

WELCOME TO
**SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Sunday, May 21st, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Blind Man & SS. Constantine & Helen – Tone 5/Eothinon 8

Today's Hymns and Readings

Resurrectional Apolytikion Tone 5: Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion of SS. Constantine & Helen Tone 8: Having seen the image of Thy Cross in Heaven, and, like Paul, having received the call not from men, Thine apostle among kings, Constantine, entrusted the commonwealth to Thy hand, O Lord. Keep us always in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

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 Pascha Tone 8: O Christ our God, though Thou didst descend into the grave, yet didst Thou overthrow the power of Hades and rise as an Immortal Conqueror. Thou didst greet with joy the myrrh-bearing women, and to Thine Apostles hast sent Thy peace, and to the fallen, O Lord, didst bring resurrection.

The 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.

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

The Epistle

Their voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading is from the Acts of the Holy Apostles 26:1, 12-20

In those days, King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: "I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who art Thou, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance."

The Holy Gospel

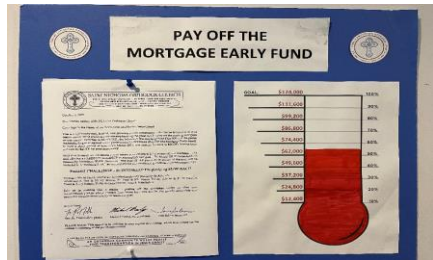
The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John 9:1-38

At that time, when Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His Disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" [which means Sent]. So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped Him.

GETTING CLOSE!!! - Parish Challenge for POTMEF

Looking for 6 more households to meet this challenge. We need to pay off our mortgage early and are having a PARISH CHALLENGE to accomplish this goal – IN NEED OF an additional 6 households to financially contribute \$5,000 (two-year time period from October 2022). To offer your pledge, please discuss with Tom Salem (479-295-9892), parish treasurer.

NEW UPDATE – As of April 3, 2023, our current mortgage is now down to \$42,500; it was \$85,000 when we announced this parish challenge in October; our parishioners have already contributed over \$42,500 as a response to our parish challenge - many thanks! Your contributions will help retire this debt!



We currently have 14 households contributing \$5,000 each:


Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, Bob & Nancy Brown, Eric & Elizabeth Carender, Michael & Lindsay Cate, Fr. Paul & Ramia Fuller, Shawn Guthrie, Casey & Kiersten Hale, Adnan & Paula Haydar, Todd & Terry Keese, Philip & Ciera Nelson, Tom & Kate Salem

PLEASE NOTE: This appeal is in addition to your regular stewardship, which is necessary for the annual functioning of our parish community!

Parish Treasury Report

2023	April 2023	YTD
Income:	\$23,950.09	\$86,611.82
Expense:	\$21,557.50	\$84,271.71

5/5/2023 Checkbook: \$54,306.35 Mortgage: \$38,923.59



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)

Parish Priest:
Rev. Fr. Paul Fuller ✦ 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.