



# SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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**December 1, 2019**

24th Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 7

Prophet Nahum

Righteous Philaret the Merciful of Amnia



**From the Fathers...**

“It is difficult, very difficult to love people.”

-St. Luke (Voino-Yasenetsky)



**Welcome Visitors!**

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



The grace of the Holy Spirit/ dwelt within thee, O Prophet of God,/ making thee a radiantly shining beacon with its light.// Through thee, He preached to Nineveh the great things that were to come!

O Nahum, thou wast revealed to be a light-bearing cloud,/ letting fall a shower of divine knowledge./ O Prophet of God, thou didst give the city of Nineveh the judgment of God to drink,// for it was sick with impiety.

Thou wast a partaker of incorruptible glory and ineffable renown,/ unutterable joy and divine sweetness./ O divinely inspired Nahum, Prophet of God,// pray for us to the Master of all! (*Stichera of Lord, I Call*)

A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

## TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Resurrection Troparion in Tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death./ To the thief  
Thou didst open Paradise./ For the Myrrhbearers Thou  
didst change weeping into joy./ and Thou didst command  
Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art  
risen,/  
granting the world great mercy.

### Great Martyr George Troparion in Tone 4

As deliverer of captives/ and defender of the poor;/ healer  
of the infirm,/ champion of kings;/ victorious Great  
Martyr George,/ intercede with Christ our God; for our  
souls' salvation.

### Prophet Nahum Troparion in Tone 2

We celebrate the memory/ of Thy Prophet Nahum, O  
Lord;/ through him we beseech Thee:// "save our souls!"

### Resurrection Kontakion in Tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,/  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its  
powers./ Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and  
cry:/ "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you  
faithful, into the Resurrection!"

### Great Martyr George Kontakion in Tone 4

As we the faithful flee to thee for refuge and seek thy  
protection and speedy help,/ We entreat thee, O Champion of  
Christ, that we who sing thy praises may be delivered from  
the snares of the enemy/ and from every peril and  
adversary, that we may cry: "Rejoice, O martyr George!"

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

### Prophet Nahum Kontakion in Tone 4

Illumined by the Spirit, thy heart was a vessel of illustrious  
prophecy,/ seeing far-off things as though they were  
present. Therefore, we venerate thee, glorious prophet  
Nahum.

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### Steadfast Protectress of Christians in Tone 6

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,/ constant advocate before  
the Creator;/ despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,  
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on  
you in faith./ Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for  
us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor  
you!

### Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and  
has broken down the middle wall of separation, having  
abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of  
commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in  
Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,  
and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body  
through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.  
And He came and preached peace to you who were afar  
off and to those who were near. For through Him we both  
have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and  
foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and  
members of the household of God, having been built on  
the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ  
Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole  
building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in  
the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a  
dwelling place of God in the Spirit.



### Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what  
shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is  
good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments:  
'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,'  
'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your  
mother.'"

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still  
lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the  
poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow  
Me."

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he  
was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very  
sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches  
to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go  
through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the  
kingdom of God."

And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But  
He said, "The things which are impossible with men are  
possible with God."

## THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

**Sunday, December 1st**

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM Church School

*Prophet Nahum*

*Righteous Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor*

Ephesians 2:14-22, Luke 18:18-27

**Monday, December 2nd**

*Prophet Habakkuk*

*St. Jesse, Bishop of Tsilkansk in Georgia*

2 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Luke 20:27-44

**Tuesday, December 3rd**

9:30 AM Cookie Baking

*Prophet Zephaniah*

*St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople*

2 Thessalonians 1:10-22, Luke 21:12-19

**Wednesday, December 4th**

9:30 AM Cookie Baking

*Greatmartyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana at Heliopolis*

*Ven. John of Damascus*

*Glorification of New Hieromartyr Alexander Hotovitzky*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Hebrews 13:7-16

Luke 21:5-7, 10-22, 20-24, Luke 12:32-40

**Thursday, December 5th**

*Ven. Sabbas the Sanctified*

*Ven. Nectarius of Mt. Athos*

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5, Galatians 5:22-6:2

Luke 21:28-33, Matthew 11:27-30

**Friday, December 6th**

*St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra*

Hebrews 13:17-21, Luke 6:17-23

**Saturday, December 7th**

5:00 PM Readers Vespers

*St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan*

*Ven. John the Faster, of the Kiev Caves*

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18, Galatians 1:3-10

Luke 21:37-22:8, Luke 13:18-29

**Sunday, December 8th**

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

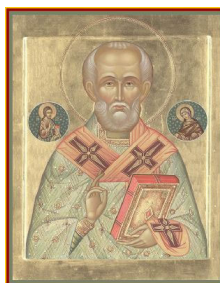
12:00 PM Church School

*Ven. Patapius of Thebes*

*Holy 362 Martyrs of Africa, martyred by the Arians*

Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 17:12-19

## The Sufferings of Saint Nicholas



December 6 is the feast day of Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of everyone from longshoremen to embalmers, and of places from New York City to Argentina. In fact he is the patron of more occupations, causes, people and places than any other saint we know of.

The stories of his humility and compassion are well-known. He had no ambition to become a bishop, but accepted the office in obedience. When he saved three marriageable and impoverished girls from disaster by providing money, he planned to do it secretly. There are stories of sailors caught on stormy seas, defenseless peasants wrongly accused of crimes, and countless others in need or in danger who were saved by his intercession. His kindness to children helped them to see Christ in him, so that even if their life circumstances were harsh, they knew a Savior cared for them.

But additional aspects of his life give even more luster to his example. Though he was not a martyr, Saint Nicholas suffered greatly in his life, and had to stand up to powerful forces that could have undermined the Church.

He became a bishop at the beginning of the fourth century and during the reign of Diocletian, a Roman emperor who detested Christianity as an enemy of Rome's glory. Nicholas, having become a publicly visible leader of the Christians, was imprisoned and tortured. The incarceration was not brief, either. Not until Constantine ascended the throne were the Christian prisoners released.

It was not only outward threats that faced the Church during Nicholas' time as bishop. Within the Church the Arian heresy, denying that Christ was truly the Son of God, was widely popular. Bishop Nicholas had to work against its falsehoods, and defend his people against its influence.

At the Council of Nicaea the threat of Arianism was made physically present. Arius had eloquence enough to make his "reasonable" version of the faith appealing to listeners and did so at the Council, speaking to those in attendance in his intelligent and engaging manner. How painful it must have been for Nicholas to hear this smooth talker distort everything for which Christ had died and risen. His memories of his own imprisonment and that of so many others who would not compromise the faith only added to the pain.

So Saint Nicholas exemplifies more than loving benevolence. He also shares our experience of suffering, and shows how to carry on without flinching from it. The words of Jesus Christ in Luke 21: 12-19 apply to Nicholas' life: "...they will lay their hands on you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors...some of you will be put to death; you will be hated by all for my name's sake."

But Christ's final words in this passage are the ones Nicholas would encourage us to remember: "By your endurance you will gain your lives."

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

**2019 Advent Celebration**

In the spirit of St. Nicholas, we will once again celebrate the season of giving through our 2019 Advent Celebration. Families have been assigned. Please see Cindy Hopper if you did not receive your family assignment. Remember, there is no prize for being under budget! Be generous! Advent Celebration: **December 15th.**

**Nativity Fast**

The Nativity Fast began on **Friday, November 15th.** During this time, Orthodox Christians traditionally abstain from meat and dairy products until the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. Fish is generally allowed on Saturdays and Sunday until **December 20th** when we enter the Forefeast of the Feast. Considerations are made for those are elderly, ill, or pregnant and nursing mothers. Please discuss any questions about fasting with Fr. Gregory.

**Psalter Prayer Group**

The Psalter Prayer Group has started, but there is still room for more participants! The Psaltar is made up of 20 Kathisma and each Kathisma is made up of a group of Psalms. The goal is to read the entire Book of Psalms every day of the Advent Fast by having 20 people reading an assigned Kathisma every day to help us with our spiritual journey. This a 20 minute daily commitment throughout Advent. Questions? Cindy Hopper.

**2019 Holiday Cookie Sale**

The 2019 Holiday Cookie Sale will be **Saturday, December 14th.**

**How can you help?**

- 1) Come to church on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30am** to bake cookies in the hall.
- 2) Bake cookies at home and bring them for the sale.
- 3) Donate financially or with supplies to assist those who are baking cookies.
- 4) Advertise the Cookie Sale with your family and friends.
- 5) Pray for the bakers, helpers, coordinators, and all those involved for a successful event.

**Parish Directory Update**

We are updating the parish directory. Forms are available in the Narthex. Please submit forms to Barbara Ranjo by **January 31st.**

**Pan-Orthodox Vespers**

There will be Pan-Orthodox Vespers on **Saturday, January 4th** at 6:00pm at St. George (Woodley).

**Pan-Orthodox Game Night**

There will be a Pan-Orthodox Game Night on **Sunday, January 19th** at St. George (Woodley).

**Pan-Orthodox Facebook Page**

Please consider “liking” the new Pan-Orthodox of Toledo Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Pan-Orthodox-Toledo-106460247494055](http://www.facebook.com/Pan-Orthodox-Toledo-106460247494055)

**We are praying for...**

**Health and Well-Being:**

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

**Catechumens:**

Tyson, Jessica, Marilla, Harry, Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



**Sanctuary Lamp**

The sanctuary lamp is lit today by Barbara Ranjo for all of us!



**Celebrations**

**Birthdays:**

Ileana Bruner (12/1)  
Mat. Ksenia Bruner (12/4)

**Name's Days:**

Barb Pappas (12/4)  
Matthias Aleksandr Bruner (12/4)  
Nicholas Ostas, Sr (12/6)  
Nicholas Ostas, Jr (12/6)  
Nicholas Ghareeb (12/6)

**Anniversaries:**

Bill & Dota Karayannis (12/4)

