

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

St. Nicholas of Myra

Byzantine Catholic Parish

Liturgical Schedule:

Sat	Dec	20	Saturday before Christmas
		3:00 pm	Confession
		3:40 pm	Rosary
		4:00 pm	Divine Liturgy for Jennifer
Sun	Dec	21	SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS
		10:10 am	Moleben to the Theotokos
			Confession
		10:30 am	Divine Liturgy
Mon	Dec	22	Anastasia Great Martyr
Tue	Dec	23	Ten Martyrs of Crete
Wed	Dec	24	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS
		4:00 pm	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil The Great with Vespers
			Great Compline with Lytia
Thu	Dec	25	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
		10:00 am	Matins/Koliady
		10:30 am	Divine Liturgy, Myrovanie
Fri	Dec	26	SYNAXYS OF THE THEOTOKOS
		6:30 pm	Divine Liturgy
Sat	Dec	27	Stephen Protomartyr
		2:00 pm	Divine Liturgy at St. Stephen Parish (Allen Park)
			Regional Celebration of Christmas
Sun	Dec	28	SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
		10:10 am	Moleben to the Theotokos
			Confession
		10:30 am	Divine Liturgy

Weekly Collections 12/14/2025

"My return to the Lord for all His goodness to me"

Offeratory	\$ 2,937.00	E-donations	\$ 155.75
Candles	\$ 18.00	Others	\$ 500.00

Total: \$ 3,610.75

We thank You for Your big generosity!

Propers of the Sunday: pages 135, 285.

SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS

The Birth of Jesus (Mt 1: 1-25)

The birth of Jesus Christ occurred in this way. When his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came to live together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was a just man and did not wish to expose her to the ordeal of public disgrace; therefore, he resolved to divorce her quietly.

After he had decided to follow this course of action, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to receive Mary into your home as your wife. For this child has been conceived in her womb through the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you shall name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place in order to fulfill what the Lord had announced through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," a name that means "God is with us."

When Joseph rose from sleep, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary into his home as his wife, but he engaged in no marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus.

* **Who was Jesus?** Where did he come from? He is the son of Abraham, in whom all the nations shall be blessed; He is the son of David, to whom the future of the people was entrusted; in other words, He is the one who will carry out God's plan for Israel and the entire human race; He is the One Sent, the consecrated of God (Messiah, Christ).

* **Christ:** is the Greek translation of the Hebrew "Messiah," which means "anointed," that is, consecrated. Priests were anointed; so were kings, so much so that the reigning monarch was sometimes given the title of "Messiah," or "Anointed One".

* **Jesus:** is a transcription of the Greek *Iêsous*, which in turn is a transcription of the Hebrew *Jehoshuah* ("Joshua" in translations) or *Jeshua* in its later form. It means "God saves."

* **Joseph obeys,** and through him Jesus finds a place publicly in the dynasty of David.

What will this son become, whose name "Jesus" is already a program, since it means "God saves"? The prophecy of Isaiah, which had remained mysterious to the minds of believers, is now fulfilled. Such is the main message of this text that was originally addressed to Jews, namely, that God is in our midst to give us victory and to live the covenant to the full. "Emmanuel" means "God is with us". That is the ultimate message.

St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Parish

4700 Metro PKW, Sterling Heights, MI 48310

Phone: (586) 791 1052 * Website: <https://www.stnicksdetroit.com/>

Clergy: Very Reverend Father Mykhailo Solianyik, ThD (ABD)

Father Deacon Paul Latcha

Father Deacon Phillip Dinsmore

Confession:

Before each Divine Liturgy or by appointment

Baptism:

Arrange six weeks in advance, please

Marriage:

Arrange six months in advance.

Bride or groom must be the member of this parish

Communion/Anointing:

Monthly for sick and shut-ins.

Having an urgency call:

216-816-6828

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us.

Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it

was a challenge to recognize in the last part of Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.



St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

Sterling Heights, MI

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na v'iki!

Announcements for December 21, 2025

Please be sure to check the posted Liturgy schedule for the different services this Christmas season!

Our Christmas Day celebration will begin promptly at 10:00am, with our St. Nicholas Choir leading us in the singing of various Christmas Carols, and some selections from Christmas Matins. All are welcome to come and sing along with our choir, as we celebrate together the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Divine Liturgy will begin at approximately 10:30am.

Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church will be livestreamed! Of course, we hope to see all of our parishioners in person for our Christmas services. But, if you will not be able to attend in person, or if you know someone who is unable to attend, please join us remotely via our livestream on Facebook! The livestreaming will begin at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve, and at 10:00am on Christmas Day. For information on how to view the livestream, please see our website (www.stnicksdetroit.com), our Facebook, or call or email us.

