

## Welcome to our Parish

*Come and join us daily for the Divine Liturgy in the Chapel located just south of the narthex. Or stop by for a prayer before going to work. The church is open at 7:30 am. Confessions at about 8:30 am.*

*Come and join our prayer group.*

## DIVINE LITURGIES & INTENTIONS

<b>Sat 11/28</b>	<i>No Divine Liturgy</i>
<b>Sun 11/29</b>	<b>27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &amp; TONE 2, P. 130</b>
9:30 am	Confessions
9:40 am	THE THIRD HOUR
10:00 am	<i>For members of our parish</i>
<i>Attention Children from our ECF Program: Dress rehearsal for the St. Nicholas Program after the Sunday Liturgy. See Marya for information.</i>	
<b>Mon 11/30</b>	<b>Apostle Andrew the First-Called, p. 368</b>
9:00 am	<i>Souls in Puragtory by Dennis &amp; Sally Rock</i>
<b>Tue 12/1</b>	<b>Holy Prophet Nahum, p. 366</b>
9:00 am	<i>God's blessing on the priests &amp; religious by Dennis &amp; Sally Rock.</i>
<b>Wed 12/2</b>	<b>Holy Prophet Habakkuk, p. 366</b>
9:00 am	<i>God's blessing on Bob &amp; Janelle Sowersky by Kay Terry</i>
<b>Thu 12/3</b>	<i>No Divine Liturgy Father is not available</i>
<b>Fri 12/4</b>	<b>Great Martyr Barbara, p. 379</b>
9:00 am	<i>+Priests &amp; Religious by Dennis &amp; Sally Rock</i>
<b>Sat 12/5</b>	<i>No Morning Service</i>
<b>Sun 12/6</b>	<b>28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, Tone 3 &amp; THE FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS OF MYRA, p. 135 &amp; 274</b>
9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am	Confessions
10:00 am	<i>For members of our parish family</i>
<b><i>Special Program for St. Nicholas in church and then the Pot-luck Celebration in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to join us.</i></b>	

**PRAYER REQUESTS** Fr. Marcus Gomori, Ruth Terry, Sr. Christopher, OSBM, Adrian Flores & Veronica Navarette, Colton Oschmann, Jessica Kanenbley, Judy Livingston, Bob & Rita Pipta, Marilu Krofchik, Margaret Bevins, Stella Navarette, Nicholas Moyta, Jean Anderson, Betty Belanger, Betty Perebzak, David, the brother of Marilyn Cooper, Richard Sesma, Deanna Keefe, Ron Lowery & Family, Alex Vida, Susan Dovin,, Kay Weil, Janet Lambert, and Ron, Carol & Gilbert Pasmant, Ethan McArthur. For the immigrants escaping the horrors of war in their home country. Please Lord send down the gentle rains we need to end the drought.

### 7 DAY CANDLE OFFERING

**November 22 (This week)**

#### Eternal Light:

*Intention for Dennis & Sally Rock*

#### Icon of our Lord:

*2 Special Intention for Kay Terry*

#### Icon of the Theotokos

*Ruth, Paula & Theresa by Kay Terry*

**REMINDER:** Highly recommended to keep Wednesdays and Fridays meatless along with remembering our special charities in preparation for the Birth of Our Lord.

### READER/CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

<b>TODAY</b>	3rd Hour	9:40 am
	Nick Olszyk	Ephesians 6:10-17
12/06/2015	REHEARSAL	9:00 - 9:45 am
	Steve Kopko	Colossians 1: 12-18
		Hebrews 13: 17-21
12/13/2015	3rd Hour	9:40 am
	Mike Petyo	Colossians 3: 4-11
12/20/2015	REHEARSAL	9:00 - 9:45 am
	Sherrill Franklin	Hebrews 11: 9-10, 32-40

### GIFTS FOR SAINT NICHOLAS (Angel Tree) FOR PRECIOUS LIFE SHELTER

Our parish will be celebrating the feast of Saint Nicholas of Myra in a unique way:

This year as part of our celebration of **St. Nicholas Day** we will bring gifts for the residents of the Precious Life Shelter in Los Alamitos which provides housing and support for mothers in crisis pregnancies.

