Eutychian heretics. He died at the age of 94 A.D. 532 in the reign of the Emperor Justinian the Great.

*As is our tradition, this Sunday we will be
decorating our church for the Christmas holidays.*

December

Nativity Fast

6 St Nicholas the Wonderworker and
Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
9 (8) The Conception of the Most Holy Mother of
God by the Righteous Anna
12 Second Sunday Before Christmas (Holy
Forefathers)
19 Sunday Before Christmas (Holy Fathers)
24 Christmas Eve
25 *The Nativity of our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ*
26 Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God,
Sunday after Christmas: Commemoration of the
Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the
Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord
27 First-Martyr and Archdeacon Stephen

There are two holy days this week

The Feast of Saint Nicholas on the sixth.
The Feast of the Conception of Saint Ann
(Latin Rite Immaculate Conception) on the
eighth.

Attendance to the Divine Liturgy on the
eighth is obligatory.

Saint Nicholas Archbishop and Patron of the Eastern Church

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home—providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

Another story tells of three theological students, traveling on their way to study in Athens. A wicked innkeeper robbed and murdered them, hiding their remains in a large pickling tub. It so happened that Bishop Nicholas, traveling along the same route, stopped at this very inn. In the night he dreamed of the crime, got up, and summoned the innkeeper. As Nicholas prayed earnestly to God the three boys were restored to life and wholeness. In France the story is told of three small children, wandering in their play until lost, lured, and captured by an evil butcher. St. Nicholas appears and appeals to God to return them to life and to their families. And so St. Nicholas is the patron and protector of children.

We are mindful of the issues caused by the corona virus and we want to keep our congregation and our visitors safe. The church is wiped down after each service. There is also plenty of space for social distancing.

Several stories tell of Nicholas and the sea. When he was young, Nicholas sought the holy by making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There as he walked where Jesus walked, he sought to more deeply experience Jesus' life, passion, and resurrection. Returning by sea, a mighty storm threatened to wreck the ship. Nicholas calmly prayed. The terrified sailors were amazed when the wind and waves suddenly calmed, sparing them all. And so St. Nicholas is the patron of sailors and voyagers.

Other stories tell of Nicholas saving his people from famine, sparing the lives of those innocently accused, and much more. He did many kind and generous deeds in secret, expecting nothing in return. Within a century of his death he was celebrated as a saint. Today he is venerated in the East as wonder, or miracle worker and in the West as patron of a great variety of persons—children, mariners, bankers, pawn-brokers, scholars, orphans, laborers, travelers, merchants, judges, paupers, marriageable maidens, students, children, sailors, victims of judicial mistakes, captives, perfumers, even thieves and murderers! He is known as the friend and protector of all in trouble or need.

With the Angels let us celebrate the all-glorious conception of the Mother of God (From the Matins)

The Holy Scripture is silent about the birth and infancy of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The early Christians believed that her birth was miraculous in the similar manner as the birth of St. John the Baptist.

This pious belief became reflected in some early writings, especially in the so-called Protoevangelium of St. James, compiled by some unknown author in the middle of the second century.