

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

JANUARY 28, 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 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN (TONE 3)

Out of Paradise, a river floweth, flooding all the earth with joy unending, cheering souls with compunction and saving fear: Ephraim, the wine bowl of gladness inspired of God, from all eternity chosen to light the Church with his sacred hymns, his sermons, his shining canticles, whereby he filleth faithful souls with godliness.

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

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy 1:15-17

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.



GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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SYNAXARION

(Lives of the Saints of the Day)

On January 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Ephraim the Syrian.

Verses

Ephraim, a Syrian by race and tongue, heard an unknown tongue,
As the psalm saith, calling him up to the heights.
On the twenty-eighth, angels leddest up Ephraim
to sing his praises before God.

Ephraim was born in Syria of poor parents in about 306. He spent his youth rather tempestuously, but suddenly a change took place in his soul, and he began to burn with love for the Lord Jesus. Ephraim was a disciple of St. James, bishop of Nisibis. Due to the great grace of God, wisdom flowed from Ephraim's tongue like a stream of honey, and ceaseless tears flowed from his eyes. Industrious as a bee, Ephraim continually wrote books, orally taught the monks in the monastery and the people of Edessa, and dedicated himself to prayer and contemplation. Numerous are his books and beautiful are his prayers, the most famous of which is his prayer recited during Great Lent: "O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, meddling, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to me, Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen." When the people wanted to appoint him a bishop by force, he pretended to be insane, racing through the city, dragging his garment behind him. Seeing this, the people left him in peace. Ephraim was a contemporary and friend of St. Basil the Great. Ephraim is considered the apostle of repentance. Even today, his works soften many hearts hardened by sin, returning them to Christ. Ephraim reposed in 378.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Palladios of Antioch; and Venerable Theodosios of Totma.

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

WELCOME

Welcome back, Kh. Sarah Giannakakos and baby Ashton. Kh. Sarah has returned to St. Nicholas as a sponsor for newly Chrismated Katelyn Kars.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In loving memory of the Servant of God, our Father, Abe Abraham on the 10th anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by his children Alan, Debbie, Cheryl, Peter, Carol, Mike, Kaye, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren. *“Blessed Indeed,” says the spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”*

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Katelyn Kars on her Chrismation at Vespers, offered by your St. Nicholas family. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Margaret Alice Khorey on her 1st birthday, offered with love by her parents, Chris and Alison, and her brother, George. May God bless her, and may He grant her many, many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Margaret Khorey on her birthday, offered by Fr. David and Jenny Khorey. May God grant her many years!

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

For the Health and Blessings of Jeri Watson as she begins her ministry as our parish secretary, offered by her St. Nicholas family. May God grant her many years!

In memory of the members of St. Nicholas who departed in the upcoming month of February. 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

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

Katelyn Kars	Audrey Nicoloff
Margaret Khorey	Joe Corey
Hana Watson	David Corey
Jeri Watson	Michael Ellis
Kevin Mitchell	Len Lenhart
Dan Abraham	Tillie Sayfie
MaryAnn Maloley	Andrew Martin



DEPARTED

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

Subdn. Joseph Nicola	Donald Mickel	Assad Maloley
Abe Abraham	Josephine Sickrey	Ramza Cassis
Lloyd Heibel	Mabel Sickrey	Mose Halaley
Albert Philipp	Marjorie Simon	Josephine Wawee
Mona Bashara	Joseph Eyd	Newman Azkoul
Marie Azkoul	Sleyman Abraham	Helen Maloley
Robert Spicer	C.K. Maloley	Mary Henry
Saleme Ayoub	Kezma Sayfee	Adeeb Nassif