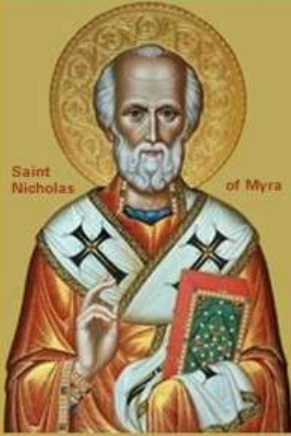


THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Sunday of the Holy Cross



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

*2200 Arctic Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99503*

**BL. THEODORE ROMZHA
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC MISSION**

*Sacred Heart Church 1201 E Bogard Rd,
Wasilla, AK 99654
2nd and 4th Sundays of the month*



Administration

His Eminence, Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla DD
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Bishop Artur Bubnevych

Ruling Bishop of the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

Pastor: Very Reverend Father Vasyl Mutka

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10am-4pm (Please Call before coming to the office)

Phone: (907) 277-6731

E-mail: pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com

www.ak-byz-cath.org



WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS & GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're glad you're with us today. If you are looking for God, have a prayer request, looking for more information about the Eastern Catholic Church, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr. Vasyl, he will be happy to talk to you. Please join us for our coffee hour in the Parish hall following the Divine Liturgy. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

Schedule of Services MARCH 8—MARCH 15, 2026

**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY TO HIM FOREVER!
SLAVA ISUSU CHRYSTU! SLAVA NAVIKY BOGU!**

Sunday, March 8—Third Sunday of the Great Fast (Veneration of the Holy Cross)

9:15-9:45 am Confessions

9:40 am 3rd Hour

10:00 am Divine Liturgy *For parishioners, founders, donors, decorators of our St. Nicholas Parish & Wasilla Mission and for their relatives*

3:15-3:45 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Divine Liturgy in Wasilla

Monday, March 9—Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Tuesday, March 10

No service

Wednesday, March 11

6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Thursday, March 12

No service

Friday, March 13

6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, March 14—Fourth All-Souls' Saturday (commemoration of the Departed)

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

After Liturgy Panachida with reading of names

4:15-4:45 pm Confessions

4:35 pm Prayer Rule of the Theotokos (Byzantine Rosary)

5:00 pm Vespers/Divine Liturgy
For +Baby George Jones by David and Judy Bich

Sunday, March 15—Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast (St. John Climacus)

9:15-9:45 am Confessions

9:40 am 3rd Hour

10:00 am Divine Liturgy *For parishioners, founders, donors, decorators of our St. Nicholas Parish & Wasilla Mission and for their relatives*





Please remember in your prayers:

For health and salvation: Fr. Chris Zegger, Fr. Joseph Wargacki, Fr. Robert, Veronica Frazier, David Bich, Max, Aniela, Ken Wake, Molly Buggy, Kim Bryan, Shawn, Anna Gage, Oceana Grabianowski, Anthony Heller, Solanche Stone, Dorothy Savok, Spruce Lynch, Truman Beer, Natalie, Basil, John Michalski, Phyllis Shepherd, Sherry, Bruce Heller

For repose of the departed: +Bishop Gerald N Dino, +Fr. Michael Artim, +Fr. Eric, +Christine Vincent, +Corine Hurst, +Ruth Langley Ayers, +Denise, +Ed, +Sandra

Please pray also for all our benefactors, friends, neighbors and anyone we may have forgotten. Please let Fr. Vasyl know if you would like to add new names to the prayer list and also notify him about any sick and/or

Installation of the lights in the hall: we are planning to complete the installation of the lights in the hall on March 11 at 12:00 pm. We are requesting a couple of people to assist. If you are willing to help, contact Dave Bich 907 748-0874.

