

gave back the Gospel book to Nicholas, and Mary gave him the white pallium to put back around his neck as bishop. In another version, all of the bishops see this happen in their dreams on the same night. When the bishops and Constantine heard of this, Nicholas was restored as bishop of Myra, where he died in 343. Churches dedicated to Nicholas were built in the late 400s, showing the rapid spread of devotion to him in the Roman Empire and beyond.

In the end, we do not have much actual history of Nicholas. What we do have, though, in the hundreds of stories that had accumulated by the year 500, is an engaging portrait of a bishop who was devoted to teaching the true faith; who gave of his own personal fortune to help anyone who was in need; who blessed sailors of the busy port of Myra, and to whom those same sailors prayed for help when they were in danger; who defended the innocent even when they faced the imperial death penalty; and who was revered as a wonder-working saint within a century after his death. At some point, his tomb was reopened, and his reputation was immediately enhanced when it was discovered that his bones were giving off a sticky clear substance called “Nicholas’ Manna” or Myrrh. This myrrh continues to come off of his bones today in Italy, and many icons of St Nicholas have given off a similar substance, instead of the usual oil or tears that we find in Marian icons.

Upcoming events — mark your calendar

Wed 7:00 pm	THE MATERNITY OF HOLY ANNA, solemn Holy Day Vesper/Liturgy
Tue Dec 14	CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA will meet in the parish hall.
Fri Dec 24 7:00 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL Vesper/Liturgy Blessing of Loaves, Wheat, Wine & Oil
Sat Dec 25	No Liturgy

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX
subscribes to the
Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People
adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and young people that conforms to the Charter requirements. For information regarding the Eparchial Safe Environment Program, please contact:

Den. Michael Hanafin Safe Environment Program Coordinator - Cell: (480) 387-5182
Email: denhanafin@ephx.org

Sbden. Paul F. Kilroy Asst. Safe Environment Program Coordinator
Office: (602) 861-9778 - Cell: (702) 498-5972 - Email: sbdenkilroy@ephx.org

Dr. Caroline Bonham Victim Assistance Coordinator - Cell: (505) 314-3943
Email: victimassistanceofphoenix@gmail.com

St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church

9112 Oleander Avenue,
Fontana, CA 92335
Web Site: stnicholasfontana.org
Served by Fr. Stephen G Washko
714-533-6292
abcc72069@gmail.com

Fr. James Lane in Residence
Parish Advisory/Finance Council:
Patricia Olmos, John Coffman,
Lance Flambures, Lora Lopez
Carson



28th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 3 December 4, 2021

**From Father Stephen,
PREPARING FOR THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD**
Great time to make a good confession, attend the Solemn Holy Days and join us for a Wednesday night Rosary.

We need you to contact Maria about decorating the church for Christmas. We want our church to be special for Christmas. Don't forget for Christmas we will have only one beautiful Vesper/Liturgy on Christmas Eve(Dec 24) at 7:00 pm. No Liturgy on Christmas Day. We want to keep our parish together. Tell your friends to prepare for it.



DIVINE LITURGIES

FOR THIS WEEK & INTENTIONS

SUNDAY @ 10 AM & DAILY SERVICES @ 9 AM ARE LIVE STREAMED FROM ANNUNCIATION IN ANAHEIM ACCESS IT THROUGH
ANNUNCIATIONBYZANTINE.ORG

CONFESSIONS are heard behind the Altar one half hour before all Divine Liturgies. 9:30 am for Sunday and 9:00 am for Daily Liturgy

4 Saturday The Great Martyr Barbara, p. 391
Divine Liturgy Cathie Bailey & Family by John Kacarab.....9:30 am

Crowning of Marriage
for Luis Contreras & Laura Estser Yniguez4:00 pm

HEBREW SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAY
Numbers 12: 1-15 & 2 Kings 5: 1-19

5 28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & TONE 3, P. 135

Confession behind the Altar.....9:00 am
The Third Hour.....9:40 am
Liturgy For our parish family and friends.....10:00 am

