



Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Celebration of the Holy Mysteries

RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY AND CONFESSIONS: ½ HR BEFORE DIVINE LITURGY

BAPTISM & CHRISMATION / ANNOINTING OF THE SICK / COMMUNION CALLS & VISITATIONS:
CONTACT FR. IHOR TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:
CONTACT FR. IHOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO SETTING THE ACTUAL WEDDING DATE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN:
CONTACT MRS. CHRISTINA VOGEL AT (603) 686-2092 TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE LITURGIES:
SUNDAYS: 10 AM (September thru May) MON THRU SAT: AS NOTED IN WEEKLY BULLETIN
 9 AM (June thru August) HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: 7 PM

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 2023

Sunday, December 10th – Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy: 10 AM

Propers: Tone 3

Vestments: Bright

Epistle: Colossians 1: 12-18

Gospel: St. Luke 17: 12-19

Intention: For all Parishioners

Saturday, December 16th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Divine Liturgy Intentions and Vespers Service Schedule for December and January

Sunday, December 17th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Christmas Week and Theophany Services:

Sunday, December 24th (10 AM): Liturgy of St. Basil the Great followed by Liteeya Service

Sunday, December 24th (4 PM): Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy (All English Language Liturgy)

Monday, December 25th (10 AM): Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, December 26th (7 PM): Synaxis of the Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, December 27th (7 PM): Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr

Saturday, December 30th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, December 31st (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Monday, January 1st (10 AM): Liturgy of St. Basil the Great - Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord

Saturday, January 6th (10 AM): Feast of Theophany with Great Water Blessing (Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, January 7th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, January 13th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, January 14th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, January 20th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, January 21st (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday, January 27th (7 PM): Vespers Service

Sunday, January 28th (10 AM): For all Parishioners

Saturday Services

Fr. Ihor is celebrating Vesper services every Saturday at 7 PM. All parishioners are invited to attend this service. Those who wish to have a Divine Liturgy celebrated for a loved one whether living or deceased or for a private intention are still able to do so. Please request your Divine Liturgy by contacting Fr. Ihor at (860) 617-6357 or cantor Jaroslaw Maksymowych at (603) 627-2042. Please note that Saturday Divine Liturgies will now be celebrated only at 10 AM (9 AM June thru August) whenever they are requested. If no Divine Liturgy has been requested for a particular Saturday, then none will be celebrated on that day. The Divine Liturgy schedule in the bulletin will only show Divine Liturgies on Saturdays when they have been requested. If the bulletin does not show a Divine Liturgy for a given Saturday, then this means that particular Saturday is available for your request.

Суботні Богослужіння

Отець Ігор святкує Вечірню кожної суботи у 7-мі годині вечером. Ласкаво просимо усіх парафіян до участі. Парафіяни які бажають замовити Божественну Літургію в суботу для померших або на особисті інтенції можуть дзвонити до о. Ігоря на номер (860) 617-6357 або до дяка п. Ярослава Максимовича на номер (603) 627-2042. Суботні Божественні Літургії будуть відслужені тільки о годині 10-тій ранком (9-тій ранку з червня по серпень) коли замовлені. Якщо Літургія в певну суботу не буде замовлена, то в цей день не буде жодна відправлена. Порядок Богослужінь в бюлетені покаже тільки ті суботні Служби Божі які є замовлені. Якщо в бюлетені не відображається Божественна Літургія на дану суботу, то це означає, що ця субота доступна на Ваше замовлення.

Liturgical Propers, Readings and Sermon for Sunday

Liturgical Propers for Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost and Feast of St. Nicholas

Resurrectional Tropar – Tone 3: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice! For the Lord has done mighty works with His arm. He trampled death by death to become the first born of the dead. He rescued us from the pit of hell, and has shown great mercy to the world.

