

**LEAVE-TAKING OF &
SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY**

JANUARY 14, 2024

**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 ▪ 616-216-3537 ▪ frmichael@stnicholasgr.com

Reverend David Khorey
Associate Pastor ▪ 616-450-7539 ▪ frdavid@stnicholasgr.com

V. Rev. Elias Mitchell
Rev. Theodore Sirotko
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 7)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (TONE 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, 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.

KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (TONE 4)

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians 4:7-13

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”



SYNAXARION

(Lives of the Saints of the Day)

On January 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the Feast of Theophany, and we commemorate the holy Forty Fathers that were slain on Mount Sinai in the reign of Diocletian, and those slain in the days of Neilos the Wise.

Verses

It was swords that have wrought here the many murders,
And the men which suffered were lovers of virtue.
On the fourteenth, bronze killed the Fathers.

In the fourth century, Ammonios, an Egyptian monk, witnessed the first martyrdom. He tells of how the Saracens attacked his monastery and would have killed all the monks, if God had not intervened. A fire appeared on the summit of the peak, and the whole mountain smoked. The barbarians were terrified, and fled, while the surviving monks thanked God for sparing them. The second massacre occurred nearly one hundred years later, and was also recorded by an eyewitness, St. Neilos the Wise, who miraculously escaped. The attackers permitted some of the monks run for their lives. They also thanked God for sparing them and glorified God for glorifying their departed brethren.

On this day, we commemorate the holy Forty Fathers that were slain at Raithu.

Verses

As Rachel once anciently wept for her children,
Now Raithu weepeth for her sword-sundered Fathers.

On the same day of the first attack at Sinai, the Blemmyes martyred forty Fathers at Raithu on the shores of the Red Sea. Igumen Paul exhorted his monks to endure their suffering with courage and pure hearts.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of Ramzy Angious who was welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven on December 10th, 2023 in Cairo, Egypt. He is survived by his daughter Nawal Braden Swart and her family. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of Hatem Karadsheh, beloved husband and father, on the two-year anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Nadira, her children, and family. May his memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Deacon John on his birthday, offered by Shamassy Carole, Leah, Rebekah and Sarah. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Chris Upson on his birthday, offered by Fr. Ted. May God grant him many years!

In memory of our mother, Lena Audy, and father, Abe Audy, offered by Pat and Marve Halbert. May their 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
Deacon John

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

Chris Upson
Kevin Mitchell
Dan Abraham
MaryAnn Maloley
Audrey Nicoloff
Joe Corey
David Corey
Michael Ellis
Denise Harriman
Len Lenhart



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Ramzy Angious

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

DEPARTED

Hatem Karadsheh
Lena Audy
Abe Audy