

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& SIXTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

AVERKIOS THE WONDERWORKER,
EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES AND BISHOP OF HIERAPOLIS;

THE SEVEN HOLY YOUTHS (“SEVEN SLEEPERS”)
MARTYRED IN EPHEBUS; BISHOP EULALIOS

OCTOBER 22, 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 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. AVERKIOS (TONE 4)

Thy works of justice did reveal thee to thy community as a canon of faith, the likeness of humility and teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Averkios. Wherefore, by humility thou hast achieved exaltation, and by thy meekness wealth. Intercede, therefore, with Christ God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF THE SEVEN EPHESIAN YOUTHS (TONE 4)

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

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

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.
Clap your hands, all ye peoples.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He Who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James the Lord's brother.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 8:26-39

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.] Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On October 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Averkios the wonderworker, equal-to-the-Apostles and bishop of Hierapolis in Phrygia.

Verses

Though Averkios beareth burial according to nature,
As God by adoption he goeth unto the God by nature.
On the twenty-second, Averkios was borne up from the earth.

During a boisterous festival, Averkios became inflamed with God's zeal and entered an idolatrous temple, smashing all the idols. When the enraged pagans sought to kill him, three young madmen, foaming at the mouth and howling, fell down before this man of God who drove the demons from them. This turned the pagans' anger into amazement at the wonderworker of Christ, and 500 of them immediately desired baptism. Once, holy Averkios journeyed to Rome with a man named Trophimos. Averkios had a wineskin that contained wine, vinegar and oil. When Averkios asked, it would pour forth each liquid unmingled with the other. But when Trophimos tried to steal from the wineskin, it would give him a liquid for which he did not ask. In great old age, Averkios presented himself to his beloved Lord in the second century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Seven Holy Youths ("Seven Sleepers") martyred in Ephesus. The emperor Decius in the third century came to Ephesus and arranged idol worship and a terrible slaughter of Christians. Seven young men, soldiers, refrained from this and earnestly prayed to God to save the Christians. They were the sons of the most influential elders of Ephesus and their names were Maximilian, Jamblichus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodian, and Antoninus. They retreated to a hill outside Ephesus called Celion and hid in a cave. When the emperor learned of this, he commanded that the cave be sealed off. More than 200 years then passed, when there was a great dispute about the Resurrection. Emperor Theodosius prayed to God that He would reveal the truth to men. The youths then awakened from their sleep, young and healthy, and Theodosios conversed with them. After a week, they again fell into the sleep of death to await the universal resurrection.

On this day, we also commemorate the Bishop Eulalios. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Evelyn Faith on her 14th birthday, offered with love by Mom, Dad and Dieter. May she always remain strong in her faith and trusting in God's steadfast love, and may He grant her many, many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Nick Nicola on his birthday, offered by his wife, children, and, grandchildren! May God grant him many, many years.

For the Health and Blessings of Lilly Manica on her 13th birthday, offered by her grandparents, Greg and Marian Lambert. May God grant her many blessed years!

For the Health and Blessings of Wyatt Harmon on his birthday, offered by the Olson family. May God grant him many years!

In memory of the falling asleep in the Lord of the Handmaidens of God, Khazma Makhoul and Pamela Nakfoor, offered by Charles and Mary Jo Makhoul. May their memory be Eternal!

In memory of my dear sister, the Handmaiden of God, Veronica (Suzanne Harnevious), on the 16-year anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord on October 28, offered by Rebecca Palumbo. 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

Evelyn Zahn

Nick Nicola

Lilly Manica

Wyatt Harmon

Dan Abraham

MaryAnn Maloley

Audrey Nicoloff

Joe Corey

David Corey

Kevin Mitchell

Michael Ellis

Denise Harriman

Len Lenhart



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Doris Sullivan

Marcia Lenhart

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

DEPARTED

Khazma Makhoul

Pamela Nakfoor

Suzanne Harnevious