Festal Tropar – Tone 4: The sincerity of your deeds has revealed you to your people as a teacher of moderation, a model of faith, and an example of virtue. Therefore, you attained greatness through humility and wealth through poverty. O father and archbishop Nicholas, ask Christ our God to save our souls.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Festal Kondak – Tone 3: You were truly a priestly worker in Myra, O holy Nicholas; for zealously living the gospel of Christ, you dedicated your life to your people; you saved the innocent from death. Therefore, you have been sanctified as one who has entered the mystery of God's grace.

now and always and forever. Amen.

Resurrectional Kondak – Tone 3: Today You rose from the grave, O Generous One,* and led us away from the gates of death.* Today Adam sings and Ever rejoices.* Prophets and patriarchs join them in unceasing praise* to the might of Your divine majesty.

Prokimen (Tone 3): Sing praise to God, sing praise;* sing praise to our King, sing praise.

VERSE: Clap your hands, all you peoples; sing to God a song of gladness.

Prokimen (Tone 7): The just man will rejoice in the Lord and will put his trust in Him.

VERSE: Hear my voice, O God, when I call out to You.

28-а НЕДІЛЯ ПО ЗІСЛАННІ СВ. ДУХА

Апостол (Кол 1: 12-18)

До Колосян послання св. апостола Павла читання.

Браття, дякуйте Отцеві, який зробив нас гідними мати участь у долі святих у світлі. Він вирвав нас із влади тьми й переніс у царство свого улюбленого Сина, в якому маємо відкуплення, прощення гріхів. Він - образ невидимого Бога, первородний усякого створіння, бо в Ньому все було створене, що на небі і що на землі, видиме й невидиме: чи то престоли, чи господьства, чи начала, чи власті, все було Ним і для Нього створене. Він раніш усього, і все існує в Ньому. Він також голова тіла, тобто Церкви. Він - начало, первородний з мертвих, так, щоб у всьому Він мав першенство.

Epistle Reading for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Colossians 1: 12-18)

Brethren: Give thanks to the Father for having made you worthy to share the lot of the saints in light. He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

Through Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creatures. In Him everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, principalities or powers, all were created through Him and for Him. He is before all else that is. In Him everything continues in being. It is He who is the head of the body, the Church; He who is the beginning, the first-born of the dead, so that primacy may be His in everything.

Tone 3: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

VERSE: The Lord will hear you in the day of tribulation; the name of the God of Jacob will shield you.

Tone 3: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

VERSE: Lord, grant victory to the king, and hear us in the day that we shall call upon You.

Tone 3: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

VERSE: Let Your priests be clothed with justice; let Your holy ones rejoice with gladness.

Tone 3: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

VERSE: Happy is the man who fears the Lord, who takes delights in His commandments.

Tone 3: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Євангелія: (Лк 17, 12-19)

У той час, коли Ісус входив в одне село, вийшло йому назустріч десять прокажених, що стояли здалека. Вони піднесли голос і казали: “Ісусе, Наставнику, змилуйся над нами!” Побачивши їх, Він промовив: “Ідіть та покажіться священикам.” І сталось так, як вони йшли, очистилися. Один же з них, побачивши, що видужав, повернувся, славлячи великим голосом Бога. І припав лицем до ніг Ісуса, почав йому дякувати. Він був самарянин.

Озвавсь Ісус і каже: “Хіба не десять очистилось? Де ж дев’ять? І не знайшовся між ними, щоб повернутись, Богові хвалу воздати, ніхто інший, окрім оцього чужинця?” І Він сказав до нього: “Встань, іди; віра твоя спасла тебе.”

Gospel Reading for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (St. Luke 17: 12-19)

At that time, as Jesus was entering a village, ten lepers met Him. Keeping their distance, they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” When He saw them, He responded, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” On their way there they were cured. One of them, realizing that he had been cured, came back praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself on his face at the feet of Jesus and spoke His praises. This man was a Samaritan.

