

# Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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## Reader Julius Kovach, Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Erin Zawolowycz  
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## Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Please check weekly schedule  
for specific days

AMBO: Articles for publica-  
tion should be submitted to:

[ambo-theodosius](mailto:ambo-theodosius)

[@googlegroups.com](mailto:@googlegroups.com)

by Wednesday of each week  
before noon.

DECEMBER 6, 2020

ST. NICHOLAS THE  
WONDERWORKER, BISHOP OF  
MYRA IN LYCIA



Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos (December 9)

**The Conception of the Holy Theotokos by Righteous Anna (December 9)** Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ

took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.



“In the icon Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, Who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under Her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power.”

There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna’s face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk district of Volhynia diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

## **Merrick House Angel Tree Update**

Thank you VERY much to all who participated in our Merrick House Angel Tree! With the pandemic, I wasn't sure it would work out this year, but it was a real success. All gifts (with name tags!) need to be at church no later than Sunday Dec. 13. Any questions, please see Dan Morris. God bless you richly for your generosity.

- Reader Dan Morris

## **FAITH ENRICHMENT ON HOLD UNTIL 1/14/2021**

Faith Enrichment is on hold until January 14th, 2021. Please contact Subdeacon Leon Felon at (440) 666-7601 if you have any questions.

**Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia** is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money

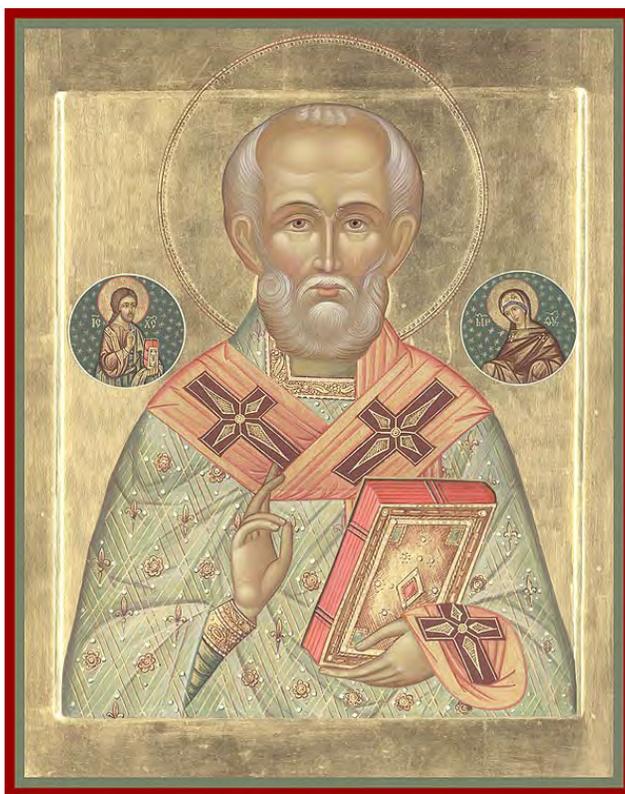
for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction.

In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to Saint Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At

the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to



Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305).

Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the



Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council

agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies. The face of Saint Nicholas resembled that of an Angel, resplendent with divine grace. A brilliant ray

shone from his face, like that which shone from the face of Moses (Exodus 34:29), so that those who looked at him were astonished. Whoever was oppressed by some affliction or passion of the soul had only to behold the Saint, and his sorrow was eased at once. As for those who conversed with him, they soon found themselves advancing on the path of virtue. Not only were the faithful moved to compassion, but unbelievers as well, and they directed their steps on the path of salvation when they heard him speak. The evil of unbelief which had been implanted in their hearts since childhood was uprooted, and in its place, the word of truth was sown.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over

the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible

famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).

**From the Desk of Fr. Adamcio...**

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL?

We are preparing ourselves to celebrate the Incarnation, the Nativity in the Flesh, of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do this by fasting, increasing our prayer life, and attending as many of the liturgical services as are offered, and we are able to attend. One of the ways we prepare is by going to receive the Mystery of Repentance, Reconciliation, Confession.

Strangely enough, we have an excellent “icon” of repentance given to us during the Christmas season. Even though we may not realize it at first, if we think about it, this story is very profound.

Charles Dickens wrote his immortal *A Christmas Carol* in 1843 in an effort to show Victorian society the great disparity between the rich, the well-off, and the poor, the working poor. He deftly paints a word picture of these differences with which we are all familiar. Who can forget Ebenezer Scrooge; the ghosts (spirits) of Christmases past, present, and future; and especially Tiny Tim. The various theatrical versions are a wonderful story of the Christmas season.

However, there is one overriding theme that perhaps is overlooked: *repentance!* The story ultimately revolves around Scrooge's interactions with the three spirits, and how he changes after these encounters.

This can be viewed as a spiritual odyssey in which Scrooge comes to accept his sinful actions and relationships after painful reflections on his greed, avarice, and contempt for his fellow human beings. He then changes his life completely. This is a wonderful definition of what actual repentance is: changing the course of a life 180 degrees around. Not only does he do this with a full heart, but he also becomes an example for others to emulate. As Dickens put it, Scrooge was better than his word, and became a legend of generosity and good will!

