



St. Nicholas

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JACOBS CREEK, PA.

Orthodox Church

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December 10, 2017

27th Sunday after Pentecost

Commemoration of the Holy Great Martyr James the Persian

St. Nicholas celebration will be held next Sunday. Following the Divine Liturgy our Sunday School students will present *“Who is St. Nicholas?”* Our annual St. Nicholas Day dinner will follow. St. Nicholas will make an appearance with gifts for all the children.

Guest Our special guest next weekend at both churches (weather permitting) will be Protodeacon Lazarus Muska of St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church in Norcross, Georgia. Father Lazarus will be presenting an icon to the Jacobs Creek church in remembrance of the Darr Mine disaster / Miracle of St. Nicholas.



Прорись иконы Божней Матери
«Казанская»

Icon of the Mother of God of Kazan

Confessions Prepare for Holy Confession during this season of the Nativity Fast.

We clean the manger of our soul to receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion at the Christmas Divine Liturgy.

If there is any act out of step with the vain and shallow holiday atmosphere presented to us by the spirit of this age, it is act of the repentant Christian confessing his or her sins. Said Dorothy Day, *“Going to confession is hard, hard when you have sins to confess, hard when you haven’t, and you wrack your brain for even the beginnings of sins against charity, chastity, sins of distraction, sloth or gluttony. You do not want to make too much of your constant imperfections and venial sins, but you want to drag them out to the light of day as the first step in getting rid of them....I have sinned. These are my sins. That is all you are supposed to tell; not the sins of others, or your own virtues, but only your ugly, gray, drab, monotonous sins.”* Blessed are those who mourn, for it is precisely in this mourning that we receive comfort. These are the tidings of comfort and joy that the Christmas carol songwriter celebrates—redemption from guilt and the weight of sin.

-Virginia Newsma

St. Nicholas store Please visit our store in the church basement which features icons, prayerbooks and many gift items imported from Russia.

Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, “Are there any flowers in this area?” it will say, “I don’t know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want.”

Now, if you ask a honeybee, “Have you seen any unclean things in this area?” it will reply, “Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers.” And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow. You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful flowers are.

As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see. The stupid person thinks stupidly and takes everything in the wrong way, whereas the person who has good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought.

- St. Paisios of Mt. Athos (+1994)

