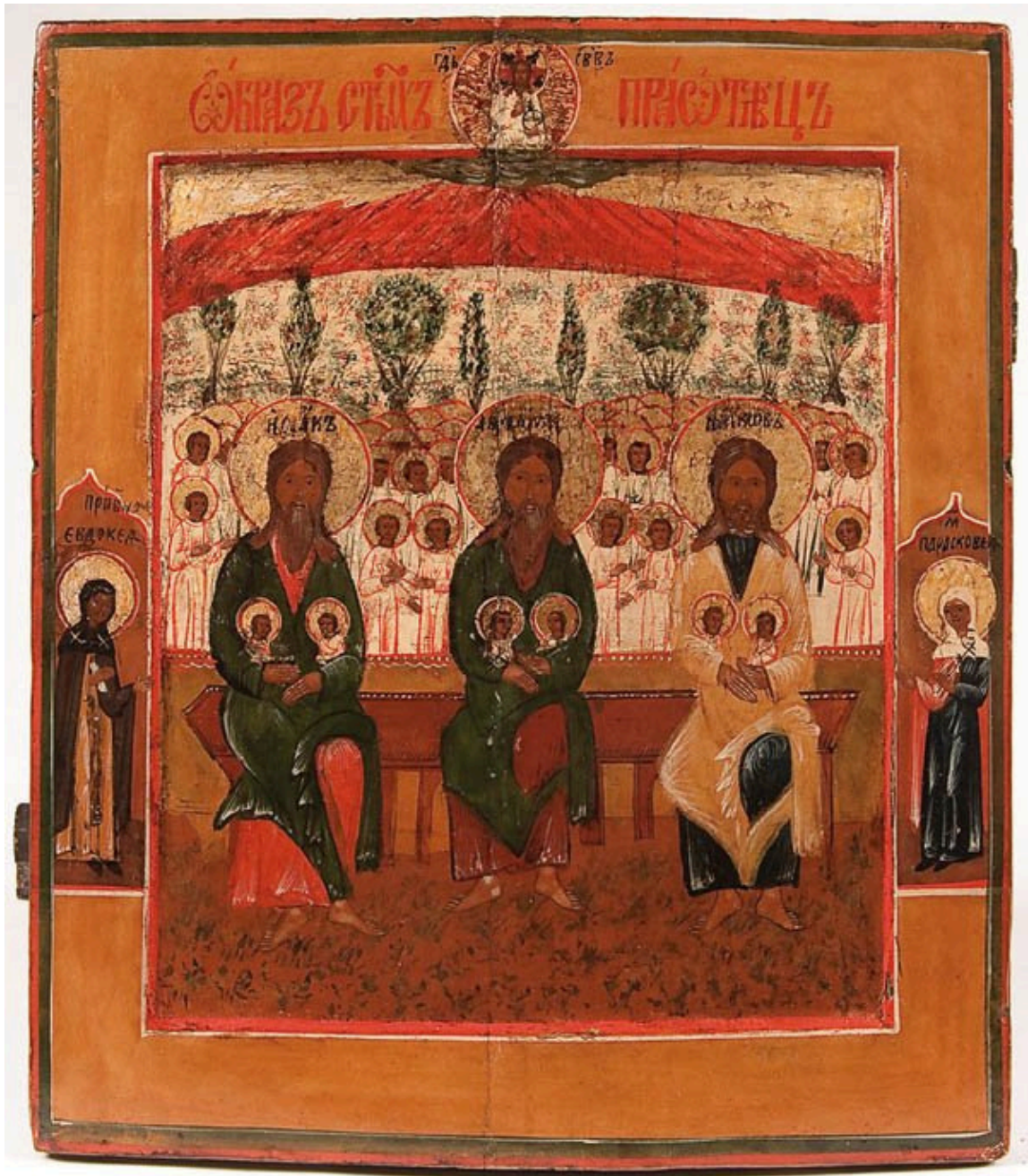


St. Nicholas Newsletter December 2024



Celebrations

God grant you many years!

