



# Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sun, Dec 6, 2020 - Ten were healed. Where are the nine?

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1.

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia



## Hymns for Today

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; thy humility exalted thee; and thy poverty enriched thee. O Hierarch Father Nicholas, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Thou didst appear as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas, fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O venerable one; thou didst lay down thy life for thy people and didst rescue the innocent from death. Therefore, thou hast been blest as a great initiate of the grace of God.

## Epistle Reading - Ephesians 5:9-19

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

## Gospel Reading - Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

**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.

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## THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

NATIVITY FAST: Nov 15-DEC 24

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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

**Annual Christmas Yolka  
Following Divine Liturgy**

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**SAT, Dec 12:** 5 PM Great Vespers

**SUN, Dec 13:** 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy,  
**Special Parish Council Meeting**

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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. The meeting will be in the Church immediately following Divine Liturgy.

### **2021 Parish Calendars are here!**

A very special thank you to Michael and Patricia Yeosock and the Yeosock Funeral Home for sponsoring this year's beautiful calendar published by St. Tikhon's Monastery. Pick up your calendar at the candle stand. One calendar per family please.

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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 Gudaitis (12/5), Stephen Dutko (12/8), Nina Grymko (12/10), Andrew Kondratich (12/11), Lydia Dutko (12/12), Andrew Conklin (12/13), Nora Clark (12/16), Christa Talpash (12/19), Dcn Lawrence Worlinsky (12/19), 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:** Stephen Dutko (12/8), Nina Grymko (12/10), Andrew Kondratich (12/11), Lydia Dutko (12/12)

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## Altar Server Schedule

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

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

**Sunday, Dec 20:** Alec B, Kaleb D, Ephraim N

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**PARISH PRAYER LIST Living:** 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, Mahaffey Family, George Scott

**Departed:** Archbishop David, 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!

## On the Virtue of Gratitude

From the book *The Orthodox Faith: Volume IV*

The spiritual person is the one who is grateful for everything. He is the one who receives everything with thanksgiving, and who knows that he has nothing except what he has received from God (cf. Jn 3.27).

*And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace (Jn 1.16).*

In the Old Testament, thanksgiving was central in the life of God's people. The temple liturgy offered sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise, and psalms sang continually of thanksgiving to God.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints, and give thanks to His Holy Name.

*Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving. Let us enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name!*

*It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High; to declare Thy steadfast love in the morning, and Thy faithfulness by night.*

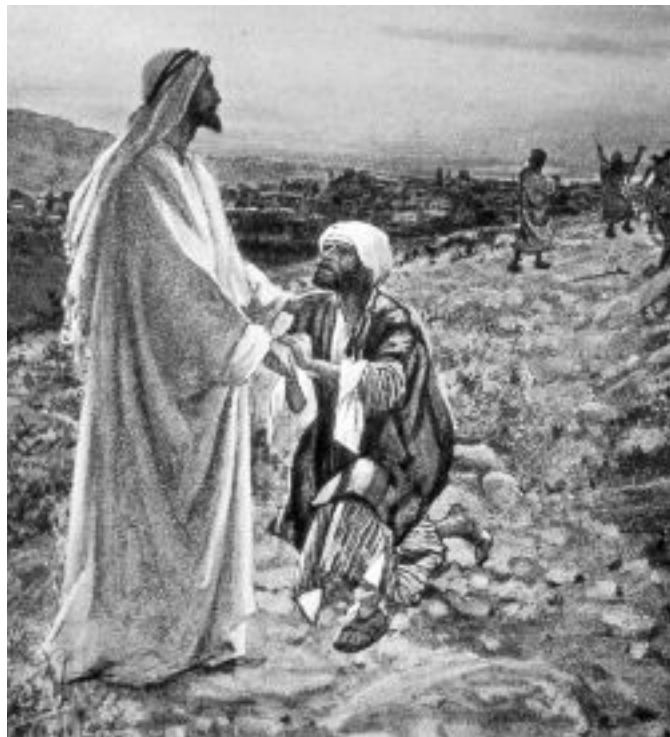
*O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious, for His mercy endures forever! (Pss 30.4, 95.2, 92.1, 107.1).*

In the New Testament, thanksgiving is the very essence of the Church's life. The word eucharist means thanksgiving, and the very center of the Church's liturgical worship of God is when, in remembrance of all His saving acts in Christ, the faithful "lift up their hearts" and "give thanks unto the Lord."

The apostolic scriptures and the lives of the saints abound with thanksgiving to God for all things.

*Let there be no filthiness, nor silly talk, nor levity, which are not fitting; but instead let there be thanksgiving ... always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father (Eph 5.4, 20).*

*Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thess 5.16–18).*



*Rejoice always in the Lord; again I say, Rejoice! Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil 4.4–7).*

The spiritual person has thanksgiving and gratitude in all circumstances, in everything and for everything. This thanksgiving is rooted in the firm conviction of God's merciful providence and care in all things, in the steadfast faith that "God works in everything for good with those who love Him" or, as the passage may also be rendered, "everything works together for good with those who love God" (Rom 8.28).

The spiritual teachers, especially Saint John Chrysostom (4th c), are very strict in this teaching. The spiritual man does not thank God only for what he considers to be good. Rather, he thanks God for everything, even for what appears to be bad, knowing that God's tender care is over all, and that the evil in this world—which is always present and inevitable (cf. Jn 17)—can itself be the vehicle for spiritual growth and salvation if rightly understood and overcome by the grace of God.

The opposite of gratitude is bitterness and complaining; it is bemoaning one's lot in life because of pride and covetousness. It is caused by the absence of humble trust in the Lord. It is rooted in an attitude of life which does not allow the person to exclaim with the righteous Job:

*Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return. The Lord gave, the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord (Job 1.21).*

To thank God in everything and for everything is the result of faith and faithfulness in God. It is the result of absolute trust in the Lord who knows best what we need for our salvation and does all that He can within the evil conditions of the world to bring us to eternal life, to peace and to joy. It is the product of believing, with Isaiah, the Word of the Redeemer who says:

*For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love will I have compassion on you.*

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts . . .*

*And you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing . . .*

*Keep justice and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come . . . (Is 54.7-8, 55.8-9, 56.1).*

A person is grateful to the extent that he trusts in the Lord and has love for God and man.

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