

The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

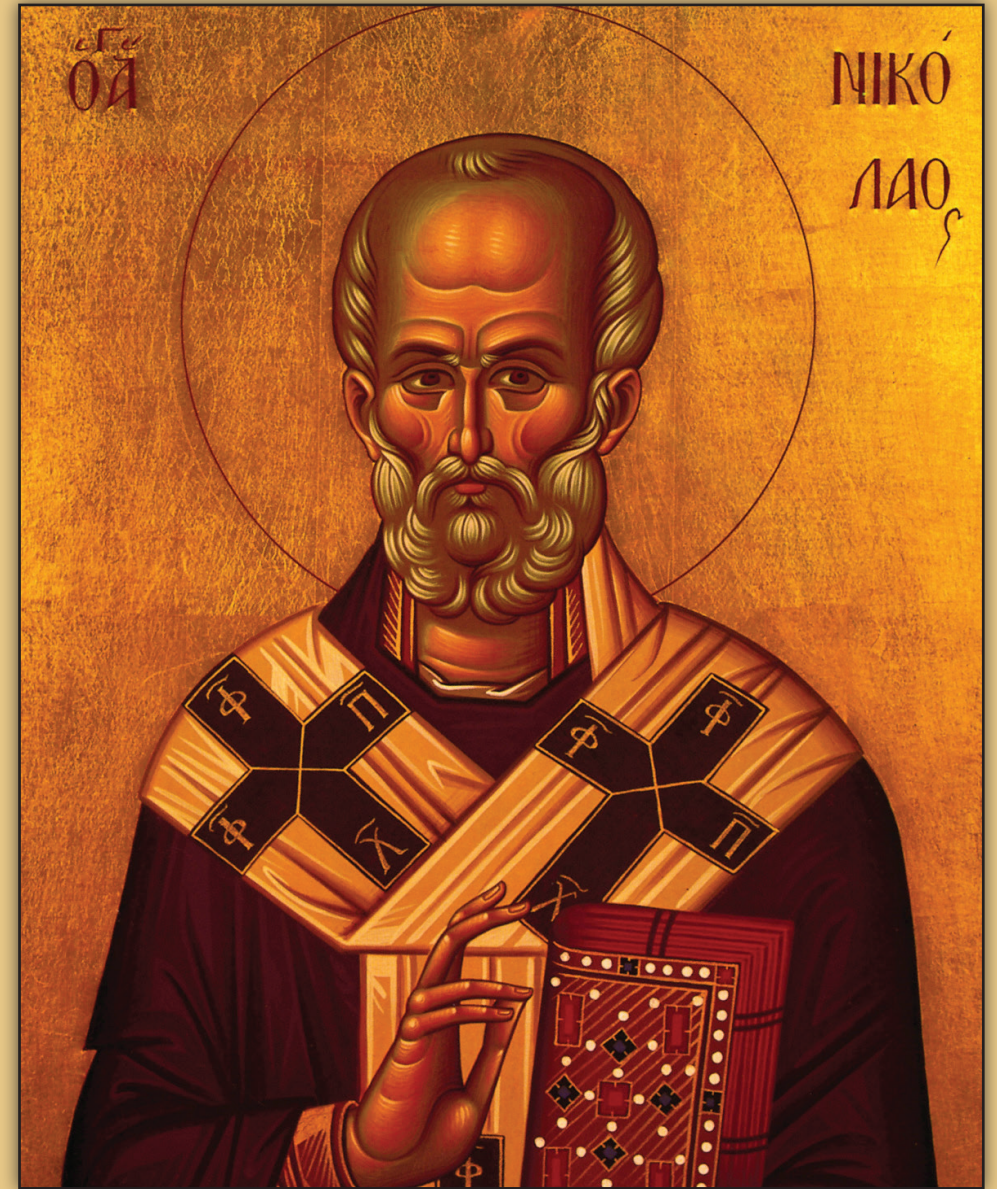
As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three

daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Nicholas of Myra -- December 6th

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44TH St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413

Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355

Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500

Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

Day of Feast: 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.

Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org

December 6, 2020

10th Sunday after the Holy Cross - 27th Sunday after Pentecost

This Sunday: Epistle Eph 6:10-17

Gospel Lk 13:10-17

Next Sunday: Epistle Col 3:4-12

Gospel Lk 14:16-25

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday 12/7

No Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 12/8

8:30am Divine Liturgy: + Ana, +Gavrila, and +Dorel Hotiu

Wednesday 12/9

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family

Thursday 12/10

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Lloyd Patrick and Family

Friday 12/11

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Br. Matthew Burke

Saturday 12/12

No Divine Liturgy

Sunday 12/13

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Church Bulletin donated in December 2020 by Rick Bollon

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at <https://stgeorge.click2stream.com/>. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

No coffee hour today. St. Nicholas Dinner will be going on.

Sunday Collection: November 29, 2020

Loose	\$120.00
Sunday envelopes	\$1,350.00
Martyr Bishops Collection – Clergy Retirement Fund	\$10.00
Candles	<u>\$66.50</u>
Total	\$1,546.50

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+Husband Dan Cseak	Natalie Cseak
+All family members and angel +Trisha	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
Special Intention for Family	Doru Jacobs
Health and Salvation	Mihai and Elena Florea
In memory of loved ones	Mihai and Elena Florea
H/S Maria Claudia	Maria Marcu
H/S Maria, Marcel and Matthew	Maria Marcu
Good recuperation for Luz Angela, my niece	Earl and Amparo Adkins
H/S Stella Lazar and Family	Mircea Cristea

+++

Special Announcement:

Please pray for: Bryan Pryce, John Contini, Donna Pandullo, Missy Lawver, Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

Sick and homebound: Magdalene Florian (Florida), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

For holy Baptism contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

For First Reconciliation contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

For Weddings contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

To guarantee announcements for the bulletin, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **the Craciun Family for the health of Mrs. Georgeta Barcutian and Mrs. Mary Cornea.**

Left Iconostasis Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **Danny and Cyndi Ardelean Family in memory of +Vasile and +Mary Ardelean and Family.**

Right Iconostasis Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **Danny and Cyndi Ardelean Family in memory of +Vasile and +Mary Ardelean and Family.**

Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **Del and Sandy Schock in loving memory of +Trish Schock, daughter for her birthday on December 2.**

If you would like to sponsor a candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

Prescura for December 2020: Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

Announcements

To share with our friends, please **write a personal Christmas story or tradition.** Contact Nancy Maciag about details.

Thank you to Harry Walsh for fixing the front door of the church!
Your creative solutions keep us from having to replace the whole assembly.

Fish Fry report will be coming soon! Thank you to all who helped prepare and purchased food!

Fulfillment of your **Pledge!** Stewardship is your responsibility to God and His Church. We need to take care of what He has given us at St. George Cathedral. If you are unable to come to church, please drop off your donation to the office. Your care for this parish is gratefully appreciated!

Especially during this Christmas season, use Amazon Smile and choose St. George Cathedral. Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you for using <https://smile.amazon.com/>!

Parish events:

Stewardship Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30pm online. See Fr. Ovi for an invitation.

Pastoral Council will meet on Thursday, December 17 at 6:30pm. Contact Fr. Ovi for an invitation.

The Giving Tree: Pastoral Council chose to give to Stark County Hunger Task Force this year instead of helping a specific family or other group. Please bring in non-perishable foods by Sunday, December 13 to help those less fortunate in the area in celebration of Jesus' birth! Please make sure that products are not out of date.

Ladies Auxiliary

We would like to decorate the church with the live poinsettias this year. Envelopes are in the narthex. For those not able to come to the church, you may mail your donation to the church. The cost is \$10 per poinsettia and checks should be made out to Sf. Maria Ladies Auxiliary. You may put your envelope in the Sunday collection basket or hand to Debbie Murari. If you wish, you may donate the flower in honor of one of our homebound parishioners. The Ladies Auxiliary will send them a Christmas card saying the flower was donated by you in their honor. Besides the list in the bulletin, we have many parishioners who cannot come to church because of COVID-19. Put your flower intention on the flower envelope or on the memo line on your check. For questions, call Debbie Murari at 330-495-4848.

To Tickle Your Funny Bone ☺

Reverend Walker was scheduled to perform a special wedding ceremony immediately following the Sunday morning service. He planned to perform the rite before the entire congregation, but for the life he could not remember the names of the two members whom he was to marry. He got around his dilemma this way: "Will those who want to get married now, please come stand before me."

