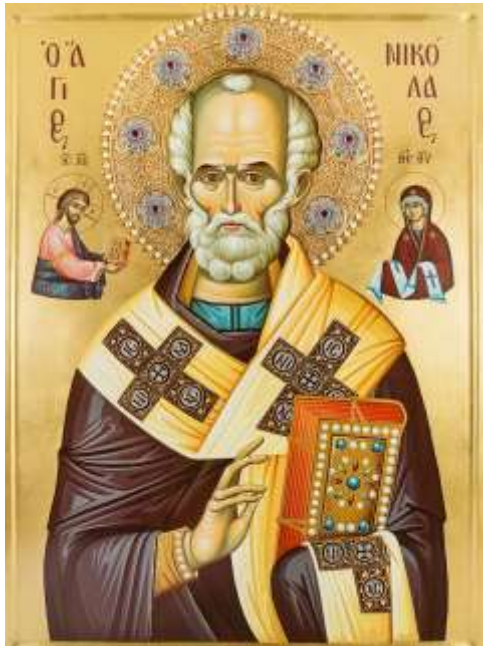


December 1, 2024

28th Sunday After Pentecost / T one 3

Christ is Among Us! He is and Always Shall Be!



Saint Nicholas (December 6th) is one of the most popular of all Saints in the Christian East, and there are countless stories that tell of his generosity and intercession for children, especially children who are poor, orphaned, abused or kidnapped. He is the patron of the poor; of sailors and those at sea; those who have been falsely accused or imprisoned; lawyers; pharmacists; shoemakers; merchants; travelers, woodcarvers – and thieves! His relics repose in the Italian port city of Bari, at the opposite end of the Mediterranean Sea from his old eparchy, Myra, in Turkey. His bones still give off myrrh, a crystalline substance that pours out and is collected in small bottles.

Such is his fame and importance that every iconostas in every church that uses the Byzantine rite, Catholic or Orthodox, must have his icon at the north end of the screen. Nicholas is the special patron of our own Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church. The center of monastic life and the residence of the bishops of our Church was the monastery of Saint Nicholas in the town of Mukachevo, for at least 900 years.

THE ICON: Icons of St Nicholas either show the Saint alone, crowned as a Byzantine rite bishop (for today, December 6), or he is shown uncrowned (Translation of his relics, May 9) usually with Jesus above his right shoulder holding the Gospel Book and Our

Lady over his left shoulder holding the pallium. These figures commemorate the occasion when Nicholas is said to have slapped the heretic Arius, who was proclaiming his belief at the Council of Nicaea that Jesus was created, and not fully human and divine. The bishops threw Nicholas into a cell and deposed him. However that night, every bishop had the same dream, wherein Jesus and Mary restored Nicholas to his office as bishop. Chastened, the bishops released Nicholas and restored him as bishop.

Icons can depict incidents from his own life or miracles attributed to his intercession. St Nicholas is shown here with his features transformed by holiness. His deep-set, compassionate eyes gaze contemplatively upon the believer. His high forehead reveals his great wisdom. It is surrounded by a nimbus or halo symbolizing the light of grace. His expression is one of deep serenity, the inner tranquility of one who keeps the Lord ever in his sight (Psalm 16.8-9). He is almost always shown wearing red robes, to evoke the image of the fire of the Holy Spirit because of his passionate preaching. His face also shows compassion, as here is a bishop who really suffered with his people. As a bishop, Nicholas is always depicted giving a blessing, with his fingers bent to form the letters IC XC, the Name of his beloved Savior, Jesus Christ.

Icon on our Iconostas: The icon of Nicholas on our iconostas is an excellent example of Byzantine art as produced in a Slavonic language monastery of our Church from the 17th century. It is a very rare icon. The lack of gold is due to poverty of the monks, but the black actually accentuates the haloes which in turn accentuates the three figures.

What he teaches men:

- God above all else.
- Be fair to all, investigate, find the truth, then act.
- By trusting in God, marvelous things can happen – we can be vehicles of the Holy Spirit in many ways. Even a miracle.
- Though he has been distorted in American culture into a holly-jolly figure, every year gives us the opportunity to retrieve it.

Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix
Most Reverend Kurt Burnette Apostolic Administrator

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church
1837 Alvarado Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 Parish office: (505) 256-1539
www.olphnm.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday 10:00 am—4:00 pm
Thursday OFF

THEOSIS : 2nd & 4th Thursday
Bible Study 6:45 pm / Zoom

Advisory Board

Fr. Chris Zegger, Dan Riley, Rafael Plut,
Jeff Brewer, Michael Grega, Alicia Wells

Finance Council

Matthew Blain, Maria Alden

Fr Vasyl Kopyn, Administrator
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Father Tyler Strand
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tylerastrand@yahoo.co.uk

May the Lord Bless your kindness and
generosity to His House!

ONLINE GIVING / ONLINE TITHING

is available on our website:

For those parishioners who can't attend in person or traveling or anyone who find this more convenient, we just set up a new way to tithe online using your credit card or debit card information. You can do a one-time donation or setup weekly donations!!

You will receive a receipt and statement immediately after donating. The software takes a very small percentage of the donation, but its worth it for the ease of the system. You can donate using your computer / smartphone at:

[ps://www.olphnm.org/giving](https://www.olphnm.org/giving).

Confession (Mystery of Reconciliation):

9:00—10:00 am on Sundays, before or after weekday Liturgies, or by appointment with Father

Mysteries of Baptism/Chrismation/Eucharist:

Must be arranged three months in advance.
(Pre-Jordan requirement)

Mystery of Crowning:

Must be arranged six months in advance
(Pre-Cana requirement)

Sick and Shut-Ins: It is the family's responsibility to notify the parish office when a parishioner is in the hospital or confined to home because of sickness or old age. Father will bring the confined person the Holy Mysteries on a regular basis. It is recommended that one receive the Anointing of the Sick before any major surgery. Please don't let the priest be last to know that someone is ill!

Welcome to our Church! If you are looking for a spiritual home, contact Father Artur/Fr Chris or the office staff for more information. God bless you!

Colossians 1:12-18; Luk e18:18-26

YouTube Live 8:30 am Rosary

9:00 am Matins & Confessions

ECF Classes 10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Mysteries of Christian Initiation for Rafael Padilla / Intention for the Parishioners of OLPH
Eternal Lamp: Abraham, Isaac, Thomas & Family by Mary Dean

Dec 2 Mon ***Habakkuk Prophet / Heb 3:5-11 & 17-19; Lk 20:27-44***



9:00 am Divine Liturgy / God's Blessing on James Carter by James Carter

Dec 3 Tue ***Zephaniah Prophet / Heb 4:1-13; Lk 21:12-19***

9:00 am Divine Liturgy / +Alex & +Impi Svensson by Svensson

Dec 4 Wed ***Barbara Great Martyr / John Damascene / Heb 5:11-6:8; Lk 21:5-7.10-11.20-24***



5:30 pm OLPH Devotions

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy / God's Blessing on Ashley Inge by James Carter

Dec 5 Thu ***Sabbas Venerable / Gal 5:22-6:2; Mt 11:27-30***

Dec 6 Fri ***Nicholas of Myra Archbishop / Solemn Holy Day / Heb 13:17-21; Lk 6:17-23***



6:00 pm Divine Liturgy / God's Blessing on Ann Rajala

Dec 7 Sat ***Ambrose Achbishop / Eph 2:11-13; Lk 13:18-29***

9:00 am God's Blessing on Prayer Warriors (masks required)

Dec 8 Sun ***29th Sunday After Pentecost / Maternity of the Holy Anna
Col 3:12-16; Gal 4:22-31 / Lk 17:12-19; Lk 8:16-21***

4:00 pm Great Vespers

Hebrew Scriptures for Sunday: Exodus 24:1-18;1 Samuel 1:1-18; Isaiah 40:1-8

5:00 pm Divine Liturgy / +Natalia Rybchynska by Strutynski Family
(40-day commemoration)

YouTube LIVE 8:30 am

ECF Classes 9:00 am Matins & Confessions

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Intention for the Parishioners of OLPH

