
St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

2300 W. Huntington Dr.

Wilmington, DE 19808

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*Sunday December 1, 2019 24th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST – Tone 7. Venerable Botolph of Iken
(7th c.). Prophet Nahum (7th c. B.C.). Righteous
Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor (792).
Martyr Ananias of Persia.*

This Week's Schedule

Thursday 12/5 Study Group 10:00 a.m.

Vespers Eve of St. Nicholas 7:00 p.m.

Friday 12/6 St. Nicholas Day Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

followed by Feast Day Fun & Fellowship

Saturday 12/7 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12/8 Hours 8:40 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

followed by Coffee Hour

Reader Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>3RD HOUR</u>	<u>6TH HOUR</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>
Dec 01	J PECK	PECK	PECK
Dec 06	ST NICHOLAS DAY		
Dec 08	WALES	WALES	WALES
Dec 15	SULPIZI	SKOMORUCHA	CAREY
Dec 22	DORAZIO	BUNITSKY	LEWIS

Hymns and Prayers

Tone 7 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 2 Troparion *(Prophet Nahum)*

We celebrate the memory
of Your Prophet Nāhum, O Lord;
through him we beseech You:
“save our souls!”

Tone 7 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith://
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Prophet Nahum)*

Illumined by the Spirit, your heart was a vessel of illustrious prophecy,
seeing far-off things as though they were present.
Therefore, we venerate you, glorious prophet Nāhum.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His
people with peace. (*Ps 28/29:11*)

v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!
(*Ps 28/29:1*)

Epistle Ephesians 2:14:22

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Tone 7

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps 91/92:1)

v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night. (Ps 91/92:2)

Gospel Luke 18:18-27

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?"

But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This Week's Announcements

Archbishop MARK to Reschedule His Eminence Archbishop MARK will reschedule his visit with us due to the weather. We will still have a special potluck luncheon following liturgy with a St. Barbara's Day celebration. All are welcome to stay!

Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker This week we will celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Archbishop of Myra and Lycia. We will celebrate with Great Vespers at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday Dec. 5th. and Divine Liturgy for the feast Friday morning Dec 6th, at 9:30 a.m. Don't forget following Liturgy we will have our Feast Day Fellowship and fun. Join us!

Welcome to Our Newest Catechumen Welcome also to our newest catechumen Edward Jones. We look forward to being part of his continued journey towards Chrismation in the Orthodox Church.

Family Promise Dec.9, 10 and 12 we will cook/serve dinner to local homeless families at St. Philips Lutheran Church 5320 Limestone Rd,

Wilmington DE 19808. Please sign up on FP board in the narthex to share our bounty, compassion and love to our less fortunate neighbors. See Ellen Gundersen for details.

Study Group Resumes this Week Our study group will resume this Thurs. Dec. 5th, with chapter 8 of St. Matthew. All are welcome to join us!

Adopt a Family Our St. Michaels family is once again participating in Adopt a Family, providing gifts for several senior citizens in need this Christmas season. The sign up sheets will be available in the narthex on Sundays. Hope LaChance has emailed out the information and will be providing updates. Please text her with any questions at 302.561.1870. Last date for gift drop-off will be Sunday December 1st.

The Nativity Fast This is just a reminder that the Nativity Fast is now upon us (Nov. 15th). The fast continues until the Nativity of our Lord (Dec. 25th). The celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the Orthodox Church is patterned after the celebration of the feast of the Lord's Resurrection. A fast of forty days precedes the feast, with special preparatory days announcing the approaching birth of the Savior. Thus, on Saint Andrew's Day (November 30) and Saint Nicholas Day (December 6) songs are sung to announce the coming birthday of the Lord: 'Adorn yourself, O Cavern. Make ready, O Manger. O Shepherds and wisemen, bring your gifts and bear witness. For the Virgin is coming bearing Christ in her womb' (Vesperal Hymn of Saint Nicholas Day). Please try and make an effort!

Church Library Be sure to check out a book or DVD during the Nativity fast! Remember that continued education in our faith is necessary for effective and enduring discipleship and stewardship.

Amazon Smile for St. Michael's At this time of year, as Nativity approaches, we begin buying gifts for our friends and family. This is just a reminder that if you purchase items from Amazon.Com, St. Michael's could benefit from your purchases. Amazon Smile will give St. Michael's a small rebate for every purchase you make if you use the address below. This address is specific to St. Michael's, so it is easy to use. We have already been receiving benefits from this program. Just type the address into your web browser. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0545881>

The Sufferings of Saint Nicholas

December 6 is the feast day of Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of everyone from longshoremén to embalmers, and of places from New York City to Argentina. In fact he is the patron of more occupations, causes, people and places than any other saint we know of.

