

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.

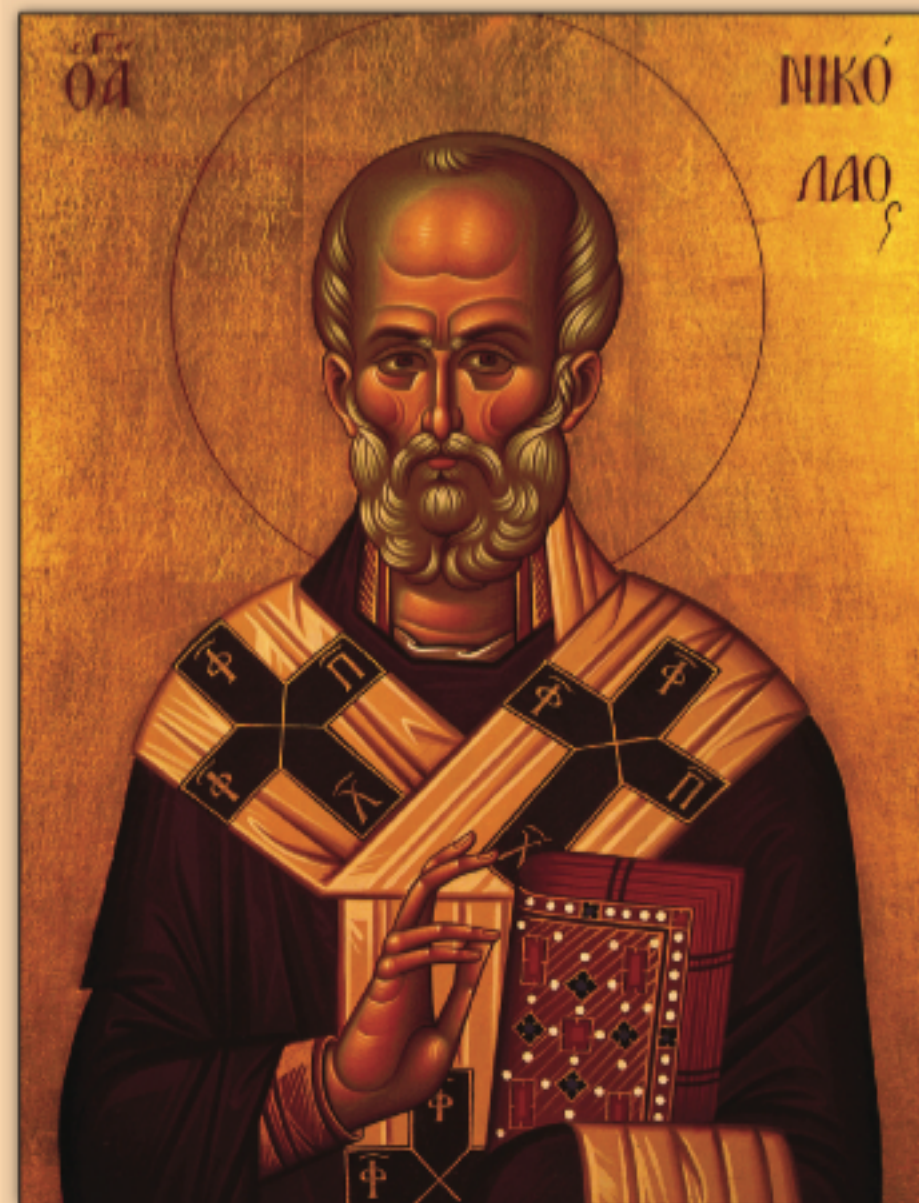
As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

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.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th



The Maternity of the Holy Anna

December 8th

The Eastern and Western Churches put the accent on different aspects of the feast. In the East, we celebrate the miracle of God taking away the barrenness of Anna's womb. The Western Church, on the other hand, puts the accent on Mary's purity from all sin from her conception, defined by Pope Bl. Pius IX in 1848 as the Immaculate Conception.

