



**Saint Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Church**

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**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

*Tenth Sunday of Luke*

8:30am: Orthros

10am: Hierarchical Divine

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

## Hymns of the Day

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, \*  
and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body.

\* You rose on the third day, O Lord \* and Savior, granting life  
unto the world. \* For this reason were the powers of heaven

crying out to You, O Life-giver: \* Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; \* glory to Your eternal rule; \* glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

**Ἄπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. ᾠχος α΄.**

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν. Διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι Ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῇ ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

### **Apolytikion of Saint Nicholas in the Fourth Mode**

An example of the faith and a life of humility: \* as a teacher of abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock, \* and through the truthfulness of your deeds \* were exalted to greatness through your humility, \* uplifting all, and by poverty gaining wealth. \* Father and hierarch Saint Nicholas, \* intercede with Christ our God \* that our souls may be saved.



### **Kontakion of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ in the Third Mode**

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

# Gospel and Epistle Readings

## Epistle Reading

### **Ephesians 5:8 – 19**

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.”

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

## Gospel Reading

### **Luke 13:10 – 17**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.” And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God.

But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?"

As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

## Saints and Feasts

### Ambrose, Bishop of Milan

Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, was born in the year 340 into the family of the Roman prefect of Gaul. Even in the saint's childhood there appeared presentiments of his great future. Once, bees covered the face of the sleeping infant. They flew in and out of his mouth, leaving honey on his tongue. Soon they flew away so high that they could no longer be seen. Ambrose's father said that the child would become something great when he reached manhood.

After the death of Auxentius, the Arian Bishop of Milan, a violent dispute arose among the Orthodox and Arians about who would succeed him. Ambrose, desiring as Governor of the province to restore the peace, attempted to mediate between them. As he spoke to the people, eloquently persuading them to elect a new bishop without tumult and disorder, a young child, inspired from on high, suddenly cried out "Ambrose, bishop!" To his astonishment and dismay, the people

immediately took up this cry themselves, and over his many protests, he was raised to the episcopal throne of Milan on December 7, 374.

Ambrose combined strict temperance, intense vigilance and work within the fulfilling of his duties as archpastor. Saint Ambrose, defending the unity of the Church, energetically opposed the spread of heresy. Thus, in the year 379 he traveled off to establish an Orthodox bishop at Sirmium, and in 385-386 he refused to hand over the basilica of Mediolanum to the Arians.

The preaching of Saint Ambrose in defense of Orthodoxy was deeply influential. Another noted Father of the Western Church, Saint Augustine, bore witness to this, having accepted holy Baptism in the year 387 by the grace of the preaching of the bishop of Mediolanum.

The emperor Gracian, having received from him the "Exposition of the Orthodox Faith," removed the altar of Victory from the halls of the Senate at Rome, on which oaths were wont to be taken. Displaying a pastoral boldness, Saint Ambrose placed a severe penance on the emperor Theodosius I for the massacre of innocent inhabitants of Thessalonica. For him there was no difference between emperor and commoner. Though he released Theodosius from the penance, the saint would not permit the emperor to commune at the altar, but compelled him to do public penance.

The saint combined strictness with an uncommon kindness. Granted a gift of wonderworking, he healed many from sickness. One time at Florence, while staying at the house of Decentus, he resurrected a dead boy.

The repose of Saint Ambrose, who departed to the Lord on the night of Holy Pascha in the year 397, was accompanied by many miracles. He even appeared in a vision to the children being baptized that night. The saint was buried in the Am-

brosian basilica in Mediolanum, beneath the altar, between the Martyrs Protasius and Gervasius.

## Wisdom of the Fathers

“Now this is the declaration of our Faith, that we say that God is One, neither dividing His Son from Him, . . . nor denying. . . that He was begotten of the Father before all worlds, and afterwards born of the Virgin. . . . For it is written: *Hear, O Israel: the Lord your God is one God.*

“For God and Lord is a name of majesty, a name of power, even as God Himself says: *The Lord is My name*, and as in another place the prophet declares: *The Lord Almighty is His name*. God is He, therefore, and Lord, either because His rule is over all, or because He beholds all things, and is feared by all, without difference.

“If, then, God is One, one is the name, one is the power, of the Trinity. Christ Himself, indeed, says: *Go, baptize the nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*. In the *name*, mark you, not in the ‘names.’

“Moreover, Christ Himself says: *I and the Father are One*. *One*, said He, that there be no separation of power and nature; but again, *We are*, that you may recognize Father and Son, forasmuch as the perfect Father is believed to have begotten the perfect Son, and the Father and the Son are One, not by confusion of Person, but by unity of nature.”

- St. Ambrose of Milan, *Exposition of the Christian Faith*, 1.6-9.

“The soul is bent over in infirmity whenever it inclines to earthly thoughts alone and imagines nothing that is heavenly and divine. It can truly be said that this soul has been infirm for eighteen years. For when a man is feeble in keeping the commandments of the divine law, which are ten in number,

and is weak in his hope of the eighth age, the age to come, it can be said that he has been bent over for ten and eight years. Is not that man indeed bent over who is attached to the earth, and who always sins in disregard of the commandments, and who does not look for the age to come? But the Lord heals such a soul on the sabbath in the assembly of the synagogue.”

- Blessed Theophylact of Ochrid, *Explanation of the Gospel of Luke*,  
p. 170.

## Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your God-pleasing prayers the servants of God:

Robert Tewis; Robert (Tikhon) Foster

*If you would like for yourself or a loved one to be added to the prayer list, please contact Fr. Jeremy.*

## Parish Information

### Church School

Church School for our children begins following Holy Communion. We have two classrooms: one for elementary-school ages, and one for middle school and up. Please allow our Church School kids and their teachers to come up for Communion first.

### Introduction to Orthodox Christianity

Our Adult Ed class meets on Sundays following coffee hour. We meet in the classrooms downstairs. Any who would like to learn more about our Orthodox Faith, whether a newcomer

or a life-long member, are welcome to attend. Please contact Fr. Jeremy to be added to the distribution list for readings.

### **Byzantine Chant Classes**

Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!

### **Men's Breakfast**

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, **December 20 at 8am**. Feel free to invite a friend!

### **Ladies' Potluck Luncheon**

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, December 11** at 12pm.



## **This Week at St. Nicholas**

- Wednesday, December 10: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Thursday, December 11: 12pm Ladies' Luncheon
- Friday, December 12 **Spyridon the Wonderworker**: 8:30am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, December 13: 10am–4pm **Greek Christmas Market**, 5pm Great Vespers