



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

3585 North 12th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81506

Office Phone: (970) 242-9590

www.saintnicholasgj.org

Rev. Fr. Jeremy Troy, *Proistamenos*

frjeremytroy@gmail.com

Sunday, February 11th, 2024

16th Sunday of Matthew

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

12pm: Youth Church School & Adult Ed

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. * For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. * He trampled death under foot by means of death; * and He became the firstborn from the dead. * From the maw of Hades He delivered us; * and He granted the world His great mercy.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ἦχος γ´.

Εὐφραίνεσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιᾶσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ᾄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion of the Hieromartyr Blaise in the Fourth Mode

Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Blaise, Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.

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.



Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Mode

O Protection of Christians that never fails, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

St. Pauls' Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10.

Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

"He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'

"He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'"

As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to

hear, let him hear!"



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

Blaise the Hieromartyr of Sebastia

The Hieromartyr Blaise was known for his righteous and devout life. He was consecrated Bishop of Sebastia during the reign of the Roman emperors Diocletian and Licinius, fierce persecutors of Christians. Saint Blaise encouraged his flock, visited the imprisoned, and gave support to the martyrs.

Many hid themselves from the persecutors by going off to desolate and solitary places. Saint Blaise also hid himself away on Mount Argeos, where he lived in a cave. Wild beasts came up to him and meekly waited until the saint finished his prayer and blessed them. The saint also healed sick animals by laying his hands upon them.

The refuge of the saint was discovered by servants of the governor Agrilaus, who gave orders to arrest them. Glorifying God, Saint Blaise followed the soldiers. Along the way, a destitute widow told him that a wolf had carried off a small pig, her only possession. The bishop smiled and said to her, "Do not weep, your pig will be returned to you." To the astonishment of everyone, the wolf came running back and returned his prey unharmed.

Arriving before Agrilaus, the saint was subjected to fierce tortures. When they led him to the prison, seven women followed and gathered up the drops of blood. They arrested them and tried to compel them to worship the idols. The saints endured torments, strengthened by the grace of God. One of the women had two young sons, whom she entrusted to Saint Blaise. The seven holy women were beheaded.

The governor ordered that the martyr be thrown into a lake. He signed himself with the Sign of the Cross, and walked on the water as though on dry land. Addressing the pagans standing about on shore, he challenged them to come to him

while calling on the help of their gods. Sixty-eight men of the governor's retinue entered the water, and immediately drowned.

Agrilaus was in a rage over losing his finest servants, and he gave orders to behead Saint Blaise, and the two sons of the woman martyr entrusted to him. Before his death, the martyr prayed for the whole world, and especially for those honoring his memory. This occurred in about the year 316.

Theodora the Empress

Holy Empress Theodora was the wife of the Byzantine emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast (829-842), but she did not share in the heresy of her husband and secretly venerated the holy icons. After the death of her husband, Saint Theodora governed the realm because her son Michael was a minor.

She convened a Council, at which the Iconoclasts were anathematized, and the veneration of icons was reinstated. Saint Theodora established the annual celebration of this event, the Triumph of Orthodoxy, on the first Sunday of the Great Fast. Saint Theodora did much for Holy Church and fostered a firm devotion to Orthodoxy in her son Michael.

When Michael came of age in the year 857, she retired from governing and spent eight years in the monastery of Saint Euphrosynē, where she devoted herself to ascetic struggles, and reading books that nourished her soul.

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! 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, March 14** 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 14: Small Paraklesis
- Thursday, February 15: 6pm Parish Council
- Friday, February 16: 6pm GOYA Informational Meeting
- Saturday, February 17: 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers