

**THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD,  
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

**JANUARY 5, 2025**

**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.



## THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Today we will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great in place of the typical Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. The main difference is in the prayers said by the Priest, which can be followed in the white spiral-bound Divine Liturgy book or in the red Service Book (page 132).

### HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

#### HYMNS

##### ***APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (TONE 1)***

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

##### ***KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST (TONE 4)***

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

## EPISTLE

*Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.  
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good;  
for His mercy endureth forever.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus**

2:11-14; 3:4-7

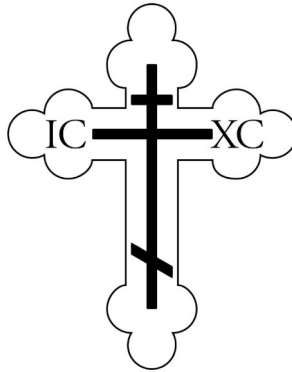
My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

## GOSPEL

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

3:13-17

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased.”



## SYNAXARION

*(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)*

On January 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Verses

Christ's Baptism, having rent open the Heavens,  
leadeth therein all such as do not defile it.

On the sixth the Forerunner baptized Christ in the river.

When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and saving work. He Himself signified this "beginning of the beginning" by His baptism in the River Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, "The beginning of the world: water; the beginning of the Good News: Jordan." At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, the Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world." When John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and became alive again (the coming out of the water); and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany in Greek) is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the River Jordan illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. Also, every one of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unto Christ be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

## HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of our family matriarch, Barbara Thomas, on the occasion of her birthday, offered by her grandchildren and great grandchildren. May God grant her many more years!

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

For the Health and Blessings of Jean Seeley, as she undergoes open heart surgery, offered by the Seeley family. May God grant her many years!

In memory of Esther Marie Bourziel, offered by Fr. Ted. May her memory be Eternal!

In memory of the Servant of God, Chatree Taravadeepimuk, on his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Cherry Ordonia. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of Kirk Dehaan, our beloved friend, on the ninth anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Storey family. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of Abdallah (Albert) Ayoub on the 75th anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Gordon Ayoub. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of Selma (Hanna) Ayoub on the anniversary her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Gordon Ayoub. May her 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 New Orleans, the Middle East, Ukraine,  
and throughout the world.

Barbara Thomas	Wadih Choueiri
Miriam Watson	Kathy Corey
Jean Seeley	Randy Heibel
Joe Corey	Matthew Ledford
Tillie Sayfie	Linda Martin
David Corey	Vincent Swoveland
Linda Zimmermann	Gene Khorey
Kaye Powell	

## DEPARTED

### NEWLY DEPARTED

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

### DEPARTED

Esther Marie Bourziel  
Chatree Taravadeepimuk  
Kirk Dehaan  
Abdallah (Albert) Ayoub  
Selma (Hanna) Ayoub