



**SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH**
P.O. Box 777
Barton, OH 43905-0777

*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

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Very Rev. Father Michael C. Kabel *Pastor & Dean*

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- WEB SITE: www.stnicholasbarton.org
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MYSTERY OF HOLY CONFESSION: Before & after Saturday evening Vespers. Other Sacraments by appointment.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL? Please notify Father when you are admitted if you want him to visit. Kindly notify Father also when you are discharged.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017 DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM
GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!
SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA NA V'IKI!

THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS & THE SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Antiphon “*Bless the Lord, O my soul*” on p. 8. The Beatitudes on pp. 14-15. Tropar for Tone 5 on p. 93. Additional Tropar, Kondak and remaining Propers are from the Holy Fathers on pp. 129-130. The Cherubic Hymn and the Communion Hymn may be sung according to the “*Divnaja Novina*” melody on p. 134. **Father will be available for *CONFESSIONS* after the Divine Liturgy.**

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40. **GOSPEL:** Matthew 1:1-25.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

For the week of December 31:

- Sun., December 31:** (After Liturgy) **Panachida** in memory of +*Burl Matthews*. Requested by Teresa Zitterrich.
- Wed., January 3:** (6:30 PM) **Pre-Festive Service** for the Nativity.

>>> LAST CHANCE: **Confessions**
from 5:30 PM til 6:15 PM
and again **after** the Pre-Festive Service. <<<

Fri., January 5: (6:30 PM) ROYAL HOURS for the Feast of the Nativity.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:
Saturday, January 6**

7:30 PM: *Candlelight* CHRISTMAS CAROLS in English & Rusyn. *Children's Procession* and the *Lighting of the Advent Wreath*.

8:00 PM: NATIVITY EVE VIGIL SERVICE.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:
Sunday, January 7**

9:30 AM: Singing of CHRISTMAS CAROLS in English & Rusyn.

10:00 AM: **Divine Liturgy** for the *Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ* according to the Flesh (*Christmas*). Special Antiphons and All Propers can be found on pp. 132-135. The *Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great* is served on this day. There will be *Mirovanije* (festive anointing) at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

THE ETERNAL LAMP burns with prayers and best wishes for a **Happy Birthday** to Godson **Noah**. Requested by *Godfather Joseph and Mary Ellen*.

THE LEFT SIDE ALTAR LAMPS (Prothesis) burn in **eternal memory** of **+Burl Matthews**. Requested by *Joseph and Mary Ellen*.

THE RIGHT SIDE ALTAR LAMPS (Diakonikon) burn with prayers and best wishes for a **Happy 19'th Birthday** to **Noah**. Requested by *Dad, Mom, Isaac, Nick & Faith*.

THE TETRAPOD LAMPS burn with prayers for **Special Intentions**. Requested by *Theresa Reese*.

TODAY'S SUNDAY BULLETIN is sponsored with prayers for **Laney & Anna Ross**. Requested by *Laney & Cindi Ross*.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES need to be turned-in **TODAY**. Names and donors will be published in the Christmas bulletin.

LAS MEETING. There will be a **brief meeting** of the **Ladies' Altar Society** downstairs during the coffee hour **TODAY** to share the results of the Cookie Tray sale.

BEST WISHES & PRAYERS for a **Happy & Blessed New Year** to all of our parishioners, families and friends! May God shower His choicest blessings upon us in this New Year as we strive to dedicate ourselves more fully to Him and to His Holy Church.

OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP will meet *this coming* **Thursday, January 4 at 6:30 PM**.

LUMINARIA HELPERS. We would like to invite the children and young people of the parish, and anyone else who would be interested, to help prepare and set out the luminaria on **Christmas Eve**. This will take place on **Saturday afternoon, January 6**.

YOUTH PROCESSION ON CHRISTMAS EVE. We once again invite ALL of our parish young people to participate in a special procession from the back of the church to the Advent Wreath before the beginning of the Vigil Service on **Christmas Eve, Saturday, January 6. Come by 7:45 PM**. If you would like to carry the Nativity Icon or the figurine of the Baby Jesus in the procession, please let **Pan'i** know.

2018 ECCLESIASTICAL WALL CALENDARS & CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are still **available** in the **back** of the church. If there is no envelope box with your name on it, please see **Jim Turner**. We have enough boxes for everyone!

CHRISTMAS INFORMATION:

Because the Feast of the Nativity falls on a **Sunday** this year, we note the following changes:

1. The **Royal Hours** are celebrated on **Friday**, not on Christmas Eve (Saturday).
2. The **Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great** is served on Christmas Day, but the special melodies are not used.
3. Since Christmas Eve falls on a **Saturday**, the traditional strict fast is dispensed. **Christmas Eve** itself may be observed as a day of **simple fast** — **abstinence from MEAT**. There is nothing wrong, however, in preparing the Holy Supper foods as one is accustomed. For those who wish to do so, the day of strict fast may be observed on **Friday**. Following Christmas, there is NO fasting until **January 18**.

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Charissa Kovalcik * 7 Arleen Koval * 12 CiJi Hurley * 18 Barbara Strain * 20 Teresa Zitterich * 29 David Greene.

“May God grant you many more happy and blessed years! Mnohaja L’ita!”

THE JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held on **Sunday, January 14, 2018**.

THE GIFT SHOP has a number of books, icons and religious articles which would make wonderful Christmas gifts. Christmas cards are also available, so please stop by and have a look.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Saturday Vespers (12/23) — 8

Sunday Divine Liturgy (12/24) — 76

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The fact that Jesus chose to be born in Bethlehem is very important. Bethlehem is the city where David was born, the second King of Israel. Jesus, the last King of Israel, by being born in Bethlehem, follows in David’s footsteps as the royal heir to the Kingdom of God.

Bethlehem is a Jewish word that means “House of Bread.” Jesus declared Himself to be the Bread of Life in John 6:35. When the Blessed Virgin Mary placed Jesus in a feeding trough (a manger) for sheep inside the stable, she gave us a foreshadowing of the Holy Eucharist – the stable represents the church, the manger is the altar, and Jesus is the Eucharist, or the supernatural Bread of Life. We are His sheep who come to the church on Sundays to commune with Him.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL!
