

# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sun, Nov 29, 2020 - The Woman Bent Over to the Ground

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8.

Martyr Paramon and 370 Martyrs in Bithynia (250).



to idols. Imitating Christ, you were slain with a spear, O most blessed Paramon and Philumenus. Always fervently intercede with Christ on behalf of the world!

## Epistle Reading - Ephesians 4:1-6

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

## Gospel Reading - Luke 13:10-17

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

## Hymns for Today

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Thy holy martyrs Paramon and Philumenus and those with them, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through their intercession, save our souls!

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Urged on by the commandments of God, with patience, you cleansed your souls from all defilement. You reached perfection as spiritual athletes, and renounced sacrifice

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

**DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS:** A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting.

NATIVITY FAST: Nov 15-DEC 24

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**SAT, Nov 28:** 5 PM Great Vespers

**SUN, Nov 29:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy,  
Church School

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### **Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra**

**SAT, Dec 5:** 5 PM Great Vespers

**SUN, Dec 6:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy

**NEXT SUNDAY, Dec 6th : Annual Christmas Yolka  
Following Divine Liturgy**

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### **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

FINAL CLASS: Wed, Dec 2nd @ 7 PM

This class we will read chapters 15-16

The same link will be used to join in!

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### **DEC 13: SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

There will be a special parish council meeting Dec 13 for  
the election of new parish council members.

### **LAST DAY: November Homeless Collection**

In an effort to help our community in these trying times,  
the Church School is holding a collection for the local  
homeless male population. There is a need for the  
following men's, full size items: Toothpaste, razors,  
shaving cream, socks, men's body wash, etc. Monetary  
donations are also being accepted, please see Colleen.

Donations are being accepted through the month of  
November. See the poster on the bulletin board for more  
details. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

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### **Christmas Wreaths For Sale TODAY: \$20**

Made by and Supports our Parish Church School

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### **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES - MANY YEARS!**

**December Birthdays:** David Clark (12/1), Helen Gudaitus  
(12/5), Stephen Dutko (12/8), Nina Grymko (12/10),  
Andrew Kondratick (12/11), Lydia Dutko (12/12), Andrew  
Conklin (12/13), Nora Clark (12/16), Jeri Basarab (12/21),  
Mary Ann Kudey (12/21) Dolores Rilko (12/21), Kellie Ann  
DiBattista (12/27), Anessa Cardoni (12/28), Daniel Bisset  
Jr. (12/31) **Anniversaries:**

**This Week:** David Clark (12/1), Helen Gudaitus (12/5)

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### **Altar Server Schedule**

**Sunday, Nov 29:** Alec B, Kaleb D, Ephraim N

**Sunday, Dec 6:** Alex H, Tommy D, Andrew N

**Sunday, Dec 13:** Christopher D, Symeon C, Andrew C

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** Archbishop David,  
Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine  
Breisch, Rosalie Bagenski, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Brian  
Cawley, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel &  
Shannon Bissett, Rebecca King, Delores Karas, Antonette  
Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mat  
Delores Donlick & Fr. Daniel Donlick, Mary DeBenedetto,  
Violet Filipi, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace,  
Camden Thomas, Peter Holoviak & Family, Mary Krill,  
Thomas Padrezas, Bachman Family, Brian & Marni, Rose  
Marie, Elaine Benczkowski, Helen Gudaitis

**Departed:** Met Theodosios, John Gurka Jr., Evelyn Bogan,  
Joni Belcher, James Balchune, Maria Severino, Mary  
Ellen, Anna Hutz Lahr, Dr. Peter Kaminski

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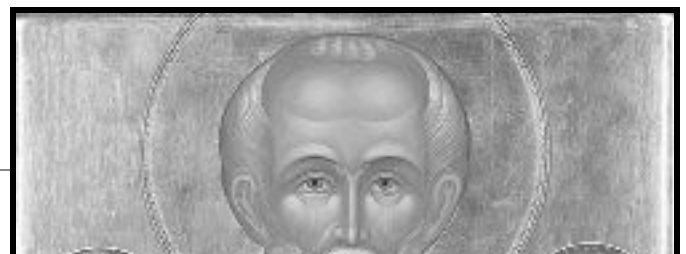
### **Coronavirus Safety Reminder**

As we are beginning to see more coronavirus cases in our  
area let us all be vigilant in following the established  
guidelines for attending church. If you are feeling ill or  
have any symptoms associated with Coronavirus please  
stay home and livestream the services until you are  
feeling better. In addition to wearing masks and social  
distancing, please also refrain from stopping in the  
vestibule on your way in and out of church to greet one  
another. May Our Lord keep us all safe as we come  
together as His church to worship and receive the holy  
sacraments!

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### **DEC 6: The Life of Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia**

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra  
in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He  
was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on  
the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the



only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to Saint Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned,

Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was

restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint

Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him.