

## WHO WAS ST. NICHOLAS?

**M**yths and legends abound about St. Nicholas, who is arguably the most popular saint in the Christian Church. His generosity has been well documented. He is the patron saint of children, sailors and pawnbrokers. But just exactly what kind of a person was this man who is revered by all?

If we study the Troparion for the Feast of St. Nicholas, we find the best answer to that question. In it, he is called a **MODEL OF FAITH**. From his youth, he possessed a deep piety. Upon the passing of the previous Bishop of Myra, it was foretold that the first person to enter the church by the name "Nicholas" was to be appointed to be the new bishop. Unknowingly, one morning, he did just that! Although Nicholas felt he was too young and inexperienced for such a responsibility, he accepted that it was the will of God.

St. Nicholas is also referred to in his Troparion as an **EXAMPLE OF VIRTUE**. Truly he was a humble man who chose to give away all of his worldly possessions and live in poverty. He found true "wealth" in his charitable deeds, giving alms in secret – deliberately shunning the public accolades of those whom he aided.

Finally, we praise St. Nicholas in his Troparion for the **SINCERITY OF HIS DEEDS**. Perhaps nothing underscores this greater than the story of his participation in the First Ecumenical Council. Nicholas had deep convictions about the teachings of the Church. When the priest Arius challenged the accepted position on the divinity of Christ, the enraged Archbishop struck this heretic for his blasphemy!

Yes, St. Nicholas lived a life worthy of all the adulation that is given to him. May his example inspire us all to live faithful, virtuous and sincere lives.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.



**ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**NORTH WILDWOOD; NEW JERSEY**  
**DECEMBER 10, 2023**

**10TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE (BLIND MAN)**

**WELCOME ALL VISITORS:**

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:**

A 40 day Memorial Service will be chanted today in memory of our brother in Christ, Konstantinos Andy. May his soul rest in peace and may his memory be eternal.

**SPONSORING COFFEE HOUR:**

If anyone is interested in sponsoring the coffee hour please contact the Church office - Monday-Wednesday-Friday (609) 522-0152 or contact Parish Council President Nick Konides (609) 425-0179.

**STEWARDSHIP NEWS:**

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2023 membership and join in weekly worship and to support of our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

**GREEK SCHOOL:** Classes are every Friday night 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to notify parents that Sunday school has already started! We would like all parents to have their children at the church by 9:45 am. Every Sunday after the Gospel reading the children will go to their Sunday school classroom and then come back to receive their Holy Communion.

**OUR NEW ST DEMETRIOS WEBSITE:** Attention everyone: We have a new website! Please add [www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com](http://www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com) as a favorite on your devices. Be advised that the new website is now LIVE. Please review and enjoy. Donations are able to be processed on our website via the DONATIONS tab where you will find the VANCO QR Code (shown below).

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS:**

Fr. Michael would like to schedule a Youth Group Gathering on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> At 11:00 am.

**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS:** The Ladies are collecting for their yearly "Christmas Card Drive. The deadline for this event is today Sunday, December the 10<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$25. Please donate and support the program of our Ladies Philoptochos Society. They are the backbone and great supporters of our Parish. Please give generously towards this event. Thank You and God bless each and everyone who supports our wonderful Ladies of Philoptochos.

**LITURGICAL WINTER SCHEDULE:**

*(For Sunday Hours -9:00 am Orthos and 10:00 am Divine Liturgy)*

*(For Weekday Services -9:00 am Orthos and 9:30 am Divine Liturgy)*

*(For Vesper Services-6:00 pm)*

**LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:**

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:** 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke: Orthos 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:** Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Orthos 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE: EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD:** This service will begin at 7:00 pm **ATTENTION EVERYONE:** There will be no service on Christmas Day.

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>:** Sunday before Epiphany:

**GREEK SCHOOL NEWS:** Our Greek School Children will be going out and singing the traditional "KALANTA" on Saturday December the 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

**STEWARDSHIP NEWS:**

**Attention all Parishioners:** By now everyone in the Parish has received their 2024 Stewardship Pledge Card. Please find some time to fill it out and send it to the church office. Remember we are all in this together and we value everyone's input and support. The church should always be a priority in our lives and we should always think of ways to commit our lives to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must dedicate our gifts to the unfinished task of the Church through Christian Education of our youth, through philanthropy both here in our parish and through the Outreach program. We give our pledge every year in loving memory of all those who have gone before us, of all whose hearts and hands have served this community with their love and dedication. Let's not forget, we are to give willingly and happily that which we feel shows our thanks and love to God for His many gifts that He offers to us every day of our lives. Every year we look forward to our younger families to get on board and help out their community. The older generation has paid their dues, now it's time for you the younger group to get involved with your church. So let's make that challenge and sign your 2024 Stewardship Pledge Card with a minimum donation of \$750 per family and \$500 for single persons. May God bless our "St. Demetrios Stewards".

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἦν διδάσκων ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς Σάββασιν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ, γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἑτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα, καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦναι εἰς τὸ παντελές. Ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, προσεφώνησε, καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· Γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη, καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. Ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ Σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· Ἐξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν, ἐν αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ Σαββάτου. Ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος, καὶ εἶπεν· Ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ Σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βουν αὐτοῦ, ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης, καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραάμ οὐσαν, ἦν ἔδησεν ὁ Σατανᾶς, ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἑτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ Σαββάτου; Καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity. And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

for 18 years. But when Jesus healed her from this awful pain, some people were mad at Him! They argued with Him and told Jesus that He shouldn't have healed her on that day. These people were in charge of the synagogue, where people worshipped God. These people said they worshipped God, but when God (Jesus) did something, they didn't like it. These people were dressing up like they worshipped God, but they were really just pretending!

God wants us to worship Him on the inside and on the outside. As Christians, we don't want to play dress-up. In other words, we don't want to just talk about being Christians and show off that we're Christians. We want to really BE Christians. We want to act like Christians, following our Lord, Jesus Christ. Playing dress-up might be a fun game, but we definitely don't want to just play being a Christian.

## WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Anthia  
Crippled  
Eleutherios  
Faith  
Genuine  
Gospel  
Healing  
Mother  
Peace  
Saints  
Son  
Synagogue

I	F	S	F	B	M	F	Q	S	Q	S	P	E	M	B
A	N	T	H	I	A	O	A	A	O	C	N	R	L	J
X	A	A	Q	V	F	I	T	I	W	I	H	X	M	X
H	Z	I	H	N	N	A	R	H	U	A	N	C	S	Z
I	F	J	D	T	U	E	I	N	E	K	E	P	G	K
S	T	T	S	E	H	G	E	T	I	R	T	Q	N	D
P	Q	S	U	T	L	G	F	G	H	R	O	O	I	P
A	G	I	U	U	T	P	U	N	S	M	P	Y	L	C
I	L	E	P	S	O	G	P	R	O	D	E	M	A	U
P	L	M	W	B	C	P	O	I	N	T	A	Q	E	C
E	I	G	S	C	F	G	L	F	R	R	C	D	H	C
S	Y	N	A	G	O	G	U	E	H	C	E	S	D	V
Y	T	C	T	P	O	M	W	U	V	P	E	V	W	I
S	G	O	Z	Q	H	L	J	O	R	V	S	N	N	E
B	R	U	D	X	K	Z	P	S	Z	X	W	U	W	X

## MOTHER AND SON SAINTS ELEUTHERIOS AND ANTHIA



Saint Eleutherios and his mother, Saint Anthia

Sometimes, just sometimes, kids have trouble listening to their parents when they give them advice. Sometimes we want to do things our way and nobody else's. But this week we celebrate a saint who listened to his mother and became a great Christian because of it!

As a child, Saint Eleutherios listened to his mother, who told him about our Lord, Jesus Christ. When he was a little older, she sent him to learn from the bishop. Even though he was young, the bishop ordained him to be a deacon, and then a priest. Soon, he became a bishop, too.

Lots of people were becoming Christians because of Saint Eleutherios, and the emperor (who didn't believe in our one, true God) didn't like it one bit. He sentenced our saint to be killed for the faith. His mother, Anthia, came to visit her son. She wanted to give him strength and to tell him not to give up. For that, she was killed too.

The word "Eleutherios" means "freedom" in Greek. And his life always reminds us that we are always free to follow our Lord, Jesus Christ. Even when things are hard, even if people make fun of us, even if we are hurt for it. We can always choose to follow Him!

## The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, December 10, 2023

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### Playing dress-up

Have you ever played dress-up? Did you dress up as a princess? A firefighter? A train conductor? Sometimes it's fun to pretend you are something you aren't, isn't it?



In today's Gospel reading we hear about a different kind of dress-up—and not the good kind! Today, we hear the story of a woman who was sick with a crippled back—she could not straighten up

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of Saint Eleutherios.

You can see his vestments and his Gospel, and you know he was a bishop. He is blessing with his hand, and now he is blessing all of us with his prayers to God!



**Απολυτίκιον Αναστάσιμον.**

**Ἦχος β΄.**

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ  
ζωὴ ἡ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν ᾗδην ἐνέκρωσας,  
τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ  
τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων  
ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων  
ἐκραύαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν  
δόξα σοι.

**Τῶν Ἁγίων.**

Τοῦ Ὁρολογίου ---

**Ἦχος πλ. δ΄.** Τὸ προσταχθέν.

Δι' ἐγκρατείας τῶν παθῶν, τὰς  
πυριφλέκτους, ἀπονεκρῶσαντες ὁρμάς, καὶ  
τὰς κινήσεις, τοῦ Χριστοῦ οἱ Μάρτυρες,  
ἔλαβον τὴν χάριν, τὰς νόσους ἀποδιώκειν,  
τῶν ἀσθενῶν, καὶ ζῶντες καὶ μετὰ τέλος,  
θαυματουργεῖν, ὄντως θαῦμα παράδοξον! ὅτι  
ὁστέα γυμνά, ἐκβλύζουσιν ἰάματα. Δόξα τῷ  
μόνῳ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

**Κοντάκιον.**

**Ἦχος γ΄.** Αὐτόμελον.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον  
Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν  
ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη  
ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν  
Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίων  
νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

**Resurrectional Apolytikion.**

**Mode 2.**

When You descended unto Death, O Lord,  
You who are immortal Life put Hades to death,  
by the lightning of Your divinity. And when  
You raised the dead from the netherworld,  
all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O  
Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!" [GOASD]

**For the Saints.**

From Horologion ---

**Mode pl. 4.** When he perceived.

When they had deadened burning impulses  
and movements \* of sinful passions by their  
self-control and virtue, \* then the Martyrs  
of Christ were given the divine grace \* of  
driving away the illnesses of the sick \* and  
working wonders, alive and after their death.  
\* Paradoxical miracle it is indeed, that naked  
bones \* should pour out cures abundantly. \*  
Glory be to our only God. [SD]

**Kontakion.**

**Mode 3.** Automelon.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον.

On this day the Virgin Maid \* goes to the  
grotto to give birth \* to the pre-eternal Word  
\* in an ineffable manner. \* Dance for joy,  
all the inhabited earth, on hearing. \* Glorify  
along with Angels and with the shepherds \*  
Him who willed that He appear as \* a newborn  
Child, \* the pre-eternal God. [SD]

• Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.

**ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ**

Πρόσχωμεν.

**ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΤΗΣ**

Εφ 6:10-17

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνδυναμοῦσθε ἐν Κυρίῳ καὶ ἐν  
τῷ κράτει τῆς ἰσχύος αὐτοῦ. Ἐνδύσασθε τὴν  
πανοπλίαν τοῦ Θεοῦ πρὸς τὸ δύνασθαι ὑμᾶς  
στῆναι πρὸς τὰς μεθοδείας τοῦ διαβόλου· ὅτι  
οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ πάλη πρὸς αἷμα καὶ σάρκα,  
ἀλλὰ πρὸς τὰς ἀρχάς, πρὸς τὰς ἐξουσίας,  
πρὸς τοὺς κοσμοκράτορας τοῦ σκότους  
αἰῶνος τούτου, πρὸς τὰ πνευματικὰ τῆς  
πονηρίας ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις. Διὰ τοῦτο  
ἀναλάβετε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἵνα  
δυνηθῆτε ἀντιστῆναι ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ πονηρᾷ  
καὶ ἅπαντα κατεργασάμενοι στῆναι. Στῆτε οὖν  
περιζωσάμενοι τὴν ὀσφὺν ὑμῶν ἐν ἀληθείᾳ,  
καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν θώρακα τῆς δικαιοσύνης,  
καὶ ὑποδησάμενοι τοὺς πόδας ἐν ἐτοιμασίᾳ τοῦ  
Εὐαγγελίου τῆς εἰρήνης, ἐν πᾶσιν ἀναλαβόντες  
τὸν θυρεὸν τῆς πίστεως, ἐν ᾧ δυνήσεσθε πάντα  
τὰ βέλη τοῦ πονηροῦ τὰ πεπυρωμένα σβέσαι·  
καὶ τὴν περικεφαλαίαν τοῦ σωτηρίου δέξασθε,  
καὶ τὴν μάχαιραν τοῦ Πνεύματος, ὃ ἐστὶ ρῆμα  
Θεοῦ.

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the  
Ephesians.

**DEACON**

Let us be attentive.

**READER**

Eph. 6:10-17

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in  
the strength of his might. Put on the whole  
armor of God, that you may be able to stand  
against the wiles of the devil. For we are not  
contending against flesh and blood, but again:  
the principalities, against the powers, against  
the world rulers of this present darkness,  
against the spiritual hosts of wickedness  
in the heavenly places. Therefore take the  
whole armor of God, that you may be able  
to withstand in the evil day, and having done  
all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded  
your loins with truth, and having put on the  
breastplate of righteousness, and having shod  
your feet with the equipment of the gospel  
of peace; besides all these, taking the shield  
of faith, with which you can quench all the  
flaming darts of the evil one. And take the  
helmet of salvation, and the sword of the  
Spirit, which is the word of God. [RSV]