



# St. Michael's Parish Bee

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Live-Stream: [www.saintmichaels.info](http://www.saintmichaels.info)

<https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBGM/>

St. Michael's Orthodox Church is a parish family serving the Lord since 1904.  
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)

## December 18, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Parish Celebration of St. Nicholas!

Sunday Antiphons and Beatitudes, Tropar, Tone 2,  
Tropar & Kondak for St. Nicholas, p. 123  
Cherubic & Communion Hymn, p. 124-25.  
Prokimen and Allelulia Verses, Tone 2, p. 56

### Schedule for this Week

- Sunday: \*Divine Liturgy for Sunday, 9 AM  
\*Installation of Officers, Sr. & Jr. ACRY at end of Liturgy  
\*St. Nicholas Brunch with visit by St. Nicholas, 10:45 AM  
\*Vespers for St. Nicholas with Litya, 5 PM
- Monday: \*St. Nicholas Feast Day Divine Liturgy, 9 AM!  
Grab and Go Community Meal, 5:30-7 PM  
Knock and Drop Meal Deliveries
- Wednesday: \*Moleben to St. Nicholas, 8:30 AM  
\*Moleben to Mother of God, St. George, Taylor, 6 PM
- Thursday: \*CHOW Pantry, 4:30-6 PM, Lower Lounge
- Friday: \*Akathist to the Mother of God, 8:30 AM
- Saturday: \*Liturgy with prayers for all who are ill, 8 AM  
\*Confessions, 4 PM, Vespers, 5 PM
- Sunday: \*Divine Liturgy for Sunday, 9 AM  
\*Church School Carol Sing-a-Long

### Installation of ACRY Officers Today!

Jr. ACRY Officers:

President - Grace Augenstern

Vice President - Noah Kintner

Secretary - Grace Gdovin

Treasurer - Jake Gdovin

Sr. ACRY Officers:

President - Rick Dutko

Vice President - Nadine Korchak

Secretary - Elizabeth Fabian

Treasurer - Adrienne Kintner

New members of both Junior and Senior  
ACRY chapters are always welcome!



### Ladies Guild Reorganizes and Elects Officers!

We are pleased to announce that St. Michael's Ladies Guild has elected the following Board Members:

President: Barb Knighton

Vice President: Sara Trott

Treasurer: Diane Marusich

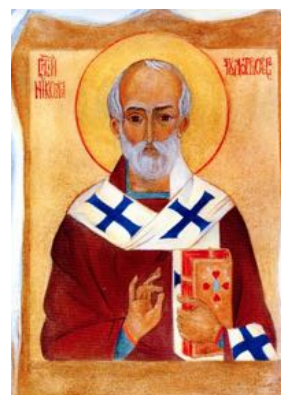
Secretary: Lori Asquith

We are still looking for new members (all are welcome) and planning events for the new year. Please join us at our next meeting -- Sunday, January 15 immediately after Liturgy.

### Welcome to our St. Nicholas Celebration Today!

Following our Divine Liturgy this morning, you and your family and friends are cordially invited to join us for today's annual St. Nicholas Breakfast, which will begin at 10:45 AM. We are also happy to welcome Fr. Roman and some of the faithful from Holy Spirit and SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic parishes who were unable to have a similar St. Nicholas celebration at their church as renovations are underway at Holy Spirit hall.

We are grateful to our setup and decorating crew, our parish chefs who have prepared a wonderful and varied selection of delicious foods for today's St. Nicholas celebration, our Church school students who will present a short Nativity program, our Carpathian Dancers who will share the joy of dance with us, and of course, to St. Nicholas himself who will share the joy of this feast with all of us, and to all who helped set up the hall for today's gathering.



### St. Nicholas Charity Fund

"O kto kto,  
Nikolaja lubit...."

"O who loves,  
Nicholas the saintly,  
O who serves,  
Nicholas the saintly,  
him will Nicholas receive  
and give help in time of need,  
Holy Father, Nicholas."

