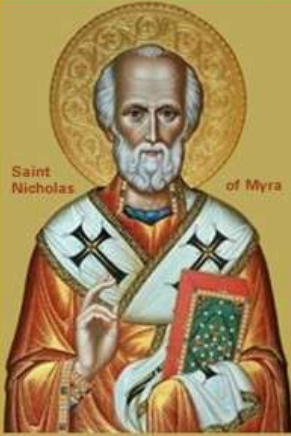


SUNDAY OF SAINT MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Saint Mary and Saint Zosimos



**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

Parochial Administrator: 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 APRIL 6—APRIL 13, 2025

Sunday, April 6—Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

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

Monday, April 7

9:30 am The Office of the Great Fast

Tuesday, April 8

9:30 am The Office of the Great Fast

Wednesday, April 9

6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts *For +Robbie Fleming by Brian Ayers*

Thursday, April 10

No Divine Liturgy

Friday, April 11

6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, April 12

4:15-4:45 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Vespers/Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 13—Palm (Flowery) Sunday

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

**Palms and pussy willows will be blessed before the Divine Liturgy. We will have Mirovanije after Divine Liturgy*

3:15-3:45 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Divine Liturgy in Wasilla

**Palms and pussy willows will be blessed before the Divine Liturgy. We will have Mirovanije after Divine Liturgy*

Do not forget prayer—it is the life of the soul.

+ St. Nikon of Optina



Please remember in your prayers:

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

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

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 hospitalized parishioners and family members.

7-DAY CANDLE OFFERING:

Eternal Light: The candle burns this week

For David Swendimen by Mary Crosby

Dear parishioners and friends of our parish, we have pierogies for sale:

- Potatoes and cheese
- Sauerkraut and mushrooms

Pierogi can be a good dish for your family table during Great Fast.

We also have cabbage rolls and nut rolls for sale. To purchase, see Sherry.

Dear parishioners and friends of our parish: if you have old blessed pussy willows or/and palms and you don't know what to do with them, bring them to the church and leave them in the narthex in a specially marked container: "For proper disposal"

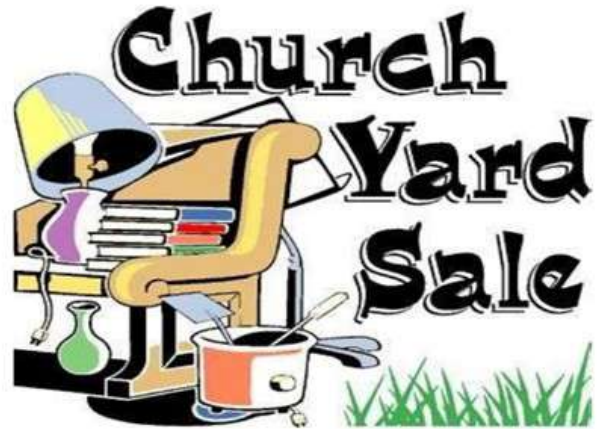
Eparchial Appeal 2025: The

Eparchy of Phoenix has sent letters to parishioners asking you to participate in this year's special Eparchial Appeal 2025. If you did not receive the letter, you can scan the QR code, or you can find a special envelope on the welcome table and make your donation . Sincere thanks to everyone who participated in last year's and past collections. Our goal this year is: \$4,000.00. We ask everyone in our parish to take part in this Eparchial collection.



Sign up for Vigil Veneration of the Holy Shroud at St. Nicholas: there is a special sheet to sign up for the Good Friday vigil in the parish hall. Please sign up as soon as possible so that we can be assured that all time slots will be covered. Thank you.

Flowers: The church accepts donations of lily flowers until the end of Easter. You can also make your donations for lilies, special envelopes are located on the welcome tables at the entrance to the church. Thank you for your participation in decorating our church.