Bishop's Appeal 2026: Letters from the bishop's office

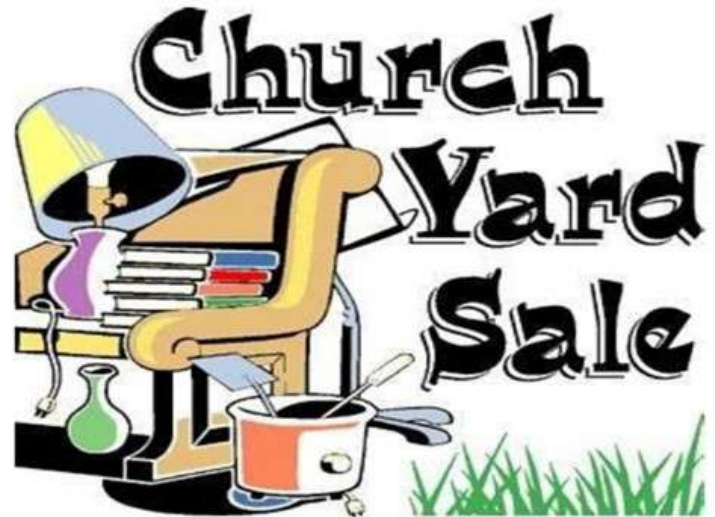
were sent to the members of our parish. Our parish goal is \$4,000.00, which breaks down to \$300.00 per household. To date, the Eparchy has received \$1,750.00 toward this goal. Some households contribute more, others less. If you cannot contribute the recommended amount, give what you can. The important thing is that each household makes an effort to show our support to Bishop Artur by our contribution to our Eparchy of Phoenix that he heads.

On-line giving: www.ephx.org then "Giving" then "BISHOP'S APPEAL 2026: The Mission Begins!" then "Donate to the Appeal" and follow the prompts. Be sure to choose "St. Nicholas of Myra, Anchorage, AK" from the list of parishes.

You can also make a check to St. Nicholas of Myra with memo "Bishop Appeal" and we will make one check from the parish with the names and amounts of the donors so that upon completion of the collection the Eparchy will send you a corresponding letter about your donation for your tax write-offs or for your records. Working together, we can easily achieve our goal! Thank you for your generosity!

All Souls Saturdays for 2026, we have four All Souls Saturdays on which we commemorate by name our beloved deceased. The dates for this year are: March 14, and May 23.

Please use the special envelopes marked "All Souls Saturdays" that are available in the narthex and at the welcome table. Please place an offering envelope with the names of your loved ones in the offering basket or give it to Father. The names are read during the Divine Liturgy and Panachida.



Saturday May 2 2026
Bring your spring cleaning results to St. Nicholas, support your church!!

Church Yard Sale:

As spring is here and we are doing spring cleaning in our garage, closet, or attic, getting ready to move, or realizing we haven't used some items for a while... YES we need to scale down and remember St. Nicholas needs your treasured or not so treasured items.

- All items should be in clean and working condition. Everything must be good enough to buy!
- **We will NOT accept:** printers, computers, mattresses, cribs, car seats, large sport equipment, or large furniture

We really want to make this upcoming garage sale a real money maker for our church, but we need each of you to help.

Are you a garage sale enthusiast? And know the prices things are going for? We are looking for volunteers to:

- Promote the sale (flyers, social media, etc.)
- Set up before and take down after the event
- Sort and organize items
- Price/label
- Assist during the sale

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL: "Whoever will lose his life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will save it." A vocation is a cross, a way to lose our lives for the Lord and His Gospel by giving life to the world in a life of prayer and devotion to the holy mysteries of the Church. The Lord may be showing you that holy orders or the religious life is something to consider. Contact the Vocations Office at 602-861-9778 or email: vocations@ephx.org

Vocation Icon:



Prayer for Vocations

Lord our God, older than all creation, you have made us in your image and likeness.

You have given us the gift of the Holy Spirit through your servants who proclaim the good news of your Church all that is necessary for our sanctification.

We humbly beg you, do not leave your people deprived of spiritual gifts, but grant us an abundance of vocations to your holy priesthood, the diaconate and consecrated life, and to lives dedicated to your service.

Open the hearts of men and women to hear your words, "Come, follow me!"

Indeed, do not leave us orphans, but be with us through your Holy Spirit, who is present everywhere and fills all things, and who raises up mere mortals to divine service by the mystery of his grace. Truly you will never forget your promise to be with us always, until the end of the world, but forgive us if we have, in our weakness, failed to follow you as we should.

