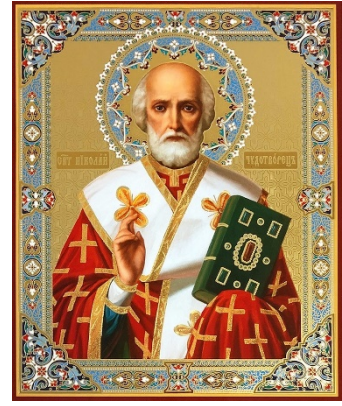


St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church Monroeville
Weekly Bulletin – January 5th, 2025

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The Sunday Before Christmas - The Forefathers of Christ

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Tone 2 Troparion (Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 1 Kontakion (Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Epistle - Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Sunday Before) , Gospel - Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before)

Alleluia Verses

v. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (*Ps. 43:1a*)

v. For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. (*Ps. 43:8*)

Announcements

- **Upcoming Schedule** - Link here <https://www.stnicholasmonroeville.org/service-schedule/>
- **SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES**
 - January 6th, 8am, Vesperal Divine Liturgy
 - January 6th, Christmas Eve, 6 pm Great Compline with yule log burning, Christmas Eve dinner will follow immediately after the service.
 - January 7th, Christmas Day, 10 am Divine Liturgy
- **Older Sunday School Students** - After our lesson on Sunday, Jan 5, please head back upstairs to the Church for practice with Snezana Lazich. Then on January 6, please be sure to arrive at Church by 5:30.
- **Tammie Soups** - Posno Soup Still Available! If you missed our recent Posno Soup Sale, we still have some quarts available! Frozen - \$8/quart: Kale & Bean, Split Pea, Mexican Bean, Tomato. Please see Amanda Formato or Carla Williamson on Sundays to purchase.
- **Purse Bash - Tickets Now Available!** - [CLICK HERE](#) for details and to purchase tickets online. For cash/check payment, please contact Amanda Formato amandabilak@gmail.com 412-980-8944. We hope to see you there!
 - For church members interested in volunteering for the Purse Bash event, please plan to stay for cake & coffee on Sunday, 1/12/25 for a brief meeting. Let Amanda know if unable to attend, but would still like to be included on volunteer communications.