Saturday

May 31, 2025

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: "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Our Savior walked with his disciples and shared that his ministry's height would come through a descent, becoming the servant of all in the baptism of his Cross. Are you open to giving your life as a servant of all as a priest, deacon, monk or nun? Contact the Vocations Office at 602-861-9778 or email: vocations@ephx.org

Vocation Icon:



Everyone in the parish is invited to have this icon in their home for a week of special prayer for vocations. Please sign up on the sheet that you can find in our parish hall. If you would like to take the icon again, please feel free to do it. Please bring the Icon on the following Sunday and leave it on the Tetrapod for the next family.

Thank you for your prayerful support to those who have recognized the calling of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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.

Alive in Christ (retreat for youths): The Eparchy of Phoenix Vocation Office is pleased to announce our upcoming 2025 Alive in Christ Camp. This year's camp will take place on July 10-13, 2025 at Palomar Christian Conference Center in San Diego County, California. This ascetical boot camp is for boys aged 7- 17 and for dads/guardians, with an emphasis on vocational discernment and growth in the life in Christ. To register, visit aliveinchristcamp.org.

Holy Anointing: On Holy Wednesday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. will be served Right of Holy Unction. It is the Byzantine tradition to bless the oil on Holy Wednesday and to Anoint the Sick. Please share information with your friends, neighbors, or potentially interested people.

ECF: Today will be an Adult Eastern Christianity class at 12:45 p.m. The theme for this class is "Repentance" Adults and young adults are encouraged to attend as part of their spiritual development.

Briefly, we may say that in the nature of things, if someone wants to be saved, no person and no time, place or occupation can prevent him. He must not, however, act contrary to the objective that he has in view, but must with discrimination refer every thought to the divine purpose. Things do not happen out of necessity: they depend upon the person through whom they happen. We do not sin against our will, but we first assent to an evil thought and so fall into captivity. Then the thought itself carries the captive forcibly and against his wishes into sin.

The same is true of sins that occur through ignorance: they arise from sins consciously committed. For unless a man is drunk with either wine or desire, he is not unaware of what he is doing; but such drunkenness obscures the intellect and so it falls, and dies as a result. Yet that death has not come about inexplicably: it has been unwittingly induced by the drunkenness to which we consciously assented. We will find many instances, especially in our thoughts, where we fall from what is within our control to what is outside it, and from what we are consciously aware of to what is unwitting. But because the first appears unimportant and attractive, we slip unintentionally and unawares into the second. Yet if from the start we had wanted to keep the commandments and to remain as we were when baptized, we would not have fallen into so many sins or have needed the trials and tribulations of repentance.

St. Peter of Damascus

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 20

Egg hunt following Divine Liturgy and blessings of the baskets.



God delivers man

This week of Great Lent, the Church celebrates the memory of St. Mary of Egypt. The story of St. Mary is the story of a repentant harlot. Why does the Church find this story so important? Why does the Eastern Church of the world remember this woman?

Her life tells us about how, from her early youth, she carried on an extremely debauched life and then, more like a tourist than a pilgrim, decided to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Exaltation of the Honorable Cross of the Lord. But a mysterious power would not let her into the church until she became conscious of her sins and called out to the Mother of God and to the Lord for mercy. Then she was able to enter the church, and shaken to the core, resolved to spend the rest of her life in prayer and repentance. Many years later, the saintly monk Zosimas met her in the desert; it is from him that we know her story.

What message—across centuries and countries—does her life give us?

It is the story of finding hope. Mary had a reality, which, for the time being, suited her. As the poet said, “wine and men were her atmosphere.” But she had no future; she only had what one prefers not to think about. Soon, her charms would wilt—especially soon due to her unhealthy lifestyle—and men would lose all interest in her, turning their attention to new victims with social temperaments. She would become lonely, cast off, and lack the means for sustenance. But in turning to God, she found hope—hope not only that her earthly life would be filled with dignity and meaning but, most importantly, that before her, there would be eternal life.

It is the story of finding dignity. In some liberal or atheist social network groups, you can see a photograph of pilgrims on bended knee, with comments from unbelievers about how humiliating and slavish it is to kneel. This world considers that repentance is a denial of human dignity—as if during Mary's depraved street life, she was living in freedom and dignity, but when she rose up and went to her Father, she became a slave. The values of this world are turned inside out, and repentance offers a restoration of the true system of accountability.