Jesus took the occasion to say, “Were not all ten made whole? Where are the other nine? Was there no one to return and give thanks to God except this foreigner?” He said to the man, “Stand up and go your way, your faith has been your salvation.”

Sermon for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Glory to Jesus Christ! My Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ!

The Gospel reading today is about the Healing of the Ten Lepers. For behold, ten lepers met Jesus as He was about to enter a certain city. They met Him outside the city, for those who were considered unclean were not permitted to go into the city. They stood afar off, as if ashamed of their supposed uncleanness, and did not dare to draw near, thinking that Jesus abhorred them as did the others. They lifted up their voices and made a supplication. By physical location they were standing afar off, but in

their supplication they were near. For the Lord is near to all who call upon Him in truth (Ps. 144:19). And they did not make supplication to Him as to a mere man, but as to One greater than a man. For they called Him Master, meaning Lord, Protector, and Guardian, which is not far from thinking of Him as God.

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests. From a different perspective, one who touched a leper would be declared unclean, which required a special process of cleansing. In the Gospel according to Matthew 8: 2-4, Christ is healing the leper by a touch. In this case, Christ honors the Law, because He wants to teach us something more important. Thus, He does not cure them immediately, but tells them to go and show themselves to the priests. If one would have been healed of this terrible disease, the Old Testament Law required that this person go to the priest. After careful examination, the priest announced to the people that the person was truly healed and that he could reunite with the population again. Contrary to the laws of logic, they were not waiting to be cleansed of leprosy, and then to proceed to demonstrate their cleanliness, which the law requires. Still not healed and covered by wounds, running sores and in terrible pains from illness, they embark on a journey to show themselves to the clergy. Christ demonstrates here their complete obedience, since they did not wait for the miracle to happen first, but by listening to His words they immediately went on their way.

And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. As they moved, all ten suddenly realized they were healed. All these running sores, scabs, hair and skin that fell off, simply disappeared. The Lord healed them precisely due to their obedience. However, out of ten of them, only one returned to glorify Christ, and this individual was not Jewish but a Samaritan.

So Jesus said, 'Were there not all ten cleansed? But where are the other nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?'" Here Christ uses a mild chastisement towards those that did not return, saying that the glorification of God should be a priority for every human being. At the same time, through the Samaritan, who has returned to glorify God, we see what the meaning of true faith is. His faith was not determined only by the acceptance of the existence of God, but also by realigning future direction of his life according to the will of God.

The Samaritan not only followed Christ while he needed physical healing, because this would have been an imperfect and incomplete faith. When he received physical healing, he kept Christ in his heart. He did not allow his earthly worries and problems to separate him from Christ, like the other nine who were healed, but instead he returned to glorify God. He showed that he wanted to live and act according to the will of God - which is true faith. Only then did Christ exclaim and He say to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has saved you.

We have heard this phrase so many times in the Scriptures, "your faith has made you whole." Now, what was his faith? He was told to go to the priests. We don't know if he had a sure hope of being healed at that time. He might have been confused. We don't know if his faith was in that action or not, but when he was healed, he came to the God-man and worshipped him. There was his faith!

Faith is how we live. Faith is how we act. Faith is when God enlightens us, and He fills us, and there is so much within us that we cannot but act in ways that are pleasing to Him. A spring overflowing from our hearts -- that's what faith is. Faith is not only believing in something. It is being so filled with God,

that we act like God, in mercy, in love, in compassion, and that we recognize God, and we worship Him for Who He is. That is faith, and this leper, this former leper, had faith, because He saw the God-man, and he was touched by Him, and he reacted to Him!

Let us take the example of the ten lepers to heart as a clear sign of faith in God, who sees us with the ugly scars and open sores of our sins. Yet He does not turn His face away from us. On the contrary, He patiently waits for us to return to Him in faith and to ask for His mercy, forgiveness and healing. But let us go a step further as the Samaritan did by giving glory to God when He heals and makes us whole again. Amen.

