

# St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral

Stavropigia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyiv Patriarchate

817 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia – [stnicholaseoc.org](http://stnicholaseoc.org)

**Bulletin  
for Sunday,  
December 24,  
2023**

**St. Nicholas Patron  
Saint Lunch,  
Sunday, Dec. 17**

For those of you who attended the annual fundraising lunch last Sunday, thank you for supporting the Cathedral's Building Fund!

In appreciation, you were served a delicious meal in our beautifully decorated Cathedral Hall, received goody bags filled with treats ...and were delighted by our very special – and perfect! -- Santa Claus!



Helen Ivanna  
Whitmer





# It Takes a Village

...to throw a party!



A SPECIAL **THANK YOU** TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO MADE THE ST. NICHOLAS PATRON SAINT LUNCH SUCH A SUCCESS!

- **VICKI BORRIELLO** for preparing the delicious appetizers, home-cooked Lenten meal and desserts.
- **JULIA BORRIELLO** and her boyfriend, **CHAN**; **RENEE** and **FRANK MURPHY**; **GAIL OSBORN**; and **DIANE KAVCHOK** for contributing to the meal and helping in the kitchen.
- **ALEX JANOCZKIN** for being Santa's helper and buying a huge assortment of thoughtful, age-appropriate, beautiful gifts for the children – that Santa then packed in his bag!
- **IGORYAVORSKY** for being an absolutely perfect Santa Claus – theatrical and full of personality!
- **SUSAN GUZ** for decorating the Hall festively and providing the table favors.



Vicki Borriello and Bishop Luke

AND TO

- **YOU** for attending the lunch and supporting the Cathedral's **BUILDING FUND**! Inspired by the legendary generosity of St. Nicholas, all food, gifts and decorations were **DONATED**, so 100% of your \$25 "ticket" helped the Cathedral. We raised **\$1,070.00**.



# A TEACHABLE moment

Each table was decorated with an icon of St. Nicholas, a pile of gold foil chocolate coins – and an explanation of why the coins are a significant part of the Feast Day.



## Why Give Chocolate Coins on St. Nicholas Day?

INSPIRED BY THE GENEROSITY & MANY CHARITABLE ACTS OF ST. NICHOLAS

The Feast Day of St. Nicholas, December 19, is a holiday that celebrates the historical St. Nicholas, the early saint who served as the model for contemporary Santa Claus. The traditions associated with this Feast Day date back to the tales of St. Nicholas' time as Bishop of Myra during the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. One of the most famous legends surrounding St. Nicholas involved his intervening in the life of three women who wanted to be married but had no money for a dowry. The ever-generous St. Nicholas decided to give them the money they needed. To maintain anonymity, he tossed small bags of gold coins through their open window, and the coins fell into their shoes laid out by the fireplace.

This story of generosity inspired the tradition of giving chocolate gold coins on the Feast Day of St. Nicholas.



**So...WHAT  
WAS IN THE  
GIFT BAGS?**



**Knit "texting" winter gloves in fun colors!..and an ornament filled with...chocolate gold foil coins!**





***Other than the cast on her arm, Barbara Latsios (left) showed no sign of the ordeal she recently went through (having recently fallen, sustaining a broken wrist, followed by surgery). She returned to St. Nicholas Cathedral on -- very appropriately -- the Feast Day of St. Barbara, Sunday, December 17, to enjoy the festivities at the St. Nicholas Patron Saint lunch. We were happy to see Barbara looking her fashionable and vivacious self! Welcome back!***



***You are Invited to Holy Supper  
Christmas Eve, Saturday, January 6, 2024,  
5:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall***

***Donation: \$10 to benefit the Cathedral Building Fund***



Are you coming to  
Christmas Eve  
Holy Supper?  
Please make and bring  
your favorite traditional  
dish (but **TEXT**  
Vicki Borriello first at  
610-357-5474 to let her  
know what you are  
planning to cook as she  
is coordinating the  
menu.)  
Thank You!

