



St. Nicholas

MAIN STREET
JACOBS CREEK, PA.

Orthodox Church

SIXTH STREET
MONONGAHELA, PA.

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December 31, 2017

Sunday before the Nativity of Christ - Sunday of the Holy Fathers



Open House at the home of Father Ed, Kathy and Irene will be on Sunday, January 14th from 12 noon - ?

All are welcome and expected!

Jacobs Creek Divine Liturgy next Saturday will begin at 4:45 p.m. rather than 5:00 p.m.

Charity Fund We will take up a special collection at the Christmas Divine Liturgy for our Charity Fund.

If you know of a family or individual in need, speak with Father Ed. All information is kept confidential.

Strict fast days

Friday, Jan. 5

eve of Epiphany - Jacobs Creek

Saturday, Jan. 6

Eve of the Nativity - Monongahela

And everyone went
off to his own town
to register.

Luke 2:3



Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ in the Holy Orthodox Church, we have been commanded by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam to St. Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, as listed in the genealogy of Christ which we hear in today's Gospel. Also this day we remember all the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three Holy Youths in the fiery furnace.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we hear of Jesus Christ's family tree from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man,

taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

This Week:

FRIDAY – Confessions
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY – **Great Compline &
Matins for the Nativity of Christ**
7:00 p.m.