Everyone is invited to take an angel from the tree and bring the gift listed on St. Nicholas Day. Please note the following:

- \* The gift should be in a bag UNWRAPPED
- \* Each child should have a gift to give St. Nicholas when they visit with him **DECEMBER 6 Next Sunday**



**NEED REQUEST:**

We need for the Christmas Boutique Craft Items and Special Gift items for the Boutique. See Sue Petyo or Carlo.

## Parish Calendar & Upcoming Events

TODAY

**11/29 DEADLINE FOR THE CHRISTMAS ORDERS**  
*Homemade Italian Lasagna limited number available.*

**12/2 Wednesday & 12/3 Thursday-NUT ROLL CHRISTMAS BAKE DAYS 9am start** Volunteers needed. Contact: Nina Erickson for information.

**SAINT NICHOLAS CELEBRATION Sunday Dec 6th**  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy with Special Program by our ECF children. Pot-luck Supper to follow in the parish hall. Admission: Bring a salad or casserole dish to feed 8 people. Please sign up on the list in the Parish Hall.

### CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

**12/6 & 12/13 For 2 Sundays in the parish hall after the Divine Liturgy for your unique and wonderful gift items for your Christmas shopping.**  
See Sue or Carol Petyo

### MATERNITY OF HOLY ANNA-Solemn Holy Day

**12/7 Monday Vigil for the feast** 7:30 pm Vesper/Liturgy

**12/8 Tuesday The Feast Day** 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

**12/12 Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy**

### CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE *last call for bake items*

**12/13 After the Parish Liturgy**

### THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST-CHRISTMAS- Holyday of Obligation

**12/24 Thursday 6:00 pm Compline & Matins** with Candlelight Procession with the Icon of the Feast & the Blessings of the Loaves, wheat, wine & oil.

**12/25 Friday Christmas Day 10:00 am Divine Liturgy**

**YOUR 2016 BUDGET ENVELOPE SETS** are available in the Narthex of the church. Be sure to take your box. Please check if your name and address are correct. AND please don't use them till January 2016. Any questions call Fr. Stephen. Thank you for your support.

### Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church

*Be sure to sign up and let us know what you are bringing for the potluck*  
*The list is in the parish hall*



*A Parish Celebration of the patron of our Byzantine Catholic Church.*

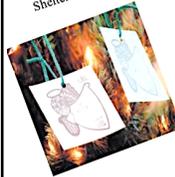
## Saint Nicholas Day Celebration

**When: Sunday, December 6, 2015**

**Time: 10:00am Divine Liturgy and Special Program**

**Admission: Please bring a salad, or casserole to feed 8 people**

*Visit the Angel Tree and make a donation to Precious Life Shelter!*



*Visit the Christmas boutique table on Dec. 6th, and Dec. 13th, 2015*



## TITHING AND ATTENDANCE REPORT

**November 22**

Attendance: Sun: 10:00 am 105 Souls

Adult Tithes : \$3,657.00

Youth Tithes: \$13.25

Candles: \$15.00

Mortgage Principle: \$95.00

Christmas Bake Sale: \$2,512.00

Thank you for your support and love for our Parish.

We accept credit and debit cards by way The Square. Your receipts are e-mailed.

**DON'T FORGET THE UPCOMING RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION.** For our retired religious in America.

### St. Nicholas "Wonder-Doer"

*By Joseph F. Kelly*

Dec. 6 is the feast of St. Nicholas, who is usually associated; with a much larger feast day; somewhat later in the month. Although today he has metamorphosed into Santa Claus, Nicholas was a historical figure in his own

right, a fourth-century Greek bishop who became known, after his death in 346, as a famous wonder-worker. It sounds odd to us that someone could become a wonder-worker after his death, but medieval people believed that relics, the physical remains of a saint, could produce miracles, and they tried constantly to get hold of these relics.

Nicholas, moreover, was a special kind of saint, a myroblyte, an "oil-gusher" — that is, people believed that his dead body oozed a sacred oil, so pilgrims went to his tomb where the custodians, usually Eastern Orthodox priests, would dip a sponge into the oil surrounding his body and then squeeze it into a phial for the pilgrims to take home. This way everyone could get a relic, and yet the supply would never run out. Some pilgrims even claimed that small bits of bone were carried out with the oil, thus providing a sort of two-for-one deal.