Namedays

Zachary Rhodes (*St. John of Damascus*) - Dec 4

Nikolas Carender (*St. Nicholas*) - Dec 6

Hanna Deschler (*Prophetess Hannah*) - Dec 9

Hannah Waters (*Prophetess Hannah*) - Dec 9

Casey Hale (*St. Herman of Alaska*) - Dec 13

Todd Keesee (*St. Herman of Alaska*) - Dec 13

Rebecca Troy (*St. Lucia*) - Dec 13

Caleb Deschler (*St. Caleb*) - 2nd Sunday before Nativity

Rebekah Fenner (*St. Rebekah*) - 2nd Sunday before Nativity

Ciera Nelson (*Righteous Ruth*) - 2nd Sunday before Nativity

Nancy Brown (*St. Anastasia of Rome*) - Dec 22

Nancy Scherer (*St. Anastasia of Rome*) - Dec 22

Stephen Fenner (*St. Stephen*) - Dec 27

Steve Rieger (*St. Stephen*) - Dec 27

William Benoit (*Prophet David*) - 1st Sunday after Nativity

David Nelson (*Prophet David*) - 1st Sunday after Nativity

Joseph Fenner (*St. Joseph the Betrothed*) - 1st Sunday after Nativity

Erik Lawrence (*St. Joseph the Betrothed*) - 1st Sunday after Nativity

Ruben Rhodes (*St. Joseph the Betrothed*) - 1st Sunday after Nativity

Birthdays

James Baclig - Dec 1

Paula Haydar - Dec 9

Isabella LeGare - Dec 11

Ciera Nelson - Dec 15

Abraham Fenner - Dec 17

Gary Wheeler - Dec 17

Gabriel Carender - Dec 25

Ava Strickland - Dec 29

Leo Hale - Dec 30

Wedding Anniversaries

Casey & Kiersten Hale - Dec 14

Pat & Madeline Teague - Dec 20

2025 Stewardship & Membership Form

Please prayerfully consider what you are willing and able to financially contribute to the operation and functioning of our growing parish community to support its various ministries and services. This is an annual responsibility of everyone in our parish; please submit by December 29th, 2024.

Also in 2025, for those willing and able please consider contributing towards our **Building Fund** (suggested amount of \$100 monthly, but please contribute as able). This is in ADDITION to Stewardship.

Access the print or online form by clicking the image below.



St. Spyridon - *Dec. 12th*

Our father among the saints Spyridon of Trimythous the Wonderworker was a fourth century bishop who was present at the First Ecumenical Council. He is also commonly referred to in Corfu as Keeper of the City, since he is also the patron saint of that island, where his relics are located and venerated by the faithful. He is commemorated by the church on December 12.

Spyridon was born in the village of Ashia, Cyprus (270 AD) and died in Trimythous, Cyprus (348 AD). He was a peasant farmer and shepherd and was not educated. Spyridon was married and had one daughter, Irene. After his wife died, he and his daughter both entered into monasticism. He later became the Bishop of Trimythous (during the reign of Constantine the Great) and continued in piety for which he was greatly known.

During the Maximilian persecutions (295 AD) he was arrested and exiled. In 325 AD, he was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea where he astonished many with his simple explanations of the Orthodox Faith. Though not well-educated, he surprised everyone at the Council of Nicea by converting a famous philosopher to Orthodoxy from Arianism. He explained the unity and diversity of the Trinity by holding up a brick, then commonly thought to be a combination of the elements fire, earth and water; as he spoke, fire blazed from the top of the brick while water gushed out underneath, with the earth remaining in his hand. There too, at Nicea, he met St. Nicholas of Myra, with whom he formed a lasting friendship.

Through simplicity and deep devotion to God, he worked miracles throughout his life and became known as a great wonder-worker, calling forth rain in the midst of drought, casting out demons with a single word, healing the sick and even raising people from the dead, in addition to having the gift of prescience.

When he arrived back home from Nicea a woman told him that she had given his daughter, who had died while he was away, some jewelry for safekeeping. Now that his daughter was dead, no one could find where she had put them. Spyridon went to his daughter's grave, spoke to her, and was able to restore the jewelry to its owner.