In the spirit of St. Nicholas, here is my gift for our St. Nicholas Charity Fund:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Daily Scripture Readings for this week of December 18<sup>th</sup>

Sunday:	Ephesians 6: 10-17	St. Luke 17: 12-19
Monday:	Hebrews 13: 17-21	St. Luke 6: 17-23
Tuesday:	2 Timothy 3: 16-4:4	St. Luke 11: 12-19
Wednesday:	2 Timothy 4: 9-22	St. Luke 21: 5-7, 10-11, 20-24
Thursday:	Titus: 1: 5-2:1	St. Luke 21: 28-33
Friday:	Titus: 1: 5-2:10	St. Luke 21: 37-22:8
Saturday:	Ephesians 1: 16-23	St. Luke 13: 18-29
Sunday:	Hebrews 13: 17-21	St. Luke 6: 17-23

Daily Scriptures posted on line: [www.acrod](http://www.acrod)



Be a light in the world!

### Epistle for Today: Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [a]wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [b]the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

### Gospel for Today: St. Luke 17: 12-19

12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

14 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.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

### Help Deliver Christmas Food Gifts after Today's St. Nicholas Breakfast!

Volunteers are needed to deliver Christmas Food gifts to many of our faithful who are either homebound and are at area nursing facilities.

These will be ready for delivery today after our St. Nicholas breakfast. Please make some time and be a real St. Nicholas by delivering some of these gifts. It will be greatly appreciated. See Barb Knighton today to help!

### Can You Help? Our Toddler Class Really Needs a Teacher!

Gratitude is extended to Karen Randell for her generosity and care in sponsoring and setting up our brand new Toddler church school room! We are very blessed to be able to offer such a beautiful and safe space for our youngest parishioners to learn and grow together. After a successful open house and launch of the program, we are looking for a new teacher or team of teachers willing to continue working the program. Ideally, two adults might even plan to collaborate each week to create activities and supervise our small, but VERY active, group of littles!

If you are available and interested, please reach out to Rick Dutko for more information on how you can help! We hope to be able to keep this program running, but it will not happen without support from our "village"!



## Ideology fueling Ukraine war is hurting Orthodox unity, says patriarch

<https://aleteia.org/2022/12/16/ideology-fueling-ukraine-war-is-hurting-orthodox-unity-says-patriarch/>

*The ideology known as the “Russian World,” embraced by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Patriarch of Moscow Kirill, is driving a wedge between the Orthodox Christian world, said Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I – a wedge that has serious consequences for Church and society globally.*

Ecumenical Patriarch criticized the president of Russia and the Patriarch of Moscow during a speech at an international meeting dealing with policy issues. The meeting, hosted by the “World Policy Conference – For a Reasonably Open World,” took place in Abu Dhabi.

Patriarch Bartholomew, called Putin’s war in Ukraine an “unjust aggression” which “constitutes the worst European geopolitical and humanitarian crisis since the end of the Second World War.”

His speech last week took aim at the ideology known as the Russian World, or *Russkii Mir*, which, according to a [declaration drafted by the Orthodox Christian Studies Center](#) at Fordham University, states that there is a “transnational Russian sphere or civilization, called Holy Russia or ‘Holy Rus,’ which includes Russia, Ukraine and Belarus (and sometimes Moldova and Kazakhstan), as well as ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking people throughout the world.

It holds that this ‘Russian world’ has a common political center (Moscow), a common spiritual center (Kyiv as the ‘mother of all Rus’), a common language (Russian), a common Church (the Russian Orthodox Church, Moscow Patriarchate), and a common patriarch (the Patriarch of Moscow), who works in ‘symphony’ with a common president/national leader (Putin) to govern this Russian world, as well as upholding a common distinctive spirituality, morality, and culture.”

But the ideology is not the first time Russian thought has presented problems, Bartholomew said. Even in the 19th century, Moscow instrumentalized religion and developed an “ideology of Pan-Slavism” as an organ of Russian foreign policy. That ideology acquired a religious component.

“This is the idea that Churches should organize themselves according to the principle of ethnicity, the central marker of which would be language,” the Ecumenical Patriarch said. “It is this approach that the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople denounced in 1872 as heresy (the heresy of ethnophyletism, a form of ecclesial racism). It is in flagrant contradiction with the universalism of the Gospel message, as well as the principle of territorial governance which defines the organization of our Church.”

However, this “heresy” was useful to Moscow’s objectives since it distanced Slavic-speaking believers from the influence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, said Bartholomew. “The aim of this strategy was to create, within the Ottoman Empire, and later in the form of an independent state, a separate political force, at the service of the Russian thrust towards the warm seas,” he said, in an apparent reference to campaigns under Peter the Great and Catherine the Great to expand Russia to the Black Sea.