At once six single ladies, for widows, and five single men stood, went to the aisle, and walked to the front.

Word of Life

“Jesus calls each of us to ‘care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible’ (EV 87). ...The encyclical *The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

**Excerpt from Evangelium vitae, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
2020-2021 Respect Life Reflection, www.respectlife.org/reflection*

May God move us to prepare the way of the Lord
by acting with tenderness and compassion,
especially toward the most vulnerable among us;
Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

Happy Birthday! La mulți ani!!

Grace Mary Fein – December 6th

Grayson Valentine – December 6th

Raissa Polnik – December 7th

Romulus Mihalteanu – December 10th

Scarlett Putt – December 12th

	Mon 12/7	Tue 12/8	Wed 12/9	Thu 12/10	Fri 12/11	Sat 12/12	Sun 12/13
	Christmas Fast - Common abstinence (unless otherwise noted)						
	Raissa Marie Polnik's	Ven. Father Patapius.	Conception of St.	Bernard and Valerie	Ven. Father Daniel	Scarlett Lynn Putt's	Eustratius, Auxentius,
	H. Father Ambrose of			Romulus Mihaltean's		St. Spyridon the	11th SUNDAY AFTER
	+Rev. Dr. John T. Filip			Menas, Hermogenes			
9am		Liturgy: + Ana, Gavrila, Dorel Hotiu 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: H/S Lloyd Patrick and Family 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: +Br. Matthew Burke 8:30am - 9:30am		
10am							Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am							
12pm						Curbside Santa - Suzanne Annette Dressler 11am - 1pm	Coffee: Chuck and Colleen Roska 11:30am - 12:30pm
1pm							Large hall rental 1pm - 4pm
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm			Stewardship Committee meeting Small hall 6:30pm - 8pm				

A WORLD-WIDE SYMBOL OF GIFT-GIVING and love, St. Nicholas (270-343) is more revered by the Church as a Wonderworker, both in life and in death. The earliest written source on the life of St. Nicholas we have comes from the early to mid-ninth century, almost 500 years after his death.

There was at least one earlier source which no longer exists. An otherwise unknown author, Archimandrite Michael, writing to someone named Leo, mentions an earlier work that has not come down to us, "Until now the spiritual program of this illustrious pastor was unknown to many people, as you yourself suppose, although some had knowledge of his grace from the lone Acts dedicated to him."

The absence of earlier sources should not surprise us. Detailed biographies were not common in Asia Minor before the ninth century. We do find St. Nicholas mentioned in earlier writings as well as in prayers and iconography. Churches were dedicated to him, even in Constantinople, so we know that he was widely known and revered in the Greek Church. One telling point is that, while the name Nicholas was not common in the area before the fourth century, its use spread quickly after St. Nicholas' lifetime.

Towards the middle of the ninth century, St. Methodios, Patriarch of Constantinople, wrote a Life of the saint, perhaps drawing on older sources. Then we have the early tenth-century Greek text of St. Symeon the Translator, who used all the available sources known to him to compile his Life. Finally we have the first Latin Life of St.

Nicholas by John the Deacon, adapted from the text of St. Methodios.

The Life of St Nicholas

Nicholas was born to wealthy Christian parents in Patara, on the southwest coast of the Roman province of Lycia in Asia Minor. He was orphaned in an epidemic while he was still young and raised by his uncle, another Nicholas, the bishop of Patara. Of a religious disposition, Nicholas was tonsured as a reader by his uncle while quite young and eventually was ordained a priest. Obeying Christ's words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his own inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering.

As a prominent Christian, Nicholas was imprisoned during the persecutions of Diocletian and Galerius, which ended in 311. In response to his deliverance, Nicholas traveled to the Holy Land on pilgrimage. While there he reportedly lived with a group of monks in what is today Beit Jala. However Nicholas was not called to the monastic life and returned to Patara. On the return voyage the ship was threatened by a powerful storm. The terrified sailors were amazed to see the storm suddenly subside at Nicholas' prayers. This gave rise to the custom of praying to St Nicholas as protector of seamen.

