

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

APRIL 4, 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

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 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell 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.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE HOLY CROSS (TONE 1)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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 FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (TONE 8)

To thee our captain Queen of war, the battle trophies won, thy people rescued by thine aid from peril, dedicate as our offering of thanksgiving, O Theotokos, as though hast might which none by war can overcome, from all forms of danger has thou delivered me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail O virgin, unwedded bride.

EPISTLE

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." As He says also in another place, "Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 8:34-9:1

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

SYNAXARION

On April 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable George of Mount Maleon; Martyrs Theodoulos the reader and Agathopodos the deacon of Thessalonica; Venerable Theonas, archbishop of Thessalonica; and Isidore, bishop of Seville. On this same day, the Third Sunday of the Fast, we keep the feast of the Veneration of the honorable and life-creating Cross.

Verses

Let the whole world entire worship the Cross
through Which it truly knew to worship Thee, O Word.

Every hard and strenuous work is accomplished with great difficulty, which appears especially in the middle of such work; for the effort in this performance brings with it fatigue which makes the accomplishment of the rest difficult. Having arrived with God's grace at the middle of the Fast, our compassionate Mother—the Holy Orthodox Church—thought fit to reveal to us the Holy Cross as the joy of the world and power of the faithful to help us carry on the struggles of the divine Fast.

By its power, O Christ God, preserve us from the crafty designs of the evil one and account us worthy to worship Thy divine Passion and life-giving Resurrection, as we achieve the course of the Forty Days with ease, and have mercy on us, as Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the seven-day falling asleep in the Lord of Mazin Karadsheh offered by Hatem and Nadira Karadsheh. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of the 40-day falling asleep in the Lord of Michael Schlinz as well as Wilson Yared, offered by Doris Sullivan. May their memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Levi Anthony Rinvelt and his parents Zack and Samantha for Levi's Entrance into the Church. God bless and protect you always! You are a child of God. You are Wonderfully Made. You are Loved Beyond Measure. You are Precious in His Sight (Psalm 139). With Love, Opa, Sitee B., Uncle Jake, and Auntie Tori.

For the Health and Blessings of Cole Amash on his 9th birthday offered by Jeff, Amy, Jackson, and Franklin. May God direct your paths, and may He fill you with His Light & Love to do the good works He has prepared for you to do. We love you!

In memory of the falling asleep in the Lord of the Servant of God Earl Loss, offered by the Storey family. May his memory be eternal!

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, India, France and throughout the world.

HOLY OBLATIONS

Levi Rinvelt
Cole Amash

ONGOING PRAYERS

Attallah Amash	David Corey	Shirley Salhaney
Audrey Nicoloff	Barbara Sielaff	Hatem Karadsheh
Vera Mijatovic	Joe Corey	Marge Simon
Ralph Thomas	Laura Lee	Dan Abraham



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Vera Mijatovic
Herilkia Lailios
Richard Traxler

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

TRISAGION/HOLY OBLATIONS

Mazin Karadsheh
Michael Schlinz
Wilson Yared
Earl Loss