Since the [breakup of the USSR](#), he continued, the Russian Orthodox Church has sided with Putin’s regime, especially since the election of Kirill as Patriarch of Moscow in 2009. The Kremlin capitalized on the supposed newly rediscovered faith of a post-communist populace. And the Russian Orthodox Church “actively participates in the promotion of the ideology of *Russkii Mir*,” the Ecumenical Patriarch charged. “Moscow (both political power and religious power) would constitute the center of this world, whose mission would be to combat the decadent values of the West. This ideology constitutes an instrument of legitimization of Russian expansionism and the basis of its Eurasian strategy. The link with the past of ethnophyletism and the present of the Russian world is obvious. Faith thus becomes the backbone of the ideology of Putin’s regime.”

## Tensions between Moscow and Constantinople

Tensions between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Patriarchate of Moscow can be traced back to the fall of Constantinople in 1453, after which Moscow staked a claim on becoming “the Third Rome,” assuming that primacy of honor previously enjoyed by Constantinople. In recent times, those tensions have manifested in 2016, when Moscow backed out of participation in a long-planned “Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church” on the Island of Crete, and in 2019, when Constantinople granted autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine — a Church independent of the Moscow Patriarchate.

“The [invasion of Ukraine](#) on February 24 [2022] pushed the polarization to a fever pitch,” Bartholomew said. “Patriarch Kirill’s ambiguous stance on the war and support for President Putin’s policies have provoked strong criticism within the Orthodox world and beyond. The Orthodox of Ukraine who had chosen to remain under the tutelage of the Russian Church also expressed their disapproval.”

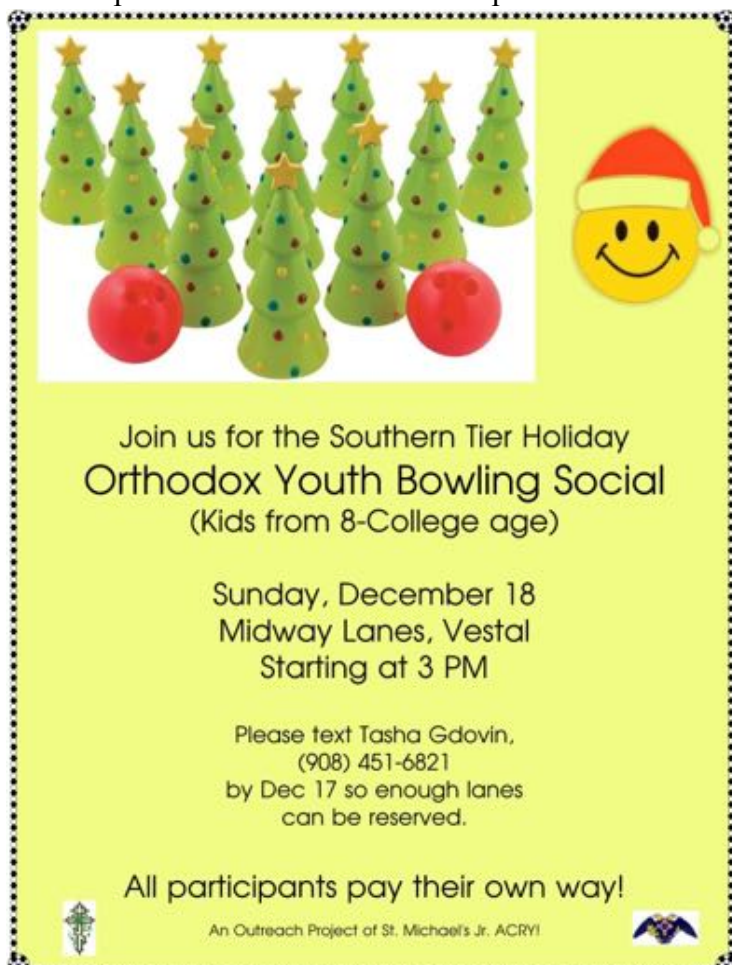
That state of affairs is exacerbating the division among various Orthodox Churches in the rest of the world, he pointed out. “Some Churches agree with the Ecumenical Patriarchate; others, whose countries are too dependent on Russia, blindly support the Moscow Patriarchate; still others prefer to keep a complicit silence,” he said. “Meanwhile, the Russian Church uses the means of the state to establish its influence on the canonical territory of other Churches, despite the most elementary rules of the ecclesiastical organization of Orthodoxy. Its interferences in Africa are presented as punitive actions against the [Patriarchate of Alexandria](#) for the recognition of the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. It is obvious that in these conditions, the peacemaking role of the Church becomes very difficult.”

