

THE MANTLE

Saint Michael's Orthodox Church

7313 N. Waukegan Road Niles, Illinois 60714-4321

December 10, 2017

27th Sunday after Pentecost

Very Rev. Protopresbyter Samuel J. Sherry, Pastor ~ E-mail: FrSam@juno.com
Rev. Deacon Peter E. Sodini

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www.stmichaelniles.org



Schedule of Events

Today:

- **9:00 A.M.** Confessions heard by appointment!
- **10:00 A.M.** Divine Liturgy begins!
- Church School and Christmas Play Practice will be held following Holy Communion.

Combined Panachida for God's Departed Servants

Ann Zydowsky

First Anniversary of Repose (12/3/2016)
offered by her Children and Families

John & Mary Selecky, Parents

Henry & Jean Schwarz, Parents

DeMetro Stednitz, Uncle

Ed Walsh, Brother-in-law

Very Rev. Fr. Nicholas Semkoff, Priest

offered by Walter & Jane Schwarz and MaryAnn Selecky

Michael Pavlik, Beloved Father

Anniversary of Repose (11/26)

offered by Nicholas Pavlik, Helen Janowiak & her Family

Ann (Foltman) Andrews, Beloved Friend

First Anniversary of Repose (12/10)

offered by Nicholas Pavlik, Helen Janowiak & her Family

- Nativity Confessions will be heard following the Panachida. Please sit in the left front pew.
- The Coffee Social will be held and sponsored by **Geary & Donna Foltman, Anne Laduzinsky, and Janet Foltman**. All of our Faithful and guests are invited to join in fellowship.

Tuesday:

- **7:00 P.M.** The monthly meeting of our Church Board will be held.

Schedule of Events

Thursday:

- **7:30 P.M.** Orthodox Christian SYNERGY Meeting at Saint Haralambos Church in Niles.

Friday:

- **6:00 A.M. PIROHI MAKING DAY #7:** Workers are needed throughout the morning until approximately 12 noon. Please see Anne Laduzinsky for more information and to order pirohi.

Sunday, December 17:

- **9:00 A.M.** Nativity Confessions heard by appointment until 9:45am.
- No Adult Religious Education classes will be held until after the New Year to accommodate time for Nativity Confessions.
- **10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy begins!**
- Church School and Christmas Play Practice will be held following Holy Communion.
- No Combined Panachida will be served.
- Our Annual Christmas Program will be held immediately following the Liturgy. After Kissing of the Cross, all Faithful are asked to sit in the pews to enjoy the program. *Please stay, enjoy the program, and sing carols!*
- Nativity Confessions will be heard following the Christmas Program. Please sit in the left front pew.
- The **Soup & Sandwich Luncheon** will be held. Faithful and guests are invited to join in fellowship and support this parish fundraiser! Menu includes: sandwiches from Firehouse Subs, homemade chicken soup, White Eagle Restaurant mushroom and barley soup, and cookies for dessert.

Today's Rubrics

Hardbound Divine Liturgy Book:

- (Page 84) Resurrection Tropar - Tone 2
- (Page 84) Resurrection Kondak - Tone 2
- (Page 114) O Unashamed Intercessor
- (Page 86) Prokimen - Tone 2
- (Page 86) Alleluia Verses

Today's Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17. Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Today's Gospel Reading

Gospel Reading: Saint Luke 17:12-19. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Saints and Feasts

The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus. The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus suffered for their faith in Christ under the emperor Maximian (305-313). Saint Menas, along with Saint Eugraphus, was sent by the emperor from Athens to Alexandria to suppress the riots that had arisen between the Christians and the pagans. Distinguished for his gift of eloquence, Menas instead openly began to preach the Christian Faith and he converted many pagans to Christ. Learning of this, Maximian sent Hermogenes to Alexandria to place the saint on trial. Moreover, he gave orders to purge the city of Christians. Hermogenes, although he was a pagan, was distinguished by his reverent bearing. And struck by the endurance of Saint Menas under torture and by his miraculous healing after the cruel torments, he also came to believe in Christ. Maximian himself then arrived in Alexandria. Neither the astonishing stoic endurance of Saints Menas and Hermogenes under torture, nor even the miracles manifested by God in this city, mollified the emperor. Instead, they vexed him all the more. The emperor personally stabbed Saint Eugraphus, the secretary of Saint Menas, and then gave orders to behead the holy Martyrs Menas and Hermogenes. The relics of the holy martyrs, cast into the sea in an iron chest, were afterwards found and transferred to Constantinople in the ninth century. The emperor Justinian built a church in the name of the holy Martyr Menas of Alexandria.

