

Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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December 3, 2017 + 26th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 1

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| Divine Liturgy | Saturday, 5:30 PM · Sunday, 10:00 AM · Holy Days, 7:30 PM |
| Confessions | Saturday, 4:30-5:00 PM · Sunday, 9:00-9:30 AM |
| Collection | Last week: \$2,795.00 . God bless you for your continued generosity. |
| Sunday Readings | Ephesians 5:9-19 + Luke 18:18-27 (<i>Lucan Leap for 28th Sunday</i>) |
| Sacramental Needs | Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401 |

During the month of December, the Altar Lamp burns before our Lord in the tabernacle for Barbara Bates' parents +Michael and +Madelyn Wasilnak and sister +Elaine Helen Getz.



The Light of the East ...

“You alone and Your Mother are more beautiful than any others, for there is neither blemish in You nor any stain upon your Mother. Most holy Lady, Mother of God, alone most pure in soul and body, alone exceeding all perfection of purity. Lady most holy, all-pure, all-immaculate, all-stainless, all-undefiled, all-incorrupt, all-inviolable spotless robe of Him Who clothes Himself with light as a garment ... flower unfading, purple worn of God, alone most immaculate.”

Saint Ephraim the Syrian, 306-373 A.D.

This coming week, the Church celebrates two important feasts in our liturgical calendar.

On Wednesday, **December 6**, we commemorate our **Holy Father, Patron and Wonderworker, Saint Nicholas of Myra**. Born in 270 A.D., Nicholas was a native of Lycia and son of a wealthy family; he gave his entire inheritance to the poor on the death of his parents. He entered a monastery and was ordained a priest; he was then chosen as archbishop of Myra. Nicholas lived the qualities that caused his fame and popularity to spread throughout the Christian world. His vigorous actions on behalf of his people and in defense of the Christian faith revealed a man who

lived his convictions. Nicholas was not timid—he did what was necessary and was not easily intimidated by others' power and position. Famous for his kindness and almsgiving, he was a model shepherd in his care and concern for his flock. His stand for orthodox belief earned him respect as a model for bishops and a defender of the faith; he was also present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. Full of years, he entered into rest in the year 343 A.D.



On Friday, **December 8**, we celebrate the **Conception by the Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos, the Mother of God**, a feast in the Eastern Church since the 6th century. For 50 years Saint Anna and her husband, Saint Joachim, were childless. Through their fervent prayer, an angel of the Lord announced to her that they would be the parents of a daughter Who would bring blessings to the whole human race and through whom salvation would come to the entire world. Since the early centuries, the Church has also always believed that the Virgin Mary was, from her very conception, filled with every Grace of the Holy Spirit in view of her calling as the Mother of Christ our God.

Joy to the World! A huge thank you a thousand-fold to all those who worked so hard this weekend to prepare the church for the glorious feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. With all the wreaths, garlands, trimmings and boughs ... you have truly made God's house a wonder to behold!

Please remember to see Reader John after Liturgy on Sunday, December 3 to help set-up tables and chairs for our Saint Nicholas luncheon next Sunday, December 10.

Saint Nicholas Luncheon. Our parish celebration of our holy Wonderworker is next **Sunday, December 10**, after the Divine Liturgy in the parish narthex. Please remember to sign up in the narthex indicating the “pot luck” dish you will bring to share. Our cooking facilities are very limited; if you are bringing hot items, please bring them in a crock pot for easy heating.

Holiday Liturgy Schedule

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| December 9 (Saturday) | No Liturgy |
| December 10 (Sunday) | 10:00 AM – <i>Liturgy / Saint Nicholas Luncheon follows</i> |
| December 17 (Sunday) | 10:00 AM – <i>Liturgy</i> 12:00 PM – <i>Parish visit and outreach at St. George</i> |
| December 23 (Saturday) | No Liturgy |
| December 24 (Sunday) | 10:00 AM – <i>Liturgy Sunday before Christmas</i> |
| December 24 (Sunday) | 9:00 PM – <i>Christmas Eve Liturgy</i> |
| December 25 (Monday) | 10:00 AM – <i>Christmas Day Liturgy</i> |



Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future!

