

The Story of St. Nicholas and the Carpet

There was a couple in Constantinople who had always had a special love for Saint Nicholas. Each feast day they celebrated with special food, wine, holy bread, and candles. Now that they were old, and no longer able to work, they were very poor. The man asked his wife how they could get money to buy what was needed. She took an old carpet, saying, "Here is our last possession. Sell it and then buy all we need to show our gratitude to God and Saint Nicholas." The old man took the rug and set off to the marketplace.

Arriving at the market, a distinguished looking nobleman asked how much the rug cost. The man told him what it cost when new, saying he'd take whatever he could get for it. The nobleman gave him six gold pieces—much more than the man expected—took the rug and left. People near the man were puzzled as he seemed to be talking to himself. After purchasing the needed items, the man headed home.

Meanwhile, back at the house, a distinguished looking man approached the woman, "Take this rug. Your husband is an old friend of mine and I met him at the marketplace today." And he gave her the carpet.

When the man returned, his wife accused him of not selling the carpet, "How could you break your promise and not sell this rug?" "Who gave the rug to you?" he asked. She described the man, and he realized it was the same person who'd bought the rug. The man, realizing it must have been a miracle, exclaimed, "The Lord liveth! The man who bought the carpet from me and brought it back to our poor home, is indeed St. Nicholas, for a man saw me talking to him and asked if I saw an apparition, for the saint was invisible." He showed his wife what he'd bought—food, wine, holy bread, candles—and the left-over money.

Rejoicing, they hurried to the church of St. Nicholas to tell the Patriarch all that had happened. After hearing the story, the Patriarch gave the couple a generous life pension. They returned home for a fine St. Nicholas feast with hymn singing and prayers of thanksgiving.

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Tone 6 – Stikhera of Litya (St. Nicholas the Wonderworker)

*O good and faithful servant, worker of the vineyard of Christ,
thou hast both borne the burden of the day, and increased the talent given to thee.*

*Thou hast not shown envy towards those coming after thee,
therefore the gate of heaven has been opened to thee.*

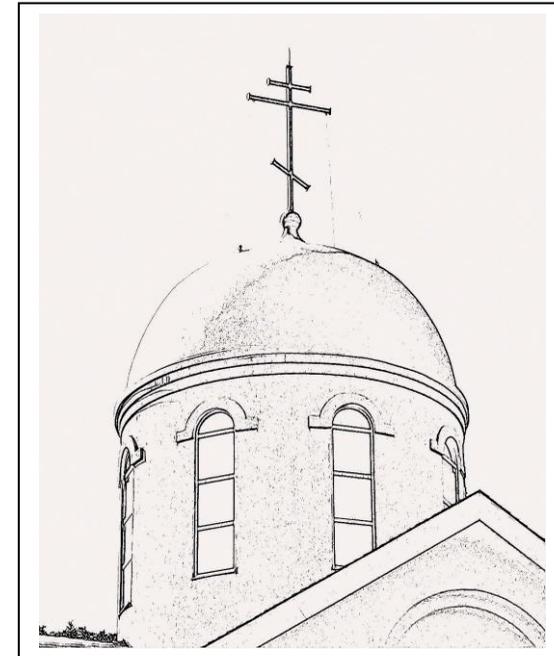
*Enter into the joy of thy Lord and intercede for us, O saint Nicholas,
for in the course of this temporal life*

thou hast run the race to the praise of the Lord,

Who has given thee glory in the true and heavenly life!

Since thou hast boldness before Him, pray that our souls may be saved!

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Dn. Michael Pejovic, Attached Deacon

Tara Paxton, Senior Warden

Reader Matthew Hascha, Choir Director

December 1, 2019

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 7. Venerable Botolph of Iken (7th c.). Prophet Nahum (7th c. B.C.). Righteous Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor (792). Martyr Ananias of Persia.

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Thursday – 7:00pm Great Vespers (*St. Nicholas*)

Friday – 9:30am Divine Liturgy (*St. Nicholas*)

Saturday – 6:15pm Panikhida (*Fr. +Peter Buletza, W, Zamerovsky*)

Saturday - 7:00pm Great Vespers w/General Confession

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19



St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Annunciations

TODAY – Church School classes will be held today at their usual times following the Divine Liturgy.

TODAY – The Adult Education session is **postponed until next Sunday**. We will continue our “**What is the Orthodox Church?**” study beginning at the end of Coffee Hour. All are welcome to participate. **Next Sunday's topic is Worship.**

TODAY – **Setup of the parish hall** for the Cookie Walk takes place after the talk. All help is welcome!

THIS FRIDAY is the Feast of **St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia**. Check the Service Schedule for the services.

THIS SATURDAY – Our parish will hold the **Annual Cookie Walk** in the parish hall from 9:00am to 12:00noon. Bakers are asked to **bring their cookies** to the parish hall during the day or evening **on Friday**. Please speak with the event coordinator, **Joanne Bass**, if you have questions or to make alternate drop-off arrangements. Please **invite your friends and family**. Many thanks!

Many flavors of **Dessert Rolls** are for sale now at **\$14 per roll**. Please see Cathy Berger or Olga Pasick to make your purchases.

We are in the midst of the Nativity Fast. The Church guides us into this preparatory period and urges us to follow the usual fasting recommendations until the Feast of the Nativity. Confessions are heard after every Great Vespers.

Our parish is once again **collecting gently used coats** for children and adults which will then be distributed to families in our area. Hats, gloves, and scarves are also being accepted. Please use the **collection boxes in the parish hall** to make your donation.

Paper grocery bags are available in the church narthex to be filled with food items for the hungry. This is part of our Nativity Food Drive. Please be generous as you can.

The **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB)** program is an *essential vehicle* for funding our diocesan activities and programs. Please consider participating in the program. More information can be found at www.nynjoca.org.

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Monday – Pani Mary Buletza

Tuesday – Thomas Kopec

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM D (Paxton, May, Alpaugh)

Next Sunday – TEAM E (Bass, Petrides)

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Olga Kornafel, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Meni Mari, Matushka Cathy Smida, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Alan Diaz, Cathy Diaz, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Elba Cinciarelli, and Catherine Ratushnik.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.

OUTREACH

- **Food Pantry donations** are *always* accepted. Place non-perishable food items in blue bin in the narthex
- **Clothing donations** are accepted on the last Sunday of each month. Place donations next to the food pantry bin.