Thomas the Righteous of Bithynia. Saint Thomas Dephourkinos was born in Bithynia. From his youth he was fond of monastic life and entered one of the area monasteries. Later in life, when the Byzantine official Galoliktos had founded a monastery at the River Sagarisa, Saint Thomas was already an experienced monk, and the brethren chose him as head of the new monastery. From there Saint Thomas withdrew into the wilderness, where for a long time he labored in solitude. The monk overcame many snares of the devil in the wilderness. The Lord glorified him with the gift of healing and prophecy. Once, the emperor Leo the Wise (886-911) came to the monastery to Saint Thomas for advice. Not finding the monk at the monastery, the emperor sent his messenger with a letter for him. And just as the messenger arrived at the Elder's hut, the saint carried out to him a sealed answer, resolving the emperor's question. It is not known when Saint Thomas reposed.



PIROHI

Today is the LAST DAY that ORDERS will be taken for pirohi. A sign-up sheet is on the Officer Counter to write in your order. Or, see Anne Laduzinsky. Also, faithful are reminded that pirohi orders are ready for pick-up.

Parish Christmas Card 2017

Please see Steve Smandra to include your name or your family's names in a card to express Christmas wishes to our entire Parish! Suggested donation per name or family is \$5 and must be paid by next Sunday, December 17th.

Saint Nicholas Treat Bags

Please see Irma Sodini to donate toward this year's Saint Nicholas Treat Bags. Thank you to Irma and her daughters Azucena and Nicoletta for volunteering to coordinate this activity. Monetary donations and donations of fruit, candy, or other items for the treat bags are needed!



Church School Christmas Program 2017

Join us next Sunday, December 17th, as our Church School presents a modern "Christmas Carol" from a Christian perspective. The program will be held immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A Soup & Sandwich Luncheon will be held afterward, followed by a visit from "Saint Nicholas"!

Church Wall Calendars & Poinsettias

Thank you to Wesley A. Stinich, Funeral Director, for not only sponsoring our church wall calendars again this year, but for donating the beautiful poinsettias that adorn our holy church. May God bless him for his kindness and generosity to our parish! The calendars are available in the vestibule.



CHRISTMAS EVE

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Rather than our usual Coffee Social following the Liturgy on December 24th, let's do a "Holy Supper" luncheon. A sign-up is on the Bulletin Board to bring a dish to pass. It could be anything that does not contain meat or dairy. (Some suggestions are on the sign-up sheet.) During the luncheon it would be interesting for some of our Faithful to share stories of their Holy Night Suppers when they were growing up! Following the luncheon, the Diocesan Christmas Eve Service of Great Compline & Matins will be celebrated for those who can stay.

Nativity Services

- ❖ **Sunday, December 24:** Please remember that our Holy Orthodox Church prescribes that this be an entire day of 'strict fasting' in which no meat or dairy products are to be partaken of! On this, the **Eve of the Nativity of our Lord**, the Diocesan Christmas Eve Service of Great Compline & Matins will be celebrated at approximately **1:00 P.M.**
- ❖ **Monday, December 25:** On this day that we celebrate the **Birth of our Lord**, the Nativity Day Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at **10:00 A.M.** ALL of our faithful should plan to be in church!

Thank you to the members of our Saint Michael's Choir for sharing your beautiful voices so that we can all enjoy choral music during the Liturgies this Nativity Season!



Thank you to the Kellen, Delort, and Engstrom families and to the church school students who decorated our parish Christmas tree and set up the Nativity scene last Sunday. What a beautiful job you did!

