

**FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY BEFORE
THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
(THE GENEALOGY)**

DECEMBER 22, 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

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 THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY (TONE 4)

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforesaid.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (TONE 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, 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 PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY (TONE 3)

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth at the message with the Angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, he who is from eternity God.



EPISTLE



*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews

11:9-10, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



GOSPEL



The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron

the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the Servant of God, Steve Thomas (5 years), the Handmaiden of God, Kh. Joanne Bitar (12 years), and the Handmaiden of God, Rose Nicola (15 years), on their falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Barbara Thomas. May their memories be Eternal!

In memory of the Servant of God, Ramez Karadsheh, on the two-year anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered Malek, Maher, and Samer Karadsheh and their families. May his memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Fr. Joseph Abud, offered by Fr. Michael and the St. Nicholas family.

For the Health and Blessings of Fr. James Ellison, offered by Fr. Michael and the St. Nicholas family.

For the Health and Blessings of the newly-illuminated, Grant Boyer, Leslie Williams, and Tyler Williams on the occasion of their Chrismation. Many years!

For the Health and Blessings of the newly-illuminated, Leslie & Tyler Williams, on the occasion of their Chrismation, offered by Bob & Denise Golm. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Brian LaFranboise on the occasion of his birthday, offered by the office staff. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Andrew Coleman on his birthday, offered with love by Pat and Diane, and family. May God bless him with peace and joy, and grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Pat Hattem, offered by Duane. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Alexander on his 20th birthday, offered by Mom, Dad, Anwen, and Evelyn. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Isabella Coleman on her 5th birthday, offered by Dad, Mom, Wade, and Cameron. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of the newly-born Lila Rose Kurian and the newly-born Nash Ernest Riley, offered by Barbara Thomas. May God grant them good health and many years.

For the Health and Blessings of Sienna Grace Riley and Kinsley Rose Riley on their birthdays, offered by Barbara Thomas. May God guide them and grant them many years.

For the Health and Blessings of Bruce and Kim Nicola on their wedding anniversary, offered by Barbara Thomas. May God grant them many years!

In memory of the Servant of God, George Nasser, Jr, Fr. Michael's father, on the 50th anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of the Handmaiden of God Yvonne Rahme on the one-year anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Ben, Ashley, Isabella, Wade, and Cameron. May her memory be Eternal!

In memory of the Servant of God, George Assaly and the Handmaiden of God, Leona Assaly, offered with love by Peter and Carol and family. Memory Eternal!

In memory of the Handmaiden of God, Bertha, on her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Alan & Debbie, Kristen & Fadi, Phil & Mindy, Jeff & Nicole and Brittany. May her memory be Eternal!

In memory of the Handmaiden of God, Amine Nicola, and the Handmaiden of God, Lucille Thomas, on their falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Barbara Thomas. May their memory be Eternal!

In memory of the Servant of God Donald Storey, beloved father and grandfather, on the second anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of the Servants of God, Wadie and Insaf Karadsheh on their falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Malek, Maher, and Samer Karadsheh. 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
Archimandrite Jeremy Davis
Archpriest Joseph Abud
Archpriest James Ellison

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

Grant Boyer	Nash Ernest Riley	Linda Zimmermann
Leslie Williams	Sienna Grace Riley	Kaye Powell
Tyler Williams	Kinsley Rose Riley	Wadih Choueiri
Brian LaFranboise	Bruce Nicola	Kathy Corey
Andrew Coleman	Kim Nicola	Randy Heibel
Pat Hattem	Joe Corey	Matthew Ledford
Alexander Amash	Tillie Sayfie	Linda Martin
Isabella Coleman	David Corey	Vincent Swoveland
Lila Rose Kurian		



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

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

DEPARTED

George Nasser, Jr.	Amine Nicola
Yvonne Rahme	Lucille Thomas
George Assaly	Donald Storey
Leona Assaly	Wadie Karadsheh
Bertha Runyon	Insaf Karadsheh