

WELCOME TO
**SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Sunday, September 10th, 2023

**Tone 5/Eothion 3 – Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross &
After-Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Theotokos**

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 the Nativity of the Theotokos Tone 4: Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

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 Nativity of the Theotokos Tone 4: By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

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

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.



The Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross - September 14

This Feast celebrates 2 events: The finding of the Holy Cross by St. Constantine's mother Helen in the year 326, and the return of the Holy Cross from the Persians in 627 AD.

St. Helen discovered three crosses on Golgotha but did not know which one was the True Cross. To determine which one was the cross that Christ was crucified on, they had a sick woman kiss all three. Two of the crosses did nothing, but after kissing the third cross she was miraculously healed. When the True Cross had been discovered, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem lifted the Cross at the pulpit so everyone could see it and the crowd responded with "Lord have mercy".

In 614, the Persians sacked Jerusalem and stole the Cross from the reliquary at the church built over the Holy Sepulchre. It was finally recovered in 627 by Byzantine military forces when Emperor Heraclius defeated the Sassanid Persians at the Battle of Nineveh.

The Elevation of the Holy Cross took place on March 21st, 630 AD, when Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem with rejoicing crowds. Heraclius, along with Patriarch Zacharios, transferred the Cross of Christ into temple of the Resurrection, being held up for the Christian faithful to venerate it.


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.

Parish Treasury Report

2023	July 2023	YTD
Income:	\$22,699.22	\$151,646.93
Expense:	\$20,818.77	\$149,246.76

8/7/2023 Checkbook: \$56,597.60 Mortgage: \$29,749.95



AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FIND TRANSFORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

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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.