

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr James Worthington, Rector 315-706-6185

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DECEMBER 6, 2015

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA (ca. 345).

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 6.10-17: Put on the armor of God to protect against all wickedness.
Hebrews 13.17-21: Paul end his letter, asking for prayers and thanking God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 17.12-19: Ten Lepers are healed, one returns to give thanks to Christ.
LUKE 6.17-23: Christ teaches those He heals the Beatitudes.

READERS: Readers are needed to volunteer for readings at Vespers, for the Hours and the Epistle. If you are interested in doing this, see Fr James.

COFFEE HOUR: Potluck. **NEXT WEEK:** Available.

NATIVITY FLOWERS: Envelopes are available at the information desk to make a donation toward flowers for the upcoming celebration of the Nativity of Christ.

MATCHING DONATION: A very kind donation was given for the Building Fund from a friend of the parish. This was doubled by a generous parishioner. We are trying to match \$1000, and have raised \$725 so far. Let's finish this challenge this week.

OCF NEWS: Until December 6th, the OCF will be collecting items for the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) to distribute to victims of various crises throughout the world. Please bring the following items to the church: hand towels, washcloths, combs, metal nail files/clippers, bath size bars of soap wrapped in original packaging, toothbrushes (individually packaged) and band-aids. Thank you!

DDB: As the chilly winds of fall and winter arrive, 2015 will soon come to an end. It has been a fruitful year of supporting seminarians, mission parishes, and providing support to revitalize older parishes. This is a reality thanks to the sacrificial financial contributions of our Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors. To date there are 174 individual and organizational DDBs. An invitation is extended for our parish to join them this year.

Fr James' contact information: Cell: 315-706-6185 Email: adelphotheos@gmail.com

ONLINE CALENDAR: The calendar of services and events on the parish webpage has been updated to a new format. It is now a Google calendar, which can be subscribed to so that it can sync with your online calendars as well. This will also make it easier to modify and provide subscribers with notices about upcoming events. Please subscribe and share with friends!

MARCH FOR LIFE: Two chartered buses will take local participants to the annual March For Life in Washington DC. They are leaving Ithaca late evening on January 21st and returning late evening the 22nd. Cost is \$25 each. Registration deadline is December 1st. For more information or to register, contact lthacatodc@yahoo.com.

LENTEN CHARITY: As we prepare for the Nativity of Christ, we are gathering food to donate to both the Lansing and Brooktondale Food Pantries. As you shop, add a few things to your cart and bring them to the Church to share the blessings that the Lord has to give, through your hands.

NEW ICON: We extend our deepest gratitude to Olga Polouchin of St Gregory the Theologian Church in Wappinger Falls for donating the beautiful icon of the Transfiguration of Christ, now resting in the North Side niche.

GIFTING FOR THE NATIVITY: Consider giving Holy Apostles t-shirts or other items from the book table in the narthex to your friends and loved ones this upcoming Nativity season.

LIVING:			
Apr Timothy H	Nathan	Lyudmila	Rdr Gregory
Apr Herman S	Leah	Nickolay	Daniel
Apr John C	Helen	Anetta	Ada
Apr Thomas E	Lindsey	James Sr	Lillian
Apr Maichael T	Susanne H	Jan V.	Joseph
Apr Stephen M	Elizabeth	Zachary	Marie
Dn Symeon	Mary	Iconographer Helena	Joseph
Dn Michael	Joe A	Natasha, Lena, Vera, &	Laura
Abbess Silouana	Daniel	Sergei	Martha
Mother Raphaela	Andrew & family	Caleb	Stanley & Helen,
Mat Cecelia	Harold	Cleopatra	Taissa
Mat Katya	Wilhemina	Brian & Ally	Steluta
Mat Dorothy	Elizabeth	Kenneth	Theophan
Joshua	David	<u>Catechumens:</u> Elliott,	Lynda
Brittany & Isaac	Madeline	Micah, Danielle.	Florence
Gretchen	Shirley	<u>Children:</u> Christopher E,	James
Peter	Larry	Anthony, Mia and Isabel	James R
Marriane	Christina	<u>Seminarians:</u> Rdr Robert	Vasily
Terrence	Jim & Kim	and Ivan	Modecai
Helen	Rachel	BIRTHDAYS: Michael T.	Alexandr
Judy	Constantine & Maria	ANNIVS: None.	Ron
Gretchen	Gaetan	NAMESDAYS: Niko.	NEWLY REPOSED: Dn
Mary & Susan	Jean	REPOSED:	Mark, John.
John & Carmine	Christine	Priest Matthew	ANNIVERSARIES:
	Samuel	Priest John	Lillian.
	Lisa	Apr Alexander	

