

CHRIST THE SAVIOUR ORTHODOX CHURCH  
AMERICAN CARPATHO-RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE

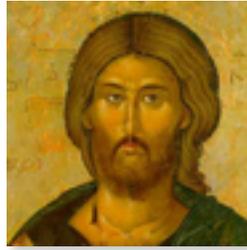
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

TEN THOUSAND STATE ROAD

NORTH ROYALTON, OH 44133

Parish Website: [www.christsaviour.weebly.com](http://www.christsaviour.weebly.com)

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)



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Sunday, December 11, 2016- Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

**Schedule of Services:**

Sunday, December 11; 10:00 AM-Divine Liturgy

Thursday, December 15; 7:00 PM-Molebn to the Holy Innocents

Friday, December 16; 5:00 PM-Visit of the *Kardiotissa* Icon of the Mother of God;  
Hermitage, PA

Saturday, December 17; 4:00 PM-Vespers

Sunday, December 18; 10:00 AM-Divine Liturgy

**Upcoming Events**

December 11-St. Nicholas Brunch

December 16-Visitation of the Myrh-Streaming *Kardiotissa* Icon; Hermitage,  
PA

December 18-Parish Council Meeting

December 25-Nativity of Our Lord

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Gregory, we will be having monthly unction services. Unction is one of the seven sacraments of the Orthodox Church. It is not reserved exclusively for the dying or for Holy Wednesday. Rather, it is a healing sacrament which can be performed at any time of the year. It is open to all Orthodox Christians who require healing of both the body and the soul. Please come and experience this healing sacrament.

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The myrh-streaming icon of the Virgin Mary Kardiotissa, Tender Hearted, will be at our deanery parish of St. John the Baptist in Hermitage, PA on Friday, December 16. This is the icon which is housed at our diocesan parish of St. George in Taylor, PA. Please do all you can to be there and to experience the presence of the Mother of God and her healing love. The icon will arrive around 5:00 PM at which time Fr. Mark Leasure will have a talk about the icon. A service to the Mother of God will follow. The address of St. John's is: 3180 Morefield Road; Hermitage, PA 16148.

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Our parish and diocese have chosen Zoe for Life as an Advent Mission Project. We will be collecting diapers to deliver to Zoe for Life at the end of the Advent and Christmas Season. They are in desperate need of diapers sizes New Born thru 4. Please bring your diaper donations to Church and place them in our collection bin in the vestibule. Zoe for Life is always in need of baby items; i.e. clothing, car seats & pack and plays. To help in this manner, the diocese has put together a baby registry. Please visit <http://www.acrod.org/news/7283/2016adventmissionproject> to search and purchase items from the Diocesan Baby Registry. In addition, a baby bottle will be placed in the vestibule for monetary donations to Zoe for Life. THANK YOU for your help!

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Our Parish has teamed up with Royal Oak Recycling to help take care of our environment and our church. For every ton of paper that we collect, Royal Oak Recycling will give us \$30.00. We will be keeping the earth green and saving green for our church! Please collect your paper products from home and place them in the recycling bin in the corner of the church parking lot. For a list of acceptable items, please see Fr. Nick.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

<b>Dec</b>	
12	Victor Popovich
21	Fr. Deacon Robert Hubiak



### Prayer List

#### Living

Pani Donna (Smoley)	Thomas (Royko)	Kathryn (Royko)
Fr. James (Gleason)	Fr. Ronald (Hazuda)	Ethel (Rusyniak)
Fr. John (Zboyovski)	Angela (Hubiak)	Emerson (Sirilla)
Theodore (Bunevich)	John (Bazilewich)	Fr. George (Hutnyan)
Tiana (Hosta)		

#### Departed

Virgilia (Nicula)	Peter (Tatsis)	Infant Nazareth (Mihaly)
Fr. Paul (Herbert)	Marion (Fallon)	

*“Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.” James 5:16*

If you have someone you would like to be added to the prayer list, please see Fr. Nick



## St. Nicholas Is Coming to Town

*by Stephanie Raha*

Santa Claus is everywhere.

At least, that's how it appears when you see him enthroned at malls and department stores or collecting money on street corners for a variety of causes this time of year. No wonder little children pester their parents to pronounce which one is the "real" Santa and who these other guys are. The standard reply usually runs along the lines that these look-alikes are the real Santa's helpers and that he's busy at the North Pole getting ready to visit them—and every other child in the world—on Christmas Eve.

Of course, since children manage to spend a large amount of time coming up with questions that are embarrassing or difficult, if not impossible, to answer, this often leads to queries about how he can travel the world in one night dispensing gifts along the way. After muttering something about "It's magic" or "Because he's Santa" (which tends to sound a lot like "Because I said so, that's why!") most parents steer the conversation in some other direction as fast as they can.

There are some moms and dads though who actually try to explain that Santa Claus was originally St. Nicholas. I admire the parents who go this route and try to educate their sons and daughters about religion as well as culture and history. At a time when the spirituality of Christmas is often buried under layers of wrapping paper and tinsel, it's good to appreciate religious traditions.

Nicholas, a bishop of Myra in what is now Turkey during the early 4th century, was known for his holiness, justice and charity. He especially loved and helped poor people and children. One of the stories most often told

about him concerns the three young daughters of a very poor man who had no money for their dowries. Nicholas tossed three bags of gold through the window of their house to insure that they would be able to marry. He was also said to be responsible for several miracles, including saving the lives of several young people. Eventually, these led to Nicholas becoming associated with the care and welfare of youngsters. His fame spread across Europe over the centuries along with various traditions of giving presents to children on his feast day, December 6, or at Christmastime.

In the Netherlands, he was known as Sinterklaas, a contracted form of Sint Nicolaas. And it was from the early Dutch settlers in New York that his popularity began to spread in America, helped by later writers such as Washington Irving and Clement Clarke Moore, who wrote "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (now better known as "The Night Before Christmas"). Artists and illustrators of the 19th and 20th centuries gradually created the persona of the rotund, jolly elf-like Santa Claus we know today.

But one of the most intriguing things I discovered about St. Nicholas was that he's supposed to have participated in the early Christian church's Council of Nicaea where he came down firmly on the side of the divinity of Jesus, as expressed in the Nicene Creed: "We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God . . . begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father."

Now, at the start of Advent, as we anticipate the joyful Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus, Son of God and of man, we can look at all the Santa Clauses around us and be reminded of a saint, a giver of gifts to children and those in need, but above all, a lover and follower of the Holy Child of Bethlehem.

### **A Word from "St. Nicholas"**

In my own heart I cannot separate Christmas  
from that Boy Child born in Bethlehem  
some two thousand years ago.

I believe that Boy Child  
was the Child of the Divine Mystery,  
and He came into the world for love of us all.

I believe He came to bring healing,  
forgiveness,  
reconciliation,  
freedom, and peace.

I believe He also came to invite everyone  
to forget themselves and remember the needs of others.

For me, the religious meaning of Christmas  
is a source of deep joy.

You must understand that my message  
echoes the message of that Child born so long ago.

I am not the offspring of the Divine Mystery,  
only His unworthy servant.

I am Saint Nicholas,  
and the religious meaning of Christmas  
will always be close to my heart.

—*"Saint Nicholas"*