In 317 Nicholas was chosen as archbishop of Myra, the provincial capital of Lycia. He was neither a great ascetic nor a martyr. His reputation rests on his pastoral concern for the people under his care, particularly the

poor and the defenseless. The tenth-century life of St. Nicholas by Symeon the Translator tells of secret gift-giving to save an impoverished man's daughters from penury. St. Nicholas secretly left money to provide a dowry for each of the daughters in turn. These stories and more became known in the West and Nicholas became a favorite saint throughout Europe.

Nicholas and Arius

In 325 Nicholas reportedly attended the First Ecumenical Council called by the emperor to combat the Arian schism prevailing in parts of the empire. Arius, a priest in Alexandria, taught that the Son was not equal to the Father but created by Him. The Holy Spirit, thought to be created by the Son, was subordinate to both. Arius' teaching was spread throughout the Empire as an "earlier" form of Christianity than that of the official Churches. The Council, called by the emperor to restore peace and unity to the Churches, produced the first part of the Creed we use today. St Athanasius the Great, who was present at the council, wrote that 318 bishops participated. Only two finally refused to accept the Creed and it eventually became the standard of faith in all the Churches of its day.

Only a few fragments of the official acts of the council have survived. The lists of participants which have come down to us vary in the number of bishops named. Nicholas is named in a few of them and the story of his participation has become enshrined in the Church's liturgy and iconography. Always a firm opponent of

Arianism, Nicholas reputedly opposed Arius personally at the council. As John the Deacon described it, “Animated like the Prophet Elias with zeal for God, he put the heretic Arius to shame at the synod not only by word but also by deed, smiting him on the cheek.”

Nicholas, the account continues, was deposed as a result. His omophorion and Gospel Book, signs of his office, were confiscated and he was imprisoned. During the night the Lord Jesus and the Theotokos appeared to Nicholas in prison, restoring the items taken from him. When the emperor was notified of what had happened, he pardoned Nicholas and reinstated him.

Since the eye-witnesses at the council, St Athanasius and Eusebius of Caesarea do not mention any such incident in their writings, modern authors tend to discount it. Nevertheless, icons of St. Nicholas often depict his vision of Christ and the Theotokos returning his omophorion and Gospel.

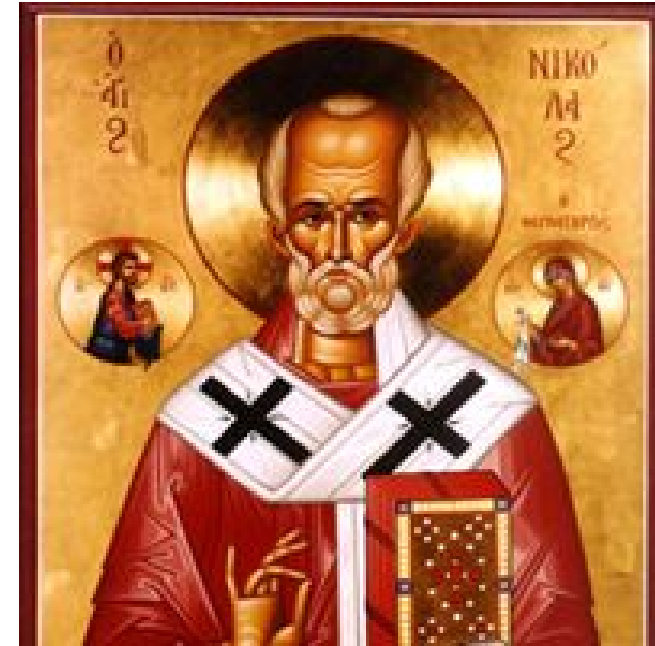
St Nicholas became an increasingly influential public figure later in his episcopate. He successfully intervened to save three convicted looters who had been condemned to death, falsely accused of murder. When a famine struck the region in 333 Nicholas intercepted a ship laden with wheat bound for Constantinople. He persuaded the seamen to leave a substantial portion for the people of Myra. When the ship arrived at the imperial capital it was found that it still had its entire original cargo. Nothing was missing. Another often-repeated story tells how the emperor had

levied a heavy tax on the people of Myra. St Nicholas went to Constantinople and pleaded successfully with the emperor to have the taxes reduced. Nicholas dispatched the decree to Myra immediately by sea so that, when the emperor had second thoughts about the tax cut, St Nicholas could tell him that it had already been enforced.