Проповідь на 28-у Неділю по Зісланні Св. Духа

Слава Ісусу Христу! Дорогі в Христі браття і сестри!

Входячи в одне село, Його зустріли десять прокажених. Не можна було без жалю дивитися на цих нещасних, бо проказа викликала неймовірні страждання. Одержимі цим тяжким недугом покриті були смердючими виразками. Тіло на живих людях гнило, розкладалося і відпадали їхні частини. Обличчя їхне робилося невпізнаним від неймовірного страждання. Отже, ці важко хворі люди терпіли нестерпні фізичні болі, а до них додавалися ще гіркі моральні муки.

Згідно закону Мойсея, священики встановляли захворювання людей проказою, оголошували їх нечистими і виганяли мешкати в безлюдні місцевості. Прокаженим заборонялося пити воду з річок та інших громадських водей, щоб не заразити людей. Коли прокажений помирав, то навіть хижі птахи не клювали його трупа, заражений смертоносною отрутою, і звірі обходили його. Інші прокажені повинні були закопати тіло або спалити його.

Ось чому ці десять “живих мерців”, вигнані усіма людьми, не наважувалися наблизитися до Христа. Вони побачили Ісуса і почали кричати: “Ісусе наставнику, помилуй нас”. Змилосердився над ними Господь і сказав: “Ідіть, покажіться священикам”, бо тільки священики мали право оголосити їх знову чистими і повернути до життя в суспільстві.

Раптом сталося чудо, бо хворим загоїлися страшні рани, шкіра стала чистою і білою. Оздоровлені вже бачили перед своїми очима вогні рідної домівки і стіни Єрусалиму, але забули свого Рятівника! Вони зі сльозами радості на очах виразно уявляли негайну зустріч із своїми сім'ями, родинами, дітьми і друзями та з нетерпінням хотіли розказати їм радісну новину про чудесне одужання.

На жаль, з десяти оздоровлених чоловік, тільки один прийшов подякувати. Самотнім хто повернувся до свого Благодійника виявився вдячний чужинець самарянин. Дивлячись на вдячність десятого: “Озвавсь Ісус і каже: “Хіба не десять очистилось? Де ж дев'ять? І не знайшовся між ними, щоб повернутись, Богові хвалу воздати, ніхто інший, окрім цього чужинця?” І він сказав до нього: “Встань, іди: віра твоя спасла тебе.” (Лк. 17,17-19).

Богові є дуже приємно бачити вдячну людину, бо вона збагачує ближніх любов'ю, робить більш щедрішими жертводавців і милосердними людей. Подяка Богу звільняє людей від прив'язаності до тих речей, з якими одного разу змушені будемо розлучитися. Вдячність приєднує людей до Бога у земному житті і плавно переводить нас до оглядання Бога в небі. Голос Спасителя і прохання Церкви нагадують вам необхідність подякувати Господеві за всі отримані благодаті, за радості, хвороби і навіть важкі втрати.

Що найбільше нас дивує в цьому євангельському уривку (Лк. 17:12-19)? Те, що один чоловік повернувся, кричачи від радості, чи дев'ятеро, що цього не зробили? Здається, що ці зцілені люди мали повернутися до Бога, а натомість йдуть від Бога геть. Коли була біда прокажені шукали Спасителя та просили про милість. Коли зцілилися кожен став зайнятим своїми справами. Можливо, їм так захотілося побачити своїх рідних, що їм просто в голову не прийшло піти та подякувати своєму Доброчинцю.

В багатьох із нас Господь благословив добрим шлюбом, проте з роками ми перестаємо дивитися на шлюб як на Боже благословення. З роками чоловіки перестають цінувати своїх жінок, а дружини – своїх чоловіків. Ми звикаємо один до одного. Подібно і діти. Батьки намагаються їх оточити любов'ю та достатком, а вони потім це сприймають як норму, як обов'язок.