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6: 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Social Hour.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8: 8:30 Morning Prayers & Healing Service
8 PM Ithaca College OCF in Mueller Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9: 8:30 Daily Matins
7 PM Cornell OCF in Anabel Taylor Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10: 8:30 Morning Prayers

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11: 8:30 Morning Prayers
9:20 Cornell Morning Prayers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12: 6 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13: 8:40 Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Social Hour.

DECEMBER 24: Annual Holy Supper and Vigil for Nativity

JANUARY 9: Annual Blessing of Cayuga Lake

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that you would renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only Merciful and loving Lord Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: We pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

MORE FROM FR TOM ON ST NICHOLAS

Like God and like Jesus, St. Nicholas was genuinely good. Real goodness is possible. For, to quote the Lord again, "with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Mt 19:26). A human being, even a rich human being who believes in God, can be genuinely good with God's own goodness. "For truly I say to you, says the Lord, "if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed... nothing will be impossible to you" (Mt 17:20-21). The Messiah has come so that human beings can live lives which are, strictly speaking, humanly impossible. He has come so that people can really be good. One of the greatest and most beloved examples among believers that this is true is the holy bishop of Myra, of whom almost nothing else is known, or needs to be known, except that he was good. For this reason alone he remains, even in his secularized form, the very spirit of Christmas.

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2015

ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA AND LYCIA, THE WONDERWORKER
27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY HYMNS FOR DECEMBER 6TH

Troparion Tone 2 (Resurrection)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

Troparion Tone 4 (St Nicholas)

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;
your humility exalted you;
your poverty enriched you.
Hierarch Father Nicholas,
entreat Christ our God//
that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion Tone 2 (Resurrection)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You, //
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Kontakion Tone 3 (St Nicholas)

You appeared as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas,
fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O venerable one;
you laid down your life for your people
and rescued the innocent from death.//
Therefore, you have been blest as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Prokeimenon Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. (Ps 117/118:4)
v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death. (Ps 117/118:18)

Tone 7: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him. (Ps 63/64:10)

Alleluia Verses Tone 2

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! (Ps 19/20:1)

v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps 19/20:9)

v. Your priests shall be clothed in righteousness, and Your saints shall rejoice. (Ps 131/132:9)

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. (Ps 111/112:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

ST THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE ON PREPARING TO PRAYER



Although prayer is a habitual action for us, it needs preparation. For anyone who knows how to read and write, what is more usual than reading and writing? Yet if we sit down to read and write we do not do so suddenly, we first get ourselves into the mood for what we are going to do. This kind of preparation is all the more necessary before we start to pray, particularly if our occupation immediately beforehand was very different from prayer.

So, morning or evening, immediately before you begin to repeat your prayers, stand awhile, sit for awhile, or walk a little and try to steady your mind and turn it away from all worldly activities and objects. After this, think who He is to whom you turn in prayer, then recollect who you are; who it is who is about to start this invocation to Him in prayer. Do this in such a way as to awake in your heart a feeling of humility and reverent awe that you are standing in the presence of God. It is the beginning of prayer, and a good beginning is half the complete task.

POWER OF PRAYER

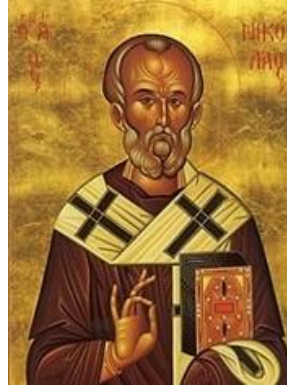
Prayer is a ladder leading up to God; for there is nothing more powerful than prayer. There is no sin which cannot be forgiven by means of prayer, and there is no sentence of punishment which it cannot undo. There is no revelation which does not have prayer as its cause, and there are no types or symbols which prayer cannot interpret. - *Anonymous, from The Syriac Fathers on Prayer and the Spiritual Life*

THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

The following is an excerpt from The Winter Pascha, by Fr. Thomas Hopko

Following the feast of St. Andrew, prefeast hymns of the Nativity are heard once again on the feast of St. Nicholas, the fourth-century bishop of Myra in Lycia who through the ages had come to be especially connected with the festival of Christ's birth.