This Saturday, December 27, 2025— You are invited to our Great Lakes Protopresbyterate Christmas Celebration at St. Stephen Parish in Allen Park: Please join your fellow Byzantine Catholics and friends from across our entire Great Lakes Deanery, at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in Allen Park, MI, this coming Saturday, December 27th, to continue the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that parish's patronal feast day (St. Stephen's Day is December 27th). **The program will start at 2:00pm with the Divine Liturgy, and will be followed by dinner and the party in their parish hall.** You are welcome to bring a dish to share, but it is not mandatory. All are invited!!!

IMPORTANT: There will be no Saturday 4:00pm Divine Liturgy next weekend at St. Nicholas Church due to the event at St. Stephen's.

Sunday, January 4, 2026— Parish Christmas/New Years/Feast of St. Basil Party and ECF Play: We invite all parishioners, family members, and friends to stay after Liturgy on Sunday, January 4th, for a parish potluck dinner as we continue our celebration of Christmas as a parish family, and to celebrate New Years and the Feast of St. Basil (January 1). Additionally, that same day our ECF students will present a special Christmas play and some Christmas carols that they have been learning in Singing Class.

Saturday, January 10, 2026— Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Society of Michigan Annual Potluck Dinner: The Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Society of Michigan invites you to an "Old Friends, New Friends" potluck party at our very own St Basil Hall on Saturday, January 10, 2026. Bring a dish to share; ethnic favorites are encouraged but not required. BYOB. Doors open at 5:15pm (following the 4pm Liturgy), dinner at 6:00pm. Music provided by the Beskidy Folk Ensemble. Wear your "kroj," and have fun together! Please look for fliers to be posted soon, with additional details.

The following is a short note from our choir director, Nicholas J. Nagrant, regarding the Choir on Christmas:

The choir has sung many Christmas and liturgical hymns that are loved by Byzantine Catholics in the metropolitan Detroit area, and the carols and hymns are now too numerous to sing them all. We will sing the most-beloved arrangements, now in English and some also in Slavonic still remembered by some parishioners. If we happen to not sing your favorite, please see the director, or any choir member, so that we can try to add it to our list in the future.

Please also be aware that our choir is primarily a worship choir, to lead the people and to add beautiful harmony to aid everyone in optimally giving glory to God. The harmonies themselves are intended to be an affirmation of the beauty and splendor of God's kingdom. As such, please feel free to sing along with carols and liturgical hymns that you are familiar with.

Church wall calendars and donation envelopes for 2026 will be available soon. If you don't currently have your own set of envelopes and would like to receive a box for 2026, please see Fr. Mykhailo and he will make sure you get one.

Thanks again to everyone for your efforts in selling and purchasing so many tickets for our 3rd annual fundraiser raffle, and congratulations again to our prize winners! The following is a short financial summary of the event. If you have any questions, please see Joanne Mozuras:

Income (raffle sales and donations):		\$8,263
Expenses		\$2,950
Raffle (cash) Prizes	\$2,500	
Basket Prizes	\$ 164	
License Fee	\$ 50	
Ticket Printing Costs	\$ 236	
Total Profit for St. Nicholas Church:		\$5,313

Reminder: Parish Database Survey- If you haven't done so already, please fill out and turn in the short survey that can be found by the pink striped box just outside of Father's office. With the recent merging of St. Nicholas and St. Basil parishes, we are in the process of consolidating our parishioner databases, and would like to make sure we have your latest contact information. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Mykhailo, Joanne Mozuras, or one of our ushers. Thank you for your cooperation on this!

Stewardship 2025-2026: This year's Stewardship Appeal officially started on November 1 and runs through May 31, 2026. Please keep an eye out for your Stewardship packet in the mail and consider what contribution you are able to make this year. Online contributions can be made through the eparchial website: www.parma.org.

Reminder: Request for Feedback (Eparchial Statutes): We would like to hear what suggestions you might have for improving, clarifying, or otherwise enhancing our Eparchy's list of statutes. Please see Fr. Mykhailo to obtain a copy of the current statutes if you don't already have one; then read, pray, and reflect upon them, and submit any suggestions in writing to Fr. Mykhailo. Bishop Robert's intention is to finalize the next edition of our statutes at the next Eparchial Assembly in Fall 2026.

Happy Anniversary this week to Tim and Lori Saunders (12/22)! May God grant you many more happy, healthy, and blessed years together!

Happy (belated) Birthday to Julian Dempsey (12/17)! May God grant you many more years of peace, health, and happiness!

For more info: Please see our bulletin, LIKE us on Facebook or visit our website: stnicksdetroit.com