Six Congressional Members Urge Stronger Action to Protect Religious Liberty

By Orthodox Christian News in Orthodox News
Dec 08, 2017 ·

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Six members of Congress stressed the need for the U.S. government to take a more vigorously active role in protecting endangered Christians in the Holy Lands and the Middle East.

Four representatives and two senators spoke Tuesday at the Third International Conference on Religious Freedom in the nation's capital, sponsored by the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The speakers were Representatives Chris Smith, R-New Jersey; Jeff Fortenberry, R-Nebraska; Carolyn Maloney, D-New York; Gus Bilirakis, R-Florida, and Senators Ben Cardin, D-Maryland, and James Lankford, R-Oklahoma. The sessions were held in the U.S. Senate Caucus Room and Capitol Visitor Center Auditorium.

“More than ever before, vigorous U.S. leadership and diplomacy are needed to address religious freedom violations in the region (Middle East and Holy Lands) and globally,” Rep. Smith said.

He also urged “enhanced religious freedom training for the Foreign Service including ambassadors and integrating religious freedom into every aspect of U.S. foreign policy.”

Smith recommended a timely designation of a “country of particular concern” as well as designation of an “entity of concern,” such as a terrorist group. He also urged the meting out of sanctions on designated countries and holding not just countries but also individuals accountable.

Rep. Maloney emphasized that religious persecution “is happening all over the world,” adding that there is a need to create a system to accurately track everything happening to Christian minorities and other religions.

“We need to put more meat in legislation,” she added, such as no aid to Egypt unless they let Christians rebuild their churches.

Maloney has advocated for reform in Turkey such as the reopening of Halki – the Greek Orthodox Christian theological school the Turkish government closed in 1971.

“Look at countries that respect minorities, religion and women – they don't have terrorism,” Maloney added.

Rep. Biilirakis emphasized the need to “speak out. Our darkest moments have come when those who know better stood still. We must fight to protect Christians all over the world.”

He said the United States must “stand up” to our so-called allies, recommending this country appoint an ambassador-at-large for international religion freedom.

Rep. Fortenberry said that attacks on Christians are not only a loss of life, but are a disabling factor in the Middle East.

“What has happened is genocide,” he emphasized. “What needs to be done is resurrection, revitalization and repatriation”

Sen. Cardin stressed the need to protect religious targets because “what we see in the Middle East is unacceptable. If we don't take any action, we condone that activity. The United States must take the leadership. Those committing atrocities should not get a pass.”

The senator pledged his commitment to protect Christian minorities in the Middle East and elsewhere. “You have my word,” he said.

Sen. Lankford urged that we speak out clearly for those who are unjustly attacked.

“More and more places in the world have less freedom,” he noted. “Blasphemy laws are being adopted in the world. We should not freely trade with a country that doesn't recognize religious liberty.”

While emphasizing that there is much work to be done, the senator also urged that we “don't lose hope.”

The members of Congress were not the only participants to urge work on behalf of embattled Christians worldwide.

Archbishop Demetrios, primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, attacked the “crime” of killing someone in the name of religion. “There is not a bigger atrocity than that.”

And Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, national commander of the Archons in America, said, “Let's hope our work spreads the light of religious freedom around the world. Our discussions are to bring the light of truth and expose the darkness.”

From: <http://myocn.net>

- **More information:** <http://conference.archons.org>
- **Video assets and transcripts:** bit.ly/religious-freedom-media

Saint Nicholas

Hopefully, during this past week, we took an opportunity to stop for a moment and reflect in a joyful way on one of the greatest of all Saints, whose memory we commemorated on Wednesday. A man who was so great that it is hard to believe he was real. It's so hard to believe he is real that we have turned him into a fictitious character and given him the name Santa Claus or Father Christmas.

But we in the Church, as we too become involved very appropriately with all the festivities of the Advent and Christmas, need to remember the true foundation of Santa Claus. *Saint Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra*, continues to warm the hearts of boys and girls and men and women in all races and all classes and in all parts of the world.



So, let's do all we can to teach our children, that rather than a night-cap, he actually wore a mitre and that he was a truly committed Christian - a person who loved God and who loved the Church and who continues to be a source of enrichment and a blessing to people who look at

the Saints for help - to be aided by their prayers, to be guided by the example of their lives.

Nicholas is truly a patron saint for all of us. He is patron of Russia, Aberdeen, Scotland, Greece, seafarers, pawnbrokers with their symbol of three balls, children. Patron of so many things, but let him be Patron of all Christians who want to - through the giving of gifts, giving of self, giving of love - seek to be more like Christ and to administer his love to those in our lives.

Nicholas symbolizes that which is at the heart of our Christian faith, which is the ability *to give, to give, and to give again and to love, to love and to love again and to care, to care, and to care again*. Nicholas is one of the primary examples of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Nicholas was a wealthy man and yet he realized to have true wealth was to give away all that he could. Nicholas gave his all to the Church. And, he stood firm in the faith even under persecution. He believed in a faith based upon a man who gave his life that all of the world might have eternal life.

May we be faithful, as Nicholas was faithful, and may we take time at this Christmas and every Christmas to share with our family, friends and children the true story behind Santa Claus.

Thank You

Helen Vavrinchik offers her thanks and appreciation to our Saint Michael's faithful for the phone calls, cards, visits, well-wishes, and prayers during her time in the hospital and in rehab.

Dear Pirohi Pinchers: I'm honored that so many would take the time to say prayers and light candles for me. I can't put into words how much your concern and loving words have meant to me. You truly put my mind at peace. I'm so blessed. *With love, Joanne Papucci*

Vigil Candles at the Iconostas

In Memory of **Ann Zydowsky**

First Anniversary of Repose
offered by her Children and Families

In Memory of Beloved Father, **Michael Pavlik**

Anniversary of Repose (11/26)
offered by Nicholas Pavlik, Helen Janowiak & her family

For the Good Health of the **Pirohi Workers**
offered by the Joanne Papucci

For good health, long life and God's blessings
to his servant **Fr. Samuel Sherry** on his birthday (11/30)
offered by Nicholas Pavlik, Helen Janowiak & her family

For our beloved friend **Ann (Foltman) Andrews**
on her first anniversary of repose (12/10)
offered by Nicholas Pavlik, Helen Janowiak & her family

For the Good Health of **Pañi Bonnie**
on the occasion of her Birthday (12/13)
offered by Father Sam

Follow Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>

Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>

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The MANTLE is sponsored by

Wesley A. Stinich, Funeral Director

Call direct 773-844-3032 or 708-222-8669
Chapels throughout Chicago and the Suburbs

Christmas Carols to Practice for next Week's Church School Christmas Program!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

O' Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of Heav'n above.
Glory to God
In the Highest glory!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bob tails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to laugh and sing
A sleighing song tonight
Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh

Carol Of The Bells

Hark how the bells, Sweet silver bells
All seem to say, Throw cares away
Christmas is here
Bringing good cheer
To young and old
Meek and the bold
Ding dong ding dong
That is their song
With joyful ring
All caroling.
One seems to hear
Words of good cheer
From everywhere;
Filling the air
Raising the sound
O'er hill and dale
Telling their tale;
Gaily they ring
While people sing
Songs of good cheer
Christmas is here
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas,
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas
And a happy new year.
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year.

Most Wonderful Time of the Year

It's the most wonderful time of the year
With the kids jingle belling
And everyone telling you be of good cheer
It's the most wonderful time of the year
It's the hap-happiest season of all
With those holiday greetings and gay
happy meetings
When friends come to call
It's the hap-happiest season of all
There'll be parties for hosting
Marshmallows for toasting
And caroling out in the snow
There'll be scary ghost stories
And tales of the glories of the
Christmases long, long ago
It's the most wonderful time of the year
There'll be much mistltoeing
And hearts will be glowing
When love ones are near
It's the most wonderful time
Yes the most wonderful time
Oh the most wonderful time
Of the year

Joy to the World

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.
Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.