

St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church

1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246

"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"

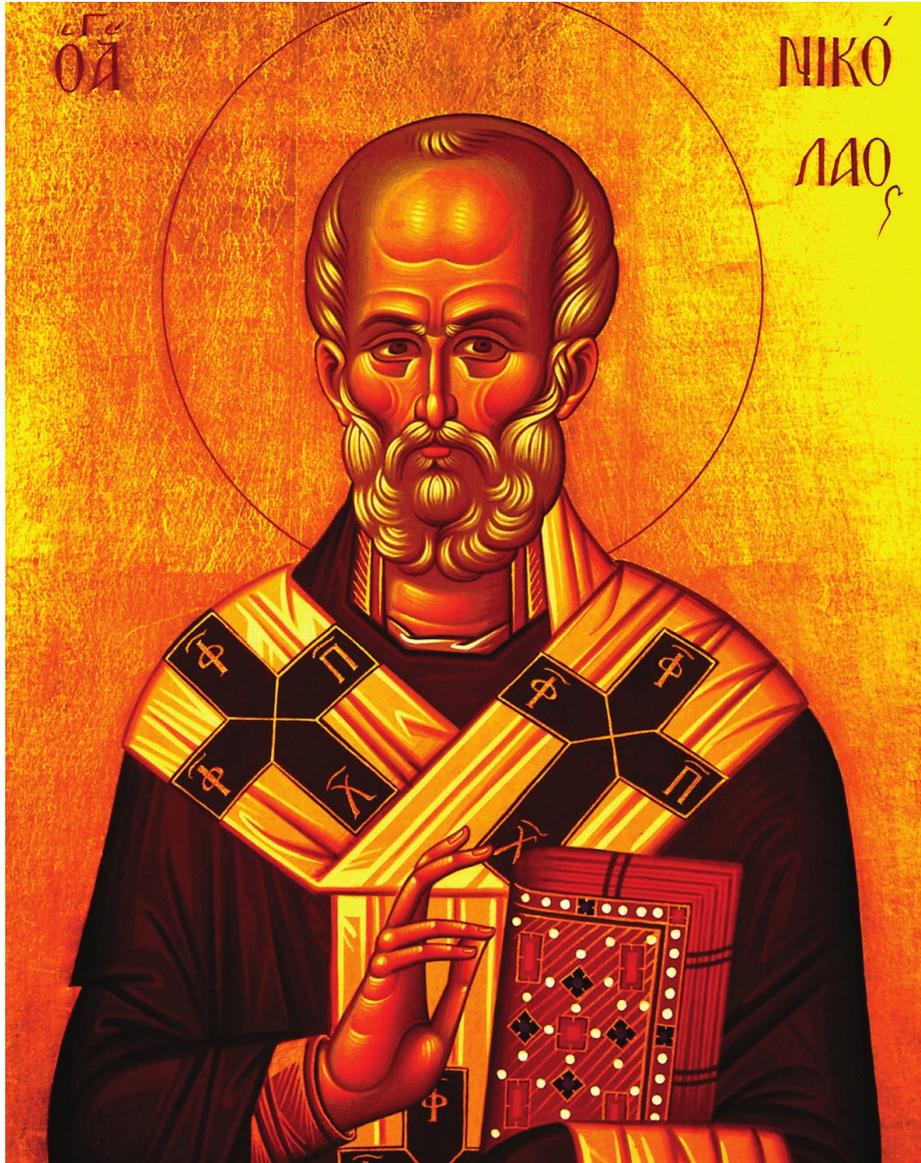
Rectory and Office: 414-342-1543

The Rt. Rev. Paul G. Frechette, Pastor

Website: byzantinemilwaukee.com

Facebook: fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee

December 5, 2021 — Tenth Sunday after the Holy Cross



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th

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Divine Liturgy

Livestreams and recordings of services on the parish's Facebook page: facebook.com/pg/ByzantineMilwaukee/videos/. An account is not needed.

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3): Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad! For the Lord has done a wondrous deed by his arm; He had crushed Death by his death, becoming the first to rise from the dead. He had delivered us from the moth of Hades and bestowed great mercy upon the world.

Troparion of St. George: O Great among the saints and glorious martyr, George, since you are a deliverer of captives, a doctor for the sick and a noble attendant to

Prokimenon: Let the saints triumph in
couches

Stichon: Sing to the Lord a new song: his praise in the assembly of the saints.