Сьогоднішнє євангельське читання – це не тільки розповідь про 10 прокажених, дев'ять з яких були невдячними Ісусові, а тільки один повернувся подякувати. Це розповідь про нас, що нерідко забуваємо подякувати Богу: «Завжди і за все» (Еф. 5:20). Звичайно, що ми, християни, розуміємо, що Бог є Подателем всього, що ми маємо: шматок хліба на столі, кожного вдиху чи видиху, кожного звуку, котрий ми чуємо. Проте ми звикаємо до цих Божих дарів і сприймаємо їх як щось, що нам належить. Задумаймося над тими усіма благодійствами та дарами, котрі ми отримуємо від Богу та наповнім свої серця вдячністю до Нього, повертаючись щотижня до Храму. Амінь!

Communion Verse: Хваліть Господа з небес, хваліть Його на висотах. Праведні залишаться у вічній пам'яті; їм не потрібно боятися поганої репутації. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. The just shall be held in everlasting memory; they need no fear an evil reputation. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Parish Announcements

We Welcome You!

If you are visiting our church today, our parish family is delighted to welcome you here! Thank you and God bless you for visiting with us today! We welcome all our visitors and guests who worship at our parish. We invite families and individuals who wish to become members to register by calling Fr. Ihor at (860) 617-6357.

Вітаємо Вас!

Якщо Ви відвідуєте нашу церкву сьогодні, наша парафіяльна громада рада вітати Вас тут! Щире спасибі Вам, і нехай Бог благословить Вас за Ваші відвідини з нами сьогодні! Ми запрошуємо сім'ї та осіб, які бажають стати членами, зареєструватися у нас по телефоні о. Ігоря на номер (860) 617-6357.

Please Pray for our Sick and Homebound Parishioners, Family Members and Friends

Fr. Ihor Papka, Fr. Zbigniew Brzezicki, Fr. Robert Smolley, Oleh and Valentina Babski, Michaëlle Baker, Rick Barr, Marylou Blaisdell, Tracy Crews, Carmel Horangic, Josephine Housty, Christine Kolagji, Helen Kucman, Martha and Ray Majkut, Karen and Jaroslaw Maksymowych, Jean Mandych, Sherri Martel, Katherine Masso, Jennifer McMillan, Katharine McNaughton, Jackie Morales, Lauren Morales, Jonathan Morales, Tanya and Ronald Morales, Elizabeth Mozina, Alan Pasicznyk, Lina Puciw, Billie Sheesley, Derek Stanley, Pauline Stanley, John Terninko, Elisha Wallace, Cindy Wilson, Dr. Mark Windt, Lenora Zelenski. Please contact Fr. Ihor if you would like to add a friend or loved one to this prayer list.

December Birthdays

The following parishioners are celebrating a birthday this month:
December 5 – Martha M.

December 5 – Ray M.
December 9 – Mykola S.
December 9 – Zhanna S.
December 19 – Dawn H.

Our parish community wishes this month's birthday celebrants peace, joy, love and good health on their special day as well as throughout the year. May our dear Lord grant all of you many more healthy, happy and blessed years. Happy Birthday and На Многая літа! (Na Mnohaya Lita!).

Church Cleaning and Decorating for Christmas

Cleaning and decorating of the church for Christmas will take place next Saturday, December 16th at 11 AM. Please see one of the Trustees if you can volunteer some of your time that day keeping in mind that many hands make quick work.

Parking Update

The owner of the lot across the street where many of our parishioners park during Sunday services, reminds us not to park in the space along the fence line nearest the alley way. This space is reserved for the personal vehicle of the residents of that building, and that space is clearly marked. Please do not park in that space or our parishioners will lose their parking privileges at that lot. If you have any questions regarding parking, please ask a Trustee.

