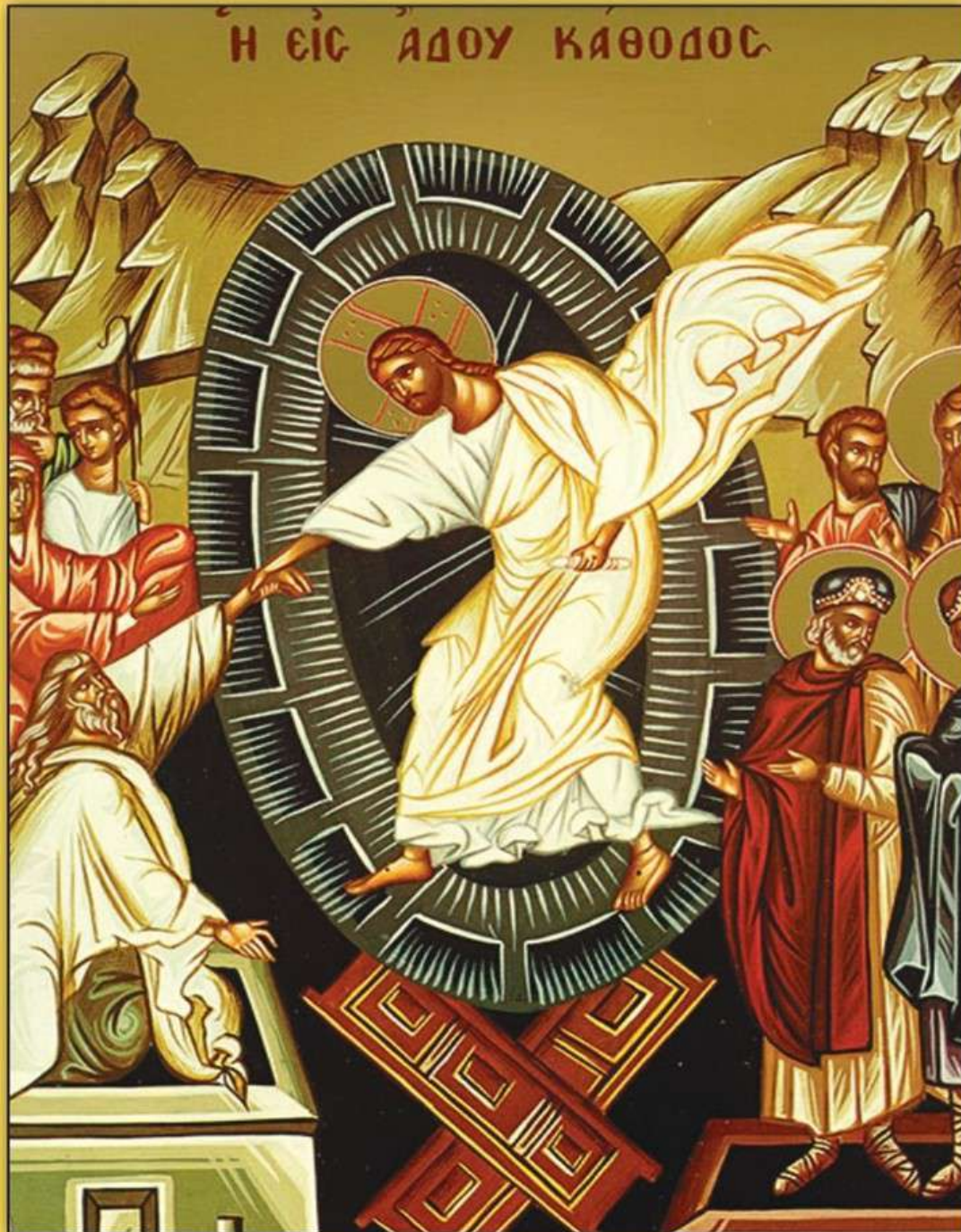
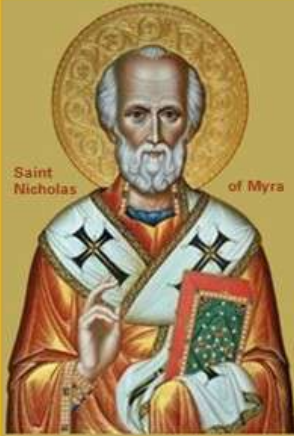


RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



Icon of the Descent into Hades

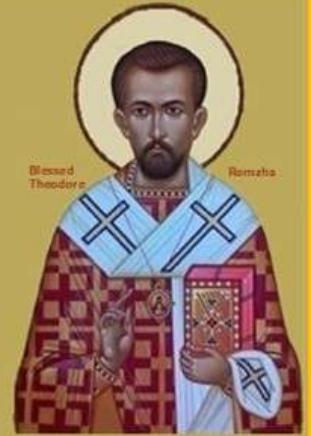


**ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*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

Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Kurt Burnette for
Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

Parish Administration: 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!



Please remember in your prayers:

For health and salvation: Fr. Chris Zuger, Veronica Frazier, David Bich, Denise, Ed, Dennis, Max, Aniela, Ken Wake, Molly Buggy, Kim Bryan, Shawn,

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

Please re-submit names of people you wish to place on the prayer list for 2024. You can send names by email: pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com. In front of the names of the departed, please put a "+" symbol. Please pray also for all our benefactors, friends, neighbors, and anyone we may have forgotten.

Thanks for Pascha! There are too many people to name here who made the Passion Week and Pascha a truly spiritual blessing, and without their help, flowers would not be here, the tomb would not be placed, cloths would not be sewn and laundered, Artos would not be baked, services not sung and served. I am deeply grateful to our cantors, altar servers, cleaners, bakers, property maintainers, and all those who came to the church to pray. We are blessed; I am blessed; and God has been glorified!
- Fr. Vasyl

Egg hunt: Today, Sunday, March 31st, after the Divine Liturgy, there will be an Egg hunt for our youngest parishioners and guests of our parish.

Bright Week: This is the week of joy, for Christ has destroyed the kingdom of death and the power of sin, and has establish the kingdom of God. Death no longer reigns over human life, and paradise is re-open to all, symbolized by the Holy Doors (Also called Royal or Beautiful doors) of the Iconostasis remaining open throughout the week. Through the power of the spirit, all of umankind, and the whole cosmos are renewed. In the ancient tradition, the newly baptized, having entered into a new life in the hope of Resurrection, wore their white garments of joy and purity throughout the week. We do not chant for the departed during this week, for Christ has destroyed the power of death. Bright Week is a week free from fast and abstinence

(Zagalnica). Traditionally from Easter Sunday until Pentecost we do not kneel during the Divine Liturgy. As a sign of our redemption and final resurrection, we offer our prayers to God while standing.

ECF: Next Sunday, April 7, we will have an **Adult ECF class** at 12:30 p.m. Adults and young adults are encouraged to attend as part of their spiritual development. All are welcome.

Eparchial Appeal 2024: EA 2024 has started. The Eparchy of Phoenix has sent letters to parishioners asking you to participate in this year's special Eparchial Appeal 2024. If you did not receive the letter, you can scan the QR code and make your donation.



Sincere thanks to everyone who took part in last year's collection, as well as in collections over many past years.

Our goal this year is: \$4,010.00. To date, our parish has collected \$355.00. Last year we reached the goal. Thanks again to everyone. If we manage to reach the goal, we will receive a 10% rebate, which we need quite a bit to ease the burden on our thin parish budget. We ask everyone in our parish to take part in this Eparchial collection.

Perogies \$12.00 per dozen
While they last—we have about 12 dozen potato & cheese

These are such a popular item, that if we make them year round they will be a great fund raiser for our church. Possibly Saturdays or even an evening party would be a great opportunity to learn our tradition and enjoy the friendships too.

Cabbage Rolls 3 for \$15.00
6 for \$25.00
Sold out 3 in a package

Polish Sweet Bread – Babka \$5.00-25.00
Depends upon the size

We wish you a blessed Pascha!
May the joy of the Resurrection fill your home and your heart!
Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Rev. Vasyl Mutka, Pastor,
and the Parish council

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL: Christ is Risen! "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Being ordained or consecrated as a monastic is a special way to bring the presence of the Risen Christ to this world. This may be something that God is calling you to do! Contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 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.

Reflections on the present Scriptures: "The Lamb of God communicates with us on the holy and light-bearing night of Resurrection. We pray for this when we are just beginning to prepare for Lent, and afterwards many times during the course of the Great Fast: that the lord would vouchsafe us to partake of the Holy Mysteries on the night of Holy Pascha. At that time the grace of God acts in a special way upon men's hearts. We partake of the Christ Resurrected, we become partakers of His Resurrection. Of course, we must prepare ahead of time, and, having already communed during Great Lent, receive again the Holy Mysteries. Before Paschal Liturgy there is no time for a proper confession; this must be done earlier. And then, on that light-bearing night, having received general absolution, to draw near to the Divine Lamb, the pledge of our resurrection. No one should leave the church prematurely, rushing away to eat the meat of animals instead of receiving the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ."