Eternal Lamp: Holy Protection of the Mother of God over People of Ukraine

YOUTUBE LIVE-STREAMING: OLPH Sunday / Holy Day Liturgies are available on YouTube. The link is <https://youtube.com/c/olphmedia>. Please click the "Subscribe" button to make it easier for you to find the channel in the future. Please, send your feedback about the quality of the live stream / comments / suggestions to Dan Riley: riley.dan@gmail.com

Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers:

Physician and Help of Those in sickness, Redeemer and Savior of the infirm; O Master and Lord of all, grant healing to your servants. Be clement, show mercy to those who have sinned much, and deliver them, O Christ, from their Iniquities, that they may glorify your might divine

Sharif Rabadi	Harry & Barbara	Jordan Smith
Jenny Ford	De Lap	Janet Worthington
Marilyn Fore	Irene Bradley	Patti Klinkovsky
Sven & Barbara	Soriah Chavez	Matt Williamson
Svensson	Abraham Haddad	James Epstein
Laurie Bienz	Marianne Gerace	Katy Ford
Brent Dodson-	Michael Baron	Alton Bertschinger
Sands	Jessica Pieniadz	Madalyn Davis
Lara Davis	Rhonda	Rebecca Russo
Carol Donlin	Glasscock	Jacob McTernan
Marcie Dark	Amber Roybal	Paola Terlaza
Fr Chris Zugger	Philip Leahy	Vicki Frank
Fr Chris Andrews	Juanita Montoya	Emily
Fr Robert Rankin	Linda Granci	Wojciechowski
Fr. Steve Washko	Christopher	Fr Joel Barstad
Buster Miscusi	Barlow	Fr. Joseph Wargaki
Richard Jacobs	Joel Ford	Fr James Bankston
Lourdes Lasin	Andrew Martinez	Killian Parker



Intentions of the Rosary:

- 1st Decade: Help for persecuted Catholics, especially in communist and Islamic states
- 2nd Decade: Spiritual and physical growth of our parish and the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 3rd Decade: Increase in vocations to priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life to serve the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 4th Decade: Repose of the souls who have no one praying for them
- 5th Decade: Healing of the sick in body, mind and soul

Holy Father's Intentions / December For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

“The things which are impossible with men are possible with God!” The rich ruler was called to give all that he had to follow Jesus. We are all called to do this in our own manner, and those called to vocations of monastic life and holy orders do so in special way. Is a life of service and faithfulness to God and His Church as a priest, deacon, subdeacon, monk or nun something that may be for you or someone that you know? Contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 or email: vocations@ephx.org



Vocation Icon

Today:
Sullivan Family
Next Sunday:
Brewer Family

December 8, 2024

Cantor: Andrea Riley

Reader: Brook Jilek

Altar Server: Michael Grega

Trojca: Monica Sena

Counters: Mary Blain & Ann Rajala

Propers for 12/8/24

29th Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of the Maternity of Holy Anna

Tone 4

Troparion (Tone 4) - 141

Troparion (Feast) - 277

v. Glory...

Kontakion (Tone 4) - 141

v. Now & Ever ...

Kontakion (Feast)- 278

Prokeimenon & Alleluia - 142 & 278

Instead of 'It Is Truly Proper' - 279

Our Father- 69

Communion Hymn - 79 & 280 [D]

The OLPH Prayer Warriors

make intercessory prayer a daily commitment. We pray voluntarily and without bias; that is, we take to the Blessed Trinity the requests that come our way.

The Prayer Warriors meet on Zoom every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for themed meetings. **If you would like to join the Prayer Warriors**, would like additional information, and/or would like for us to pray for your intentions, please contact Lara Davis at

crowhopdavis@yahoo.com

Alicia's Hall Report

What a great celebration for Father Chris' birthday last Sunday! Thanks to everyone who brought egg casseroles, bacon, hash browns, bread, fruit, veggies and desserts! We had a great clean-up crew, thanks Rileys and Montañós! Please sign up to co/host a social and look out for a Christmas Eve Holy Supper Sign up coming out soon!

