

WELCOME TO
**SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Sunday, March 27th, 2022

**Third Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of the Holy Cross – Tone
7/Eothinon 7**

Today's Hymns and Readings

Ressurrectional Apolytikion Tone 7: Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for the Holy Cross Tone 1: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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 for Sundays in Great Lent Tone 8: To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

The Anti-Trisagion Hymn:

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify. (THRICE)

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

And we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection.
Dynamis!

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection.

The Epistle

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

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews 4:14 – 5:6

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins, who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, “Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee.” As He says also in another place, “Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

The Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 8:34 – 9:1

The Lord said, “If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”



Sunday of the Holy Cross

On the third Sunday of Great Lent, we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Cross. We're halfway through Lent at this point, and perhaps some of our determination and eagerness for the Lenten journey is waning a bit. That is exactly why the Church Fathers chose this Sunday for us to commemorate the Holy Cross.

Father Alexander Schmemmann, in his book *Great Lent*, reminds us that throughout Great Lent we are crucifying our own self, trying to live up to this week's Gospel reading. Schmemmann goes on to explain that it would do us no good to take up our cross and follow Christ if it were not for Him taking up the Cross in the first place. "It is His Cross, not ours, that saves us. It is His Cross that gives not only meaning but also power to others."


In gratitude for His taking up the Cross, and to encourage us to continue taking up ours, the Church has given us this Sunday. His example of suffering willingly and completely reminds us that our struggles are small in comparison. But it also reminds us that He understands struggle and pain. The placement of the Veneration of the Holy Cross in the middle of Great Lent is more than just an encouragement for us to keep going. It also is a fulfillment of an earlier event. "It's very beautiful, actually. Think of Paradise, the Garden of Eden. The Tree of Life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden, and here [in the middle of Great Lent] we find the Holy Cross -- often said to come from the wood of the Tree of Life, for this wooden Cross is indeed the means to eternal life. The Holy Church places it here to remind us of Adam's sin, and to remind us that it is only through the Holy Cross that we will find eternal life."

And so, in the hope of the resurrection; with determination to continue our struggle (for He understands struggle and has made a way for us); let us sing with joy today, "Oh Lord, save Thy people and bless thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies; and by the power of Thy Cross, preserving Thy kingdom!" Glory to God for His example, His victory, and His great mercy towards us and our own struggles, through the Life-Giving Cross!

Parish Treasury Report

2022	February 2022	YTD
Income:	\$18,731.24	\$48,876.19
Expense:	\$22,792.81	\$46,481.99

3/4/2022 Checkbook: \$59,972.36 Mortgage: \$97,330.72



AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FIND TRANSFORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

SAINT NICHOLAS 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 \(@StNicholasAR\)](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasAR)

Parish Priest:
[Rev. Fr. Paul Fuller ✦ saintnicholasar@gmail.com](mailto:saintnicholasar@gmail.com)

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.