

## *Christmas and Weekday Calendar*

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday**  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
Orthos 8:30am, Divine Liturgy 9:30am

**December 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday**  
Nicholas the Wonderworker  
Divine Liturgy 9:30am

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, Sunday**  
10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
Orthos 8:30am, Divine Liturgy 9:30am

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday**  
Spyridon the Wonderworker  
Divine Liturgy 9:30am

**December 15<sup>th</sup>, Sunday**  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
Orthos 8:15am, Divine Liturgy 9:00am

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday**  
Liturgy before Nativity  
Orthos 8:30am, Divine Liturgy 9:30am

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday**  
Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord  
Vesperal Liturgy 4:00pm

**December 25<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday**  
Nativity of Our Lord  
Orthos 8:15am, Divine Liturgy 9:00am

**December 29<sup>th</sup>, Sunday**  
Liturgy after Nativity  
Orthos 8:30am, Divine Liturgy 9:30am

**Tuesday Evening Bible Study**  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 6:15pm

**Thursday Morning Bible Study**  
December 5<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am

**Bible Study/Jamming with Fr. Chris**  
December 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00am

**Sunday School Christmas Pageant, Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Following Divine Liturgy, please come and enjoy our Sunday School performance!

**Annual Christmas Party, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
All children and families are invited to come to the Hellenic Center at 9:45am. The morning will start with a marionette show followed by lunch and will conclude with a magical visit with Santa!

**Vasilopeta Happy New Year**  
In honoring St. Basil, the Great and in keeping with the tradition of the cutting of the Vasilopeta, which emanates from his blessed actions, the ladies of the Melissa Society will once again be inviting us all to partake of a special slice of Vasilopeta immediately following church services on **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**.

Please attend to celebrate the New Year together as a parish. One lucky person will find the coin within the bread, bestowing good luck on its recipient for the year 2025.

A special treat to follow the service will be a pancake breakfast coffee hour sponsored by friends of the parish.

## *Poor, not Stupid*

### *A True Story*

*Nicholas and his wife were involved with numerous charities and found great joy in serving those in need. The faithful husband and wife, year after year and decade after decade, spent their Thanksgiving, Christmas and Paschal seasons gathering donations from their local Church and using those funds to purchase food and drink for the needy. Several days before every Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Nicholas and his wife would hand deliver these baskets to families in need.*

*It was Christmas time one year and Nicholas, his wife, and several Church volunteers were gathered in the Parish Hall putting together food baskets for the poor as they had done for many years in the past. One of the volunteers noticed that Nicholas had purchased expensive "mixed nut" packages from the market. The Church volunteer said to Nicholas "Nick, why didn't you buy the cheaper peanuts from the Dollar Market?" Nicholas' wife turned to the volunteer and replied "The people that we are helping are poor, not stupid."*

*Brothers and sisters, it is easy for us to give away the canned goods and food that we find in the back of the pantry at home. And yes, cheap peanuts from the Dollar Market are better than no nuts at all.*

*The question is, when we give, are we giving generously? Do we donate the "cheap stuff" while personally consuming the "good stuff?"*

*In the Book of Proverbs we read,*

*He who shows mercy to a poor man shall himself be supported, for he gave his own bread to the poor man.*

*Proverbs 22:9*

*In the Old Testament verse above we read that a generous man gives his "own bread" to the poor man. He does not purchase the "cheap stuff" nor does he just donate the old and outdated canned food from the back of the pantry. The generous man gives from his own plate. He goes without so that another may go with. The generous man has "deep pockets."*

*Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, during this Nativity season, enjoy your family and friends; enjoy gifting your loved ones; enjoy the gifts that you receive, and may you also find great joy in giving generously to those who are truly in need just as did Nicholas and his beloved wife.*

*Christ is born!*

*Glorify Him!*

*Your brother in Christ the Lord,*

*Father Christopher Kolentsas*