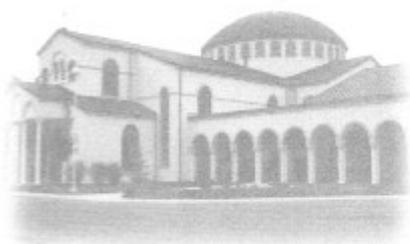


# FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

**JANUARY 3, 2021**



## **ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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### **CLERGY**

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH  
*Archbishop of New York & Metropolitan of all North America*

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY  
*Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*

Very Reverend Michael Nasser  
*Pastor of St. Nicholas ▪ 616-216-3537 ▪ [frmichael@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:frmichael@stnicholasgr.com)*

V. Rev. Fr. Elias Mitchell  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Reverend Theodore Sirotko  
Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey  
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff  
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



## WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located on the table in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us for refreshments & fellowship in the Cultural Center.

We believe **Holy Communion** to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, & regular confession are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

## WHO WE ARE

St. Nicholas is a worshipping community in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian tradition that preserves, proclaims, and practices the Faith given by Christ to the Apostles, serving Him, one another and our neighbors. We manifest His love through sacramental and liturgical life, education, hospitality, works of mercy, and fellowship.

Our parish exists to seek and share Christ's love so that ALL will find Eternal Life in Him.

We would love to share more about our Orthodox Faith with you. Our website and our bookstore are great resources to assist you in learning more about us and what we believe! Also, feel free to make an appointment with our pastor.

We trust that you will experience Christ's presence as you worship with us today.



# HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

## HYMNS

### ***RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION*** (TONE 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

### ***APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHONY*** (TONE 4)

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

### ***APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS*** (TONE 4)

Thy work of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness richness. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our soul.

### ***KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHONY*** (TONE 4)

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

## EPISTLE

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.  
Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.*

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy 4:5-8**

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 1:1-8**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

## SYNAXARION

On January 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the second day of the Forefeast of the Theophany of Christ, we commemorate the holy Prophet Malachi.

### Verses

Malachi, who boasteth to be named Angel,  
boasteth yet more in that he standeth with Angels.  
On the third Malachi's soul flew from things fleeting.

He was chronologically the last of the prophets, born after the return of the Jews from exile in Babylon in 538 B.C. He was unusually fair of face. According to tradition, he was nicknamed "the angel" perhaps because of his outward fairness, or because of his purity of spirit, or because of his companionship with an angel, with whom he often spoke face to face. At these times, others also heard its voice but were not worthy to look on its face. The young prophet spoke forth that which the angel revealed to him. Malachi cried out against the ingratitude of Israel and the sins of the priests. Five hundred years before Christ, he clearly foretold the coming and work of John the Baptist (Mal. 3:1). Malachi was chiefly the prophet of the Day of Judgment (Mal. 3:19-21). Malachi went to God young in years, and after him there was no prophet in Israel until John the Baptist, the last of all prophets.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Gordios of Cappadocia; Venerable Thomais the wonderworker of Lesbos; and Venerable Genevieve of Paris.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

## **TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY**

In memory of the falling asleep in the Lord of Dennis Geha (58 years), Edward Geha (40 years), Gary George Geha (16 years), Stephen Geha (14 years), Josephine Geha (5 years), offered by the Merpi Family. May their memory be Eternal!

## **HOLY OBLATION IS OFFERED**

For the Health and Blessings of Joe Manica on the occasion of his Chrismation offered by Greg and Marion Lambert. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you and be merciful to you, may He lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

For the Faith, Health and Blessings of Rick, Suzi, Ricky, Julia, Lou, Eddie, Aubrey, Michael, Evy, Declan, Mallory, Oscar, Spencer, Kaitlin, Ryan, Luke by the Merpi Family. May God grant you many years!

For the Faith, Health and Blessings of Edward Geha and family, Robert Geha and family, Richard Geha and family, Joanne Geha Swanson and family, Mary Ellyn Merpi and family, Marie Merpi and family, Terry Merpi Driscoll and family, and Mike & Judy Karolle by the Merpi Family. May God grant you many years!

## REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*If you desire a name to be added to this prayer list, Holy Oblations may be offered, with the option of being added to the bulletin Prayer List for 40 days.*

### LIVING

Metropolitan Paul          Archbishop John          Archpriest Joseph

And all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty throughout our Nation, in Brazil, England, Germany and throughout the world.

### HOLY OBLATIONS

Joe	Aubrey	Spencer	And the families of:
Rick	Michael	Kaitlin	Edward Geha
Suzi	Evy	Ryan	Robert Geha
Ricky	Declan	Luke	Richard Geha
Julia	Mallory	Mike	Joanne Geha Swanson
Lou	Oscar	Judy	Mary Ellyn Merpi
Eddie			Marie Merpi
			Terry Merpi Driscoll

### ONGOING PRAYERS

Attallah Amash	Barbara Sielaff	Marge Simon
Audrey Nicoloff	Joe Corey	David Francis
Vera Mijatovic	Laura Lee	Michael Cotter
Ralph Thomas	Shirley Salhaney	Correna & her family
David Corey	Hatem Karadsheh	Richard Traxler



### DEPARTED

#### NEWLY DEPARTED

Joy  
Nicholas

And all the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty throughout our Nation, in Brazil, Germany, Mexico, and throughout the world.

### TRISAGION/HOLY OBLATIONS

Dennis          Edward          Gary          Stephen          Josephine