



## Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

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**Sunday, February 4th, 2024**

Sunday After the Presentation of Christ

8:45am: Orthros, 10am: Divine Liturgy

12pm: Youth Church School & Adult Ed

## Hymns of the Day

### Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who were held in the arms of righteous Symeon. We sing to You, Alleluia.

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

## **Apolytikion of the Presentation of Christ in the First Mode**

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection.

## **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 Presentation of Christ in the First Mode**

You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth, and by Your presentation You blessed the hands of Symeon, when You came, and You saved us, O Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your world at war, and let love for Your people prevail in all, O only benevolent Lord.

## **Gospel and Epistle Readings**

### **Epistle Reading**

#### **St. Pauls' Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15**

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the

knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

## Gospel Reading

### Matthew 22:35-46

At that time, a lawyer came up to Jesus and asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired

by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

## The Lord's Prayer

### Ελληνικά:

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, \* ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου.  
\* ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου. \* γεννηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου \* ὡς  
ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. \* τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον  
δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον. \* καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ  
ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν. \* καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς  
εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

### Español:

Padre Nuestro, que estás en el cielo, \* santificado sea tu nombre; \* venga tu reino; \* hágase tu voluntad, \* en la tierra como en el cielo. \* Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; \* perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; \* no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del mal.

### English:

Our Father, who art in the heavens \* hallowed be Thy name;  
\* Thy Kingdom come; \* Thy will be done \* on earth as it is in heaven; \* give us this day our daily bread, \* and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; \* and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

# Saints and Feasts

## **Afterfeast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple**

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law.

On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, O Master..." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel.

From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.

## **Isidore of Pelusium**

Saint Isidore of Pelusium lived during the fourth and fifth centuries. He was a native of Alexandria, and was raised among pious Christians. He was a relative of Theophilus, Archbishop of Alexandria, and of his successor, Saint Cyril.

While still a youth he quit the world and withdrew to Egypt to Mount Pelusium.

Saint Isidore's spiritual wisdom and strict asceticism, combined with his broad learning and innate knowledge of the human soul, enabled him to win the respect and love of his fellow monks in a short time. They chose him as their head and had him ordained a priest.

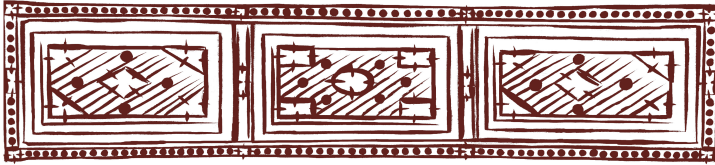
Following the example of Saint John Chrysostom, whom he had managed to see and hear during a trip to Constantinople, Saint Isidore devoted himself primarily to Christian preaching, that "practical wisdom" which, in his own words, is both "the foundation of the edifice and the edifice itself", while logic is "its embellishment, and contemplation its crown".

He was a teacher and a willingly provided counsel for anyone who turned to him for spiritual encouragement, whether it was a simple man, a dignitary, a bishop, the Patriarch of Alexandria, or even the emperor. He left behind about 10,000 letters, of which 2,090 have survived. A large portion of these letters reveal profound theological thought and contain morally edifying interpretations of Holy Scripture. Saint Photius calls Isidore a model of priestly and ascetical life.

Saint Isidore's love for Saint John Chrysostom resulted in his support of Saint John when he was persecuted by the empress Eudoxia and Archbishop Theophilus. After the death of Saint John, Saint Isidore persuaded Theophilus' successor Saint Cyril to inscribe the name of Saint John Chrysostom into the Church diptychs as a confessor. Through the initiative of Saint Isidore the Third Ecumenical Council was convened at Ephesus, at which the false teaching of Nestorius concerning the person of Jesus Christ was condemned.

Saint Isidore lived into old age and died around the year 436. The Church historian Evagrius writes of Saint Isidore, "his life seemed to everyone the life of an angel upon the

earth.” Another historian, Nikēphóros Callistus, praises Saint Isidore thus: “He was a vital and inspired pillar of monastic rules and divine vision, and as such he presented a very lofty image of most fervent example and spiritual teaching.”



## Parish Information

### Church School

Church School meets on Sundays following Divine Liturgy, at approximately noon. Our two Youth Church School classrooms meet downstairs.

### Orthodox Christianity 101

Our Orthodox Christianity 101 class meets in the Church hall following coffee hour. Anyone who is interested in learning the basic teachings and practices of the Orthodox Christian faith is welcome to attend! This class is especially important for those who are interested in joining the Orthodox Church. For this class, we will read and discuss the book *Welcome to the Orthodox Church* by Frederica Mathewes-Green.

### Men's Breakfast Group

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 2** at 8am. Bring your favorite breakfast foods, and 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, February 8** at 12pm.

## 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!



## This Week at Saint Nicholas

- Wednesday, February 7: Small Paraklesis
- Thursday, February 8: 12pm Ladies' Luncheon
- Friday, February 9: 6pm Great Vespers
- Saturday, February 10 **Hieromartyr Haralambos**: 9am Orthos, 10am Divine Liturgy, 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers