

WELCOME TO
**SAINT NICHOLAS
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Sunday, December 31st, 2023

**Tone 5/Eothinon 8 – Sunday Before Theophany of Christ, Which Falls on
the Apodosis (Leave-Taking) of the Nativity of Christ**

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 Christ Tone 4: Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of Sunday after the Nativity Tone 2: Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save 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 of the Nativity of Christ Tone 3: On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

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

All those on earth worship thee and sing unto Thee: Alleluia to God, O all the earth.

The Reading is from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy 4:5-8

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.



The Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

St. Melania the Younger of Rome - December 31


Our venerable Mother Melania the Younger lived during the reign of king Honorios. She came from a rich and glorious family. Because she loved the Lord with her whole heart, she chose to remain a virgin. But her parents forced her to get married even unwillingly with a man and she became the mother of two children. Then her parents and children died. That is why this blessed woman left the city of Rome and was living at her farm with every ascetic practice and virtue. She used to take care of the sick, received the foreigners who came to her, and visited the imprisoned and the exiled. Then she sold all her estates and possessions, which were many, and collected 120,000 gold coins, which she distributed to churches and monasteries.

Then she went to Africa and, after she had spent seven years there distributing most of her wealth, she went to Alexandria and from there to Jerusalem. There she closed herself in a cell and with her example she attracted ninety virgins and nuns to this same zeal for asceticism. She used to provide for their daily needs unceasingly. Because she was overcome by the pain of the side, she got very sick and, after she had called the bishop of Eleutheroupolis, she received from him the Eucharist. Then she bid all the sisters farewell, and lastly uttered these words of Job: "As the Lord wishes, so let it be." And in this way she immediately commended her soul to the hands of God.

Parish Treasury Report

2023	November 2023	YTD
Income:	\$42,446.41	\$258,828.71
Expense:	\$29,442.32	\$245,243.66

12/6/2023 Checkbook: \$66,966.84 Mortgage: \$0.00



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

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.