In both cases, the conception of the Theotokos in the womb of Anna today is our preparation for Christmas. For God took away the barrenness of one couple in a conception that would have a cosmic dimension for every one of us: the coming into the world of its

Creator, who would take away the curse on Adam and Eve by the birth of his Son with the power to bring us all into sinlessness. The Hymn of Light at Matins thus proclaims: "Today Anna conceives the One who will give birth to the Light which illumines all creation. Therefore, let us all gather together, for the one who delivers us from the judgment of Eve now comes forth."



Funeral Arrangements for Monsignor Frank Korba St. Nicholas Byzantine Church - Munster, IN

Sunday, Dec 10th

4:00PM - 8:00PM - Viewing in the Church
7:00PM - First Evening Services - Office of Readings

Monday, Dec 11th

4:00PM - 8:00PM - Viewing in the Church
7:00PM - Second Evening Services - Parastas

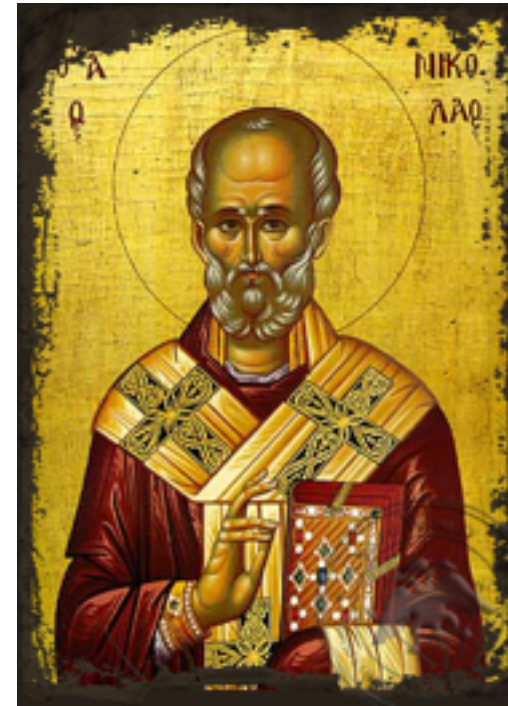
Tuesday, Dec 12th

10:00AM - Funeral Divine Liturgy
Internment St. Nicholas Parish cemetery in Hammond, IN

Eternal
Memory
Vechnaya
Pamyat

Monsignor Frank Kroka was a retired priest from the Eparchy of Parma, who was ordained in 1966. He served in my parishes across the Eparchy but was honored to serve in his home parish of St. Nicholas before retiring. Fr. Frank was proud of his heritage and loved serving the Divine Liturgy where he was able to make Christ present for all the faithful. Please keep Fr. Korba in your prayers. ***In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant, the priest Monsignor Frank, and remember him forever.***

Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra - December 6th



Our Holy Father Nicholas, emulator of the Apostles and ardent imitator of the Lord Jesus Christ, appears as a living pillar of the Church, zealous in defense of the faith and a model of pastoral solicitude for holy bishops. Through his countless miracles on behalf of the poor, the abandoned, of those suffering injustice and of all who call upon his fatherly protection, he has to this day shown himself "a good steward of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

St. Nicholas was born in the 3rd century in Patara, which, at the time, was a part of Greece. He was brought up in a wealthy and very devout Christian family. While still young, his parents died in an epidemic, leaving Nicholas an orphan. Nicholas gave his large inheritance away to the poor and needy.

When he was old enough, he was ordained a priest, and later became the Bishop of Myra. The people of Myra admired him for his generosity and love of children. He was also particularly concerned for the safety of sailors, since Myra was a port town, and many of the villagers took to the seas to make a living.

St. Nicholas died on December 6, 343 in Myra. His body was buried in the cathedral. Due to turmoil in the land, in the year 1067 his relics were moved to Bari, Italy, where many of them remain today. His body exudes an "oil" to this day (called the "manna of St. Nicholas") which is said to have healing properties.

