

THIRTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Saint Macarius and Saint Mark -- January 19th*

**St. Nicholas and St. Basil  
Byzantine Catholic Parishes  
Liturgical Schedule:**

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Athanasius and Cyril Archbishops</b> 3:30 pm      Rosary <b>4:00 pm      Divine Liturgy (SB) for +David Klingshirn</b> 5:30 pm      Carpato-Rusyn Party (SN)
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> <b>9:45 am      Divine Liturgy (SB) for+George and Margaret Slaby</b> <b>ST BASIL PARISH ASSEMBLY</b> 11:10 am      Moleben to the Theotokos <b>11:30 am      Divine Liturgy (SN) for the parishioners</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Euthymius the Great Venerable</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Maximus the Confessor Venerable</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Timothy Apostle</b> 9:00 am      Divine Liturgy (SN) for Kristina Ivanaj
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Clement Martyr</b> 9:00 am      Divine Liturgy (SB) for +Edward Kepich
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Xenia Venerable</b> 9:00 am      Divine Liturgy (SN) for Kristina Ivanaj
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Gregory the Theologian</b> 3:30 pm      Rosary <b>4:00 pm      Divine Liturgy (SB) for Kristina Ivanaj</b> Young Adults meeting
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> <b>9:45 am      Divine Liturgy (SB) for Kristina Ivanaj</b> 11:10 am      Moleben to the Theotokos <b>11:30 am      Divine Liturgy (SN) for the parishioners</b> <b>ST NICHOLAS PARISH ASSEMBLY</b>

**St. Nicholas Parish Weekly Collections    1/12/2024**

*“My return to the Lord for all His goodness to me”*

Offertory	\$ 1878.00	Candles	\$ 32.00
Holy Days	\$ 410.00	E-donations	\$ 155.75
Others	\$ 200.00	<b>Total: \$ 712.75</b>	We thank You for Your generosity!

**Propers: Tone 2, page 130 of the pew book**



## 35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(Lk. 18:35-43)

### **Jesus Heals a Blind Man**

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going past, he inquired what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" The people in front rebuked him and ordered him to be silent, but he only shouted all the louder, "Son of David, have pity on me!"

Jesus stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. And when he had come near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He answered, "Lord, let me receive my sight." Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your faith has made you well." Immediately, he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. And all the people who witnessed this also gave praise to God.

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#### **Comments:**

**Compassion:** Jesus shows compassion for the poor and invites them to come to him.

**Persistence:** The blind man persists in calling out to Jesus, even when the crowds tell him to be quiet.

**Faith:** The blind man's faith saves him, and Jesus tells him he has also been healed spiritually.

**Mercy:** Jesus emphasizes mercy, compassion, and forgiveness.

**Messianic joy:** Jesus' healing of the blind man is a cause for joy, especially for the poor and marginalized.

Be persistent in prayer. We should pray consistently and persistently, and not give up when we face obstacles.

Care for the poor and marginalized. Christian communities should care for the poor and marginalized, as Jesus did.

Develop strong spiritual character. Persistence in prayer helps us develop strong spiritual character and grow into spiritual maturity.

Build tension. Jesus builds tension in this passage that is resolved in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church  
23300 King Drive, 48035 Clinton Township, MI  
Phone: (586) 791-1052; Email: [stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com](mailto:stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com)

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Pastor: Father Mykhailo Solianyuk

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Cantors: George Nagrant, Nicholas P. Nagrant, Ann Pawluszka, Steve Terlescki,  
John P. Minarish, Richard Baranko and Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore

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Confessions: Before each Divine Liturgy in the sacristy or by appointment

Baptisms: Arrange six weeks in advance

Weddings: Arrange six months in advance. Bride or groom must be a member of the parish

Communion: Monthly for sick and shut-ins. Call the church for scheduling

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### *From Smuggler to Saint*

Saint Macarius the Great was born in Upper Egypt. A later tradition places his birthplace in the village of Shabsheer (Shanshour), in Al Minufiyah Governorate, Egypt around 300 A.D. At some point before his pursuit of asceticism, it is said that Macarius made his living smuggling potassium nitrate in the vicinity of Nitria, a life which taught him how to survive in and travel across the wasteland in that area. At a young age, Macarius was forced to get married against his will. Thus, he pretended to be sick and ask for his parents' permission to go to the wilderness to recoup. At his return, he found that his wife had died, and shortly after, his parents departed as well. Macarius subsequently distributed all his money among the poor and needy.

Seeing his virtues, the people of his village brought him to the bishop of Ashmoun who ordained him priest. Falsely accused of defiling a woman, the woman recanted and confessed Macarius' innocence. A multitude of people then came asking for his forgiveness, but he fled to the Nitrian Desert to escape all mundane glory. While at the desert, he visited St. Anthony the Great and learned from him the laws and rules of monasticism. When he returned to the Scetic Desert at the age of forty, he presided over its monastic community for the rest of his life. Macarius died in the year 391. Today, the body of Saint Macarius is found in his monastery, the Monastery of Saint Macarius the Great in Scetes, Egypt.





