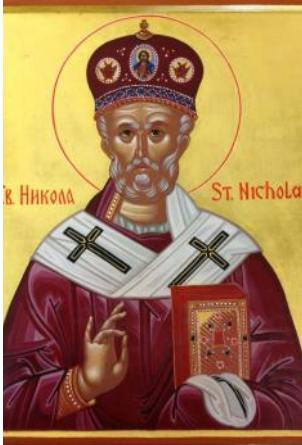


# 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



**Welcome** to St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church. We invite you to join us for coffee hour, which is held in the fellowship hall, immediately after the Divine Liturgy. We ask that you introduce yourself to our Pastor or Deacon, who would be happy to answer your questions.

Please visit our Mission in Wasilla. Blessed Theodore Romzha (Bishop and Martyr—murdered by Communists in 1947, whose feast day is October 31st). We meet on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. Blessed Romzha mission is an outreach to the Mat-Su Valley and we are delighted to welcome all who choose to attend our Divine Liturgy at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. Please see the address on back of this bulletin.

## Divine Liturgy Schedule

**Dec 10.— Dec 17,**

### 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sat 12/9 5:00 pm Vesper/Liturgy : Mary Pat Heller (The Heller family)  
Sun 12/10 10:00 am Liturgy: 60 th Anniversary of our church and St. Nicholas celebration  
4:00 pm No Service in Wasilla due to St. Nicholas celebration in Anchorage. We welcome our Wasilla parishioners, family and friends to join with us.

Mon 12/11 No Service  
Tues 12/12 No Service  
Wed 12/13 6:00 pm +William David Pearson (Joseph Carl Pearson)  
Thur 12/14 No Service  
Fri 12/15 6:00 pm Sidun family ( Tom and Liz Kol)

### SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

Sat 12/16 5:00 pm Vesper/Liturgy : +Anna Koleha (Samorajski family)  
Sun 13/17 10:00 am Liturgy: Hippler family (Fr. M)  
4:00 pm Living and Deceased Members of Parish Mission in Wasilla

#### -tone 2

Readings: Lk. 17:12-19, Eph 6:10-17,  
*Metropolitan Cantor Institute* <http://www.metropolitancantorinstitute.org>

#### 7 DAY CANDLE INTENTIONS (Please Use Envelopes\*)

EUCCHARIST: Natalie Riendl( Fr. M)

THEOTOKOS: Hippler family ( Fr. M)

CZESTOCHOWA: +Arthur Hippler( Fr. M)

\*7 DAY Candle intentions may be requested by filling out an envelope at the entrance. Donation is \$10.00

#### Prayer Requests

Rosemary Carter, Mary Pat Heller, Mary Bramer, Natalie Riendl,  
Mary Lincoln, Rosemarie Henn & families of St. Nicholas, our friends, our city

**Happy Birthdays in DECEMBER!** 12/1/ Sophia Lambertsen;1/12Emerich Urbanski, 12/3/ Judith Bich; 12/5/ Andrew Kaiser; 12/7/ Anna Marie Niglio; 12/8/ Natalie Riendl; 12/8/ Caleb Jones; 12/10 Annamaria Pustina;12/16/ Joseph Dixon; 12/20/ Elijah Lotton; 12/24/ Sean Dixon; 12/25/ Christine Dixon; 12/26/ Joel Davidson; 12/27/ Matthew Dixon; 12/27/ Stephen Kichura; 12/27 Bryan Trombley; 12/30 Bennett Lyon ,12/30Olga Pustina

**God grant them many blessed years!**



## Dec. 10th Sunday 60th Anniversary

of our church and Saint Nicholas Day celebration with Bishops, clergy, parishioners and guests with potluck Food Fellowship at Saint Nicholas of Myra church and Artim hall

Liturgy 10:00 am

Potluck 11:30 am

Historic Presentation—60th Anniversary

Visitation with St. Nicholas



### CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL

Now is the time to donate to our Christmas flowers and decorations for the church in the remembrance of your deceased loved ones. You may also use it to honor special people in your life. Please print out the names on our specially labeled envelopes located at the desk for Christmas flowers.



60th Anniversary & Feast of St. Nicholas Potluck

Sign up sheet is posted in the Artim Hall. Please share with your favorite dishes for the holidays

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR ST. NICHOLAS

1. CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24 th Sunday LITURGY:  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS: 10:00 P.M.  
LITURGY: 10:30 P.M

Please bring Food, Cookies, Cakes, Ice Cream to share after Liturgies

2. Dec 25 th. MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY LITURGY: 10:00 A.M.  
Please bring Food, Cookies, Cakes, Ice Cream to share after Liturgies

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS for Blessed Theodore :

- Dec 25 th. MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY LITURGY: 4:00PM

Easter formation classes for children.  
Dec. Sundays: 17.

