

DECEMBER 15, 2019

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Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula) and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave the church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

St Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicean Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the The Italian city of Bari, where they rest to this very day. Saint Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes.

The Bible Readings Epistle - Ephesians 5:9-19 Gospel - Luke 12:16-21

Church Services: On Thursday, December 19th we will celebrate St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30 am

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VISITS: Patty Shorak - Cambridge Pointe, Beaver; Alex Yawor - Christian House, East Palestine; Diane Abramovich - Beaver Valley Healthcare - Beaver Falls; Ted Belich - at home.

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FUNERAL: Give rest O Lord to thy departed servant **ELIO PANCOTTINI** and make his memory to be eternal. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family, kumovi and friends. **VJECNAJA PAMJAT!**

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Vesper Services are held regularly on Saturdays at 5:30 PM during Advent. **Bible study** following the service. **Confessions** by appointment.

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ST. ELIJAH CORNERSTONE MEN'S CLUB: is now taking orders for their **Holiday BBQ Pigs!** \$8 per pound for whole pigs, \$12 per pound for all other orders. All orders must be picked up the morning of **January 6th between 9am and 12:30 pm at the Picnic Grounds.** Call Danielle Milanovich at 724.777.6856 before December 31st to place your order!



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CHOIR NEWS: Psenica orders and candy orders are available following Divine Liturgy today!

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COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE- The Communication Committee invites all St. Elijah members and visitors to access and manage their contact information, church involvement and so much more in our NEW and secure online member directory. Please scan the QR with your mobile device to learn how to sign up or visit our church website <https://StElijahAliquippa.com>



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SAVE THE DATES: TODAY our - Sunday School and the Mother's Club are inviting you to the **Saint Nicholas Party!** Join us for Arts and Crafts, Bible Trivia, Singing, Caroling and much more! Kids of all ages are welcome- Posno Vegetable Soup, coleslaw & pogaca will be available for all to enjoy. Annual Church Assembly is on Sunday December 22nd following the Divine Liturgy in the church hall.

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There will be soup and pogaca available following the Divine Liturgy today,

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BEAVER COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES: All gifts wrapped gifts were due today!

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Fellowship & Ministry Committee: Announcing our new project-"**Hristos Se Rodi Od Srca**". We want to show our home-bound/elderly parishioners that we are thinking of them during the Christmas Season. Downstairs on the Advent Tree will be tags with gift ideas for our parishioners. Please pick a tag to buy a small gift for one of our elderly loved ones. Tags will be available on **12/22 & 12/29**. Gifts will need to be returned to the basement of the church no later than **1/5/19**. Thank you!