St. Nicholas Lunch

Today, the Ladies Guild is hosting the annual St. Nicholas lunch in the church hall after Divine Liturgy. The Ladies Guild is serving a light brunch. We ask people to bring a dessert or side dish to share. Kindly note that this year we will continue the tradition of only one small gift bag being given to each child of the parish from St. Nicholas himself. **Please do not bring any gifts to this event.**

Обід зі Святим Миколаєм

Сьогодні, у церковній залі після Божественної Літургії, Жіноча Гільдія влаштовує щорічний свят Миколаївський обід. Жіноча Гільдія подасть легкий бранч. Просимо людей принести десерт чи гарнір, щоб поділитися. Зауважаємо усіх, що цього року ми продовжимо традицію, де кожній дитині парафії від самого Святого Миколая буде вручений лише один маленький подарунок.
Будь ласка, не приносьте жодних подарунків на цю подію.

November, 2023 Financial Summary

Total Income from November Donations: \$4,198.00

Total Expenditures for November: \$4,369.00

Deficit for November: \$171.00

Average attendance in November: 48

Thank you and God bless you for your generous support of our parish.

Weekly Reflection:

Learning about our Ukrainian Catholic Faith – Feast of St. Nicholas, the Wonder Worker

Yes, Virginia, there really is a St. Nicholas! St. Nicholas is a beloved saint of the Eastern churches. Most of what we know about him is probably more legend than history. Nicholas Thaumaturgus was born into a rich merchant family on the west coast of Asia Minor in 280 AD. The life story of the actual St. Nicholas of Myra (from the Greek words "*nike*," victory, and "*laos*," people -- literally, "victory of the people") is as fascinating as the myths, folklore, and traditions that have made the saint a popular cultural icon over the centuries. As a child, Nicholas was instructed in the faith by his uncle, the Bishop of Patara in Asia Minor.

Eventually, Nicholas became a monk at a monastery founded by his uncle. It was during this time that Nicholas gave all of his money to the poor, and it is said that he saved a poor man's daughters from being given over into a life of prostitution by throwing bags of gold through an open window at night. This is where we find the basis for Santa Claus, the bringer of gifts on Christmas Eve. As a monk, Nicholas hoped for a life of solitude, but he was not to find one. One night, Nicholas dreamed that Jesus gave him a copy of the Gospels while Mary, the Theotokos, placed an *omophorion* on him. Jesus told Nicholas that rather than be a solitary monk, he must instead work among the people.

A story is told of how he became Archbishop of the city of Myra. The committee responsible for choosing a new archbishop could not reach an agreement. So they decided to fast and pray for enlightenment. It is said that an angel of God appeared to the presiding bishop and told him to select a man called Nicholas, who would be the first to arrive for morning prayers. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Nicholas went to Myra and was the first Nicholas to enter through those doors!

As Archbishop of Myra, Nicholas was noted for his deeply religious life, his generosity and love of the poor, his battles against heresies, against persecutors of Christians and human injustice. He was a true shepherd of his people and a model of faith. He was an example of virtue, attaining greatness through humility, and spiritual wealth through earthly poverty by giving generously to those in need.

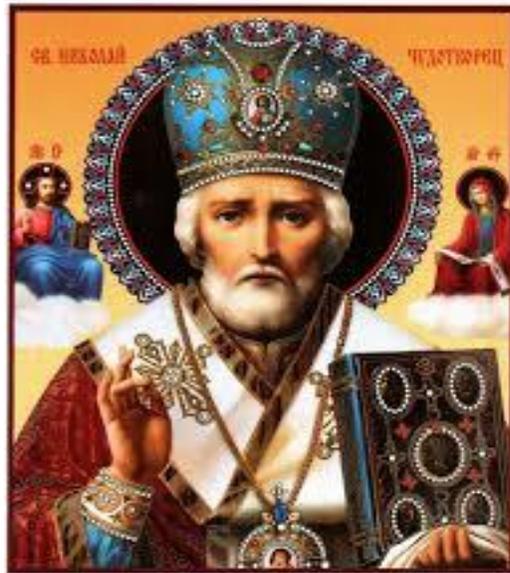
During the reigns of Diocletian and Maximian, Nicholas was persecuted and imprisoned for his faith, but he continued to teach. After Constantine I legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire, the Arian Controversy arose. Nicholas was one of the bishops attending the First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea in 325 AD, which was convened to resolve the controversy. At the Council, our Nicene Creed was developed. Also, while at the Council, Nicholas slapped Arius, a bishop from Alexandria, in the face for teaching that Christ was a created being instead of eternally one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This resulted in Nicholas being deposed as bishop. However, several of the church fathers that night shared a dream in which they saw Nicholas reinstated as bishop by Christ and the Theotokos. The next day, Nicholas was reinstated as bishop and treated with respect. It is possible that this incident accounts for Nicholas' reputation as one who punishes bad children at Christmas (or on St. Nicholas' Day) as well as rewarding good children.