The Nativity Fast is an opportunity for us to come to Confession, and imbue ourselves in this spirit of repentance, of changing our lives. We have a wonderful example of total love as the Second Person of the Holy Trinity becomes a little baby, Who would grow and mature into the Saviour, taking upon Himself the sins of the world, dying on the Cross, and Resurrecting Himself so that we may have forgiveness, and eternal life with Him in Heaven. Therefore, let us take this opportunity to come to Confession, confessing our sins to our Lord, and receiving His forgiveness. Let us partake of the Holy Eucharist, which nourishes our soul. Let us truly repent – change our lives – offering to our Lord a renewed love for Him, and each other.



## PRAYER REQUESTS



### **Departed:**

**Archbishop David**

**Patriarch Irinej**

**Marguerite Mihal** (*Paul Mihal's mother*)

### **Special Intentions:**

**Deacon Paul Mitchell** (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

**Subdeacon Theodore Lentz**

**Reader Paul Pangrace**

**Arlene Czajkowski**

**Child Mary Kate Zweidunger**

**Child Vivian Sherer**

**Melissa** (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

**Lyndsey** (*friend of Melissa McCutcheon*)

**Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz**

**Marie Borland**

**Sandra Brello**

**Elsie Conrad**

**Horia Dascalescu**

**Debra Ellis**

**Gregory Galan**

**Aleksei Green**

**Virginia Haupt** (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

**Don Hinkl**

**Matthew Hunly** (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)

**Diane Kearsey** (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

**Mara Kilbane** (*Melissa McCutcheon's*

*granddaughter*)

**Annamarie Luvison** (*Daughter of Kaite Ellis-Luvison*)

**Chris Magee** (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

**Melissa McCutcheon**

**Paul Mihal**

**Natalya Miller** (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

**Andrew Mytrohovich**

**Debra Parhamovich** (*Karen Felon's sister*)

**Grace Parhamovich** (*Karen Felon's mother*)

**Jim Paulitzky** (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

**James Peter Petkac**

**Susan Reese** (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

**Elena Rich** (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

**Joseph Rusynyk**

**Andrew Sykaluk**

**Elaine Sudnick** (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

**Tony Sykaluk** (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

**Janice Tkacz**

**Joanne Theodore** (*Lisa Theodore's mother-in-law*)

**Gayle Vidovitch**

**Eleanor Wachovec** (*friend of Karen Felon*)

**Robert Walsh** (*friend of the Felons*)

**Colleen Walsh** (*friend of the Felons*)

**Erin Zawolowycz**

**Kristin Robinson**

**Janet Budko** (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

**Laurie Budko** (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

**Alex Ponomarenko**

**Mary Kay Weber**

**Mirta Szewczyk** (*friend of Tatiana*)

**Mickey O'Brien** (*friend of Arlene*)

**Roger Pinta Jr.**

**Kelly Buehner**

**Anna Sykaluk** (*friend of Tatiana*)

**Edward Zewczyk** (*friend of Tatiana*)

**Joe Czajkowski** (*son of Jerry*)

**Patrick Gallagher**

**Nathan Pozderac**

**Elliott Udell** (*grandson of Michael Udell*)

**Constance Zimmerman** (*Cindy's cousin*)

**Denny Kovach**

**Karen Felon**

**William Nasi** (*brother-in-law of Kenneth Kovach*)

**Jonathan Maas** (*friend of Eric Seddon*)

# BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 6

**Dec 6**  
 Composite 2—Proverbs 10, 3, 8  
 Prov 10:31-11:12  
 Wis 4:7-15  
 Luke 24:1-12  
 Heb 13:17-21  
 Luke 6:17-23  
 Eph 5:9-19  
 Luke 17:12-19

**Dec 9**  
 Gal 4:22-31  
 Luke 8:16:21  
 1 Tim 5:22-6:11  
 Luke 21:5-7. 10-11, 20-24

**Dec 13**  
 Wis 3:1-9  
 Wis 5:15-6:3  
 Wis 4:7-15  
 Luke 24:12-35  
 Gal 5:22-6:2  
 Luke 6:17-23  
 Col 3:4-11  
 Luke 14:16-24

**Dec 7**  
 1 Tim 5:1-10  
 Luke 20:27-44

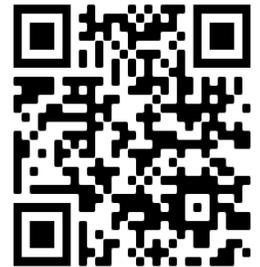
**Dec 11**  
 2 Tim 1:1-2, 8-18  
 Luke 21:37-22:8

**Dec 8**  
 1 Tim 5:11-21  
 Luke 21:12-19

**Dec 12**  
 Gal 5:22-6:2  
 Luke 13:18-29

## ST. THEODOSIUS IS NOW A SUBSCRIBER TO TITHE.LY

In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online. Click here to see: <https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate> Special thanks to Council Vice President Cathy Weber and our new Webmaster Kate Zolikoff for making this happen.



### Sunday, Dec 6

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker,  
 Archbishop of Myra in Lycia  
 3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM  
 Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

### Monday, Dec 7

Holy Martyrs killed by the Arians

### Tuesday, Dec 8

Venerable Patapius of Thebes

### Wednesday, Dec 9

The Conception by Righteous Anna of  
 the Most-Holy Theotokos

### Thursday, Dec 10

Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and  
 Eugraphius of Alexandria  
 No Faith Enrichment this week

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2020

### Friday, Dec 11

Ven. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople

### Saturday, Dec 12

St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop  
 of Tremithus  
 5:15 PM Confessions  
 6:00 PM Great Vespers  
 with visit by St. Nicholas

### Sunday, Dec 13

Repose of Ven. Herman of Alaska,  
 Wonderworker of All America  
 3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM  
 Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM