

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**HIEROMARTYR ANTHIMOS OF NICOMEDIA &
VENERABLE THEOKTISTOS,
FELLOW ASCETIC WITH EUTHYMIOS THE GREAT**

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



**ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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CLERGY

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA
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. Elias Mitchell
Rev. Theodore Sirotko
Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey

Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson
Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff
Rev. Deacon John Kaufman
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book and taking a visitor's packet both 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 Church is a worshipping community, living and sharing the Faith Christ gave to the Apostles.

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 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. ANTHIMOS (TONE 1)

O godly-minded Anthimos, as a staunch defender of thy flock, thou eagerly sheddest thy blood for its protection. Unbending and wholly unafraid of all thine adversaries' fearful threats, thou rejoicest now in Heaven, standing before the throne of the Three-Sun Godhead. Glory to Christ Who hath given thee strength. Glory to thy manly bravery. Glory to thy patient endurance in martyrdom.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. THEOKTISTOS (TONE 8)

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Theoktistos, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (TONE 4)

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

EPISTLE

*O Lord, how marvelous are Thy works.
In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians 16:13-24

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, and be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 21:33-42

The Lord spoke this parable: “There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’”

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On September 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Hieromartyr Anthimos of Nicomedia.

Verses

Though the sword cut off thy head, O Anthimos Martyr,
Even when dead, thou sproutest hair unto God's glory.
On the third, the sharp sword killed Anthimos.

Anthimos governed as Bishop during the cruel and violent persecution of Christians under the villainous Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. He retreated to the village of Semana to continue encouraging his flock in the feat of martyrdom, so that no one would fall away out of fear. Maximian eventually dispatched twenty soldiers to find Anthimos and bring him to court. When they found him, Anthimos welcomed them into his home. The soldiers encouraged him to run for his life, saying they would lie to the emperor to cover him. However, Anthimos would not transgress God's commandment against falsehood to save his life, and he went with the soldiers, whom he baptized on the journey back to the emperor. Anthimos was beheaded and returned to the Lord in the fourth century.

On this day, we also commemorate our righteous father Theoktistos, fellow ascetic with Euthymios the Great. The pursuit of the same ideal and communal labors united their hearts in a very strong friendship in the Pharan Lavra just outside of Jerusalem. Their souls were blended in such a great spiritual affection that each was, so to speak, in the soul of the other. Considerable crowds would come to Euthymios for spiritual nourishment. The great anchorite shared the care of all who came to him with the blessed Theoktistos, who never having known disobedience, gave himself at once to the assistance of his master and disposed of everything material. Both holy monks served the flocks of Christ in the fifth century.

By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health & Blessings of Peter Assaly, offered with love by his family. May God's love and grace grant him good health and a comfortable recovery.

For the Health & Blessings of my beautiful Goddaughter, Ellison Marie Rinvelt turning 1! May God bless you always & keep you safe. I adore you! All my love - Auntie Tor

God bless our beautiful Ellison Marie Rinvelt on the occasion of her 1st birthday. You have brought so much joy and happiness into our lives. We love you sweet girl, Opa, BB, Aunt Tori, Uncle Jake, and Aunt Jamal.

In memory of the Handmaiden of God Nita Loss, beloved mother and grandmother, on the anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Storey family. May her memory be Eternal!

REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*Names are added to the Prayer List for one week by offering Holy Oblation
or for up to 40 days in the case of an ongoing serious illness.*

LIVING

Metropolitan PAUL
Archbishop JOHN
Priest Steven VanBronkhorst

For all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty
in Hawaii, Ukraine, Sudan and throughout the world

Peter Assaly	Denise Harriman
Ellison Rinvelt	Roy Gurk
Dan Abraham	Marcia Lenhart
MaryAnn Maloley	Len Lenhart
Audrey Nicoloff	Matthew Ledford
Joe Corey	Andrew Ledford
David Corey	Anastasia Ledford
Kevin Mitchell	Nina Ledford
Michael Ellis	Patricia Ledford
Doris Sullivan	Dirk Ailts

DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Archpriest George Corey
Archpriest Paul Eyler
Archpriest Joseph Shaheen
Sandie Burgoyne
Diane Ansara

All the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty
in Hawaii, Ukraine, Sudan and throughout the world

Nita Loss