

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330. As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face.

Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travelers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

EPISTLE Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

TODAY'S READER: MANOLI ANAGNOSTIADIS

GOSPEL 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 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 hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey 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 he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.



MEMORIAL

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Michael Nickles Allen (40 Days)** and **Justin Warfield (3 Years)**, requested by the Chatos/Warfield families. May their memories be eternal!

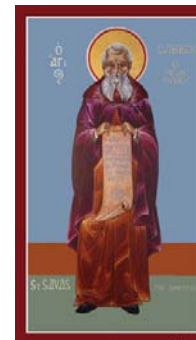


**THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS:
A TIME TO REMEMBER**

The Feast of St. Nicholas in the Orthodox Church is a yearly reminder that some wonderful ideas — go hopelessly wrong. As a community of faith, today we remember a pious believer, a saintly Bishop, an outspoken defender of the faith against the heretic Arius at the Council of Nicea, and a man who gave away the wealth of his family because of Christ's command to do so. We remember a spiritual giant whose life priorities reflected his interior grounding. Fast forward to Santa Claus — a portly figure who laughs heartily and magically delivers tons of presents to children throughout the world. Though the man in the red suit takes his origins from the ascetic figure dressed in the vestments of a Bishop, their meanings couldn't be more divergent. One based his life on the Christ who at Christmas was born in a cave in Bethlehem — thus touching Heaven to earth; the other speaks more to the cravings of a society that is bent on acquiring things, and more things — having chased the spiritual meaning of Christmas out of sight, out of mind. O come all ye faithful — don't miss the sales! One represents spiritual centeredness, authentic human identity; the other speaks more of a society creeping steadily towards greater materialism, consumerism, and a collective indifference to imitating the poverty of Christ or the generosity of His saints. The contrast is plain to see. The longer our society "progresses", the farther away it moves from the cave of Emmanuel — God with us. As Orthodox believers we cannot accommodate this movement nor can we surrender the stark truth of our spiritual living. We cannot become so acculturated by the forces around us as to lose the "one thing needful" — *the care and cure of our souls with the healing power of Jesus the Christ*

PRAYER LIST: Artie Constantinides, Stephen Alfieris, Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaos, Katherine Panagakos, George Virvan, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Hal-das, Eric Ricasa, Milton Kayafas, Mary Agis, Maureen Shriver, Tiffany Keiker, Mary O'Hara, William Cou-lopoulos, Matina Mantis, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios, Private Louis Tiches, EG Robert Stock, and PFC Brett Hughes.

of God who came "for us men and for our salva-tion." It is His birth that we will soon celebrate. It is the hope He brought that causes our joy. It is the healing with which he anoints us that makes this time, forevermore, a Divine Wonder. The feast of St. Nicholas reminds us to stand fast and hold on to the spiritual truth we have been given, much as he stood fast to defend the truth of the faith against the insidious influences of *his* day. It wasn't easy for him. It won't be for us.



**ST. SAVAS
THE SANCTIFIED**

Saint Savas was born in 439 in Moutalaska, a small village of Cappadocia. He entered the arena of the monastic life from childhood and was under that master trainer of monastics, Euthymius, the Great, the teacher of the desert. He became the spiritual Father of many monks

and an instructor for the monasteries in Palestine, and was appointed leader (archimandrite) of the desert-dwellers of Palestine by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. In his old age he went to Constantinople, to the Emperors Anastasius and Saint Justinian the Great, in behalf of the Orthodox Faith and the dogmas of the Council of Chalcedon. Having lived ninety-four years, he reposed in 533. The Typicon for the ecclesiastical services had its beginning in the monastery established by this righteous one.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

With the rivers of your tears, you have made the barren desert fertile. Through sighs of sorrow from deep within you, your labors have borne fruit a hundred-fold. By your miracles you have become a light, shining upon the world. O Sabbas, our Holy Father, pray to Christ our God, to save our souls.

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut-ins," so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

A PRAYER TO ST. NICHOLAS

O Saint Nicholas, bountiful Father and saintly Bishop, You are a shepherd and teacher to all who invoke your protection, and who, by devout prayer, call upon you for aid. Hasten and save the flock of Christ from ravenous wolves; and by your holy prayers protect all Orthodox Christians and save them from worldly disturbances, earthquakes, attacks from abroad, from internal strife, from famine, flood, fire, sword, and sudden death. As you had mercy on those three men in prison and saved them from the king's wrath, now also have mercy on me who by word, deed, and thought have sunk into the darkness of sin, Save me from the just anger of God, and from eternal punishment. Through your intercession and aid as well as through his own mercy and grace, may Christ our God allow me to lead a tranquil and sinless life, and save me from standing at "his left," but deem me worthy to stand at "his right" with all the saints. Amen.



SERIES ON THE DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES

The series on the Divine Liturgy continues this Thursday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. This week we will discuss the Liturgy of the Faithful and its significant elements such as the anaphora..

SUPPORT THE CHRISTIANS OF THE HOLY LAND

TODAY after the Divine Liturgy representatives of the Christians of the Holy Land, and we will be hosting in the Founders Hall a nice display of handmade olivewood religious articles from Bethlehem and Jerusalem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that can make nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, and mainly Christmas gifts. These carvings are handmade by Christian families in Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread, and who, in greater numbers are fleeing the Holy Land under persecution. The website showing the crafts is www.holylandcsc.com

50 PLUS

Our Annual Pot Luck Party will be on December 8th at 11:30 a.m. Achilles Papaefthimiou will again entertain us with his music. There will be singing and dancing to celebrate the Christmas Season. All are welcome. We would like to thank everyone who helped make our Annual Bake Sale such a success. Without the participation of everyone who worked so hard, donated money, and brought pastries from home, this sale would not have been such a success. But most of all we would like to thank each of you who purchased our pastries.

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

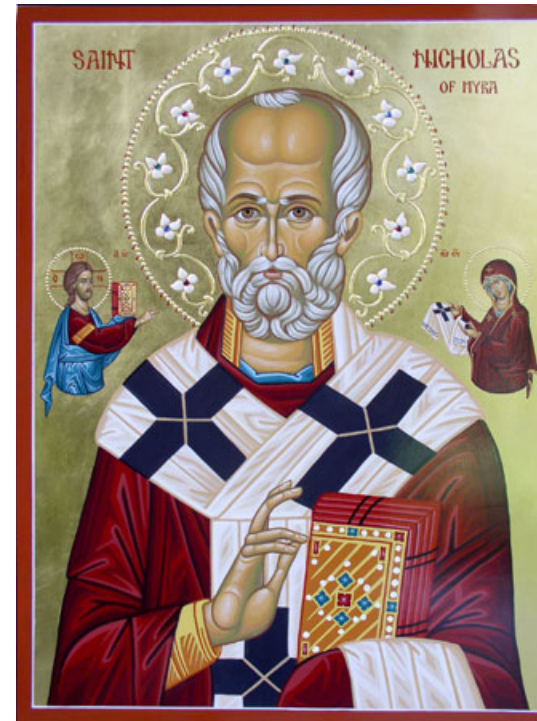
Lunch With Santa is TODAY following Divine Liturgy. Our Christmas Social is Tuesday, December 14th. Please mark your calendars; additional information will be forthcoming. Lastly, our traditional Christmas Bake Sale will take place on December 19th following the Divine Liturgy. Thank you for your love and support!

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN

10TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

ST. SAVAS THE SANCTIFIED

DECEMBER 5, 2010



ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA

FEAST DAY: MONDAY, DEC. 6

ORTHROS 8:30 A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 A.M.

Apolytikion to St. Nicholas

The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause, thou hast achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Apolytikion

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, * and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. * You rose on the third day, O Lord * and Savior, granting life unto the world. * For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: * Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; * glory to Your eternal rule; * glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

Seasonal Kontakion

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

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda,
Maryland 20817
Office 301-469-7990
Fax 301-469-5945
www.stgeorge.org

Proistamenos:

Rev. Dimitrios J. Antokas
Email: FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

Rev. Fr. George Khitiri
Email: FrGeorge@stgeorge.org

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides,
Emeritus