

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

FEBRUARY 18, 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 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

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

*O Lord, how magnified are Thy works.
In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

The Reading from the

Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them,” says the Lord, “and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me." And He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.



SYNAXARION

(Lives of the Saints of the Day)

On February 18 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints, Leo the Great, pope of Rome.

Verses

Pouring forth his soul, divine and godly Leo
Poureth dread and terror into hordes of demons.
On the eighteenth Leo poured forth his soul.

Leo was born in Italy in 400 of devout parents, becoming Pope of Rome in 440. When Attila, with his Huns, drew near to burn Rome, Leo came out before him in his episcopal vestments. Leo subdued the wrath of Attila and averted the destruction of Rome. Attila allowed himself to be counseled by this holy man, but was also frightened by a vision of the Apostles Peter and Paul, who stood alongside Leo and threatened him with flaming swords. Leo also saved Orthodoxy from the heresy of Eutyches and Dioscorus. They erroneously taught the merger of the divine and human natures of Christ into one and, consequently, the denial of the two wills in the person of the Son. Because of this, the Fourth Ecumenical Council was convened in Chalcedon in 451, at which time the tome of Leo the Great was read and the Council condemned this heresy. This saint peacefully reposed in the Lord in 461.

On this day, we also commemorate Agapitos the Confessor, bishop of Synnada in Phrygia, and his companions.

By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the Servant of God, Kevin Mitchell, on his seven-day falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Fr. Elias, Kh. Marion, Mark and Jacklyn Mitchell. May his memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Darlene Bozek on her belated birthday! May God grant her many years!

Prayers and Blessings for Lexy Powell for her good health, offered by the Powell families.

In memory of George Karrip, Jr., who passed away six years ago on Valentines Day. Memory Eternal!

In memory of Jim Miller, our dear friend and Director of Shepherds of Independence, who unexpectedly fell asleep in the Lord last weekend, offered by the parishioners of St. Nicholas. May his 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

Darlene Bozek	Michael Ellis
Lexy Powell	Len Lenhart
Dan Abraham	Tillie Sayfie
MaryAnn Maloley	Andrew Martin
Audrey Nicoloff	Olga Sydorenko
Joe Corey	Tatyana Sydorenko
David Corey	



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Kevin Mitchell

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

DEPARTED

George Karrip, Jr.
Jim Miller