

WELCOME TO
**SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Sunday, July 2nd, 2023

**Tone 3/Eothinon 4 – The Placing of the Theotokos' Robe in Blachernae &
Fourth Sunday of Matthew**

Today's Hymns and Readings

Resurrectional 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 for Placing of the Theotokos' Robe Tone 8: O Ever-Virgin Theotokos, shelter of mankind, thou hast bestowed upon thy people a mighty investure, even thine immaculate body's raiment and sash, which by thy seedless childbirth have remained incorrupt; for in thee, nature and time are made new. Wherefore, we implore thee to grant peace to the world, and Great Mercy to our souls.

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 Placing of the Theotokos' Robe Tone 4: O godly shelter that dost cover all mankind, the sacred robe that covered thy sacred body hast thou bestowed on all the faithful graciously, O pure Virgin, as a robe of divine incorruption. As we celebrate with love its august deposition, we cry to thee with faith, O graced of God: Rejoice, O Lady, thou boast of the Christian race.

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.

Dynamis!

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

The Epistle

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit doth rejoice in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the lowliness of His servant.*

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews 9:1-7

Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.



The Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 8:5-13

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching Him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered Him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, He marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

The Placing of the Theotokos' Robe in Blachernae

During the reign of Leo the Great (457-474) two patricians and brethren on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land lodged with an old widow, a Christian of Jewish descent. Seeing the many miracles wrought at a small shrine in her house, they pressed her until she revealed to them that she had raiment of the Most Holy Theotokos kept in a small coffer. Our Lady had had two virgins in her lifetime who attended upon her; before her Holy Dormition, she gave each of them one of her divine garments as a blessing. This old widow was of the family of one of those two virgins, and it had come through the generations into her hands.


With the permission of God, that this holy relic might be had for the profit of many, the two men took the garment by stealth and brought it to Blachernae near Constantinople, and building a church in honor of the Apostles Peter and Mark, they secretly enshrined the garment therein. But here again, because of the multitude of miracles that were worked, it became known to the Emperor Leo, and a magnificent church was built, as some say, by that same Leo, but according to others, by his predecessors Marcian and Pulcheria, and enlarged by Leo when the holy raiment was found.

The Emperor Justin the Younger completed the church, which the Emperor Romanus IV Diogenes raised up immediately again after it had burned in 1070. It burned again in 1434, and from that time it remained a small house of prayer together with the renowned holy spring. After the seventh century, the name Blachernae was given to other churches and monasteries by their pious founders out of reverence for this famous church in Constantinople. In this church John Catacuzene was crowned in 1345; also, the Council against Acindynus, the follower of Barlaam, was convoked here (see the Second Sunday of the Great Fast).

Parish Treasury Report

2023	May 2023	YTD
Income:	\$23,423.09	\$110,034.81
Expense:	\$24,170.54	\$108,442.25

6/5/2023 Checkbook: \$57,822.82 Mortgage: \$36,538.59



AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FIND TRANSFORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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A parish in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast within the Antiochian Orthodox
Christian Archdiocese of North America

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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.