For you alone are holy now and ever and forever. Amen.

Great Lenten Confession: We are in the time of the Great Fast. Our Christian duty is to take care of people: sick, infirm, elderly, etc. If you know someone who needs a pastoral visit of a Byzantine Catholic priest and would like to have a confession, and receive a Holy Communion, please talk to Fr. Vasy1.

Thank you.

Reflections on the present Scriptures: In our tradition, veneration of the cross is not viewed merely as a call to endurance, but as a direct invitation to theosis—the transformation of the human person through voluntary, sacrificial love. Passage Mark 8:34-9:1, which the Holy Eastern Catholic Church prescribes for reading, is considered so crucial to the spiritual life that it is read twice in the liturgical year: on the Third Sunday of Lent and on the Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross.

"Deny Himself": Call to reordering of the human heart. To "deny oneself" is not simply self-denial (giving up chocolate for Lent). It is the total renunciation of the "old man"—the ego-centered, fallen self that seeks to rule its

own life. In Eastern theology, this is the beginning of the spiritual path, where we cease to allow our passions (anger, greed, selfishness) to dictate our actions, and instead allow Christ to be the center of our existence. We surrender our will to God's will.

"Take Up His Cross": Cross as tool for Transformation. The Cross is not just the burden of sickness or difficult circumstances; it is the voluntary acceptance of the "narrow way".

The Cross as Sacrifice: It is the active, loving, and daily choice to put others before ourselves, just as Christ did. **The Cross as Victory:** St. John Chrysostom teaches that the Cross is the instructor of our lives. The Cross is not a heavy, toilsome weight, but rather "a set of wings" that elevates us above sin.

The Cross as Death to Self: By accepting the struggles of life with humility and without complaint, we use the Cross as a ladder, ascending from earth to heaven, turning daily, mundane, or painful experiences into a sacrifice.

"Follow Me": The Life of Cruciform Love. Following Christ is not a passive action, but an active imitation. It is walking the same path He walked—a path that leads through self-sacrifice to the Resurrection. It means being in the world but not of it, acting with love in a faithless generation.

"Forfeit His Soul": This is ultimate reality. The Lord poses the ultimate question of value: What is the worth of the soul?. The "world" represents fleeting, temporary pleasures, while the "soul" is eternal. Our Eastern spiritual tradition emphasizes that losing our life (our ego-driven, worldly life) for the sake of the Gospel is actually the only way to save it, to truly live in Christ.

"The Kingdom of God Come with Power": This promise is often interpreted as referring to the Transfiguration, which immediately follows this passage, but also to the Resurrection and the ongoing life of the Church in the Holy Spirit. It is the assurance that for those who bear their cross, the power of God—the glory of the kingdom—is not just a future hope, but a present reality that begins to dawn in the heart here and now.

We are called to make the sign of the cross—not merely as a gesture, but to live it, allowing the cross to be inscribed in our hearts. The path to glory is the path of the Cross. As the hymns of the church remind us, we venerate the Cross in order to be united with the Resurrection.

Work party: In preparation for Easter, on Friday, March 13th and 20th, immediately after the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts we will have a work party to beautify our church, hall, etc. No special skills, knowledge or anything else is required. All hands and the desire to work for the glory of God are welcome and needed.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication in keeping our church looking great! Thank you!



NATIONAL RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT OFFICE

Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious
3211 Fourth Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017-1194
Telephone (202) 541-3215
Fax (202) 541-3053
www.usccb.org/nrro

February 25, 2026

Most Reverend Artur Bubnevych
Eparchy of Phoenix (Byzantine Church)
8131 North 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85020

Dear Bishop Bubnevych:

Sincere thanks for your diocesan wire of \$4,002.00 in support of the 2025 Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Please extend our heartfelt gratitude to your parishioners for their ongoing support of senior religious and their communities. Since the collection was launched, contributions from your diocese have totaled \$284,361.19.

Generosity to the collection enables our office to distribute financial and educational assistance that help religious communities provide for older members while continuing to serve the People of God. Proceeds offer much-needed support for medications, nursing care, and other day-to-day necessities. A portion of the appeal also underwrites programming and education that promote long-term retirement planning. These resources focus on helping communities to reduce costs, enhance eldercare, and identify additional sources of income.