Apostolic Reading: Gal 5:22-6:2

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, patience, kindness, justification, faith, modesty, continence. Against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit by the Spirit let us also walk; let

Alleluia: Happy the man who fears the Lord! He will joyfully agree with his commands.

Stichon: His holiness shall endure for ever and ever.

Gospel: Healing of a Crippled Woman, Lk 13:10-17

kings, intercede for us to Christ God, that he may save our souls!

Kontakion of the Preparation of the Nativity: Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Word who is, in all eternity. Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded: with the angles and the shepherds, glorify Him who chose to be seen as a new-born Babe, while remaining God in all eternity.

glory and let them sing for joy on their

us not become desirous if success, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brethren, even if a person is caught doing something wrong, you who are spiritual instruct such a one in spirit of meekness, considering yourselves lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

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At that time Jesus was teaching in one of their synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent over and utterly unable to look upwards. When Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said to her, "Woman, thou art delivered from thy infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and instantly she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, addressed the crowd, saying, "There are six days in which one ought to

work; on these therefore come and be cured, and not on the Sabbath." But the Lord answered him and said, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loosen his ox or ass from the manger, and lead it forth to water? And this woman, daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound, lo, for eighteen years, ought not she to be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And as he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame; and the entire crowd rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Stewardship

Last week: candles=\$9; ordinary collections=\$910; donations=\$50. Thanks for your generosity!

Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated November 14, 2021): \$31,451

Want to automate donations? One-time or monthly payments via **PayPal**: byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate. Use your bank's **online billpay** (payee information): St. George's Syrian Congregation · 1617 W State St · Milwaukee, WI 53233-1246; phone: (414) 342-1543; email: info@byzantinemilwaukee.com.

Collection for the Women's Center

There will be a collection for gently used or new baby (newborn–24 months) winter wear for the Women's Center of Milwaukee (2051 W. Wisconsin Ave.) from November 21st through the Nativity. Donation envelopes, baby bottles to fill with loose change and information are available on the back tables; items may be placed in the marked box by the bishop's throne. Particular items needed include:

- diapers size newborn and 6
- wipers
- boppy pillows
- new bottles
- car seats
- pack n plays
- sleepers size 0–24 months
- outfits size 0–24 months
- baby wash
- baby lotion

Talk to Jerry Nora with any questions: jerry.nora@gmail.com.

Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Alice Herro*, Nick Langenfeld, Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), Eva Nora (niece of the Noras), Bob Peterson, Joe Radanovich, the Rebholz family, Eva Saseen (Theresa and Janelle Herro's niece), Jan

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Taylor, Kathy Tomaz, John Zambo and Kathy Zambo. For those we have been asked to pray for: Justin & Krysten Hager (Jan Taylor).

* Please particularly remember Alice Herro who has been having health issues recently.

Schedule for This Week

Monday: *Father Nicholas the Wonderworker*
Thursday: *Maternity of St. Ann*
Friday: *Beginning of the Nativity Fast (Melkite Usage)*
Sunday: *Sunday of Forefathers*
10:30am Divine Liturgy

Practical Suggestions for Fasting

Fasting, like prayer, is something we can grow into. If you are not accustomed to fasting, it can be helpful to begin at one level and deepen your practice as you grow in your life in Christ. The following plan might be helpful.

Beginning level: On Wednesdays and Fridays do not eat any meat and offer a brief prayer several times throughout the day. During the fasting seasons of Great Lent and the Dormition Fast, attend at least one Lenten Service each week. Before the Presanctified Liturgy during Great Lent, do not eat anything for several hours.

A deeper level: In addition to the above, on fast days, do not eat anything before noon and no meat thereafter. Keep additional fast days during the fasting seasons. During Great Lent, in addition to avoiding meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, also avoid dairy products. Attend two Lenten Services weekly and perform some act of charity each day.

A further level: In addition to the above, keep each day in the fasting seasons as a fast day. Attend all the Divine Services during the fasting seasons. Replace entertainments such as TV, movies, shopping, etc. with prayer, spiritual reading and acts of charity.

Winter Weather

Please take care with winter weather. Even if services are not canceled, only come if it is safe for you to travel.

COVID-19

According to the Milwaukee Health Department, the best way to stop the community spread of COVID-19 is to take preventative action to protect yourself and others:

- Get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can (city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax). Vaccines are safe and readily available at walk-in clinics throughout the community for anyone over the age of 12 years old.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others, and stay at least 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you.

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- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, and improve ventilation whenever possible.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

More information is available from the health department: [city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus](https://www.city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus)

The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide

dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.

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