From a Catholic perspective – especially regarding the hope for restoration of communion between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches – the intra-Orthodox tensions and divisions present a serious challenge for ecumenical dialogue.

Bartholomew said that there are also other serious consequences for the Church in general.

“The ethno-religious fanaticism inculcated in Russian youth stifles prospects for peace and reconciliation,” he said. “The Orthodox world is divided, and this fragmentation is projected onto poor countries, whose people hoped to find relief in the faith. Above all, it harms the Russian Church, since sooner or later the people will realize the excesses of a Church subject to objectives that have nothing to do with its original mission.”

The complete text of Bartholomew’s speech can be found [here](#).



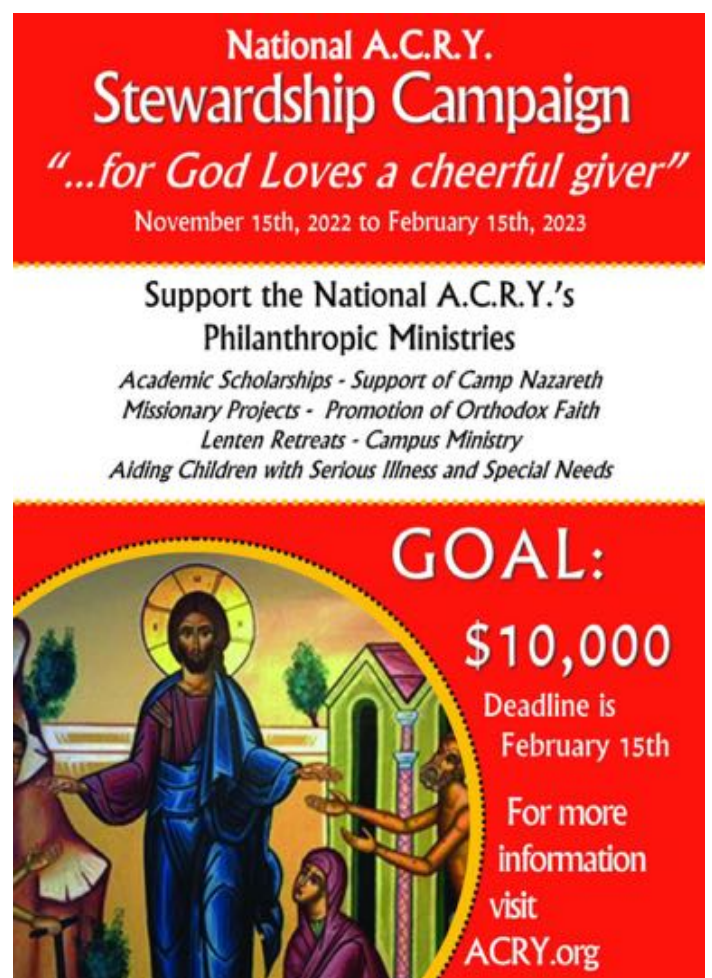
Join us for the Southern Tier Holiday  
Orthodox Youth Bowling Social  
(Kids from 8-College age)

Sunday, December 18  
Midway Lanes, Vestal  
Starting at 3 PM

Please text Tasha Gdovin,  
(908) 451-6821  
by Dec 17 so enough lanes  
can be reserved.

All participants pay their own way!

An Outreach Project of St. Michael's Jr. ACRY



National A.C.R.Y.  
**Stewardship Campaign**  
“...for God Loves a cheerful giver”  
November 15th, 2022 to February 15th, 2023

Support the National A.C.R.Y.’s  
Philanthropic Ministries

Academic Scholarships - Support of Camp Nazareth  
Missionary Projects - Promotion of Orthodox Faith  
Lenten Retreats - Campus Ministry  
Aiding Children with Serious Illness and Special Needs

**GOAL:**  
**\$10,000**  
Deadline is  
February 15th

For more  
information  
visit  
[ACRY.org](#)



Grace Augenstern helps place the "Giving Cards" on our Atrium tree. We still have a few cards left. Please be a "Secret St. Nick" to some families in need this Christmas season. All gifts need to be here in the Atrium by tomorrow! Thank you!

