

## A MOST-HALLOWED SHEPHERD OF THE WORLD

Perhaps no saint is as universally revered throughout Christianity as St. Nicholas. This 4th century saint attained the lofty position of Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, and was privileged to be numbered among the 318 Hierarchs present at the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea in 325 A.D.

Despite his venerable accomplishments and achievements, St. Nicholas is best remembered for very simple and basic reasons. St. Nicholas did not leave us with any theological works or scholarly writings as did many of the early Church Fathers. Instead, he left behind the image of a bishop who was the personification of a shepherd. His entire life was dedicated to caring for his entrusted flock. Their needs were his concern, and numerous stories and legends speak of his acts of charity and generosity, which were always carried out in a Christ-like manner of humility.

The icon on our Church Bulletin today represents an image of St. Nicholas surrounded by twelve selected scenes from his life. The scenes range from depictions of his birth and death to images portraying miracles attributed to this beloved bishop.

The Troparion hymn to St. Nicholas praises him as ". . . A MODEL OF FAITH, AND AN EXAMPLE OF VIRTUE." He is commemorated during this sacred season of Advent to remind us that we, too, must strive to be a similar "model" and "example." We must dedicate our lives to the One Who became incarnate for the sake of our salvation!

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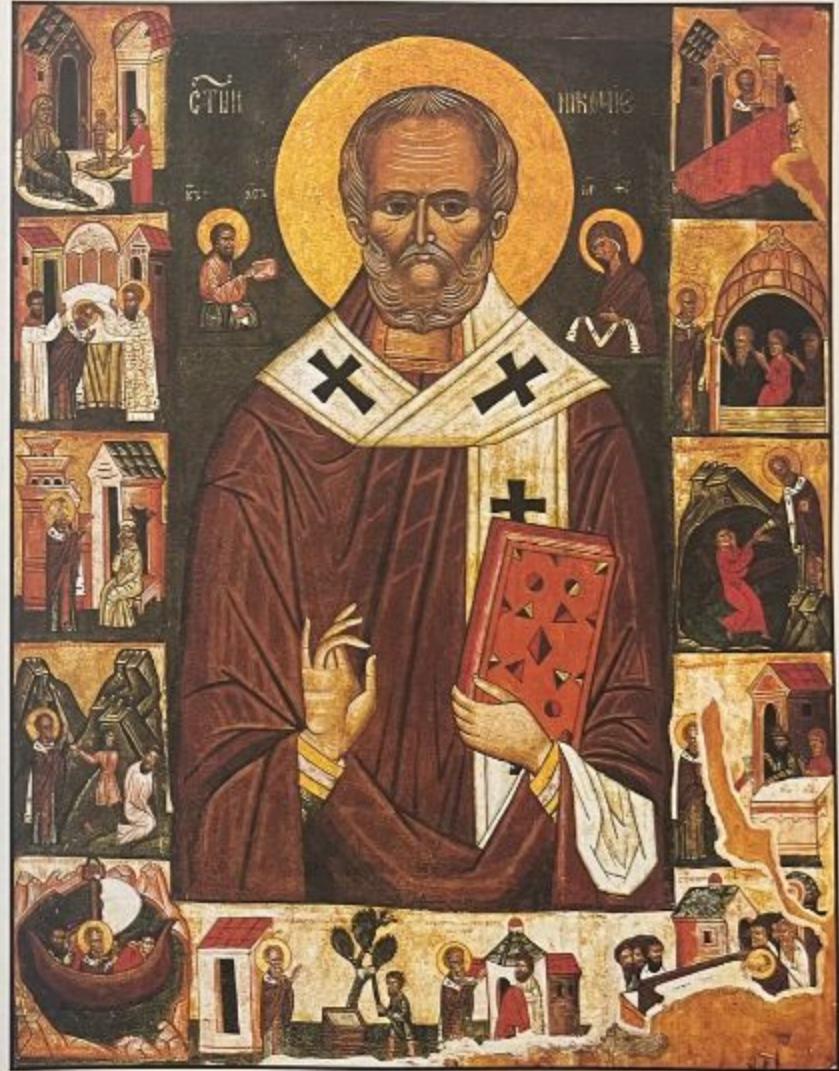
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# SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 5:30 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES TONE 1 / EOOTHINON 4**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 07, 2025**

## RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

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 ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

## KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.

## We Celebrate Today

On December 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints Ambrose, bishop of Milan.

### Verses

Ambrose, having shed his corruptible body, hath fitly partaken of divine ambrosia.

On the seventh Ambrose came upon immortal terrain.

His father was the imperial governor of Gaul and Spain, and a pagan, while his mother was a Christian. On the death of his father, the Emperor made him governor of Liguria, of which province Milan was the chief city. When the bishop of Milan died, there was great dissension about the choice of a new bishop. Ambrose went into the church to keep order. Thereupon, a child at its mother's breast cried out: "Ambrose for bishop!" All the people took this to be the voice of God, and unanimously elected Ambrose as their bishop, although it was against his will. Ambrose was baptized, and passed through all the necessary ranks in one week. As bishop, he strengthened the faith of the Orthodox, restrained heretics, adorned churches, spread the Faith among the pagans, wrote many instructive books and was an example of a true Christian and a true shepherd. Ambrose died peacefully at daybreak on Pascha in 397.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Athenodoros of Mesopotamia; and Venerable Gregory, founder of Gregoriou monastery on Athos. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**+Healing & Recovery** Fr. Paul Yerger, Fr. Leo, Deacon Terry, Kh. Janet Henderson, Joy Logue, Sue Thomas, Dolores Nosser, Hugh Cummings, Rick Collins, George Michael Nasif, Lynne Abraham, Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas, Maha Habeeb, Michael Farris, Athena, Georgia, Andrea Simon, Chuck Abraham, Timmie Fedell, Alan Evans, Paula Shaw.

**+Birthdays & Anniversaries** Dec. Frank Mousa III, Aly White (7), Samuel Habeeb (8), Rebecca Antwine (9), Joseph Nosser (11), Emily Angelo, Kelsey Mackey (13), Gregory Thomas, Sarah Thomas (14), Masry Massey, Jaxon Whitley (17), Charlene Davis, Kira Maida (21), Cynthia And Andy Freeny (28), Greg Angelo (31).

**+The Nativity Lent:** Is divided into 2 Periods: (1)- Nov.15 through Dec. 19 when traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish & wine) is observed daily, with katalysis for wine & fish on Mon. Tue. Thur. Sat. & Sun. (2)- The period of the forefeast, Dec.20-25. When the traditional strict fasting is observed all days of the week.

**+Keep in your prayers** Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

**+Parish Council Meeting** Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm.

**+Fulfill Your Donation** Online or by check before the end of the year 2025, please. And fill your membership form for 2026.

**+Giving back to the Community** The Antiochian Men (A.MEN) will be hosting the Fourth appreciation dinner for first responders on Thursday, January 8th, 2026.

**+General Assembly Meeting** Sunday January 11, 2026 following the Liturgy. Potluck.

**+The Annual Lebanese Dinner** will be on Monday February 02 2026. Work and preparation will Start on January 8. Tickets will be available very soon.

**+New Calendar 2026** is available in the Narthex.

## The Church Fathers Teach

For by His becoming Man, the Savior was to accomplish both works of love; first, in putting away death from us and renewing us again; secondly, being unseen and invisible, in manifesting and making Himself known by his works to be the Word of the Father, and the Ruler and King of the universe.

Thus, the Word condescended to man's engrossment in corporeal things, by even taking a body. All man's superstitions he met halfway; whether men were inclined to worship nature, man, demons, or the dead, he showed Himself Lord of all these.

St. Athanasius the great

Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

# DIVINE LITURGY DECEMBER 7, 2025

\*\*DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM\*\*

## AFTER-FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

### THE EPISTLE

(For the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)**

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

### THE GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.