# Schedule of Services



Saturday, December 23	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, December 24	8:45 am: Reading of the Hours 9:00 am: Vesting 9:15 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy
Saturday, December 30	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, December 31	8:45 am: Reading of the Hours 9:00 am: Vesting 9:15 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy
Saturday, January 6 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	5:00 pm: Holy Supper in the Cathedral Hall 6:30 pm: Vespers; Confession; followed by the Patriarchal Choir singing Christmas Carols
Sunday, January 7 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	8:45 am: Reading of the Third Hour 9:00 am: Vesting 9:15 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, followed by the Patriarchal Choir singing Christmas Carols and Christmas Lunch in the Cathedral Hall
Saturday, January 13	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, January 14	9:00 am: Vesting 9:15 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, followed by monthly Panikhida

A generous person will  
*prosper*

PROVERBS 11:25

## SUNDAY VIGIL CANDLES LIT TODAY

1. For the health of my nephew, Chris Kavchok, offered by Diane Kavchok and Family
2. For the health of Ray McNulty on his birthday, offered by Colleen and Nicholas Philipp, Jennifer and Cory Redmond
3. For the health of Ron Healey, offered by Colleen Philipp and family
4. For the health of Ellen and Phil Hanavin, offered by Colleen Philipp and family
5. For the health of Susan Guz, offered by Colleen Philipp and family
6. For the health of my grandson, Santino DeSimone, on his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, Love, Grandmom
7. For the health of Ron and Dawn, Love, Mom and Dad
8. In memory of newly-departed aunt, Dorothy Chelak, offered with love from Patricia and Susan



### CATHEDRAL COUNCIL

- Thomas J. Hanney, President
- Susan Guz, Vice-President
- Ellen Hanavin, Treasurer
- Frank Borriello, Secretary

### ST. NICHOLAS PATRIARCHAL CHOIR

- Eve Edwards, Soprano
- Nancy Stott Trauger, Alto
- Nathaniel McEwen, Tenor
- Andrew Bowling, Bass
- Susan Guz, Choir Director

### ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

- Thomas J. Hanney
- Susan Guz
- Alex Janoczkin
- George Latsios
- Frank Murphy



### CLERGY

**Bishop Luke (Zhoba) of Philadelphia,  
Rector, St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral  
V. Rev. Father Oleksii Kacharai**

St. Nicholas Patriarchal Stavropigia Orthodox Cathedral  
817 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123  
bishoplukophiladelphia@gmail.com  
stnicholaseoc.org

**Cell: 215-479-1010**

**Cathedral Office: 215-922-9671**

Email [sneoc100@gmail.com](mailto:sneoc100@gmail.com) to contribute information to this Bulletin. Info must be received by 9 am on WEDNESDAY to be published in the Sunday Bulletin.  
Editor-Publisher: Susan Guz

# Moleben to St. Nicholas

Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 17, Bishop Luke, Father Oleksii, visiting clergy Rev. Hieromonk Father Dionysius, and altar servers gathered around the icon of St. Nicholas to pray with the congregation during a Moleben to St. Nicholas the Wonderworker.



Tom Hanney, Cathedral Council President, assisted Clergy during the Moleben.



The beautiful, sparkling Christmas trees flanking the altar were set up and decorated beforehand for all to enjoy as we celebrated the Feast Day of St. Nicholas! Thank you to Tom and Judy Hanney and Family.



# Scripture

Reading & Sermon

Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023

Luke 14:16-24



*Will You  
Accept The  
Invitation?*

Sunday's Scripture reading is the parable of the great wedding banquet. The banquet is a metaphor for the great kingdom of God. The host of the banquet invites many people – guests he would like to dine and converse with. A lavish feast was prepared, and a great deal of thought and money went into the banquet. And what happened? No one showed up. The host went to considerable trouble, demonstrating love and respect for his guests as he prepared the feast. He counted on these guests coming to his house to enjoy the feast. And they disappointed him. Now substitute God for the host – and substitute yourself for the guest. God invites you every day to hear His word. God is also counting on you. So, pay attention to today's parable and accept God's invitation to His banquet. God is offering you a chance to enjoy something good. Do not refuse it. Be the person who wants salvation. As Saint Luke writes: "Come, for all things are now ready." AMEN.

*+Bishop Luke*



**Here's a great,  
last-minute stocking  
stuffer – and only \$5  
each! Beautiful,  
hand-made Matrushka  
keychains that can  
double as Christmas  
tree ornaments! Many  
colors. 2 sizes, Contact  
Diane Kavchok,  
kavchokd@aol.com  
to get yours while they  
last!**



# ***Building Up...*THE BUILDING FUND**

***The Building Fund has been in our Bulletin news frequently over the past few months. We have directed donations from some Fellowship Lunches, special events and Boutique sales to the Building Fund. Why?***

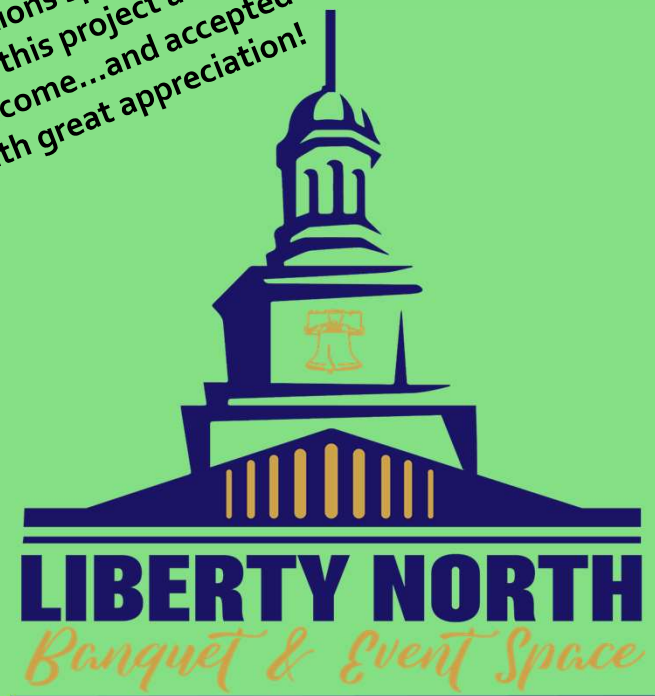
We are planning to change the acoustical ceiling tiles in the Cathedral Hall a/k/a Liberty North Hall. Our existing tiles – and lights – are old, scarred, and dated. Together they give the impression of a stark community room – rather than an elegant banquet hall.

After discussions with some parishioners and the Council, swapping out our old tiles and upgrading them with new vinyl, coffered tiles, as well as installing LED “high hat” lighting, will change the “look” of the Hall, permitting us to increase the Hall rental fee. Hall rentals are the Cathedral’s #1 revenue source. We need to not only maintain the Hall but upgrade it periodically to maximize returns.

The Hall will be closed for rentals in September and October 2024 for the sole purpose of completing this project. We will devise a schedule and ask for volunteers to help take out the old tiles and put in the new tiles. Samples of the new ceiling tiles have been installed in the Office. Stop by and take a peek!



Of course, individual donations specifically for this project are welcome...and accepted with great appreciation!



# 'TIS THE Season OF Giving



*Are the St. Nicholas Cathedral  
CLERGY on your list?*

This year you will find in your weekly envelope box a “Special Offering” envelope for Clergy. This is the perfect time of year to show your appreciation to Bishop Luke, Father Oleksii – and Patriarch Philaret – for any spiritual guidance, advice, compassion, friendship, kindness or special help you may have received from them during the year.

You can indicate on the envelope to whom your gift is intended – and either hand it directly to Bishop Luke or Father Oleksii or leave it at the candle room window. You can also sign your name – or remain anonymous.



“Freely you have  
received; freely give.  
Matthew 10:8

# NATIVITY FAST



The Orthodox Church prepares its faithful to welcome the Nativity of Christ in a worthy manner by means of a 40-day Nativity fast, which lasts from November 28 to January 7.

**Let us journey toward the Feast of the Nativity with joyous hearts! Fast not only from food, but also from hatred and fear. Repent. Do good and be kind to all. Forgive. Be generous. Give alms. In all things, give glory to God.**

**PIEROGI and HALUSHKI for the holidays – while they last!**

Prices: \$12/dozen for potato/cheese pierogi. \$8/quart for halushki.

Order online: [stnicholaseoc.org/donate/pierogi-special](http://stnicholaseoc.org/donate/pierogi-special)



## Christmas Vigils

- Christmas Vigils will be published in the Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bulletin and lit in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, Saturday, January 6, and Christmas Day, Saturday, January 7.
- For those of you who arranged for Christmas vigils in past years, please look for an email soon from Diane Kavchok confirming your information. For our newcomers: please contact Diane – [kavchokd@aol.com](mailto:kavchokd@aol.com) – to give her the names for your vigils.

**There were 206 Christmas vigils illuminating the Sanctuary last year!**



## ANNUAL VIGIL CANDLES LIT AT EVERY SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

1. +The Repose of the soul of Carol Dantine, offered by David Dantine, Jr. and Family. exp. 11/1/24
2. +The Repose of the souls of George and Barbara Wohar, offered by Barbara McMonigle and Family. exp. 11/1/24
3. +The Repose of the souls of John and Helen Guz; John and Mary Dzwonczyk; Paul and Anna Guz, offered by daughters/granddaughters Patricia Walker and Susan Guz. exp. 12/31/24
4. +The Repose of the souls of aunt, newly-departed Dorothy and uncle, Michael Chelak, offered with love from Patricia Walker and Susan Guz. exp. 12/14/24
5. +The Repose of the souls of Helen and Michael Zaruba, and Christina and Christopher Natale. May Their Memory Be Eternal. Offered with love by Daughter/Sister/Aunt, Marcia O'Connor. exp. 10/1/26
6. +The Repose of the souls of All Members of the Sisterhood Fallen Asleep in the Lord, offered by the Sisterhood of the Pokrova. exp. 10/13/24
7. +The Repose of the souls of the Boljarevich Family, Anastasia (Nancy) Yarosh, Helen Kon, Helen and John "Whitey" Horbacz, Harry Mason, Sophie Gamble, Michael Zaruba and John Martin. PERPETUAL
8. +The Repose of the soul of my beloved husband, our devoted father and grandfather, Jack Kavchok. May his memory be eternal! Offered with love, Diane, John, Michael, Melissa, Makenzie, Riley and Kylie. exp. 8/1/24
9. +The Repose of the souls of Emil and Helen Levchenko offered by daughter, Ellen Hanavin. exp. 12/31/23
10. +The Repose of the souls of Irina and Michael Sierp, Konstantin, Olga, Lydia and Juris Teterski, Richard Boswell, and the health of all living members of the Teterski, Sierp, Boswell and Lis Families, offered by Susan Lis. exp. 10/18/24
11. +The Repose of the soul of our mother and grandmother, Helen Marx, offered by Victoria, Frank, Christopher, Stephanie, Julia, Nicholas, Krissy, Nathan and Morgan Borriello. exp. 4/19/24
12. +In memory of John and Susan Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/24
13. +In memory of Paul Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. Exp. 12/31/24
14. +In memory of Vera, Richard and Paul Wienckowski, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/24
15. +In memory of Evelyn Atlee, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 12/31/23
16. +In memory of Nadia Borriello, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 5/31/24
17. +In loving memory of our mother, Lillian Fox, and our sister, Karen Niehoff, offered by Renee Murphy and Gail Osborn & Families. exp. 9/1/24
18. +The Repose of the souls of the Kowal Family: Andrew, Paraskeva, Andrew, Catherine, Susan, John, Nionila, Anna, David, Franklin Shultz and Edward Barrett, offered by Drew Kowal. exp. 11/1/30
19. For the health of Mykhailo, Tetiana, David, Svitlana, Vitaliy, Marina, Viktor, Ilona, Bogdan, Oleksandra, Maksym, Volodymyr, Halyna, Victoria, Mykola, Bishop Luke and his family, Veronika, Tetiana, Oleksander, Diana-Olga, Hrystyna, Dimitriy, Diana; and +In memory of Mykhailo, Yaroslav, Anna, Petro, Bohdan and Hanna, offered by Michael, Tetiana and David Kuchmiak. exp. 12/31/23
20. +The Repose of the souls of Stephen and Helen V. Sameruck, offered by Barbara Latsios, Judy Hanney and families. exp. 10/25/24
21. +The Repose of the souls of Mary and Gregory Buckley. Memory Eternal. Offered by the children and grandchildren of the Buckley, Janoczkin and Wojnarowicz Families. exp. 12/31/24
22. +In memory of Alexander and Ewdokia Janoczkin and son Michail, offered by the Janoczkin, Wojnarowicz and Adams families. exp. 12/31/24
23. +In memory of Joseph and Mary Ann Visman, offered by Debbie and Michael. exp. 5/2/24
24. +In loving memory of newly-departed sister-in-law/aunt, Sandra Chelak, who passed away on April 18 and brother-in-law/uncle, George Chelak, who passed away on July 24. Memory Eternal. Offered by Dorothy Chelak, Denise Chelak and Nina Davis. exp. 5/21/24
25. +In loving memory of newly-departed brother-in-law/uncle, Paul Chelak, who passed away on November 17. With prayers for Paul's eternal rest and to comfort his beloved wife of 59 years, Adrienne, and children David, Gregory and Victoria and their families. Memory Eternal. Offered by Dorothy Chelak, Denise Chelak and Nina Davis. exp. 11/30/24

# THE SCRIPTURE READING FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

## 29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



**PRIEST:** Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

**READER:** And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The Prokeimenon in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

**CHOIR:** O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

**READER:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! O my God, Thou art very great! O Lord, how manifold are Thy works!

**CHOIR:** In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

**PRIEST:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from the Colossians.

**PRIEST:** Let us attend!

**READER:** Brothers...When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. **(Col. 3:4-11)**

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto thee, Reader.

**READER:** And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:** Wisdom!

**READER:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! **CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**READER:** Go forth, prosper and reign because of truth and meekness and righteousness. You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**PRIEST:** Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

**CHOIR:** And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:** The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**PRIEST:** Let us attend. Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' " **(Luke 14:16-24)**

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Dear Clergy, Parishioners, Friends and  
Family of the Honorees,*

**AN INVITATION TO A FUNDRAISER FOR  
St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral  
and a**

**70<sup>th</sup>**  
*Birthday*  
**CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024**

at approximately 11:30 AM

immediately following Divine Liturgy in our Cathedral Hall

**Honoring 3 pillars of the Cathedral on their milestone 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays**

*BARBARA LATSIOS, Sisterhood President & 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation of a Founding Family (birthday: Jan. 25)*

*GAIL OSBORN, Sisterhood Member & 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation of a Founding Family (birthday: Feb. 28)*

*SUSAN GUZ, Cathedral Council Vice-President, Choir Director & Sisterhood Member (birthday: Mar. 19)*



*Blessing by Bishop Luke*

*Catering by Mario's Philadelphia - Champagne Toast - Dancing to DJ Levi*

*Décor by "Unique Creations"*

**No gifts, please. Admission for everyone, including Clergy and  
children, is by DONATION ONLY (any amount) to the  
Cathedral at the door on February 11.**

# MERCY

*Are you motivated, responsible, courteous, personable,  
energetic and caring?*

## MERCY FLEET TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

HAS IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS FOR DRIVERS, OFFICE MANAGER &  
DISPATCHER

**\$500 sign-up bonus**

- Competitive hourly rate: \$13.50-\$22.00 for drivers
- Paid training
- Paid PTO
- Medical insurance and other benefits
- Full-time / part-time positions available
- Previous professional experience transporting people with disabilities and the elderly is a PLUS! But we will train!

### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Valid PA Driver's License
- Good DMV Driver Record

**IF INTERESTED, CONTACT BISHOP LUKE, 215-479-1010**

**Interview at the main base location:**

**3021 Franks Rd., Suite 8, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006**



*MERCY is benevolence, forgiveness, kindness, compassion*