## St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

Clinton Township, MI

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!*

*Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вѣки!*

### Announcements for Sunday, January 19, 2025

**St. Nicholas Parish Assembly:** Next **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**, after **11:30am Divine Liturgy** we'll have our annual parish assembly. Two principal topics will be: 1-the finance statement of 2024 and 2- about potential future with St. Basil Parish

**Bishop Robert Pipta to visit St. Nicholas Parish on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>!** Please make plans to come and welcome our bishop, Most Reverend Robert M. Pipta, as he makes his pastoral visit to St. Nicholas Church on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will celebrate Divine Liturgy with Bishop Robert at 11:30am, followed by a luncheon in the hall (see below for more details on the luncheon). As part of his visit, Bishop Robert would like to have a brief meeting with the parish council, and time for informal interaction with parishioners.

**Our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual "Least of My Brethren" Luncheon will also be held on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** in the church hall, after the 11:30am Divine Liturgy. This is our annual soup, chili, and salad luncheon where we collect donations to help the homeless and less fortunate in our community--- the "Least of our Brethren," to whom our Lord refers in the Gospel of Matthew. Please come and enjoy a wide variety of delicious homemade soups and chilis— for whatever amount you may be able to give. Everyone is welcome! If you would like to bring in a homemade soup or chili to share, or a dessert, please sign up on the sheet posted by the Parish Life board in the vestibule. Clean-up help is also appreciated, if you are able to stay a few minutes afterwards to help.

**The Blessing of Houses:** According to our tradition, after the Feast of Theophany and the Blessing of Water in the church (January 6), we have the blessing of houses. If you would like to receive a house blessing, please sign up on the sheet posted near the pastor's office, or see Fr. Mykhailo directly.

**Collection for the war orphans in Ukraine:** *"Glory to God in the Highest and to people on Earth, Peace and Good Will!"* This is the Christmas hymn- an invitation from the angelic choir to all. Unfortunately, the war in Ukraine is still active. Many children every day are finding themselves to be alone, without one or both of their parents. To help these war orphans in Ukraine, we are again collecting donations for the children. If you would like to make a contribution, please place your donation in the box located next to our Nativity scene, in the church proper.

**Non-perishable Food Collection:** To further assist those in need, we are accepting donations of canned and other non-perishable foods. Please place any donations in, on, or next to the black plastic bin that is located in the vestibule. Thank you!

**The St. Nicholas Ladies Tea Party Fundraiser—tickets now available for purchase:** We will host another Ladies' Mardi Gras Tea Party fundraiser on Sunday afternoon, March 2, 2025. Doors will open at 12:30pm, and the lunch/tea will be served at 1:30. Tickets are \$30/each or \$240 to host your own table of 8. Please see Karen Kaufman to purchase your tickets today!

**Gift Basket Items for the Tea:** Donations for the baskets are currently being accepted and should be delivered to the church hall by February 24. Begging letters for the Ladies Tea are available on the bulletin stand in the vestibule, and should be used for soliciting donations from local businesses that you frequent. Gift cards and product donations are much appreciated and can be incorporated into a basket to be raffled off. Also, if you have any empty baskets that you would be willing to donate for the Tea, please bring them to the hall and place them on the back table, by the coat racks. Please see Laura Nagrant if you have any questions, and to provide descriptions of your donated items for the program.

**Attention, Parish Men! Volunteers needed for our Ladies Tea:** As in past years, we need some parish men to volunteer their time to work at the Ladies Tea on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The work would consist of either waiting tables, selling raffle tickets, or helping in the kitchen. A light meal will be provided for all workers. If you are able to help, please sign up on the sheet posted by the pastor's office. For any questions, please see Fred Marszalec or George Nagrant, or anyone else on the Ladies Tea Committee.

**Stewardship Appeal 2024/25:** All parishioners within the Eparchy of Parma should have received the Stewardship Appeal information in the mail by now. If you did not receive the mailing, please contact Fr. Mykhailo to verify that we have your information listed correctly on our parish roster. This year's Stewardship Appeal will support the following important needs in the Eparchy: Mission and Outreach; Development of Parishes; Retreats, Renewals, and Family Camp; Works of the Apostolate; Clergy Benevolence Fund; and Support for our Retired and Active Priests. Please visit <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> for more information and to make secure, one-time or monthly donations through the website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign. The overall Stewardship Appeal campaign goal is \$320,000. Our individual parish goal is \$7,950. Thank you in advance for your generosity!!!

**An update on our potential future with St. Basil Church:** Last Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, a smaller team of parishioners from St. Nicholas Church and St. Basil Church met, along with Fr. Mykhailo, to tour the facilities at St. Basil's and continue discussions on a potential future together as one combined parish. The team feels that the St. Basil location on Metro Parkway has advantages over the St. Nicholas neighborhood location, as far as visibility and potential for growth. However, after touring the St. Basil facilities and discussing some necessary repairs and renovations that would enable the kind of parish life that we would want, the team concluded that more study should be done to better understand both parish's current finances, and especially, the approximate costs of some of these potential future projects, before any significant decisions should be made on how to proceed, or where to be located, as one combined parish. As one example, we need to better understand the approximate cost to repair and/or renovate the current St. Basil social hall, which has roof leak issues and other required repairs or upgrades. As another example, we want to understand the approximate cost to build a smaller social hall that would be attached to the main church building, very similar in concept as what we currently have at St. Nick's—for weekly coffee and donuts, socializing opportunities, or other smaller parish events without requiring people to walk across the parking lot or down a flight of stairs. These cost studies will be a main focus of the team over the coming weeks. In the meantime, if YOU have any thoughts, ideas, or concerns that you would like to share regarding the idea of a combined future with St. Basil Church, please reach out to any of the members of our advisory or finance councils. We really do want to hear from you!