### Jesus Prayer:

Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
Have mercy on me, a sin-

**Thank you:** Jake Stenier for installation of our new security cameras outside and inside our church. We wish him and his family many blessed years.

**Thank you:** to Niglio family for hosting last week's coffee social .Thank you to all who participating in the St. Nicholas Pot Luck this week. We appreciate everyone's hospitality.

*Please feel free to talk with Fr. Michael about parish needs*

# **St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church**

*2200 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage AK, 99503-1909      Tel: 907-277-6731*

**Email:** [pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com)      **Webpage:** [www.ak-byz-cath.org](http://www.ak-byz-cath.org)

**Pastor:** *Rev. Father Michael Sidun*

## **Divine Liturgy Schedule**

**Weekday Divine Liturgy: 6:00pm**

*Saturday Divine Liturgy: 5:00 pm      Sunday Divine Praises: 9:40 am*

**Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am**

*Holy Mystery of Confession: 20 minutes before every Divine Liturgy and upon request*

## **Blessed Theodore Romzha Byzantine Catholic Mission**

*Sacred Heart Church, 1201 Bogard Road in Wasilla*

**Holy Mystery of Confession: Sundays—After Liturgies**

**Divine Liturgy: 4:00 pm**

**Our Parish and Mission are in Communion with the Pope of Rome and the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix**

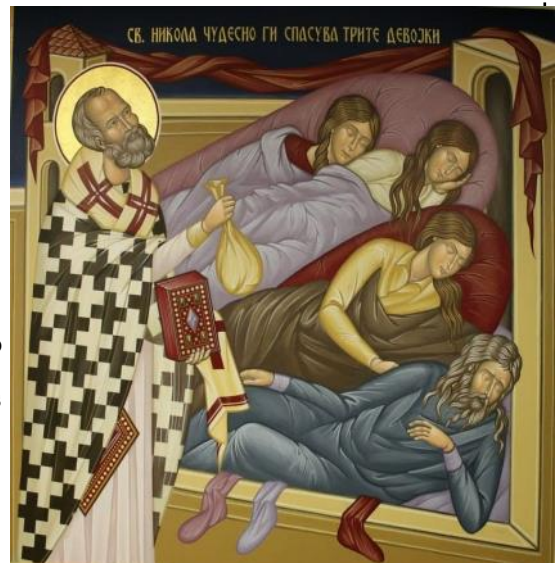
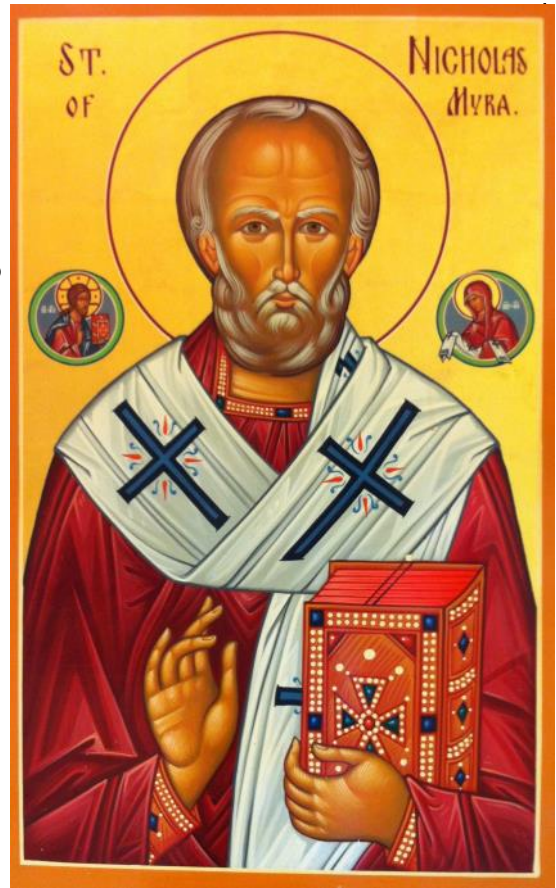
# St. Nicholas of Myra

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born in the third century in the village of Patara. While the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you possess and give to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick and suffering. He devoted his life to serving God and was made Bishop of worlds, still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the country for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicea in 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in the world of AD and was buried in his cathedral, which contains unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance is said to have healing powers, contributed to the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6 (December 19 on the Julian calendar).