Coming Events—Mark Your Calendars Now

Tue Dec 24	Vigil of Christmas / Strict Fast 10:00 am Royal Hours 4:30 pm Holy Supper 7:00 pm Vigil Liturgy of St. Basil
Wed Dec 25	Christmas Birth of Our Lord Holy Day of Obligation 9:00 am Matins 10:00 am Festive Liturgy
Thu Dec 26	Synaxis of the Theotokos / Solemn Feast 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy
Fri Dec 27	Stephen Protomartyr / Simple Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy
Wed Jan 1	Circumcision of Our Lord / St Basil the Great / Solemn Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy of St Basil
Fri Jan 3	Vigil of Theophany (day of strict Fast) 6:00 pm Great Compline / Blessing of Litija
Mon Jan 6	Theophany / Holy Day of Obligation 6:00 pm Liturgy of St Basil / Great Blessing of Water / Myrovanije
Tues Jan 28	Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church in Anaheim, CA 7:00 pm Vespers with Profession of Faith bishop-elect Artur Bubnevych
Wed Jan 29	Annunciation Church in Anaheim, CA 1:00 pm Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with episcopal ordination and enthronement of Fr Artur Bubnevych
Sat Feb 22	1st All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / Panichida
Mon Mar 3	Beginning of Great Fast 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy
Sat Mar 15	2nd All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / Panichida
Sat Mar 22	3rd All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / Panichida

Saint Nicholas Award 2024 - Every year in our parish since 1985, the advisory board recommends someone to receive this award. The requirements are simple: that the recipient(s) be practicing Catholics, that they engage in charitable work inside and outside of the parish quietly, not looking for applause, as an act of love for Christ. Also, the board looks for someone who other parishioners recognize as being good souls who exemplify this. An icon of the holy bishop is given to the recipient(s) on the Sunday closest to December 6th. We eagerly and prayerfully await the winner(s) of this honorable prize this year!!! O, who loves Nicholas the Saintly!

Year End Finances For those parishioners who use their tithe as a part of their income tax charitable deductions for 2024, all contributions must be received at the church by Dec 31.

ATTENTION PARISH FAMILY TITHING ENVELOPE BOXES FOR 2024 WITH YOUR NAME ON IT ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOU ON THE FRONT PEW AT THE ENTRANCE. IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR NAME PLEASE SEE ANN.

One More Week For the Angel Tree!!

The parishioners of OLPH are being asked by St. Nicholas to open up their hearts again this Christmas season and participate in our annual Angel Tree. We have until next Sunday—St. Nicholas Sunday—to bring our checks and cards. The Angel Tree display has two boxes—one for the orphanage and one for the seminarians. This year we are excited to collect monetary donations for the Korolevo orphanage in Ukraine. If you wish to donate to the orphanage, please make checks payable to the Mission Society with a note at the bottom. We are collecting Amazon gift cards for the 10 seminarians at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS Cyril and Methodius. We would like these Amazon gift cards to be in denominations of \$10 and \$25 (\$25 is about what it costs for our seminarians to buy a book). These gift cards can be found at Smith's grocery stores (either in store or on-line), Wal-Mart, Albertsons and anywhere other gift cards are sold. We are also collecting Christmas cards and notes of encouragement for the seminarians. Please prayerfully consider helping St. Nicholas spread joy this Christmas season.

Sunday December 8th: Collection for Retired Religious

"Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement," says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Guidelines for Volunteering at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

A volunteer is a valued part of the church. The volunteer should be at least 18 years of age. If under 18, the volunteer should be accompanied by a parent or have been given permission by the parent to perform volunteer activities while supervised by another adult.

All volunteers must be approved by the Pastor. At the Pastor's discretion, he can request letters of reference or additional information prior to approval.

All volunteers older than age 18 must complete a background check with the Eparchy of Phoenix and must complete the annual requirement for Safe Environment training.

For parishioners who are new to the parish, we ask for regular participation in the parish, the Holy Sacraments and Divine Liturgy for a period of one year before volunteering with Eastern Christian Formation, the Choir, or as an Altar Server.

Filipovka Fast: Week 3

We are half-way through the six weeks of preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord. At this point, we celebrate several feasts, including the **prophets Nahum (Dec. 1), Habakkuk (Dec. 2), Zephaniah (Dec. 3); the apostle Andrew (Nov. 30); the great-martyr Barbara and also the last Father of the Eastern Church, John of Damascus(Dec. 4); the holy wonderworking bishop, Nicholas of Myra (Dec. 6).** Finally at this time also comes the great feast of the Conception of Our Lady, known in the East as the Conception of Saint Anne, and in the West as the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 9, East; Dec. 8, West).

