

St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

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His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami & the Southeast

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JANUARY 24, 2021

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

BLESSED XENIA OF ST. PETERSBURG, FOOL-FOR-CHRIST

RIGHTEOUS MOTHER XENIA THE MERCIFUL OF ROME; HIEROMARTYR BABYLAS OF SICILY;

VENERABLE PHILOTHEOS, FOUNDER OF PHILOTHEOU MONASTERY ON ATHOS

Welcome to St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

We greet you in the Name of the Lord, and are thankful for your visit to pray with us. Your participation in the work of all who enter here with faith, reverence and the fear of God makes the Divine Liturgy alive. For the “lit-orgia” is truly the “work of the people.”

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church’s mission is to assist people of all races, cultures and backgrounds on their journey to God’s Kingdom by standing firm in the Gospel handed down to us by Christ and His Apostles. We will accomplish this mission by a) living a full liturgical and sacramental life, b) proclaiming the Orthodox Christian faith to all people, c) providing effective charitable and social programs, and d) establishing strong spiritual leadership and educational resources. St. Nicholas is a living reflection of Christ and shines as a light to all people.

Communion is reserved for those Orthodox Christians who prepared themselves through regular confession and fasting from the night before. Others may approach the chalice for a blessing and partake of the antidoron (blessed bread).

To encourage a proper spirit of prayer and devotion, we respectfully ask that you enter the sanctuary quietly during the Diving Liturgy. Please, do NOT enter or exit the sanctuary at the following times:

- When the priest censes the church
- During the Little Entrance with the Gospel
- During the reading of the Epistle and Gospel.
(You may enter the nave immediately after the reading of each is completed).
- During the delivery of the Sermon
- During the Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts
- During the Prayers of Consecration.
You may enter the nave after the Hymn to the Theotokos “It Is Truly Meet.”

THE SYNAXARION

On January 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Righteous Mother, Blessed Xenia, the Fool for Christ's sake and Wonderworker of Saint Petersburg.

Xenia was married to a Colonel named Andrew; when she was 26 years old, her husband died suddenly. Left a childless widow, Xenia gave away all that she had, and vanished from St. Petersburg for eight years to live in a hermitage, learning the spiritual life. When she returned to St. Petersburg, she wore her husband's military clothing, and would answer only to the name of her late husband Andrew. She took up the life of a homeless wanderer, and was abused by many as insane. She bore this with great patience, crucifying the carnal mind through the mockery she endured, and praying for her husband's soul. She was given great gifts of prayer and prophecy, and often foretold things to come. In 1796 she foretold the death of Empress Catherine II. Xenia reposed in peace at age 71 in about the year 1800. Her grave became such a source of miracles, and so many came to take soil from it as a blessing that it was often necessary to replace the soil. When a stone slab was placed over her grave, this too disappeared over time, piece by piece. Saint Xenia is especially invoked for help in finding employment, lodging, or a spouse.

On this day, we also commemorate our Righteous Mother Xenia the merciful of Rome; Hieromartyr Babylas of Sicily; and Venerable Philotheos, founder of Philotheou monastery on Athos. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. XENIA OF ST. PETERSBURG IN TONE EIGHT

In thee, O wandering stranger, Christ the Lord hath given us an ardent intercessor for our kind. For having received in thy life sufferings and grief and served God and men with love, thou didst acquire great boldness. Wherefore, we fervently hasten to thee in temptations and grief, crying out from the depths of our hearts: Put not our hope to shame, O Blessed Xenia.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE: First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:15-17)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS & SISTERS:

Departed: Mitchel Abraham, John Specian, Cheryl Catton, Fares Beder, Hanneh Kassis, Zelpha Albert, James F.M. Sexton, Evelyn Pippy, Fr. Spyridon Massouh, Isa Ishak, Jaber Ibrahim, Anthony Patell.

Shut-Ins/Sick: Metropolitan PAUL, Archbishop YOHANNAH, Annette Haddad, Schauki Kassis, Rose Beede, Alice Flaherty, Theodora Ohlinger, Sally Bell, Bob Bostley, George Joseph Rolfes, Aurelia Buda, Richard Pippy, Diane Zorich, Lisa McCoy, Viola Haddad, Susana Kassis, Mary Semaan

For the Health & Needs of: Kh. Virginia Massouh, Pf. Margot Siniari, Angela Jacob, Farhat David, Helen Massarelli, Carole Massarelli, Helen Salem, Ruth & Evern Hazel, Georgette Abraham, Mariam Haddad, Bryan Haddad, Nasir Kassis, Mitch & Geri Kanaan, Alice Faccenda, David & Eva Szabo, Marion Bostley, Theodore Todorow, Alex Gimon, Leo Poirier, Collin Lamkin, Sophie Massouh, Stephen Bove', Leila Bashara, Natalie Floreancig, Mary Magdalene Foltz, Marie Miller, Gail & Charlie Barnett, Suha Mansour, Bob Poirier, Bruce Bingham, Dorothy Mihelic, Loretta Karpelenia, Lydia Davidson, Joanne Kassis, Mary Jean Lubin.

Service Members: Zachariah Weaver (USAF), Christopher Salem (USAF): Nephew of Helen Salem, Peter McIntire (Army): Grand Nephew of Viola Haddad, Curtis Brickwood (Navy): Fr Michael's Cousin, David Butler (Navy): Son of Joanna Kassis Butler, Trenton Wesley (Army): grandson of Leila Bashara

SERVICE SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday: 9:30 AM Orthros 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 25 5:30 pm - Men's Group at St. Nicholas

Wednesday January 27 Vespers and Liturgy of Abundant Caution
5:30 pm Vespers ****Masks Required****
6:15 pm Divine Liturgy ****Masks Required****

Friday, January 29 – Sunday 1/31 Diocese of Miami and the Southeast's
Online Winter Retreat
(Register at
<https://domse.org/event/winterretreat2021/>
to participate through Zoom)

Monday, February 01 – 5:30 pm – Great Vespers
6:15 pm - Divine Liturgy
Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (2 Feb)

Tuesday, February 02 8 pm - Orthodox Christianity 101:
The Fundamentals of the Faith
(Class meets on Zoom – Email Fr. Nathaniel for
the link if you would like to attend)

Memorial Service today for:
Ryszard Mrotek, Matilta Hazim Atik,
Fr. Spyridon Massouh, Zelpha Albert
May their memory be Eternal !!!

God grant you many years....

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 24 James Calamas
Jan 25 Richard Pippy
Jan 25 Reem Jacob
Jan 26 Ben Massouh
Jan 26 Jamal Mansour
Jan 28 Philip Kassis

Anniversaries

Jan 27 Andi & Alba Budo