

WELCOME TO
**SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Sunday, September 24th, 2023

**Tone 7/Eothonon 5 – Proto-Martyr Thekla, Equal-to-the-Apostles & First
Sunday of Luke**

Today's Hymns and Readings

Resurrectional 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 of St. Thekla the Proto-Martyr Tone 3: O glorious Thekla, companion of Paul the divine, thou wast enflamed with the love of thy Creator, by the teaching of the divine preacher. Thou didst despise the passing earthly pleasures, and offered thyself to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice, disregarding all suffering. Intercede with Christ thy Groom to grant us His Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of St. Silouan the Athonite Tone 4: By prayer thou didst receive Christ as thy teacher in the way of humility, and the Spirit bore witness to salvation in thy heart. Wherefore, all peoples called unto hope rejoice in this day of thy memorial, O sacred Father Silouan. Pray unto Christ our God for the salvation of 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.

Ordinary Kontakion Tone 2: O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

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

God is wondrous among His saints. Bless ye God in the congregations.

The Reading is from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy 3:10-15

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all, who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.



The Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 5:1-11

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Thy word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish, which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Proto-Martyr Thekla, Equal-to-the-Apostles - September 24

Saint Thekla was born in Iconium to wealthy parents. After having heard St. Paul speak on chastity, she decided she must follow Christ and abandon her plans to marry. Her mother and her fiancé were opposed to this decision, and their accusations to the governor landed St. Paul in prison. St. Thekla slipped away from her house to listen to St. Paul in prison, having bribed the guards with her gold jewelry to gain entrance.

At his trial, St. Paul was banished from the city, and Thekla refused to change her mind against all the tears, threats, and reasonings her mother and the governor could apply. She was firm in her conviction to follow Jesus Christ the Bridegroom. Her mother, enraged, persuaded the judge to sentence St. Thekla to burn to death. Emboldened by her love for Christ, she made the sign of the Cross over the flames, and was surrounded by a light, untouched by the flames. Rain, and hail extinguished the fire, and, with thunder, helped to drive away those who wished to put Thekla to death.

She sought out St. Paul and his companions, including St. Barnabas, who were hiding in a cave near the city. She spread the Gospel of Christ with them in Antioch, and throughout her life performed many miraculous feats and suffered many tortures to give glory to God. Having retired to a desolate region of Isaurian Seleucia with the blessing of St. Paul, Thekla continued to preach God's word and heal His children.


When St. Thekla had reached the age of 90, envious pagan sorcerers came to defile her. A large rock split open when St. Thekla called on Christ the Savior to help her, and the rock covered her, and she offered up her soul to the Lord.

The holy Church glorifies the Protomartyr Thekla as “the glory of women and guide for the suffering, opening up the way through every torment.” From of old many churches were dedicated to her, one of which was built at Constantinople by the holy Equal of the Apostles Constantine (May 21). The Protomartyr Thekla, a prayerful intercessor for ascetics, is also invoked during the tonsure of women into monasticism.

Parish Treasury Report

| 2023 | August 2023 | YTD |
|----------|-------------|--------------|
| Income: | \$18,564.99 | \$170,211.92 |
| Expense: | \$30,373.18 | \$179,619.94 |

9/7/2023 Checkbook: \$54,048.54 Mortgage: \$24,178.36



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.