

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

VENERABLE MAXIMOS THE CONFESSOR

JANUARY 21, 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 8)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. MAXIMOS THE CONFESSOR (TONE 8)

Thou hast shown thyself, O God-inspired Maximos, as a guide to the Orthodox Faith, a teacher of true worship and purity; O star of the universe and companion of the bishops, O wise one. Through thy light thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the spirit. Therefore, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (TONE 1)

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

EPISTLE

*Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

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GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When He saw them He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”



SYNAXARION

(Lives of the Saints of the Day)

On January 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Maximos the Confessor.

Verses

Being handless and tongueless, hand and tongue thou acquirest;
And into God's hands, O Maximos, thy soul thou givest.
On the twenty-first, mortal destiny covered Maximos his voice.

Maximos was born in Constantinople. First, he was a high-ranking courtier for Emperor Heraclius and, after that, a monk and abbot of a monastery not too far from the capitol. He was the greatest defender of Orthodoxy against the so-called Monothelite heresy which proceeded from the heresy of Eutyches. He claimed that there is only one nature in Christ (Monophysitism), so the Monothelites claimed that there is only one will in Christ (Monothelitism). Maximos opposed that claim and found himself as an opponent of the emperor and the patriarch. Maximos did not frighten easily but endured to the end in proving that there were two wills as well as two natures in Christ. Because of his efforts, a council was held in Carthage and another in Rome. Both councils anathematized the teachings of the Monothelites. Maximos suffered greatly for Orthodoxy: he was tortured by princes, deceived by prelates, spat upon by the masses of the people, beaten by soldiers, exiled, imprisoned, until finally, with a severed tongue and hand, he was condemned to exile for life in the land of Skhemaris (near Batum on the Black Sea) where he spent three years in prison and gave up his soul to God in the mid-seventh century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Neophytos of Nicaea; and Venerable Zosimas, Bishop of Syracuse in Sicily.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

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 Sandra Tasma and Amanda Azkoul on their Chrismation at Vespers, offered by your St. Nicholas family. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings of the Catechumens being enrolled this morning: Jeremy Carlisle, Ben Fynan, Iris Fynan, Caden Hembrough, Tony Passaniti, Adam Piotrowski, Nathan Schimeck, Manny Torres, and Mary Torres, offered by your St. Nicholas family. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Pat Halbert on her birthday. May God grant her many years of good health and happiness. With all my love, Marve.

For the Health and Blessings of Miriam Watson, on the occasion of her birthday, offered with love by Mom, Dad, and Hana. May God grant her many years!

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, Armenia, Ukraine, Sudan
and throughout the world

Sandra Tasma	Miriam Watson
Amanda Azkoul	Kevin Mitchell
Jeremy Carlisle	Dan Abraham
Ben Fynan	MaryAnn Maloley
Iris Fynan,	Audrey Nicoloff
Caden Hembrough	Joe Corey
Tony Passaniti	David Corey
Adam Piotrowski	Michael Ellis
Nathan Schimeck	Denise Harriman
Manny Torres	Len Lenhart
Mary Torres	Tillie Sayfie
Pat Halbert	Andrew Martin



DEPARTED

Hatem Karadsheh

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