O you who love the festivals,
Come gather and sing the praises of the fair beauty of bishops,
The glory of the fathers,
The fountain of wonders and great protector of the faithful.
Let us all say: Rejoice, O guardian of the people of Myra,
Their head and honored counselor,
The pillar of the Church which cannot be shaken.
Rejoice, O light full of brightness,
That makes the ends of the world shine with wonders.
Rejoice, O divine delight of the afflicted,
The fervent advocate of those who suffer from injustice.
And now, O all-blessed Nicholas,
Never cease praying to Christ our God
For those who honor the festival of your memory
With faith and love.



Sad as it is to see St. Nicholas transformed into the red-suited Santa Claus of the secular winter "holidays," it is easy to understand why the holy bishop has become so closely connected with the festival of Christ's birth. The stories about the saint, fabricated and embroidered in Christian imagination over the ages, in various times and places, all tell of the simple faith and love of the man known only for his goodness and love.

The extraordinary thing about the image of St. Nicholas in the Church is that he is not known for anything extraordinary. He was not a theologian and never wrote a word, yet he is famous in the memory of believers as a zealot for Orthodoxy, allegedly accosting the heretic Arius at the first ecumenical council in Nicaea for denying the divinity of God's Son. He was not an ascetic and did no outstanding feats of fasting and vigils, yet he is praised for his possession of the "fruit of the Holy Spirit... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22-23). He was not a mystic in our present meaning of the term but he lived daily with the Lord and was godly in all his words and deeds. He was not a prophet in the technical sense, yet he proclaimed the Word of God, exposed the sins of the wicked, defended the rights of the oppressed and afflicted, and battled against every form of injustice with supernatural compassion and mercy. In a word, he was a good pastor, father, and bishop to his flock, known especially for his love and care for the poor. Most simply put, he was a divinely good person.

LESSONS IN OUR FAITH

The "Lessons in Our Faith" video series featuring Archbishop Michael offers concise and informative instruction on a variety of topics. Two videos are particularly appropriate at this time of year. One offers an insightful discussion of the life and spirit of the beloved Saint Nicholas the Wonderworking Archbishop of the 4th century (commemorated on December 6th). The other video is "The Nativity of Christ: 7 Questions & 7 Answers." Each video is available for viewing on computer or mobile device, and each is 8-12 minutes in length. The videos are on the diocesan website at nynjoca.org/lessons_in_our_faith.html.

THANK YOU: AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE DDB

The final month of 2015 is upon us! It has been a blessed and fruitful year of supporting our seminarians, our mission parishes, and providing support in revitalizing our older parishes. All of this is made a reality thanks to the sacrificial financial contributions of our Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB). To date there are 224 individual and organizational DDBs. An invitation is extended for you to join them this year as we seek to achieve our goal - and support essential ministries in our diocese. For more information, see head to nynjoca.org/vision_for_future_2012.html

FINDING PEACE BY FR LEV GILLET

"But I say to you, do not resist evil." (Matt 5:39). How scandalous and foolish is this statement in the eyes of men, and especially of unbelievers? How do we interpret this commandment – about turning the left cheek to the one who struck the right, giving our cloak to the one who took our tunic, walking two miles with the one who forced to go one mile already, giving a blessing to him who curses us? Have we explored the ways and means of loving our enemy – whether he be a personal or public enemy? "You do not know of what spirit you are..." (Lk 9:55)



No, it is a question of resisting the Gospel. The choice is not between fighting and not fighting, but between fighting and suffering. Fighting brings about only vain and illusory victories, because Jesus is the absolute reality. Suffering without resistance proclaims the absolute reality of Jesus. If we understand this point, we see that suffering is a real victory. Jesus said: "It is enough" (Lk 22:38) when His disciples presented Him with two swords. The disciples had not understood the meaning of Christ's statement, "He who does not have a purse, let him sell his coat and buy a sword." (Lk 22:36) What Christ meant was that there are times when we must sacrifice what seems the most ordinary thing, in order to concentrate our attention on the assaults of the evil one. But defense and attack are both spiritual.