

DECEMBER 1, 2019

BULLETIN – 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & 14TH OF LUKE

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Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – 10:00 am Wednesday ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org/>

Many Years -- Birthday

Cherice Woods December 3

Many Years – Anniversary

John & Jan Ivancovich December 3

Ric & Eunkyung Otte December 7

HOMILIES ONLINE

If you would like to access Fr. Nathan's Sunday homilies online, go to <https://sspeterandpaulorthodox.org/>, select "About Our Parish" from the menu at the top of the page and select "Homilies". You must log in to hear the homilies. The username is parishioner. The password is orthodox.

Vesperal Divine Liturgy

for the Feast of

St. Nicholas of Myra

Thursday, December 5 @ 6:00 pm

ST NIKODEMOS THE HAGIORITE

Our newly tonsured Reader is named for St. Nikodemos. Here is a synopsis of the saint's life.

St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite was born in Greece in 1748. He went to Mount Athos at the age of 26 and was tonsured in the Dionysiou monastery. He was assigned to edit the manuscript of the *Philokalia*. Editing this book was the beginning of many years of literary work by Saint Nikodemos. He moved to the Pantokrator skete and zealously studied Holy Scripture and the works of the Holy Fathers.

In 1783 Saint Nikodemos was tonsured to the

Great Schema, and lived in complete silence for six years. When Saint Macarius of Corinth next visited Athos, he gave the editing of the writing of Saint Symeon the New Theologian to Saint Nikodemos, who gave up his ascetic silence and occupied himself once more with literary work. From that time until his death, on July 14, 1809, he continued zealously to toil in this endeavor.

Saint Nikodemos was a simple man, without malice, unassuming, and distinguished by his profound concentration. He possessed remarkable mental abilities: he knew the Holy Scriptures by heart, remembering even the chapter, verse and page, and he could recite long passages from the writings of the Holy Fathers from memory.

The literary work of Saint Nikodemos was varied. He wrote a preface to the *Philokalia*, edited *Unseen Warfare*, edited the *Pedalion*--comprised of the canons of the Holy Apostles, of the holy Ecumenical and Local Synods, and of the Holy Fathers--wrote *Manual of Confession*, *Christian Morality*, short lives of the ascetics, and authored and interpreted hymns, especially the 75 Hymns of Degrees of the liturgical book called the *Oktoechos*.

A Visit From St. Nicholas!

Sunday, December 8 @ 5:00 pm

Bring a bell and a voice to sing

Christmas carols

This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul – December 2-8, 2019

- 12/2 **Mon** 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal
12/3 **Tues** 6:00 am – Readers Orthros
12/4 **Wed** 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm – Vespers
12/5 **Thurs** 6:00 am – Men’s Reading Group
6:00 pm – Vesperal Divine Liturgy for
St. Nicholas of Myra
12/6 **Fri** 10:00 am – Women’s Book Study
12/7 **Sat** 10:00 am – Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline
12/8 **Sun** 8:20 am – Orthros
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
10:20 am – Church School
Youth Group
5:00 pm – St. Nicholas Celebration

Looking Ahead –

- December 11 Morning Divine Liturgy
December 13 Women’s Book Study
December 14 Choir Rehearsal
December 18 Morning Divine Liturgy
Parish Council
December 19 Vesperal Divine Liturgy
December 20 Women’s Book Study
December 22 Youth Group
December 24-January 3 Church Office Closed
December 24 Royal Hours
Vesperal Divine Liturgy
Festal Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the
Feast of Nativity
January 1 Vespers

NEW FOR NATIVITY

Come see our monastery items—soaps, honey, jams—and our books and calendars. These items all make great gifts for others or for yourself.

STEWARDSHIP CALLING SNAPSHOT

On November 17 Gerry Elwell was chosen to serve as the initial coordinator of the Property Maintenance Ministry Team. On Wednesday, November 20 at the last Parish

Council meeting, the Council delegated authority to this ministry team to choose among bids for repair of the church’s north transept roof (choir wing). Gerry welcomes input in person or by phone at 831-345-7102.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to the breakfast on Saturday, December 7 at 8:00 am in the parish hall.

Orthodox Tidbits

The reading of the Six Psalms is one of the most important parts of Orthros. It takes place after the priest’s censing at the beginning of the service. It is “a time when all should put aside other thoughts, stand quietly, and concentrate on these penitential prayers.”

In fact, one should stand perfectly still, *not even making the sign of the cross* at the “Glory to the Father and to the Son...” and the Alleluias in-between the third and fourth Psalms. It is certainly not a time to be walking around. If you enter during the Six Psalms, please stand quietly at the back of the church. In fact, in order to limit distractions, in some traditions, all lights and candles are extinguished.

So why are these Psalms so important? They are a summary of the Christian life, highlighting the sorrow that we so often meet along the way to our eternal joy. They are read at an Orthodox Christian’s deathbed and the Church teaches that they are read to us when we stand at the Great Judgment Seat of Christ!

They, like all of Orthros, help prepare us for the awe-filled experience of taking the True Body and Blood of our Lord God and Savior in the Holy Eucharist for our salvation and to the Glory of God!

+Fr. Nathan

*“But the man who cries out against evil men,
who does not pray for them will never know
the grace of God.” – St. Silvan*