Joined with over 21,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious, I offer a daily prayer of thanksgiving for all whose love and sacrifice make the work of our office possible. May God bless you and your parishioners.

With gratitude,

Mr. John Knutsen
Director

cc: Mr. John. M. Surmay

Parish Giving

Great news for those donating online

Now you can use our new online giving tool to tithe online using your credit card or bank account information. You can also do a one-time donation or set up weekly donations! You will receive a receipt and statement immediately after donating. The software takes a very small percentage of the donation, but its worth it for the ease of the system. You can donate at:

<https://donorbox.org/support-st-nicholas-and-help-us-grow>



Tithes & Attendance:

March 1

Tithes: \$701.00

Youth tithe: \$20.00

Attendance: 52

Thank you for your support and love for our Parish.

Also, feel free to send in your regular tithe check by mail to:

2200 Arctic Blvd,

Anchorage, AK 99503.

It is very important that we continue to give a percentage of what Our Lord has given us, and continue to support the structure and ministry of the parish. Thank you!

Fred Meyer Rewards: St. Nicholas of Myra participates in the community rewards program with Fred Meyer stores which gives a



percentage of purchases by those signed up with the program to St. Nicholas. It does not cost anything for customers. Fred Meyer pays out each quarter and will send a check if it's above a certain amount.

It won't cost parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas anything to participate. The steps to participate are:

- 1) Set up a Fred Meyer Rewards account if you don't have one or sign up at one of the stores.
 - 2) Set up an online account.
 - 3) Log into the account and search for Community Rewards.
 - 4) Search for **Saint Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church** or our account number **QD147** and select as the charity to receive the funds.
 - 5) Shop at Fred Meyer as you normally would and the St. Nicholas account will automatically be credited.
- Thank you!

Support Your business
While You
Support Our Church
ADVERTISE HERE

Support Your business
While You
Support Our Church
ADVERTISE HERE

PASTORAL MINISTRY AND SACRAMENTS:

SACRAMENT of CONFESSIONS: on Sundays and Holy Days: 30 min. before Divine Liturgy and other days, by appointment.

HOLY COMMUNION: for the sick, by appointment, anytime.

BAPTISMS - by appointment.

MARRIAGES - by appointment, at least 6 months in advance.

FUNERALS - by appointment.

ANOINTING of the sick, hospital visits - by appointment, anytime

Safe Environment:

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions, and programs, is committed to assuring a Safe Environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any concerns, please contact:

Subdeacon Paul Kilroy, Safe Environment Program Coordinator

Cell: (480) 745-0316 ~ Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 204 ~ Email: sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org -

or -

Victim Assistance Coordinator, Deacon Michael Hanafin

Cell: (480) 307-5182 ~ Email: vac@ephx.org

The Cross, Our Victory

Have you seen the wonderful victory? Have you seen the splendid deeds of the Cross? ... Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

Have you understood the victory? Have you grasped how it was wrought? Learn now, how this victory was gained without any sweat or toil of ours. No weapons of ours were stained with blood; our feet did not stand in the front line of battle; we suffered no wounds; witnessed no tumults; and yet we obtained the victory.

The battle was the Lord's, the crown is ours. Since then victory is ours, let us imitate the soldiers, and with joyful voices sing the songs of victory.

Let us praise the Lord and say, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"

The Cross did all these wonderful things for us: the Cross is a war memorial erected against the demons, a sword against sin, the sword with which Christ slew the serpent.

The Cross is the Father's will, the glory of the Only-begotten, the Spirit's exultation, the beauty of the angels, the guardian of the Church. Paul glories in the Cross; it is the rampart of the saints, it is the light of the whole world.

St. John Chrysostom



ST. NICHOLAS



PASCHA NUT AND POPPYSEED SALE

Preorders Taken - March 1-16

Rolls Available - Palm Sunday

NUT & POPPYSEED ROLLS

REMAINS

\$15.00 ea

Contact Judy Bich

(907) 748-4079