Also during a famine Spyridon changed a snake into gold pieces so that a poor man could buy food from a greedy merchant who had cornered the supply. One day there was only himself and the deacon and readers in church at vespers, and the responses could be heard beautifully chanted by an unseen choir. The music was so beautiful that others, passing by, heard it and saw through the windows what seemed like a large congregation. Entering the church, however, they found only St. Spyridon and his assistants.

St. Spyridon lived most of his earthly life in Cyprus, where he also reposed in 348 AD and was buried in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Trimythous.



When the Saracens took the island, the Cypriots opened his grave in order to remove his sacred bones to Constantinople. They found that his body had remained intact, while from the grave emanated a scent of basil, true signs of the sainthood he had shown during his lifetime. When Constantinople fell in 1453, he was transferred to Serbia, then a Corfiot elder, Georgios Kalohairetis, brought him to the island of Corfu in Greece where he is currently buried.

To this day St. Spyridon's incorrupt relics at his shrine in Corfu continue to manifest the power of God, who is wondrous in His saints. He is called the "walking saint" because the silk slippers which clothe the feet of his relics wear out each year from his travels to help people, and are replaced each year on his feast day. These slippers have been known to work miracles through the prayers of St. Spyridon.



The relics of St. Spyridon in Corfu, Greece



St. Spyridon Church in Corfu, Greece

Nativity Fast

Spiritual Discipline

In lieu of our regular discipline of the Psalter Reading Group during the Nativity Fast (Advent Season), we invite ALL our faithful to participate in a DAILY PRAYER RULE of the **Akathist to Ss. Constantine & Helen, God-crowned Sovereigns & Equals-to-the-Apostles.**

Print copies of the Akathist service are available at the Church or virtually [HERE](#). We offer this prayer and seek the intercession of Ss. Constantine & Helen who were instrumental in the growth of the Christian Faith and building of churches.

We offer this suggested spiritual discipline for 40 days (November 15-December 24) as we discern the continued growth and physical needs of our parish community.

Click below to access the service text online



Be included in our **Parish**

Christmas Card (mailed to our entire mailing list); click image below to issue electronic payment via PayPal or sign-up on Sundays during Fellowship. **\$25 per entry.**

Contact Elisabeth Cisneros (elcisneros@yahoo.com or 602-625-5622) to sign up.



Click above to pay online

Holiday Baklava Sale

This year's Ladies of St. Nicholas Holiday Baklava fundraiser kicked off November 1, and we're excited to announce that you can now quickly and easily place orders on our church website!

Your baklava order will be freshly baked and ready for pickup on Saturday, December 14, 1:00 to 4:00pm. Optional pickup date for parishioners is Sunday, December 15 following the Divine Liturgy.



Click above to order online

Prices:

Half Box (8ct) - \$15

Full Box (16ct) - \$30

All pre-orders will be taken online this year!

Quantities are limited, so place your order early!

For questions, please contact StNBaklava@gmail.com

Purchase Banquet tickets electronically (via PayPal)

[HERE.](#)

Sponsorships available (including 2 Banquet tickets and reserved seating); purchase electronically (via PayPal)

[HERE.](#)



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

SILENT AUCTION

AXIOS BAND

ST. NICHOLAS

PATRONAL BANQUET

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

12:00 - 4:00PM

HILTON GARDEN INN
IN FAYETTEVILLE

TICKET PRICING:
\$60 ADULTS
\$20 CHILDREN
FREE - UNDER 5

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE:
INCLUDES 2 BANQUET TICKETS
& RESERVED SEATING

Join us for our annual Fundraising Banquet celebrating the Patronal Feast of St. Nicholas on **Sunday, December 8** after Divine Liturgy.

Banquet entertainment provided by Steve Kolokithas and the Axios Band. Our parish children will perform their Christmas Play.

We will have a fun and competitive Silent Auction; contact Angelic Nevill (anevill92@gmail.com) to donate.

Come celebrate with us! Any questions or to volunteer, please contact Olivia Rhodes (therhodes17@gmail.com).

Ministry & Organizational Leaders,

If there is any announcement or advertisement that you would like published in the St. Nicholas Newsletter, please contact Brea Hale. brehale00@gmail.com

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REV. FR. PAUL FULLER, PASTOR