**Happy Birthday this week to Michael Petty (1/24)!** May God grant you many more years of peace, good health, and happiness!

#### **From elsewhere within the Eparchy of Parma:**

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Retreat will take place March 7-9, 2025,** at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, OH. The retreat master will be Fr. Jan Maturkanic. The topic is "Our Lord Jesus Christ- The Path to the Father." For further information or to register, please contact Joan Washburn at 865-696-7809 or [stmarybhdwomensretreat@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybhdwomensretreat@gmail.com).

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Retreat will take place March 14-16, 2025,** at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, OH. The retreat master will be Fr. Lukas Mitro, the administrator of Holy Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Parish in Euclid, OH. The topic is "The Beatitudes: The Way of Life." For further information or to register, please contact Karl Busam at 419-626-6811 or [karl.busam.77@gmail.com](mailto:karl.busam.77@gmail.com).

For more info: Please see our bulletin, LIKE us on Facebook or visit our website: [stnicksdetroit.com](http://stnicksdetroit.com)

# The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,

may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

*Franciscus*

## What is a Jubilee year and why are Catholics celebrating in 2025?

The year 2025 will be celebrated as a Jubilee Year for Catholics.

The Jubilee is described as a “**special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to *deepen their relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation,***” said Fintan Monahan, the Bishop of Killaloe.

The word “jubilee” comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*, which refers to the ram’s horn used to announce a jubilee in the Old Testament. Each 50th year, is dedicated to God: “**This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when every one of you shall return to his own property, every one to his own family estate.**” (Leviticus 25:10).

The Jubilee year is considered holy, during which farming is prohibited. Similar to the shmita years, when the land is given a Sabbath rest every seventh year, the Jubilee year is seen as an even greater sanctification - seven times as holy and much more than a 'super-charged' shmita year. It includes powerful social and economic resets: debts are forgiven, slaves are freed, and all land is returned to its original owners.



Verses 23 and 24 are key: “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a redemption of the land.

This is repeated also in Leviticus 25: 24, which reads, “In the year of jubilee the field shall return to him from whom it was bought, to whom the land belongs as a possession.”

The land is the Lord’s, and we are merely sojourners on it. This is a key principle of the Jubilee. It’s a powerful antidote against the greed and materialism many so easily fall into.

The Jubilee is a radical equalizer to counteract the nation’s wealth being monopolized by a few, but has hardly ever been properly carried out. In fact, God gives the reason for the exile to Babylon as a consequence of Israel’s failure to carry out even the shmita year instructions, never mind Jubilees.

2 Chronicles 36:21 says the exile was “to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.”

Resisting the need to till the land – to sow and reap a harvest – demands extraordinary faith to see God provide in the absence of human labor. The Jubilee then is an even greater opportunity for radical blessing but it requires even more radical faith.

Perhaps due to the great practical challenges involved in actually carrying out the biblical Jubilee, it has largely been reinterpreted and spiritualized.

While the biblical Jubilee occurs every 50 years, the Church has reinvented the concept and time frame completely. Initially designating it to occur every 100 years on the Gregorian calendar, the Vatican’s Jubilee 2025 website says the first Catholic Jubilee was celebrated in the year 1300, after which Pope Boniface VIII “fixed the frequency of Jubilee celebrations to every 100 years.”

The explanation continues: “Following a plea from the people of Rome to Pope Clement VI (1342), the frequency was reduced to every 50 years.” The gap between Jubilees was, then, subsequently shortened to 33 years, highlighting the age of Jesus when He was crucified, and then later reduced further to 25 years.

Today, Catholics have their Jubilee year every 25 years, neatly corresponding to round numbers in the Gregorian calendar, quite different from the biblical mandate.

However, traces of the theme of God’s ownership of the land come through: **“The Jubilee 2025 year’s theme is ‘Pilgrims of Hope’, and Pope Francis is inviting Catholics to renew hope and discover a vision that can restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone,”** Bishop Monahan relays. **“We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God’s creation in which we understand ourselves as ‘pilgrims on the earth’, rather than masters of the world.”**

Catholic Jubilee starts when the Pope opens the “Holy Door” at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome on Dec. 24, 2024, following a tradition that began in 1425 by Pope Martin V.

**For those who believe in Jesus, the deeper meaning of Jubilee ripples out beyond land owned and money owed and speaks of liberty from spiritual debt and slavery. The Jubilee blast of the ram’s horn signals total freedom and complete forgiveness.**