

**SUNDAY BEFORE
THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
AFTER-FEAST OF
THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
SEPTEMBER 10, 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 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 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (TONE 4)

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

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, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.



GOSPEL



The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John 3:13-17

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On September 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Nativity of the Theotokos; and we commemorate the Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora of Bithynia.

Verses

Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora,

The Lord's adorers, are now adorned in the Heavens.

On the tenth, the three namesakes of gifts were struck to death.

These sisters grew up in the Faith in Asian Bithynia. They withdrew to the wilderness and dedicated themselves to great labor, fasting and prayer. God adorned them with the gift of miracle-working. A certain governor, Fronton, called for them. Although they were great fasters and their bodies were withered, their faces were radiant, illumined by inward peace and the grace of God. He ordered that Menodora be tortured first. Fronton called out to Menodora, who was wounded and bloody: "Offer sacrifice to the gods!" To this the holy martyr replied: "Do you not see that I am offering my entire self as a sacrifice to my God?" When Menodora gave up her spirit, the governor brought out her two sisters, and stood them by the body of Menodora, where he counseled them to deny Christ. Since they remained steadfast, he slew them by harsh tortures. Just then, a thunderbolt struck from heaven, and killed the soulless Fronton and his servants. The sisters suffered in the fourth century and found rest in the Kingdom of Christ.

On this day, we also commemorate the Empress Pulcheria; and Peter, bishop of Nicaea.

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

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health & Blessings of Peter Assaly, offered by Kaye, Mike, Cheryl, Debbie, Alan and families. May the Good Shepherd be with Peter and restore him to good health.

“Instead of grumbling at God for not giving you what you want, better thank Him for not giving you what you deserve.”

St. John Chrysostom

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 | Michael Ellis |
| Dan Abraham | Doris Sullivan |
| MaryAnn Maloley | Denise Harriman |
| Audrey Nicoloff | Roy Gurk |
| Joe Corey | Marcia Lenhart |
| David Corey | Len Lenhart |
| Kevin Mitchell | Dirk Ailts |

DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Archpriest George Corey
Archpriest Paul Eycler
Archpriest Joseph Shaheen
Diane Ansara

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