



**St. Nicholas**

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JACOBS CREEK, PA.

**Orthodox Church**

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VERY REV. EDWARD PEHANICH

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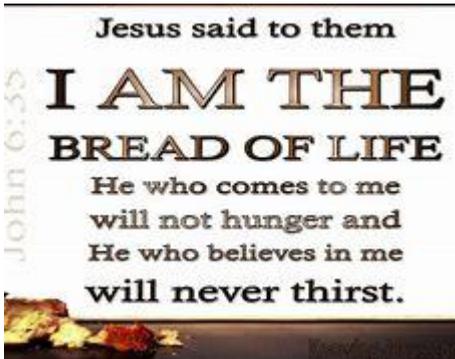
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## February 7, 2021

*35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Commemoration of St. Gregory the Theologian (389 AD)*

*& the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia*



**Valentines Dinner** will be held next Sunday. Please make a reservation by signing the list on the bulletin board.

**Chili Cook off** The annual competition will be held on Sunday, February 28.

### Sermon Series

Over the next several weeks, Father will preach a series of sermons on the "I am" statements of Jesus.

**Today** - "I am the Bread of Life"

**Feb. 14** - "I am the Light of the World"

**Feb. 21** - "I am the Good Shepherd"

**Feb. 28** - *Fr. Marc Wisnosky serving*

**March 7** - "I am the Alpha & Omega"

***I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing...*** (John 15)

Last Sunday's message from Father's sermon series:

- Jesus' final prayer for us was that we "abide in Him".
- If we do not "abide in Him", that is, remain joined to Him, we wither away and die
- If we abide in Him we will produce fruit
- We abide in Him by daily prayer, Bible reading, struggling against our sinful passions and receiving the Holy Eucharist often.
- The Bible describes "fruit" which is evidence that we are abiding in Christ: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control freedom from fear....
- If we are abiding in Christ, it might be necessary for Him to "prune" us as a gardener prunes a vine in order to produce more fruit.
- If I go through difficulties, problems, etc. I should ask myself: *"Is God pruning me? What does He want to remove from me to make me a better person, a better disciple?"*

***New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia*** is group of saints of the Russian Orthodox Church martyred or persecuted for Christ after the October Revolution of 1917.

Shortly after the October Revolution a Council of the Church of April 1918 passed a resolution: *"Set across Russia an annual memorial on 25 January or next Sunday as day of all confessors and martyrs who died in the current fierce years of persecution"*. January 25, 1918 was the date that the first bishop of the Church was martyred: Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev.

Have you considered a special donation to become a "Distinguished Diocesan Donor" of our Diocese? This DDD Fund is used to support the youth ministry at Camp Nazareth and other outreach ministries.

Donation envelopes are available in the vestibule.

We have received a donation of \$300 in Giant Eagle gift cards to help those in need. See Father Ed if you know of a need.