The stories of his humility and compassion are well-known. He had no ambition to become a bishop, but accepted the office in obedience. When he saved three marriageable and impoverished girls from disaster by providing money, he planned to do it secretly. There are stories of sailors caught on stormy seas, defenseless peasants wrongly accused of crimes, and countless others in need or in danger who were saved by his intercession. His kindness to children helped them to see Christ in him, so that even if their life circumstances were harsh, they knew a Savior cared for them.

But additional aspects of his life give even more luster to his example. Though he was not a martyr, Saint Nicholas suffered greatly in his life, and had to stand up to powerful forces that could have undermined the Church.

He became a bishop at the beginning of the fourth century and during the reign of Diocletian, a Roman emperor who detested Christianity as an enemy of Rome's glory. Nicholas, having become a publicly visible leader of the Christians, was imprisoned and tortured. The incarceration was not brief, either. Not until Constantine ascended the throne were the Christian prisoners released.

It was not only outward threats that faced the Church during Nicholas' time as bishop. Within the Church the Arian heresy, denying that Christ was truly the Son of God, was widely popular. Bishop Nicholas had to work against its falsehoods, and defend his people against its influence. At the Council of Nicaea the threat of Arianism was made physically present. Arius had eloquence enough to make his "reasonable" version of the faith appealing to listeners and did so at the Council, speaking to those in attendance in his intelligent and engaging manner. How painful it must have been for Nicholas to hear this smooth talker distort everything for which Christ had died and risen. His memories of his own imprisonment and that of so many others who would not compromise the faith only added to the pain.

So Saint Nicholas exemplifies more than loving benevolence. He also shares our experience of suffering, and shows how to carry on without flinching from it. The words of Jesus Christ in Luke 21: 12-19 apply to Nicholas' life: "...they will lay their hands on you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and

governors...some of you will be put to death; you will be hated by all for my name's sake."

But Christ's final words in this passage are the ones Nicholas would encourage us to remember: "By your endurance you will gain your lives."

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

'Human affairs are fainter than a shadow; more deceitful than a dream. Youth fades more quickly than the flowers of spring; our beauty wastes with age or sickness. Riches are uncertain; glory is fickle. The pursuit of arts and sciences is bounded by the present life; the charm of eloquence, which all covet, reaches but the ear: whereas the practice of virtue is a precious possession for its owner, a delightful spectacle for all who witness it. Make this your study; so will you be worthy of the good things promised by the Lord.'

St. Basil the Great

"My children, beware of all unrighteousness, and do not give in to envy or slander. Refrain from anger, and do not practice usury. Beware of unjust judgment. Do not swear an oath falsely, but rather fulfill it. Do not indulge the bodily appetites. Always be meek and bear all things with love. This virtue is the beginning and root of all good."

St. Barlaam, Abbot of Khutyn (12th century)

"We must give thanks for all things to the Lord, Who has rightly given us difficulties that we may learn patience, which is more beneficial than comforts, and ennobles the soul."

St. Moses of Optina (1782-1862)

Living Without Hypocrisy: Spiritual Counsels of the Holy Elders of Optina 4

Prayers for the Departed: Archbishop Nikon, Peter Melnik, Michael Sinovich, Marie Karawulan, Virginia Sekerak David Rex, Marie Weremedic

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Lemlem Resat, Olga Riley, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Lubov Baldychev, Stephanie Hojnicky, Laura Cristina Najemy, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides, Albert Shock, Elizabeth Melnik, Alexandra Grishin, Sam Sylvest

Prayers for Catechmens Kristin Mackenzie, Edward Jones

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
1-Dec	J. Peck/Weins	Hojnicky/Souder	Riley	Skomorucha
8-Dec	Hojnicky/Flynn/Roberts	Telep/Baldychev	Bunitsky/Finck	Maloney
15-Dec	Gerissimakis/Bunitsky	Bunitsky/Morjana	Farrell	Gundersen
22-Dec	Bacuta/Fravel	Riley/Riley	Clause/Whalen	Farrell
29-Dec	Shatley/Hines	Sulpizi/Finck	Skomorucha/Lewis Kiflemarian	Skomorucha

Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind

Nativity Fast Nov. 15 -Dec.25

St. Nicholas Day Dec. 6th

Family Promise Dec. 9th , 10th , & 12th

Nativity of our Lord Dec. 24th & 25th

Theophany Jan. 6th