The “Manna” of St. Nicholas

Nicholas died in Myra on December 6, 343 and was buried in his cathedral. His tomb became a famous pilgrimage site, blessed with many miracles. The tomb exuded a sweet-smelling liquid called the Manna of St. Nicholas. As a result his relics were not disturbed and parceled out to other churches. After the Seljuk Turks conquered the area, Italian merchants in Venice and Bari sought to “rescue” the saint from the Turks. In 1087 seamen broke into the tomb and spirited away the saint’s body to Bari. It was enshrined by the pope in a great basilica built there in Nicholas’ honor. The Manna continued to exude from the tomb in Bari as it had in Myra. Every year to this day a vial of this fluid is extracted from the tomb, mixed with blessed water and given to the faithful.

December 6 – St Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia



**“A Priest
in Body
and Soul”**

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

December 2020

In our imagination, we compress the present population of the world, now over seven and a quarter billion, into a group of a thousand people living in a single town, the following is the picture of contrasts we would then vividly see: Forty-five people, or less than 5%, would represent the U.S. population; all others would be represented by 955. The 5% of Americans would have 25% the total income of the entire town and consume 25% of the town's energy.

Thirty-five of the Americans in the town would be Christian and 10 would not. In the town as a whole, about 333 would be Christians and 667 would not. About 166 people in the whole town would be Protestant Christians and 167 would be Catholic.

The 45 Americans would have an average life expectancy of 78 years; all the other 955 would vary between 35 and 65 years.

The Americans would have five times as much per person as all the rest on average. They would produce 16 percent of the town's total food supply, eat up 14 percent of that total and keep most of the remaining 2 percent for their future use in expensive storage equipment. When it is remembered that most of the 945 non-Americans in the town would always be hungry and never know quite when they would get to eat, the situation created by this disparity in food supply and the existence of vast reserves becomes fairly apparent, particularly in view of the fact that Americans already eat 72 percent above the optimum food requirements. They could actually save money by giving away excess food because of the cost of storing it.

The 45 Americans would have, of the

town's total supply: 12 times as much electric power as all the rest; 22 times as much coal; 21 times as much petroleum; 50 times as much steel and 50 times as much in general equipment.

The lowest income groups among the 45 Americans would be better off than the average in much of the rest of the town.



Literally most of the non-American people in the town would be poor, hungry and sick and almost half would not be able to read or write.

More than half would never have heard of Christ or what he stood for.

In view of these facts, it is interesting to think that the average Christian Ameri-

(Continued on page 4)

Let the theme of this Christmas be giving and receiving. Receiving first, the amazing grace of God in the gift of Jesus Christ. Then to give. A gift for someone in need. A thank-offering of money for the Lord's work at your church: Ourselves, our souls and bodies. What do we have that we did not receive?






Show Love and Generosity

The meaning of stewardship has to do with 100%, rather than 2, 3, or even 10%. All people are stewards. The only uncertainty is what kind. It is God's house in which we live, and it is to God that we are responsible. We are God's managers.

Why is it we are so much more tolerant, so much more generous during the Christmas season?

We smile and offer goodwill to all people. We give to others gladly and experience the warm feeling that comes with giving from the heart in order to please those we love.

But why should this feeling be limited to Christmas? The season recalls the birth of Our Lord, true; but Christ is with us always. He didn't appear two thousand years ago and then disappear. Christ is present today, every day, and he watches to see if we will fulfill his commandment of love, his wish is that we give of ourselves to others as a sign that we want to give of ourselves to him. Let us all join in during this Advent season and continue, during the coming year, to show our love and generosity. 

The Seed, Not the Harvest

Jesus was bathed in the Old Testament tradition of caring for the poor and those suffering in body and spirit. He urged his disciples to have compassion for the lame, the hungry and the blind. He also encouraged them to visit the sick and to be worthy and generous stewards.

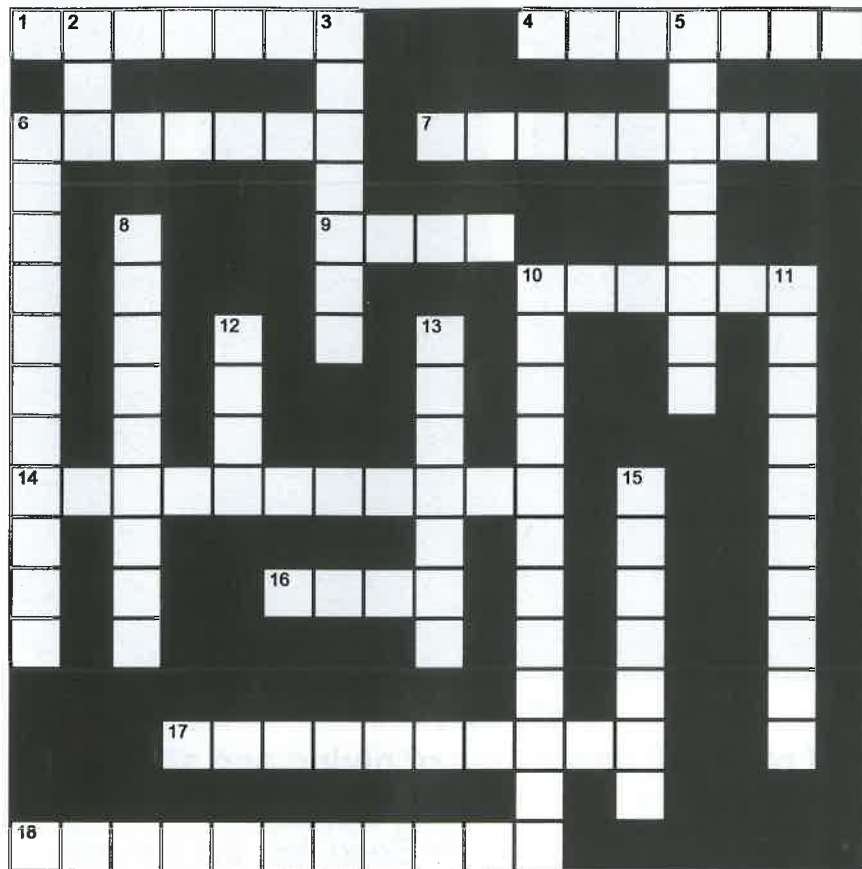
Today the church should not be suffering from material poverty, yet we know that many are doing just that. They struggle to pay current expenses and have little left to assist the poor that come to their door for alms. The cynic will say in his heart, our Lord

said, "The poor you will have with you always." Then, can the church pay its way in today's world and still be expected to be charitable to those in need that seek its help?

The answer is yes, the Lord expects his stewards to pay the utility bills, keep the church and parsonage in good repair, and to build up the church in numerous ways. But we must not forget those in our midst who are in need both physically and spiritually. It happened in Jerusalem after the day of Pentecost when, "No one in the group needed anything." (Acts 4:34).

(Continued on page 4)

Stewardship Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Good stewards contribute their skills to keep the church like new.
4. Helps reduce debt from purchasing gifts.
6. Do all to the glory of God. (1 Cor. 10:31)
7. Good stewards contribute their skills to prevent leaks in church.
9. First male steward. (Genesis 2:15-20)
10. Old Testament tradition that Jesus demonstrated.
14. Satisfied by what we have. (Phil. 4:11-13)
16. Results from purchasing Christmas gifts that one can't afford.
17. Pattern of giving practiced by good stewards.
18. Inconsistent pattern of giving.

Down

2. First female steward. (Genesis 2:15-20)
3. Manager of God's property.
5. Good stewards contribute their skills to beautify the church with color.
6. Wise stewardship of every resource. (Phil. 3:7-8)
8. Good stewards contribute their skills to repair wooden structures in the church.
10. Characteristic of an unfaithful steward.
11. Act of giving to others.
12. It is more blessed to _____ than to receive. (Acts 20:35)
13. A lack of material resources.
15. Good stewards contribute so the church can pay gas and electric bills.

“ Notable Quotes ”

- ✠ *Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.*
- ✠ *To the people we touch, stewardship is no mystery. It's simply what we do after we say we care.*