Special Anointing of the Sick will be held Tuesday, December 5th

during the Vigil Liturgy for the Feast of St. Nicholas. We are honored to have been gifted the special "manna of St. Nicholas" by Fr. Joe Marquis, which will be mixed with the usual blessed olive oil for this special anointing.

You are encouraged to partake of the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving the Anointing of the Sick. Fr. Tom will be available for confession on Monday evening and Tuesday prior to the Vigil Liturgy.



ByzanTEENS

Sunday, Dec 10th
11:30am to 1:00pm

Family Catechesis

Sunday, December 17th
Noon - 1:30pm

Check out these GREAT NEW
On-line Byzantine Catechetical
Resources from God With Us Online

Formed for Life

www.godwithusonline.org

Free Family Formation

Downloadable Monthly Lessons for All Ages Based on the Themes for the Catechetical Year!

www.godwithusonline.org



The Eleventh Annual Women's Retreat SAVE THE DATE

The Beatitudes: The Way of Life

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center
Fremont, Ohio

February 16, 2024 - February 18, 2024

Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro

Contact Susan A. Gallagher for further information
womenretreat2024@yahoo.com
419-626-0375

Further details will follow
Sponsored by:

St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

The Third Annual Men's Retreat SAVE THE DATE

*From Fallen Passions to Apatheia:
Pursuing the Virtuous Life*

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center
Fremont, Ohio

March 15, 2024-March 17, 2024

Retreat Master
Fr. Thomas J Loya, STB, MA

Contact Karl Busam for further information
karl.busam.77@gmail.com
1-419-626-6811

Further details will follow
Sponsored by:

St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

Not sure what to get or give someone for
Christmas...

Why not consider one of these wonderful
Retreats or Pilgrimages!!

This type of gift will feed the soul and have a
longer lasting effect than most material gifts.

A BYZANTINE CATHOLIC RETREAT & PILGRIMAGE TO GUADALUPE, MEXICO APRIL 20-27, 2024

JOIN US

*in celebrating the 125th anniversary of
St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in
Whiting, Indiana, with an eight-day retreat
and pilgrimage to Mexico in honor of
Our Lady of Guadalupe.*

\$3,250 per person
double occupancy

INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare from Chicago
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- Entrance fees as per scheduled visits
- Private Divine Liturgies and services
- Four-star hotels in historic districts
- Professional English-speaking guide
- Land travel in air-conditioned motor coach
- Pilgrim prayer pack
- All tips and gratuities

Journey and pray with:



Fr. Andrew and Laura have been serving at St. Mary Church in Whiting since 2018 and have led three other pilgrimages. Fr. Tom is a renowned speaker and host of Light of the East.



RETREAT LEADER
Fr. Thomas J. Loya

Regina
Tours

www.1800CATHOLIC.com

CONTACT:

Fern Ciralo
fciralo@group1st.com
Cell: (516) 509-6060





Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

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Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com

Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

December 3, 2023 - 27th Sunday after Pentecost Schedule of Services

Sunday	3	27th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Tuesday	5	Vigil for the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra 7:00 PM Vespers with Divine Liturgy & Anointing of the sick- Health & Salvation of the sick and homebound of our parish
Thursday	7	Vigil for the Feast of the Maternity of the Holy Anne (Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary) 7:00 PM Vespers with Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Mary Ellen Haber by our parish family
Saturday	9	6:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	10	28th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:

Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky	Jean Rusnak
Dot Wochok	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne
Francis Hughes	Gloria Paulson	John Oreluk
Fr. Bernard Danber	Frank Miko	Sally Hughes
Bob Zavada	William Davis	Marianne Horvath
Gary Paczkowski	Gloria Selvy	Steve Bieniek
Abbie Sheedy-wc		

Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish

In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.

Parish Membership is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

A Biblically based stewardship is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

Couples who are planning to be married at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages," as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound should contact the pastor or parish business office.

Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia parish members should contact the pastor.

No eulogies or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

Cremation is permitted but not encouraged. Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

Appropriate behavior and dress are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday. If this is not possible an equivalent penitential practice is to be observed.