

**SUNDAY AFTER
THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

SEPTEMBER 17, 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 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS (TONE 1)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, and to Thy faithful people grant vict'ry over their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross protect all those who follow Thee.

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 ELEVATION OF THE CROSS (TONE 4)

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

EPISTLE

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

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 of 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 He 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.”



12/20/07

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On September 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Elevation of the Holy Cross; and we commemorate the Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope.

Verses

When Sophia's Faith, Hope, and Love were beheaded,
Then was wisdom justified of all her children.

On the seventeenth, they beheaded Love, Faith, and Hope.

This blessed family lived and suffered in Rome during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. Sophia was wise, as her name implies; she was widowed, and had established herself and her daughters well in the Christian Faith. When Hadrian's persecuting hand extended over the virtuous home of Sophia, Faith was only twelve years old; Hope, ten; and Love, nine. Brought before the emperor, these four held each other's hands "like a woven wreath," humbly but steadfastly confessed their faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifices to the pagan idol Artemis. Before their suffering, the mother encouraged her daughters to endure to the end: "Your heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, is eternal health, inexpressible beauty and eternal life. When your bodies are slain by torture, He will clothe you in incorruption and the wounds on your bodies will shine in the heavens as stars." The torturers inflicted cruel torments on each daughter and killed them. Sophia took the bodies of her daughters and honorably buried them. She remained at their grave for three days and nights, praying to God. Then she gave her spirit to God, flying off to Paradise, where the blessed souls of her daughters awaited her.

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

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Fr. Elias and Marion on the occasion of their wedding anniversary offered by the St. Mark, Bradenton, Florida parish family. May God continue to grant them many years!

For the good Health and Blessings of Deacon Justin and his family as he begins his new full-time ministry as our St. Nicholas Youth Ministry Director. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Melissa Sophia Adolphson on her names-day, from Dn. Justin, Liv, Sam and Grace. Through the prayers of St. Sophia, may God grant her joy, peace and many, many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Charles Makhoul on his birthday, offered by Mary Jo and Arthur. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Linda Abraham on her birthday, offered by Capri, Luke, William, Isabella, Wade, Cameron, Gigi, Henry, Ford, and Margot. We love you, Aunt Linda! May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of John and MaryAnne Turner on the occasion of their wedding anniversary, offered by Fr Ted. May God grant them many years!

For the good Health and Blessings of Rick Powell on the occasion of his birthday, offered with love by his parents, Mike & Kaye Powell. May the Lord shine upon him and bless him always.

For the Health and well-being of Brooke Alexa Powell on the occasion of her first birthday, offered with love, hugs and kisses by Giddo, Sitti, Aunt Me, Dad, Mom, Maci and Melanie. May Blessings be upon her today and always.

For the Health and Blessings of Evy Faith Zahn on her Nameday. May St. Faith's steadfast example be a guide and encouragement to you always and may God grant her many years! Love, Mom, Dad and Dieter.

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
Archpriest Elias
Archpriest Antony Bahou
Priest Steven VanBronkhorst
Dn. Justin Adolphson

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

Marion Mitchell	Rick Powell	Doris Sullivan
Kh Dina Bahou	Brooke Powell	Denise Harriman
Eliana Bahou	Evy Faith Zahn	Roy Gurk
Melissa Adolphson	Dan Abraham	Marcia Lenhart
Olivia Adolphson	MaryAnn Maloley	Len Lenhart
Sam Adolphson	Audrey Nicoloff	Peter Assaly
Charles Makhoul	Joe Corey	Dirk Ailts
Linda Abraham	David Corey	Rami Haddad
John Turner	Kevin Mitchell	Hilliary Haddad
MaryAnne Turner	Michael Ellis	



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Archpriest George Corey
Archpriest Paul Eyler
Archpriest Joseph Shaheen
Diane Ansara

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