

WELCOME TO
SAINT NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, January 2nd, 2022

Forefeast Of & Sunday Before Theophany of Christ – Tone 3/Eothinon 6

Today's Hymns and Readings

Ressurrectional Apolytikion Tone 3: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of the Forefeast of Theophany Tone 4: Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

Troparion of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker: In truth you were revealed to your flock. As a rule of faith a model of meekness and a teacher of self-control. Therefore, you have won the heights by humility, riches by poverty. Holy father Bishop Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion of the Forefeast of Theophany Tone 4: In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Trisagion Hymn:

English: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

Arabic: Qudduson ullah, Qudduson ulqawi, Qudduson ullahdhi, la yamut urhamna.

Greek: Agios O Theos, Agios Ischiros, Agios Athanatos, eleison imas.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Dynamis!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

The Epistle

O Lord save they people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading is from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy 4:5-8

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

The Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind. The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.


On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms. The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).



Parish Treasury Report

2021	November 2021	YTD
Income:	\$16,083.76	\$173,859.02
Expense:	\$16,322.54	\$168,400.03

12/6/2021 Checkbook: \$47,101.27 Mortgage: \$109,646.34



AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FIND TRANSFORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

SAINT NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

3171 South 48th Street, Springdale, AR 72762
Mail: PO Box 6522, Springdale, AR 72766

(479) 379-6220 ✧ Please visit us at: StNicholasAR.org

Like us on Facebook:
Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church (@StNicholasAR)

Parish Priest:
Rev. Fr. Paul Fuller ✧ saintnicholasar@gmail.com

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church is a parish in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
within the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

(Domse.org ✧ Antiochian.org)

Welcome to our church community! We are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called “Christians” (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.