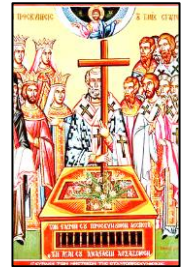


**ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

stnicholasfontana.org
st.nicholas.fontana@gmail.com

9112 OLEANDER AVENUE
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Served by: Rev. Stephen Casmus



**3RD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
Glory to Jesus Christ!**

**MAR 24, 2019
Glory Forever!**

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DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday 10:00 AM Holydays 7:00 PM

Confession: Sunday 9:00-9:30 AM or by appointment

Welcome to all visitors to St. Nicholas Church. If you are new and wish to register as a parishioner, please see Fr. Stephen after the Divine Liturgy.

Parish Membership

The Family of Saint Nicholas of Myra is open to any Catholic, and to anyone:

- Who is interested in seeking the Lord Jesus Christ through His Word and Sacred Mysteries.
- Who accepts the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Who will help us form a community based on the Lord's love.
- Who is willing to grow as a Christian within the legitimate traditions of the Byzantine Catholic Church.
- Who acknowledges the authority of the Pope, Bishop and Pastor.
- Who will attend Liturgical Services on Sunday, and on the Great Holydays.
- Who is willing to support the growth of the Church by sharing their Time, Talent and Treasure.
- Who will participate in the yearly Eparchial Appeal

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- SUN. MAR 24 -3rd Sunday of the Great Fast
 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy
 Heb 4:14-5:6, Mark 8:34-9:1
- MON. MAR 25 -The Annunciation of the Theotokos
 7:00 pm – Vesper Divine Liturgy
 Heb 2:11-18, Luke 1:24-38
- WED. MAR 27 -Mid-Lent, Venerable Mother Matrona
 7:00 pm – Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts
 Gen 9:18-10:1, Prov 12:23-13:9
- SAT. MAR 30 -4th All Souls Saturday
 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
 Heb 6:9-12, Mark 7:31-37
- SUN. MAR 31 -4th Sunday of the Great Fast
 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy
 Heb 6:13-20, Mark 9:17-31

PRAY FOR THE SICK & INFIRMED OF OUR PARISH & PARISHIONERS' RELATIVES:
 Paul Bruckler, Robert Gubany, Teresa Sandoval, Ron Cisneros Jr. and Gloria Brissette.

03/17/19 Attendance: 29

Parish Income: Tithe -\$490.00, Donations -\$73.00, Fund Raiser - \$339.00

Total - \$902.00

The Fontana Breakfast Lion's Club hosts **BINGO** here at St. Nicholas on **Saturday evenings**. The kitchen has become a significant source of income for the parish. Please participate in this fundraising effort. It is a good opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners. Many hands make light work, but currently there are few that regularly participate. Please sign up in the hall to ensure there are at least four working.

The Veneration of the Holy Cross

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Byzantine Catholic Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the Garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

<https://www.goarch.org/sunday-venerationcross>