



## *Weekly Bulletin - Sunday, December 10, 2023*

### **Schedule of Services and Events**

Fr. Daniel Meyer will be serving our parish until further notice. If you need to contact Fr. Daniel, his cell phone number is 909-286-0814, and his email is [frdanielmeyer@protonmail.com](mailto:frdanielmeyer@protonmail.com).

Date	Time	Service/Event
Sunday, December 10	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, December 10	Following Liturgy	Coffee hour talk
Wednesday, December 13	6:00 p.m.	Advent Service of Supplication
Wednesday, December 13	Following Vespers	<i>Final class on the lives of modern Russian Saints/Potluck dinner</i>
Saturday, December 16	9:00 a.m.	General church cleaning
Sunday, December 17	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, December 17	Following Liturgy	St. Nicholas dinner (See below for details)
Monday, December 18	6:00 p.m.	Vespers - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
Tuesday, December 19	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
Wednesday, December 20	<i>No Service or Class</i>	<i>No Service or Class</i>
Thursday, December 21	6:00 p.m.	Vespers - Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos
Sunday, December 24	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, December 24	Following Liturgy	Church council meeting
Wednesday, December 27	6:00 p.m.	Vespers - St. Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria
Friday, December 29	6:00 p.m.	Vespers - Holy Prophet Daniel
Sunday, December 31	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, December 31	Following Liturgy	Moleben for the New Year
Wednesday, January 3	6:00 p.m.	Advent Service of Supplication

Friday, January 5	9:00 a.m.	Royal Hours for Nativity
Saturday, January 6	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy - Forefeast of Nativity
Sunday, January 7	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great - The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
Wednesday, January 10	6:00 p.m.	Vespers - 14,000 Holy Innocents Slain by Herod
Sunday, January 14	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great - The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Sunday, January 14	Following Liturgy	Children's Nativity concert (See below for details)
Wednesday, January 17	<i>No Service or Class</i>	<i>No Service or Class</i>
Thursday, January 18	9:00 a.m.	Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great - Forefeast of Theophany
Thursday, January 18	11:00 a.m.	Matins - Theophany
Friday, January 19	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy - The Holy Theophany of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
Friday, January 19	11:00 a.m.	Great Blessing of Water

## Classes

This Wednesday evening, December 13 will be our final class of the season covering the lives of the saints of 20th century Russia. We will take a break from classes to resume late January or early February. We will not have Wednesday evening services next week, December 20 (due to our busy schedule for the St. Nicholas feast), but we will resume weekly Wednesday evening services on December 27.

## Fasting and Almsgiving

According to our faith, we have two great aides in the struggle against the passions, and toward Christ and the virtues from the Holy Spirit. These two helpers are fasting and alms. Struggle well this season in these practical things with a humble heart and with your eyes set on the Lord. With this in mind, I am inviting you to give extra alms this season of Advent, and consider giving in a way that means you receive less for yourself. Already this season I have been asked by several families within and outside of our community for financial help. Consider giving toward our "St. Nicholas Benevolent Fund" so that we might help families readily. We have also taken up support of a local crisis housing center called "Mary's Shelter." Please check out the list of items needed and consider donating.

"There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving. This embraces under the single name of mercy many excellent works of devotion, so that the good intentions of the faithful may be of equal value, even where their means are not. The love that we owe both God and man is always free from any obstacle that would prevent us from having a good intention. The angels sang: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will, but also with the gift of peace. The works of mercy are innumerable. Their very variety brings this

advantage to those who are true Christians, that in the matter of almsgiving not only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part."  
- St. Leo the Great

## Akaphist to the Theotokos Joy of All Who Sorrow

As mentioned at coffee hour on Sunday, please find [here](#) the service of the Akaphist to the Theotokos Joy of All Who Sorrow. This is our traditional prayer to offer at home during wartime and all manner of sorrows.

## St. Nicholas Celebration

Please join us in celebrating our Patronal Feast Day!

- Saturday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m. - General church cleaning. All volunteers are welcome.
- Sunday, December 17
  - 9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
  - Following Liturgy - Fundraiser luncheon to benefit the building fund and sidewalk project. Suggested donation is \$15 per person.
- Monday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. - Vespers
- Tuesday, December 19 at 9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

## Charity Activity

Our parish is collecting items for [Mary's Shelter](#), a charitable organization in Reading. The list of needed items is available [here](#). A collection box will be in the church hall through Sunday, December 24, 2023.

## Children's Nativity Concert

The children's Nativity concert will be held after Liturgy on Sunday, January 14. (Adults can participate, too!) If you have any questions, please see [Svitlana Breniser](#). If you would like to help with the gifts from Santa, please see [Irena Kaulback](#).

## Cleaning Groups

Church cleaning is currently organized for a six month period (January through June and July through December) and scheduled every two weeks. Volunteers are assigned a specific week and can choose which day to clean the church during the week. We are currently looking for two more families/groups to join the cleaning rotation. Volunteers can form a standalone cleaning group or team up with another family. If you are interested in helping, please see Alexandra Salaneck or reply to this email.

## Asking for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help secure the old schoolhouse building behind the church (cover the holes/grates with plywood). If you are able to help, please reply to this email or see a church council member.

## Reminders

**Online candle stand:** Candles and vigil lights can now be ordered [online](#) to be lit at the next service.

**Online donations:** One-time or recurring donations to the church can be made [online](#). The recurring option is a convenient way to donate and also helps to better plan our budget.

**Benevolent fund:** The benevolent fund was established to help those in need. To donate

specifically to the benevolent fund, please use the special pink envelopes that are available at the candle stand or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

**Building fund:** The building fund was established to save for future building projects. Our next major maintenance project will be the tree removal and sidewalk and curb replacement on the Spruce Street side of the church. Preliminary estimates for this project range from \$26,000 to \$35,000. Please consider donating to the building fund to help us reach this goal. The building fund currently has a total of about \$5,000. To donate specifically to this fund, please use the special blue envelopes that are available at the candle stand or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

**Rectory fund:** The rectory fund was established to save for a future rectory close to the vicinity of the church. To donate specifically to this fund, please use the special yellow envelopes that are available at the candle stand or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

**Church cleaning schedule:** The church cleaning schedule for the second half of 2023 is available [here](#). A [cleaning list](#) and other helpful information is also available for those volunteering.

Donate

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