

**AFTER-FEAST OF & SUNDAY AFTER
THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

DECEMBER 29, 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 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (TONE 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (TONE 2)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou 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 NATIVITY OF CHRIST (TONE 3)

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

EPISTLE

*God is wondrous in His saints.
Bless God in the congregations.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians

1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel
according to St. Matthew**

2:13-23

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On December 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the fourteen thousand infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem; George, bishop of Nicomedia; Venerable Abbot Markellos of the “Unsleeping Ones” Monastery; and all Orthodox Christians who have died from hunger, thirst, the sword and freezing.

On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of God and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.

Verses

I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin,
who to be her protector was alone chosen.

Thou art a carpenter’s son,
but also the brother of the Lord that built all with a word,

O blest James.

What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testifieth,
as a man after Mine own heart, I have found David.

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David’s seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the “Brother of the Lord” because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

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

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Fr. Michael on the occasion of his birthday, offered by Vicky, Maria, Josh and Elena. May God grant him many years!

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

For the Health and Blessings of Marve Halbert on the occasion of his 86th birthday, offered by Pat, Marc, and Kelly. May God protect him and continue to bless him with health and happiness.

For the Health and Blessings of Rick and Suzi Merpi on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, offered by their children and grandchildren. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Brittany Abraham on her birthday, offered by Alan and Debbie. God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Luke McCloskey on his 10th birthday, offered by Pat, Lindsey, and William. May God shine His grace and light on him always.

For the Health and Blessings of David & Kathleen Bower on the occasion of their wedding anniversary, offered by Fr. Ted. May God grant them many years!

In memory of our dear cousin, Michael Abraham, on the six-month anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered with love by his Abraham family cousins. *With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy departed servant where there is neither sickness nor sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting.*

In memory of the members of St. Nicholas who departed in the upcoming month of January. 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 Michael Nasser
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.

Marve Halbert	Kathleen Bower	Wadih Choueiri
Rick Merpi	Joe Corey	Kathy Corey
Suzi Merpi	Tillie Sayfie	Randy Heibel
Brittany Abraham	David Corey	Matthew Ledford
Luke McCloskey	Linda Zimmermann	Linda Martin
David Bower	Kaye Powell	Vincent Swoveland

DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

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

DEPARTED

Priest Jerome S. Yared	Dennis Hattem	Latife Hattem
Michael Abraham	Nick Bander	George Salhaney
Mahrouse Joseph	Alexandra Sulizki	Gazelle Courey
David Corey	Nazema Khouri	William Najjar
Marian Hickerty	Edward Yared	Camille Swan
Patricia Cook	Lena Audy	Abe Audy
Theodore Gounos	Lambert Orange	America Yared
Bea Hiemstra	Essa Salhaney	George Ember
Hatem Karadsheh	Minerva Naifeh	Abe Abraham
S. Nicholas Ayoub		