

**SUNDAY OF HOLY FATHERS
OF SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
& FOURTH SUNDAY OF LUKE
OCTOBER 15, 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 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 OF THE HOLY FATHERS (TONE 8)

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to 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.

ORDINARY KONTAKION (TONE 2)

O undisputed intercessor of Christians. The mediatrix who is unrejected by the Creator. Turn not away from the voice of our petitions, although we are sinners. Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith. For thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos. Who dost ever intercede for those who honor Thee.

EPISTLE

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and futile. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 8-5:15

The Lord spoke this parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold.” And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.” As Jesus said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On October 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Lucian of Antioch; Venerable Euthymios the Younger of Athos; and Savvinos, bishop of Catania.

On this day we commemorate the holy and blessed Fathers who came together for the second time in Nicaea, during the reign of the pious and Christ-loving Sovereigns Constantine and Irene, against those who impiously, ignorantly and foolishly asserted that the Church of God worshippeth idols, and rejected the august and holy icons.

Verses

Thy champions, O Word, with words as their weapons,
Turn to flight the foes of the venerable icons.

The Council met in 787 to refute the Iconoclast heresy, whose camp believed that all depictions of Christ, His Mother and the saints should be destroyed. The iconophiles believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; and they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty. The council decreed that the veneration of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype, or the person depicted. It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because "no man has seen God at any time" (John 1:18).

By the intercessions of the Holy Fathers, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the Servant of God, Sam Barkett, from Youngstown, Ohio on the one-year anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord. Sam is the husband of Cheryl Abraham Barkett and brother-in-law to Alan Abraham, Carol Assaly and Kaye Powell. May Sam Rest in Peace and his Memory be Eternal. *“Give rest to the soul of the departed servant where all sickness, sorrow, and sighing have fled away.”*

In memory of the Servant of God, James Maloley, on the 30-year anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by JoAnn Abraham and family. May his memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Cooper Samuel Delonge on the occasion of his baptism, offered by his parents, Cody and Jennifer, sister Lorelai, and his Sito and Jido, Sam and Wendie Bander. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Rob Rinvelt on the occasion of his birthday, offered with love by Beth, Tori, Jake & Jamal, Zack, Samantha, Levi, and Ellison. May our Lord's most glorious and radiant light continue to shine upon you for many, many years to come!

For the Health and Blessings of Ana Bosma on her birthday, offered by Scott, Gretchen, Dieter and Evy. May God grant her many, many years!

For the Good Health and God's Blessings for Natalie Baradihi on her 10th Birthday, offered with love by Dad, Mom, Maya and Alexa. May the light of Christ dwell in you always and forever.

In memory of Suzi Franklin on the nine-year anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered with love by MaryAnn Maloley and JoAnn Abraham & family. We miss your beautiful smile and laughter. 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

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

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Cooper Delonge | Joe Corey |
| Rob Rinvelt | David Corey |
| Ana Bosma | Kevin Mitchell |
| Natalie Baradihi | Michael Ellis |
| Dan Abraham | Doris Sullivan |
| MaryAnn Maloley | Denise Harriman |
| Audrey Nicoloff | Len Lenhart |



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Marcia Lenhart

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

Sam Barkett
James Maloley
Suzi Franklin