CROSSROAD  
ORTHODOX YOUTH TAKE THE CHALLENGE

# Summer 2022

Apply By Jan 18, 2023

Click Here For More Info  
& To Apply

If you are presently a High School Junior or Senior, you are eligible to apply for acceptance in this year's special CrossRoad summer youth program. For details, log onto: [www.crossroadinstitute.org](http://www.crossroadinstitute.org). See our grads too!

**New Year's Eve  
PARTY INVITATION**

You're Invited to Celebrate with Us!  
All parishioners are invited  
(also friends and family)

**SATURDAY, 31 DECEMBER**  
St. Michael's Recreation Center -- 3:00 pm - ??

Come join us and share in Food, Fun, and Games

Food & Soda will be provided (BYOB)

Please feel free to bring a dish, appetizer, or dessert to share  
RSVP TO: Barb Knighton (607) 621-6079



Maria Korchak, chair of the Diocesan work group on Carpatho-Rusyn liturgical and folk music, has assembled a wide selection of Christmas carols from the Carpathians in an eight hour blog which is now posted on *Spotify*.

Orthodox and Byzantine Catholic choir recordings, including selections from our own St. Michael's choir, feature traditional carols that many have come to know and love over many years. These will all be accessible soon on:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3KMPjSs4TqPABuISeFexyT?si=QpOck6gUTUmMOL6S8aUKsg>

Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!

## Memories of our 2022 St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe!

*It is not secret that our St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe is one of the most beautiful of special programs for youngsters in the Southern Tier. Rather than being a program where the children come to receive gifts for themselves, they come here to receive gifts to give to two special loved ones in their lives, like Mom and Dad or Grandparents! Invitations were extended to all of the children enrolled in Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, as well as to all of the children of our Church School program, and the children of Fr. Roman and Pani Marianna, our new neighbors at Holy Spirit from who arrived from Uzhorod in the Transcarpathian Oblast of Ukraine in the spring.*

*Many thanks to Barb Knighton who chaired this program again, and to all who not only donated such beautiful gifts for the children to select but to all of our volunteers, including some young fraternity men from Binghamton University, who assisted as “Elves” for the day.*

*In any way you helped, you became the very patron whom we honor, St. Nicholas. God bless!*



The St. Nicholas Christmas Shoppe opened on Saturday morning with youngsters eager to participate!



Barb Knighton presented each child with two special St. Nicholas Tickets to “purchase” to gifts to be selected!



Each child was assisted by a special volunteer Elf!



We are grateful to the BU Fraternity Men Who Helped!



Possible choices were carefully studied by older and the very young of our St. Nicholas Shoppe guests!



The St. Nicholas Elves really helped with the choices which were then carefully wrapped before leaving!



We are very grateful to all our volunteers who helped make blessed memories for kids.



Icon of St. Nicholas at our Church

Colored by \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Each child received two St. Nicholas Tickets and a story of St. Nicholas Coloring Book at our Shoppe!



# Who is St. Nicholas?

Use the Word Bank below to fill in the details about Saint Nicholas



Nicholas was born in Patara, a village in a Greek part of \_\_\_\_\_. It is now in \_\_\_\_\_.



Nicholas threw three bags of \_\_\_\_\_ through a poor man's window so his daughters could get \_\_\_\_\_.



Nicholas was Bishop of \_\_\_\_\_ during the \_\_\_\_\_ century.

He attended the first big Bishop's meeting, the First Ecumenical Council in \_\_\_\_\_.

Nicholas was buried in Myra, but his tomb is now in \_\_\_\_\_.



Bishop Nicholas loved \_\_\_\_\_ and cared for \_\_\_\_\_ in need.



Saint Nicholas Day is \_\_\_\_\_.



Three \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
or a \_\_\_\_\_ are sometimes symbols for Saint Nicholas.



Saint Nicholas is patron saint of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and more.



## WORD BANK

4th anchor Asia Minor Bari, Italy children  
December 6 God gold gold balls innocents  
married money bags Myra Nicaea sailors  
ship people Turkey