Nicholas' body rested for centuries in his episcopal city of Myra on the southern coast of modern Turkey, a part of the Byzantine empire which in the 11th century passed under the control of the Muslim Turks. Because of the fame of the miraculous oil, the Turks generally left the tomb alone so that pilgrims could keep coming to Myra and spending their money.

As the great Italian mercantile cities of Venice and Bari began to trade with the Turks, more and more of the pilgrims were Italians, who came to resent Nicholas' body being in an "infidel" country. These Western Christians also realized what a boost to their own economies the body of Nicholas would be. After all, if people would risk an often dangerous sea journey to a foreign and Muslim country to visit the saint's tomb, think of how many would journey to a safe and close Italian location.

In early 1087, the Venetians decided to kidnap Nicholas' body. Venetian fleets could match those of the Turks, and they counted on surprise. But word of their plan reached the leaders of Bari, a smaller but still important city in the far south of Italy. The Barians decided to beat the Venetians to the punch.

On April 11, 1087, Barian sailors, returning from a trip to the Near East, disembarked at Myra at night to kidnap the saint's body. Fortunately for them the Turks did not guard this Christian shrine, and when the Italians arrived there, they found only some custodians. The badly outnumbered custodians offered no resistance but instead said confidently that Nicholas would not allow his body to be moved. The Italians replied that they came from a Christian country and thus Nicholas certainly would move. When the custodians realized they could not stop the Barians, one of them reluctantly admitted that St. Nicholas had once warned them in a vision that he would leave Myra some day.

Led by a courageous young sailor named Matteo, the Barians broke into the shrine surrounding the tomb. They found the body intact floating in a waist-high pool of oil. They also found an icon, likewise famous for its miraculous deeds. They decided to leave the icon for the

local inhabitants, but they managed to get the greasy, slippery body into a container and headed back to their ship.

Word of the kidnapping leaked out, and the local populace went down to the shore to bemoan the loss of the body and to plead with the Barians to return it. But the Barians replied that Nicholas had been in Myra long enough, and it was right that he should no longer be in an infidel country. Besides, they said, the locals still had a tomb filled with oil and the sacred icon. With that, they sailed "off, fearful that the Turks would soon come.

The voyage to Italy was more adventurous than the sailors would have liked, because of bad weather. When they got back to Bari, they expected a peaceful end to the journey, but troubles were only beginning.

The Venetians, of course, were furious that a smaller, southern Italian city had outwitted the great northern power, and they promptly claimed that the Barians had kidnapped the wrong body, if indeed they had kidnapped anybody. Inevitably the Venetians came up with a St. Nicholas body of their own which they enshrined for tourists to see in their city. But to no avail. People believed that the real Nicholas now rested in Bari.

But where in Bari? One group of citizens, of Greek descent like many Barians, wanted the body in a shrine they would build. The bishop of the city, one of the Norman conquerors of southern Italy, wanted it for his church. The debate went on for some time, until the bishop died in 1089. The pope then stepped in to settle the matter, appointing a new bishop who was acceptable to both sides and declaring that the people should build a basilica for Nicholas' body. They did, and Nicholas rests there still. The day on which Nicholas arrived in Bari, May 9, became a major feast, and it is observed in that city to this day.

The Barians had guessed correctly; the basilica became a popular tourist spot. Many medieval people were devoted to Nicholas, from unlettered pilgrims to the great German emperor Frederick Barbarossa, and they were thrilled that the famous wonder-worker had come to the West.

But we moderns must realize that those courageous Italian sailors who kidnapped the body were just as moved by piety as by profit. In an era when the sacred interwove and interacted so much with the secular, it was possible for people to want sincerely to rescue Nicholas from non-believers and simultaneously to want just as sincerely to make money from his cult.

Although Nicholas was in no way associated with Christmas at this stage in history, the kidnapping of his body — an odd but solid combination of the commercial and the religious—somehow forecast it.