

St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York &
Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland & MidAtlantic
The Very Reverend Father Samuel Haddad, Pastor

211 South Heber Street & POB 5026 & Beckley, WV 25801
Parish (304) 252-5821 - Cell (304) 541-8550 (use this to contact Fr. Samuel)

fr.samuel@att.net

www.orthodoxbeckley.org

Tone 2

December 14, 2025

Eothinon 5

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

MARTYRS THYRSOS, LEUKIOS AND KALLINIKOS OF APOLLONIA;
MARTYRS PHILEMON, APOLLONIOS, HYPATIOS AND ARRIANOS OF ALEXANDRIA

Today's Reader: Bruce Hamilton

Next Sunday– December 21, 2025

Reader: Dan Hardway

Commemorations/Bread Offering for the Holy Oblation: David & Amy Allen Family

Coffee Hour Luncheon to be Prepared by: The Hardway and Roberts Families

Bread for the Holy Oblation is Offered by the Zaferatos Family for the health & salvation of Jerry, Kathy & Family; Dennis, Misty & Family, Billy, Teresa & Family, Sdn George, Sdn James & all the members of the Zaferatos Family

It is also offered in loving memory of Billie, Konstantinos and all the departed members of the Zaferatos Family.

"the Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)

Please note that **Holy Communion is reserved for members of the Holy Orthodox Church** who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession. However, all are welcome to partake of the blessed bread at the dismissal.

Please join us during our fellowship at the Coffee Hour immediately after the Divine Liturgy.



Today

The Servants of God

Christopher Moore

&

Jason Thompson

Will be Received into the Holy Orthodox Faith
By the Sacrament of Chrismation

We Also Congratulate the Newly Illumined

Nathaniel Keith, Grace Sparks
& Tillie Lively

May God Grant them Many, Many Years!

"Blessings Box" Collection Update



Beloved in Christ,

This year, we are collecting non-perishable food for our new BLESSING BOX! PLEASE KEEP BRINGING FOOD so that we may continue to stock our shelves and have food to stock adequately. We need to continue our efforts in providing food for those who are truly Hungry. God bless everyone for your holy efforts!

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Troparion of the Resurrection, *in the Second Tone*

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Troparion for the Forefathers, *in the Second Tone*

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion of St. Nicholas, *in the Fourth Tone*

Thy righteous acts have manifested thee to thy flock as a model of faith, a reflection of humility, and a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Therefore, through humility thou hast achieved exaltation, and through poverty riches. Intercede thou with Christ to save our souls.

Kontakion for the Preparation of the Nativity of Christ, *in the Third Tone*

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.



Epistle

Colossians 3:4-11

Prokeimenon: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
Verse: *For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.*

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel

Luke 14:16-24

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."





Calendar: December 2025

Nativity Fast - 11/15/2025 - 12/24/2025		
12/14/2025 (Sun)	10:00 am	Chrismation of Catechumens
12/21/2025 (Sun)	1:30 pm	Parish Council Meeting (for Year End)
12/24/2025 (Wed)	9:00 am 11:00 am	Royal Hours of the Nativity Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great
12/25/2025 (Thur)	9:20 am 10:30 am	Festal Orthros for The Feast of the Nativity Festal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh Banquet for the Feast After the Divine Liturgy
<p><i>The Nativity Fast begins on Saturday, November 15th, and continues through December 24th. This Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but with katalysis for wine and oil on Tuesday and Thursday (some also permit fish on Tuesday and Thursday during this first period), and for fish, wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday. The second period is December 20th through 24th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed Monday through Friday, but with katalysis for wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday.</i></p>		

2026 Pledge Cards

As you prayerfully consider your pledge for 2026, please bring your card to church by Sunday December 21st. You may put it in the collection box, send it by mail, or give it to Fr. Samuel. May God bless your generosity to His Holy Church! *(There are blank cards for your use on the usher stand).*

Calendar for the Week of December 14, 2025	Saints of the Day
Sunday—December 14, 2025 Fast 9:00 am - Orthros 10:00 am - Reception & Chrismation of Converts 10:30 am - Divine Liturgy	Holy Forefathers of Christ Chyrus the Martyr and his Companions
Monday— December 15, 2025 Fast	Cleutherius the Martyr
Tuesday—December 16, 2025 Fast	Haggai the Prophet; Theophano the Queen
Wednesday—December 17, 2025 Fast 5:00 pm Daily Reader's Vespers	Daniel the Prophet, and the three Youth, Ananias, Azarias, and Misael
Thursday—December 18, 2025 Fast	Sebastian the Martyr, and his Companions
Friday—December 19, 2025 Fast	Boniface
Saturday—December 20, 2025 Fast 5:00 pm Great Vespers Confessions after Vespers	Holy Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer
Sunday—December 21, 2025 Fast 9:25 am - Orthros 9:30 am - High School 10:00 am – Youth Ministry 10:30 am - Divine Liturgy After Liturgy- Junior & Youngsters Church School 1:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	Juliana the Martyr
<p><i>Please note</i> that Confessions are heard at the time noted above in the coming week's schedule, or by appointment by calling Fr. Samuel at: (304) 541-8550.</p>	

Pledging to Give in Stewardship



Tithing is Our Tradition. Our understanding of giving comes from the first few pages of the Bible. Abraham, in thanksgiving for his victory in battle, offers a tithe to the priest, Melchizedek (Genesis 14:14-20). Giving is **tithing** and **offering**—accompanied by prayer, and fasting. **Tithing is sacrificial giving**, and requires trust, since we are to give a tithe *first*, from our paycheck. This is the Lord's portion from the instant we receive it--money *returned to the Lord* for the purposes of His kingdom--**offered with prayer and fasting.**

Your pledge letter and card for 2026 will be distributed this morning at the dismissal, and for those not present, mailed on Monday. Please give prayerful consideration to your financial commitment for the coming year. I know that many of you are considering making your giving a true tithe. If you wish to discuss this with me, please do not hesitate to make an appointment or call me at any time. May God bless you richly for your generosity.

- Fr. Samuel

2025 Schedule of Services for The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ



Wednesday, December 24th

9:00 AM - Royal Hours of the Nativity
11:00 AM - Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Thursday, December 25th

9:15 AM - Festal Matins of the Nativity of Our Lord
10:30 AM - Festal Divine Liturgy for the Feast
for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Followed by a Festal Pot Luck Luncheon
for the Feast of the Nativity