Over the centuries many stories legends told about the life and deeds of St. Nicholas. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home—providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.



## St. Nicholas of Myra



One of the oldest stories showing St. Nicholas as a protector of children takes place long after his death. The townspeople of Myra were celebrating the good saint on the eve of his feast day when a band of Arab pirates from Crete came into the district. They stole treasures from the Church of Saint Nicholas to take away as booty. As they were leaving town, they snatched a young boy, Basilios, to make into a slave. The emir, or ruler, selected Basilios to be his personal cupbearer, as not knowing the language, Basilios would not understand what the king said to those around him. So, for the next year Basilios waited on the king, bringing his wine in a beautiful golden cup. For Basilios' parents, devastated at the loss of their only child, the year passed slowly, filled with grief. As the next St. Nicholas' feast day approached, Basilios' mother would not join in the festivity, as it was now a day of tragedy. However, she was persuaded to have a simple observance at home—with quiet prayers for Basilios' safekeeping. Meanwhile, as

Basilios was fulfilling his tasks serving the emir, he was suddenly whisked up and away. St. Nicholas appeared to the terrified boy, blessed him, and set him down at his home back in Myra. Imagine the joy and wonderment when Basilios amazingly appeared before his parents, still holding the king's golden cup. This is the first story told of St. Nicholas protecting children—which became his primary role in the West.

Another story tells of three theological students, traveling on their way to study in Athens. A wicked innkeeper robbed and murdered them, hiding their remains in a large pickling tub. It so happened that Bishop Nicholas, traveling along the same route, stopped at this very inn. In the night he dreamed of the crime, got up, and summoned the innkeeper. As Nicholas prayed earnestly to God the three boys were restored to life and wholeness. In France the story is told of three small children, wandering in their play until lost, lured, and captured by an evil butcher. St. Nicholas appears and appeals to God to return them to life and to their families. And so St. Nicholas is the patron and protector of children.

Several stories tell of Nicholas and the sea. When he was young, Nicholas sought the holy by making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There as he walked where Jesus walked, he sought to more deeply experience Jesus' life, passion, and resurrection.

## St. Nicholas of Myra

Other stories tell of St. Nicholas saving his people from famine, sparing the lives of those innocently accused, and much more. He did many kind and generous deeds in secret, expecting nothing in return. Within a century of his death he was celebrated as a saint. Today he is venerated in the East as wonder, or miracle worker and in the West as patron of a great variety of persons—children, mariners, bankers, pawn-brokers, scholars, orphans, laborers, travelers, merchants, judges, paupers, marriageable maidens, students, children, sailors, victims of judicial mistakes, captives, perfumers, even thieves and murderers! He is known as the friend and protector of all in trouble or need (see list).

Sailors, claiming St. Nicholas as patron, carried stories of his favor and protection far and wide. St. Nicholas chapels were built in many seaports. As his popularity spread during the Middle Ages, he became the patron saint of Apulia (Italy), Sicily, Greece, and Lorraine (France), and many cities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Belgium, and the Netherlands (see list). Following his baptism, Grand Prince Vladimir I brought St. Nicholas' stories and devotion to St. Nicholas to his homeland where Nicholas became the most beloved saint. Nicholas was so widely revered that thousands of churches were named for him, including three hundred in Belgium, thirty-four in Rome, twenty-three in the Netherlands and more than four hundred in England.

Nicholas' tomb in Myra became a popular place of pilgrimage. Because of the many wars and attacks in the region, some Christians were concerned that access to the tomb might become difficult. For both the religious and commercial advantages of a major pilgrimage site, the Italian cities of Venice and Bari vied to get the Nicholas relics. In the spring of 1087, sailors from Bari succeeded in spirited away the bones, bringing them to Bari, a seaport on the southeast coast of Italy. An impressive church was built over St. Nicholas' crypt and many faithful journeyed to honor the saint who had rescued children, prisoners, sailors, famine victims, and many others through his compassion, generosity, and the countless miracles attributed to his intercession. The Nicholas shrine in Bari was one of medieval Europe's great pilgrimage centers and Nicholas became known as "Saint in Bari." To this day pilgrims and tourists visit Bari's great Basilica di San Nicola.

Through the centuries St. Nicholas has continued to be venerated by Catholics and Orthodox and honored by Protestants. By his example of generosity to those in need, especially children, St. Nicholas continues to be a model for the compassionate life.