6 Monday FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS OF MYRA, Solemn Holy Day, p. 274

Divine Liturgy Cathie Bailey & Family by John Kacarab9:30 am

FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF ST ANNA, Solemn Holy Day

7 Tuesday Vigil for the Holy Day

Divine Liturgy Cathie Bailey & Family by John Kacarab.....7:00 pm

8 Wednesday Holy Day Feast, p. 277

Divine Liturgy Cathie Bailey & Family by John Kacarab..... 9:30 am
Praying the Holy Rosary.....7:00 pm

9 Thursday Venerable Patapius, p. 376

Divine Liturgy Forgotten Souls by Maria Angla Lipovac.....7:00 pm

10 Friday Martyrs Mennas & Others, p. 381

Divine Liturgy Forgotten Souls by Maria Angla Lipovac.....9:30 am

11 SATURDAY Venerable Daniel the Stylite, p. 376

Divine Liturgy Forgotten Souls by Maria Angla Lipovac.....9:30 am

HEBREW SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAY

Judges 13: 1-5, 24-25, 14: 1-20—Isaiah 25: 1-9

12 SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS, TONE 4, AND THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE p. 281 & 141

Confession behind the Altar.....9:00 am
Third Hour.....9:40 am
Liturgy for our Parish Family and Friends.....10:00 am
COFFEE SOCIAL in the hall -Come and join us

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS: We join with the Saints in heaven to pray for those in need. Request Prayers: abcc72069@gmail.com
Special Intentions: Fr Diodoro Mendoza, Fr James Bankston, Daniel Canter, John Phillips, Sylvia Flamburse, Martha Yniquez, Paul Bruckler, Gloria Brissette, Paul Basay, Margaret Geluso, Edward Lopez, Lupe Nevaré, Beatriz Perez.

SAINT NICHOLAS IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR OF ALL

SAINTS IN THE EAST, and there are countless stories that tell of his generosity and intercession for children, the poor, sailors, those who have been falsely accused. His relics repose in the Italian port city of Bari, at the opposite end of the Mediterranean Sea from his old eparchy, Myra, in Turkey. Such is his fame and importance that every iconostas in every church that uses the Byzantine rite, Catholic or Orthodox, must have his icon at the north end of the icon-screen. Of course, we know that the ubiquitous symbol of American Christmas celebration, Santa Claus, is a corruption of the original devotion of the Dutch founders of New York City (as New Amsterdam) to their dear Sankt Niklaus who came bearing gifts for children in the Name of the Christ Child on December 6, which is the anniversary of his death and entry into eternal life.

THE MAN

We know that Nicholas was born in a Christian family around the year 280 in the province of Lycia in what is now southwestern Turkey. He became the bishop of Myra, now called Demre, a flourishing port on the coast of Asia Minor. He lived through the last persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire, that of Diocletian, one which was especially violent and bloody. We know that Lycia was one of those territories where all bishops and priests were imprisoned, and many atrocities were carried out from 303-311. This was so bad that, when the first ecumenical council was convened in 325, witnesses described the assembled bishops as men who all showed signs of brutal torture: amputated legs or arms or hands, eyes gouged out, terrible scars from whips. We do not know what injuries Nicholas might have borne, but we do know from the volume of testimony about him that he deeply loved our Lord Jesus Christ.

Constantine the Great legalized Christianity in 313, and the Church began to reorganize itself. However, orthodox Christianity was severely threatened by a new enemy: a heresy called Arianism, which taught that there was a time when Jesus did not exist, that He was not coeternal with the Father and did not share the same substance as God the Father. If the Son is not of the same essence as the Father and is a created being, then we are not fully redeemed. Arianism became very popular, and was supported by two emperors, many bishops, and the Goth, Vandal, and Lombard nations. To combat this, Emperor Constantine the Great summoned the First Ecumenical Council in 325, in the town of Nicaea. This Council codified the Creed which we use today at Divine Liturgy, and upheld the orthodox position that the Word is coeternal with the Father.

According to legend, St Nicholas was at this council, and was so angered by Arius' teachings that he slapped Arius in the face. At this, Nicholas was removed not just from the Council and put into prison, but also from his role as bishop! However, Jesus and Mary came to Nicholas in his cell, and asked him why he was in prison again. He replied, "Out of love for you", and Jesus