THINGS TO DO AS WE GET CLOSER TO CHRISTMAS:

Display an icon of the Nativity in the prayer corner of your house or room and spend 10 minutes each day meditating on the saving mysteries surrounding the story of Christ's Birth.

Receive the Mystery of Repentance (Confession) at least once during the fast.

Fast from certain other foods, such as soda, alcoholic beverages or candy (hard to do during this season of Christmas parties, but then that's the point!).

With each meal, eat only an amount that is sufficient for nutritional needs, without feeling full.

Fast from select forms of entertainment, or resolve not to waste time watching television, and using the internet, but to use the time well.

Saint Barbara (December 4th) was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian. She is the patron saint of engineers and miners, and for protection against lightning or sudden death, and venerated as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

According to the medieval *Golden Legend*, she was the daughter of the pagan Dioscorus.

When Barbara came of age, she was a secret Christian and thus believed in the Holy Trinity.

Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he had to go away, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her father had commanded. When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus beheaded her with his own sword, in the year 290.

Children's Activity: According to legend, a cherry tree twig, which Saint Barbara placed in a vase on her way to prison, is said to have blossomed completely unexpectedly on the day of her death. Thus the custom and the blossoming of the buds should bring suitable twigs are fruit tree twigs (cherry, apple, pear, Chaenomeles) or also forsythia or lavender. These twigs may only be cut after the frost so that the dormancy period is interrupted and the sprouting capacity is encouraged. If there has been no frost up to then, simply place the twigs in the freezer for two days.

Thus the custom and the blossoming of the buds should bring life, light and joy to the dark season – in memory of Saint Barbara. Those now wishing to do things perfectly should place the twigs overnight in a cool room, then again for half a day in warm water, e.g. in the bath. Before placing the St. Barbara twigs in the vase, you should mix the vase water with a special freshness retainer for woody twigs. Cut off two to three centimetres of the twig at an angle at the lower end. Then place the twigs in a spacious vase in which they stand in deep water. Put this vase in a light, warm place. Now you have a good chance that your Barbara twigs will blossom by Christmas. The vase or glass containing the St. Barbara Twigs may be placed on the family altar or icon corner until Christmas. Then it goes to the Nativity set.

Mother of Tenderness. *He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.* The icon is from the hand of iconographer Britta Prinzivalli

brittworks.com As has been the case since 2022, 100% of your card purchases & donations go to "UKRAINE RELIEF". The eparchy (diocese) of Mukachevo will use it to help over 400,000 refugees from eastern Ukraine with housing; clothing; school supplies for children; psychological support for refugee children & adults; food parcels and expenses for heating with firewood.

A packet of 5 cards sells for \$15 including envelopes. Each packet of cards includes a prayer list. Fill out the slip with the names of the recipients and return by mail or drop them by the parish office no later than Friday, December 20th. This gives us time to scan and e-mail them to Ukraine.

Bishop Teodor will place all these names on the altar at Holy Cross Cathedral in Ukraine & pray for your intentions at the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day. This year's card has a *beautiful* picture of the Bishop praying for our intentions last Christmas!



Meet Fr Vasyl Kopyn, temporary administrator of OLPH:

Fr Vasyl came to US from Mukachevo Eparchy, Ukraine in August of 2024 to serve in the Eparchy of Passaic. Bishop Kurt graciously offered to send Fr Vasyl to our parish to help in the time of transition November 2024 to February 2025 until a more permanent priest is in place.

Fr Vasyl is staying at the Rectory on 1840 Palomas Dr NE. His email: transcarpatian@yahoo.com. His cell: (732) 621-3823.

Please, contact Fr Vasyl to request Divine Liturgy intentions, Confession, Anointing of the Sick, sick / homebound visits, sacramental emergency calls. Please, contact Fr Chris Zuger to arrange sacraments of Christian Initiation, Crowning in Marriage and Funerals