Nicholas' reputation for charity continued throughout his lifetime, but the saint also had a reputation for justice. One story about Nicholas tells us that, while visiting a remote area, the saint received news that the ruler of Myra, Eustathius, had condemned three innocent men to death. Nicholas rushed home and arrived in time to physically intervene in the execution by grasping the executioner's sword and throwing it to the ground. He ordered the condemned men to be freed from their bonds.

Thousands of churches have been built in Nicholas' honor and his name remains very popular. Every Thursday is dedicated to his memory in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. He is a popular figure in Byzantine iconography, and his icon can be seen in our own parish Iconostas on the left most panel. He is often seen in the center of an icon attired in Episcopal robes surrounded by miniature scenes from his life. One of these scenes depicts him in full length with a sword in his right hand, and a church in his left. The sword represents his spiritual ornament according to the words of St. Paul: "you must wear the armor which God provides, so that you may be able to stand firm against the devices of the devil...Take up God's armor, then you will be able to stand your ground

when things are at their worst...” (Ephesians 6:11-17). The church on the other hand, symbolizes his great love and zeal for the purity of faith and his defense against heresies and the enemies of his flock.

St. Nicholas died peacefully in Myra during the fourth century and was originally interred in a local church. His impact, as demonstrated above, has lasted far beyond his lifetime. Perhaps this is the greatest wonder performed by St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker. His feast day falls on December 6, (December 19 according to the Julian calendar), during the time of Pilipeewka (St. Philip’s Fast) when we are preparing our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Lord. St. Nicholas shows us the ideals of love, charity, and generosity at work in everyday life. He was ready to help anyone in any situation, regardless of the cost to himself. Let us celebrate Saint Nicholas’ memory by imitating his goodness, generosity and selfless giving. Saint Nicholas, pray for us!



St. Nicholas, the Wonder-Worker
Св. Миколай – Чудотворець

SONG TO ST. NICHOLAS (to be sung by all at today’s breakfast in the hall)

O, khto, khto, Mikolaya lyubit',
O, khto, khto, Mikolayu sluzhit'
2x Tomu svyatiy Mikolay,
Na vsyakiy chas pomahay, Mikolaye.
Миколає.

О хто, хто Миколая любить,
О хто, хто Миколаю служить
2x Тому святий Миколай,
На всякий час помагай,
Миколає.

O, khto, khto, speeshit' v Tvoeye dvori,
Seho Ti na zemlee i v moree
2x Khoronish veed napasti,
Ne dayesh v hreekhi vpasti, Mikolaye.

О хто, хто спішить в Твої двори,
Сего Ти на землі і в морі
2x Хорониш від напасти,
Не даєш в гріхи впасти, Миколає.

Children who, who love dear St. Nicholas
Children who, who obey St. Nicholas—

2x They're the ones who won't be missed,
And their wishes will be blessed
By St. Nicholas .

Look upon our happy, smiling faces,
Come delight us with your blissful graces.

2x Don't forget to bring some treats,
Presents, peanuts and some sweets,
Dear St. Nicholas.