

**SUNDAY AFTER
THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

**ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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CLERGY

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA
Archbishop of New York & Metropolitan of all North America

The Right Reverend Jeremy Davis
Archiepiscopal Vicar of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

Very Reverend Michael Nasser
Pastor

Reverend David Khorey
Associate Pastor

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 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 THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS (TONE 1)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy kingdom.

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 ELEVATION OF THE CROSS (TONE 4)

Thou who wast raised up on the Cross of Thine own will, O Christ our God, do Thou bestow Thy compassions upon this, Thy new commonwealth named after Thee. Gladden with thy sovereign might our most Orthodox hierarchs, and vouch safe them victory over every false teaching; and as Thy help in war may they possess the weapon of peace, the trophy invincible.

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 2:16-20

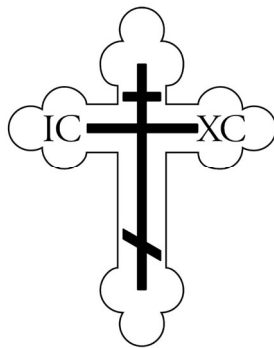
Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

3:13-17

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."



SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On September 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Elevation of the Holy Cross, and we commemorate the contest of the Holy Great-Martyr Nikitas the Goth.

Verses

Burned, Nikitas, thou becomest a victory-bearer,
or rather say, a fire-bearing victory bearer.
On the fifteenth Nikitas was cast into the furnace.

Nikitas was a disciple of Theophilus, Bishop of the Goths, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325. When the Gothic prince Athenarik began to torture Christians, Nikitas stood before the prince and denounced him for his paganism and inhumanity. Subsequently harshly tortured, Nikitas confessed his faith in Christ even more strongly, and prayed to God with thanksgiving. On his breast under his robe Nikitas bore an icon of the Most-holy Theotokos with the Pre-eternal Christ Child standing and holding the Cross in His hands. The Holy Theotokos had appeared to him and comforted him. Finally, the torturer threw the soldier of Christ into the fire, where the holy martyr breathed his last, but his body remained untouched by the fire. His companion Marianus took his body from the land of the Goths to the town of Mopsuestia in Cilicia. There, he built a church dedicated to Nikitas, and placed the miracle-working relics of the martyr in it. Nikitas suffered and was glorified in the year 372.

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

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Kh. Diane Shaheen on the occasion of her 90th birthday, offered with love by her friends at St. Nicholas. May God grant her many healthy and happy years!

For the Health and Blessings of Judy Welch on the occasion of her birthday, offered with love from Jon, James & Carly, and Jennifer. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of William McCloskey, offered by Pat, Lindsey, and Luke. May God grant him strength and courage.

For the Health and Blessings of Linda Abraham on the occasion of her birthday, offered by her St. Nicholas family. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of James & Carly Welch on the occasion of their 1st wedding anniversary, offered with love from Dad, Mom, and Jennifer. May God shine His glorious light upon them for many years!

For the Health and Blessings of John & MaryAnne Turner on their wedding anniversary, offered by Fr. Ted. May God grant them many years!

For the residents of Hope Network and those who serve them.

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, and throughout the world.

For the residents of Hope Network and those who serve them.

Kh. Diane Shaheen
Judy Welch
William McCloskey
Linda Abraham
James Welch
Carly Welch
John Turner
MaryAnne Turner
Joe Corey
David Corey
Tillie Sayfie
Wadih Choueiri
Kaye Powell
Jaredt Hultink
Christianna Hultink

DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

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

Ann Hoodhood