

# Saintly Notes

## St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker (December 6)

---

**T**his glorious saint, celebrated even today throughout the entire world, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of the city of Patara in Lycia. Since he was the only son bestowed on them by God, the parents returned the gift to God by dedicating their son to Him.

St. Nicholas learned of the spiritual life from his uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patara, and was tonsured a monk in the Monastery of New Zion founded by his uncle. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself.

As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: *Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth* (Matthew 6:3). When he gave himself over to solitude and silence, thinking to live that way until his death, a voice from on high came to him: "Nicholas, for your ascetic labor, work among the people, if thou desirest to be crowned by Me." Immediately after that, by God's wondrous providence, he was chosen archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia.

Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. During the persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Maximian, he was cast into prison, but even there he instructed the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea [325] and, out of great zeal for the truth, struck the heretic Arius with his hand. For this act he was removed from the Council and from his archiepiscopal duties, until the Lord Christ Himself and the Most-holy Theotokos appeared to several of the chief hierarchs and revealed their approval of Nicholas.

A defender of God's truth, this wonderful saint was ever bold as a defender of justice among the people. On two occasions, he saved three men from an undeserved sentence of death. Merciful, truthful, and a lover of justice, he walked among the people as an angel of God. Even during his lifetime, the people considered him a saint and invoked his aid in difficulties and in distress. He appeared both in dreams and in person to those who called upon him, and he helped them easily and speedily, whether close at hand or far away. A light shone from his face as it did from the face of Moses, and he, by his presence alone, brought comfort, peace and good will among men.

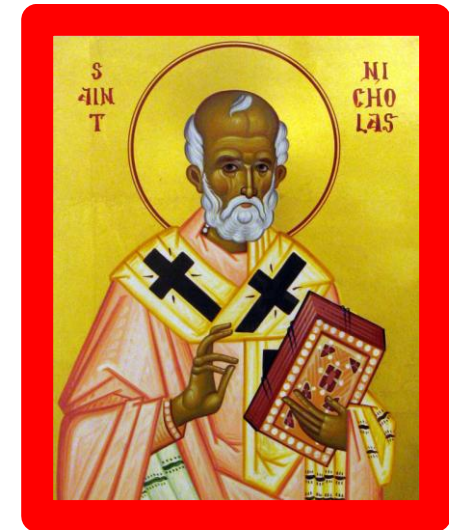
In old age he became ill for a short time and entered into the rest of the Lord, after a life full of labor and very fruitful toil, to rejoice eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven, continuing to help the faithful on earth by his miracles and to glorify his God. He entered into rest on December 6, 343.

*(The Prologue from Ochrid, Birmingham, 1985, Lazarica Press)*

## St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

December 6, 2009

---



# St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC  
(www.allsaintsnc.org)  
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest  
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest  
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

December 6, 2009

## The Saints Whom We Remember Today

Nicholas, bishop of Patara; New-martyr Nicholas of Karamania in Asia Minor

## This Week's Schedule

**Today:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy;  
1:00p SOYO Bowling  
**Monday:** Church Office Closed  
**Tuesday:** 7:00p Parish Council (Newly elected and appointed members  
invited)  
**Wednesday:** 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Vespers  
**Friday:** 6:30p Advent Paraklesis  
**Saturday:** 10:00a Div. Lit. for St. Spiridon; 5:30p Great Vespers  
**Sunday:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

## Third Antiphon

Troparion of the Resurrection  
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.

## Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia.

## Troparion

for the Resurrection—Tone 1

See above.

## Troparion

for St. Nicholas—Tone 4

Thy works of justice did reveal thee to thy community as a canon of faith, the likeness of humility and teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou hast achieved exaltation, and by thy meekness wealth. Intercede, therefore, with Christ God to save our souls.

## Troparion

of All Saints—Tone 4

As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's

blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

## Kontakion

of Preparation for Christ's Nativity  
Tone 3

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a newborn babe, the God Who is before all the ages, whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

## The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

## Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

*Epistle:* Col. 3:4–11

*Gospel:* Luke 14:16–24

## Megalynarion—Tone 8

It is truly meet and right . . .

## Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

## Post-Communion Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

## Parish Notes

### Altar Servers Today

Nicholas Christopoulos, Christian Christopoulos, William Christopoulos, Christopher Wingenbach, Ilya Moundous, Gabriel Pope.

## Special Attention

- **Estimated Giving Forms.** When your EGF is completed, it may be folded, inserted in an offering envelope, and placed in the offering plate any Sunday, or mailed to the church. We need all voters and friends of All Saints to participate.



*During the next two Sundays, we will be distributing Estimated Giving Forms (just in case you did not get one) and providing a special collection plate for you to submit them at the back of the Nave following the Divine Liturgy.*



May God bless you for your generosity and for your offering of Thanksgiving to God.

- **Thank You to Our Choir and Chanters.** Today is Choir and Chanters Appreciation Sunday, so it is very appropriate that we say a special thank you to these men and women and teens who lead us in liturgical singing week after week. Their work is critical to our worship life. Their volunteer service to the Lord makes our Sunday and weekday worship richer, and we certainly owe them our gratitude not just today but all through the year. Everyone is invited to a special coffee hour this morning after the service to honor our choir and chanters. Make it a priority today to personally thank each of these folks. May God grant them all many, many, many years!

## Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

### **Prokeimenon:**

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

*What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?*

### †**Epistle: Heb. 13:17–21 (RSV)**

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### †**Gospel: Luke 13:10–17 (RSV)**

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.

## Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

### **Prokeimenon:**

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

*What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?*

### †**Epistle: Heb. 13:17–21 (RSV)**

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### †**Gospel: Luke 13:10–17 (RSV)**

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.

**A Word  
from Our Fathers**

“I ask you to put this order into practice: as much as you can, try to cultivate your love towards Christ’s own person. You must reach the point that whenever you hear His name mentioned, tears run from your eyes. Your hearts must be truly ablaze. Then He will be your teacher, your Guide, your Brother, your Father, your Elder . . .”

*(Blessed Elder Amphilochios of Patmos)*

**A Word  
from Our Fathers**

“I ask you to put this order into practice: as much as you can, try to cultivate your love towards Christ’s own person. You must reach the point that whenever you hear His name mentioned, tears run from your eyes. Your hearts must be truly ablaze. Then He will be your teacher, your Guide, your Brother, your Father, your Elder . . .”

*(Blessed Elder Amphilochios of Patmos)*