



St. Nicholas

MAIN STREET
JACOBS CREEK, PA.

Orthodox Church

SIXTH STREET
MONONGAHELA, PA.

WWW. ORTHODOXMON.ORG

VERY REV. EDWARD PEHANICH

724-863-3741

FREDPEH@GMAIL.COM 412-651-2587 c

December 23, 2018

*30th Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday before the Nativity (JC)
Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Means, Hermogenes,
& Eugraphus of Alexandria*



Thank you! to the many people who assisted in preparing and serving last Sunday's St. Nicholas dinner. We had a great amount of help and a wonderful gathering to help celebrate our patron saint.

This Week:

MONDAY – 9 p.m.
VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY (JC)
for the Nativity of our Lord

SATURDAY – 9 a.m. Church
decorating and cleaning

Strict fast Monday is a day of strict fasting for those celebrating Christmas. We abstain from all meat and dairy products.

In order to receive Communion at the Christmas eve Liturgy we observe a complete fast from 6 p.m.

As far as we know, the earliest known prayer to the Virgin Mary is known as "***Beneath thy compassion***". The earliest text of this hymn was found in a Christmas liturgy of the third century. It is written in Greek and dates to approximately 250 A.D.

The prayer reads:

"Beneath your compassion we take refuge, Mother of God! Do not despise our prayers in necessities, but from the danger deliver us, only pure, only blessed."

The idea held by our Protestant friends, that the veneration of the Holy Virgin is of late, pagan introduction, is simply not true. Christians have been invoking the prayers of the Mother of God from the time of the Ancient Church, and continue to this day.

The Church worships in the same manner, with her divine services having roots in the worship that took place in the Temple in Jerusalem and born out of the synagogues and hidden places of the earliest Christian worship of the first century.

In an age when we don't even remember our own American past, is it any wonder so many do not know the history, the worship, and the dogma, of the Ancient Christian Faith? When we live in an age where the attention span is hardly past a ten minute lecture, is it any wonder so many of our neighborhood churches are constantly reinventing their form of worship, in a desperate attempt at remaining relevant? I am grateful that I am growing old in a Church that is actually older than I, and whose traditions, teachings, and way of life, will live far beyond myself.

Abbot Tryphon

We need your help Saturday morning as we clean and decorate the church to prepare for the Nativity of our Lord.

Confessions We prepare the manger of our soul to receive the newborn Christ in Holy Communion at the Christmas Divine Liturgy. Confessions every Sunday beginning at 9:15.

Confessions will also be scheduled on Friday, Jan. 4, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.



Stewardship pledge cards will be distributed in the coming weeks. We no longer have "church dues" but the submission of a stewardship pledge indicates your membership in our parish.

God has given us all our gifts and in gratitude we offer back a portion of our time, talents, and treasure.