It is the story of finding love. From the worldly point of view, a person who has gone out into the desert in order to dedicate her days to repentance and prayer must have done it out of bitterness and despair, from the inability to have a “normal” life. Of course, God is not proud—He also receives those who come to Him out of total hopelessness, but more often, it is not that way. People became monks who were quite well off by all worldly standards. Why? Because they saw the True Light, something was revealed to them that was so precious and inexpressibly beautiful that, for its sake, one can joyfully leave everything behind. Mary met the One Who truly, sincerely, and eternally loves her as a precious human being, called to

eternal life.

This is the story of finding freedom. Traditional society can be considered more moral in some respects—depravity at least did not dare to glorify itself—but in certain respects, it was much more hopeless. A “fallen” woman, whose reputation had already been made (and such a reputation could be made very quickly), had no hope of returning to “decent” society. All doors were closed to her, and the only thing she had left to do was to continue sliding down the hill that she had one day incautiously found herself on. Society literally pushed her there: once a harlot, always a harlot, and that’s that. But apparently, God does not agree with “decent” society—He stretched forth His hand and completely changed this woman’s life; He made her a great saint, whom the Church has glorified through the ages.

In modern society, the pressure that pushes a once fallen person deeper into the pit is significantly weaker. But it is still very hard for such a person to turn away from the path he’s on. “Drink, and the devil will take you to the end,” as the pirates sing in “Treasure Island”. People sometimes say that they have been “non-religious all their lives,” that they have “sinned too much”, that now it’s “too late to change their lives”, and all they can do is to keep going down the beaten path to the end.

But the story of St. Mary of Egypt reminds us that if you fall into a pit, you are under no obligation to dig in further, and if you slip, you don’t have to slide all the way down to the very bottom. As is written in the Scriptures, because this is what the Lord says: He that falls, does he not rise up? ... and behold, and he that turns away, does he not return? (Jer. 8:4). A person is not obligated to go his whole life along the well-worn rut—he can turn around 180 degrees and change his life. And Great Lent is the time when the Church reminds us about our freedom: we can leave our former sins behind and turn to God.



A Prayer:

Merciful Lord, who raises up sinners by your boundless compassion and mercy: Cause the desert sun to burn away our coarseness and to melt our hardness of heart, that, like your servant Mary of Egypt, we may not depart from this life until we understand the ways of repentance and the benefits of prayer; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 30

Tithes: \$897.00

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 Mystery of Mankind's Reconciliation with God

He who is true God was born in the complete and perfect nature of a true man, whole in His own nature, whole in ours. By our nature we mean what the Creator had fashioned in us from the beginning, and took to Himself in order to restore it.

He took the nature of a servant without stain of sin, enlarging our humanity without diminishing His divinity. He emptied himself; though invisible He made himself visible, though Creator and Lord of all things He chose to be one of us mortal men. Yet this was the condescension of compassion, not the loss of omnipotence.

Beyond our grasp, He chose to come within our grasp. Existing before time began, He began to exist at a moment in time. Lord of the universe, He hid His infinite glory and took the nature of a servant. Incapable of suffering as God, He did not refuse to be a man, capable of suffering. Immortal, He chose to be subject to the laws of death.

He who is true God is also true man. There is no falsehood in this unity as long as the lowliness of

man and the pre-eminence of God coexist in mutual relationship.

As God does not change by His condescension, so man is not swallowed up by being exalted. Each nature exercises its own activity, in communion with the other. The Word does what is proper to the Word, the flesh fulfills what is proper to the flesh.

One nature is resplendent with miracles, the other falls victim to injuries. As the Word does not lose equality with the Father's glory, so the flesh does not leave behind the nature of our race.

One and the same person – this must be said over and over again – is truly the Son of God and truly the son of man. He is God in virtue of the fact that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He is man in virtue of the fact that the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

St. Leo the Great