St. John the Wonderworker



PRAYER

Lord, our God and Savior, Jesus Christ, having shattered the bronze gates and iron bars, You freed the holy souls held fast in the depths of hell, and You let them appear to many after Your Resurrection: Grant us a part and inheritance with all Your saints in Your Kingdom.

O Lord, on the holy day of Your Resurrection, remember those present with us, and those absent for good reasons and those homebound, those traveling, in affliction or distress, and those who are oppressed and tormented by unclean spirits.

Remember us all and heal us, and blot out all our sins, whether we are rich or poor, free or in bondage.

Protect our city and every city and countryside, increase and multiply the Christian people living in them. Implant reverent fear of You in our hearts, that we may always do Your will and praise You.

For You are a good God and love mankind, and to You we give glory, together with Your Father, Who has no beginning, and Your Most Holy, Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

NATIONAL BYZANTINE RALLY
WALKING ON THE WATERS
SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA
June 27-30, 2024
Will you step out of the boat?
QR code

St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church News of interest, challenges, and thankfulness.



This week we received a considerate blessing with a most generous donation of \$3,000.00 with a note from the donor that said: *“Hope the enclosed donation will help to encourage more donations for a better year financially. What do you think of the idea of using the enclosed donation as a matching gift to encourage larger weekly donations over the next couple of months? The goal for 2024 is to end the year on a more positive note as compared to 2023.”*

He goes on to say that most of the expenses, like the parish he attends, are incurred in the first quarter with building insurance, diocesan assessments, and heat, which cannot be avoided. This gracious gift is very timely as he mentions heat. Just this week the heating system in the church had problems which shut off the heat in the living quarters. While we had immediate service the following morning and it was corrected, the costs incurred are assuredly of continued concern.

Our church is aging, and we are hoping the fund-raising events will offset much of the costs; however, it truly calls upon our hearts to love, protect and honor our beautiful unique St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church.

Therefore, as he mentions “Challenge”, the challenge goes forth. We already have received another donation marked “challenge” with a note saying they wish it could be a matching one. Can you step up to the challenge? Please mark your donation “challenge matching.”

May God grant our donor(s) many years in peace health and happiness with thankfulness for the gracious donation and challenge to our parishioners.

Another idea for helping our small church is to consider “Adopting a utility”. St. Nicholas has monthly utilities (to mention a few):

Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility	\$106.55
GCI Telephone, fax line & internet	\$158.09
Guardian Security	\$ 35.00
Solid Waste	\$ 35.70

Payments on these accounts can be made directly to the utility company with the account name and number. To put it into perspective, a Mocha cup of coffee costs \$7.40. Even giving it up once a week will cover the costs for our security system.

If you would like to cover these costs, have any other ideas for fund raising, donations and ways to bless our church, please see Father Vasyl. God bless you for your continued love and support of St. Nicholas.

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 using your computer at:

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



Tithes & Attendance:

March 24

Tithes: 1,025.00

Attendance: 56

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!



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

Celebrating Holy and Great Pascha

Brethren, how fine a thing it is to move from festival to festival, from prayer to prayer, from holy day to holy day. The time is now at hand when we enter on a new beginning: the proclamation of the blessed Passover, in which the Lord was sacrificed. We feed as on the food of life, we constantly refresh our souls with His precious blood, as from a fountain. Yet we are always thirsting, burning to be satisfied. But He Himself is present for those who thirst and in His goodness invites them to the feast day. Our Savior repeats His words: If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

He quenched the thirst not only of those who came to him then. Whenever anyone seeks him He is freely admitted to the presence of the Savior. The grace of the feast is not restricted to one occasion. Its rays of glory never set. It is always at hand to enlighten the mind of those who desire it. Its power is always there for those whose minds have been enlightened and who meditate day and night on the holy Scriptures, like the one who is called blessed in the holy psalm: Blessed is the man who has not followed the counsel

of the wicked, or stood where sinners stand, or sat in the seat of the scornful, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Moreover, my friends, the God who first established this feast for us allows us to celebrate it each year. He who gave up His Son to death for our salvation, from the same motive gives us this feast, which is commemorated every year. This feast guides us through the trials that meet us in this world. God now gives us the joy of salvation that shines out from this feast, as He brings us together to form one assembly, uniting us all in spirit in every place, allowing us to pray together and to offer common thanksgiving, as is our duty on the feast. Such is the wonder of His love: He gathers to this feast those who are far apart, and brings together in unity of faith those who may be physically separated from each other.

St. Athanasius the Great

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**