

**ST. MARY'S  
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**VERY REV. RICHARD I. LAMBERT**

**356 S. BelleVista Ave.**

**Youngstown, Ohio 44509**

**Rectory 330-799-8163**

**Social Center 330-792-1578**

**Dec. 3, 2023**

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**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SAT. 4:30 p.m. + George Hrina by Family**  
**SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners**

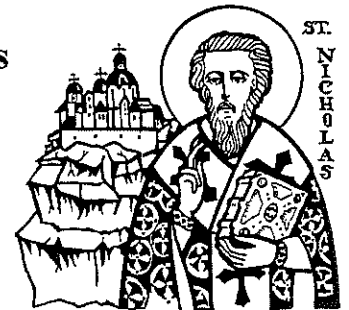
**MON. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy**

**TUE. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy**

**WED. ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA Pg. 274**  
**10:30 a.m. +Ronnie Wallace by Aunt, Karen Muransky**

**THU. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy**

**FRI. MATERNITY OF HOLY ANNA Pg. 277**  
**10:30 am. +Martha Ilko by Olga Hudak Family**



**Dec. 10, 2023**

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**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SAT. 4:30 p.m. +John &Joyce Haydu by Daughter, Nancy & Grand-children**

**SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners**

*Your life has shown you to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of gentleness, and a teacher of moderation. You acquired greatness through humility and wealth through poverty. O Father and Archbishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.*

**CHURCH DONATIONS Nov. 26, 2023**

**Maintenance \$130.00 Christmas \$100.00  
Offertory..... \$1,797.00**

**SOCIAL GAMES**

Games are played every Sunday...Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Games begin at 6:30 p.m. **ALSO...WE** will have **BINGO** on **SUNDAY..NEW YEARS EVE** and we will also be selling **KIELBASA/KRAUT**.

**G.C.U. SAINT NICHOLAS PARTY**

All GCU. Members are invited to join in the festivities on Sunday Dec. 10th at 12:00 Noon in our Social Center. A luncheon will be served. Reservations are required by **TOMORROW..Dec.4th** by calling the office 330 792-1578.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

We still have **BEAUTIFUL** Christmas Cards of our Church left from last year. We will put them in the vestibule and if you want any please take some. Free will offerings will be accepted.

**2024 CALENDARS**

for the New Year are in the vestibule...Please only take one. We would like to thank **Mike Kirila & Tom Kinnick** for their continued generosity for sponsoring them. Please remember them in your time of need.

**VISITS...SHUT-INS**

**Father & Deacon John** will be visiting our Shut-ins Dec. 12th & 13th. If you are not on his regular list of visits please call the office and they will put you on the list.

**PLEASE NOTE**

There is no need to bend your knees when receiving Communion, just stand up straight ..Also do not hold on to the rail as it is not that sturdy.

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## CONCEPTION OF ST. ANN

The very ancient cult of the most Holy Mother of God, a characteristic mark of the Eastern Church, is especially manifested in the great wealth of Marian feast in the Liturgical Year. These feasts present to us the more important moments in the life of the Mother of God, from her Immaculate Conception to the moment of her Assumption into Heaven.



How wonderfully God prepared her who was to be the Mother of our Savior. She, full of grace, holy, and immaculate became the worthy tabernacle, in which the Son of God dwelt. Our ancient Slavonic Prologue contains the following for the Feast of the Conception of St. Ann:

“Beloved, today is the beginning of our salvation. In the womb of Ann, after the Annunciation of the angel, the grand-daughter of the Just Jesse is conceived, and know, that we are celebrating the Conception of our Lady the Most Pure Queen... Mother of our God. Therefore, let us celebrate the holy Conception of the Most Pure Lady the Mother of God devoutly and with joy, for She unceasingly prays to her Son and our God for us.

*Today the bonds of barrenness are loosed, for God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. He promised, beyond hope, the birth of their Godly daughter. The Indescribable, Himself, born of her a mortal, commanded us through the angel to sing to her Rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you.*

## SAINT NICHOLAS

It is the image of St. Nicholas, more often than that of any others, that is found on Byzantine seals; and he is said to have been represented by Christian artists more frequently than any saint except our Lady. The popularity of St. Nicholas, especially among our people is based on the fact that he embodied that concept of Christianity which has always been taught, lived and practiced by the Eastern Church. There are several virtues attributed to St. Nicholas, among which faith, charity and willingness to help excel above all.



For our people St. Nicholas is a champion of faith, a “model of faith” as the Troparion calls him. From all virtues ascribed to St. Nicholas, charity is mentioned pre-eminently. It is this example of our patron saint which we must follow today better than ever before. In a world which hates, we must be souls of love. We must teach the world again how to love, by loving. It is always the lack of charity among

men which is responsible for the sad condition of humanity. Love is not a spectacular virtue. It manifests itself in little things done.

The charity of St. Nicholas was all-embracing. He made no exceptions nor did he set precedents. Christians of today would do well to imitate this universal charity. If we really love St. Nicholas, let us imitate him in sincerely practicing the virtue of charity as he did. St. Nicholas was a man who helped others. He stands before us as an example and symbol of compassion and willingness to help those in need.

Human nature being what it is, prone to be lazy, unstable and emotional, man requires the promise of reward, or the threat of punishment, in order to help others or, generally, in order to strive for perfection. Children try harder when they know that some reward awaits them as compensation for their efforts. In this respect, we are as children, of a second growth. Charity must be completely disinterested.

According to a Latin Proverb, the Saints are to be admired rather than imitated. Spiritually we cannot profit by mere admiration of Saints; we must imitate them. And the one who should be particularly imitated in our time is St. Nicholas.

*“We praise you, O bishop of Christ, Nicholas, and we venerate your memory, for you pray for us to Christ our God.”*