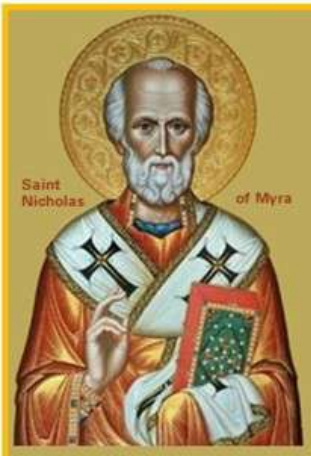
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th

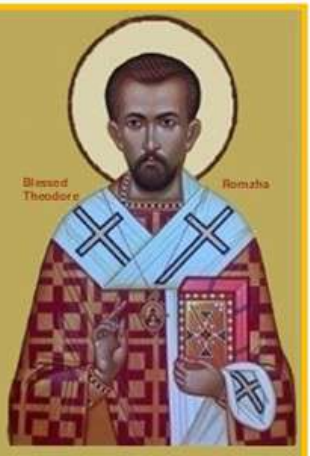


ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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
SEPTEMBER 13—SEPTEMBER 20 2026

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

Sunday, September 13—Sunday before the Exaltation 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, September 14—The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord
Solemn Holy Day
6:30 pm Procession with the Holy Cross and Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, September 15
9:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, September 16
6:30 pm Divine Liturgy *For +Mary Rita Meyer Bradley by Dorothy Savok*

Thursday, September 17
No service

Friday, September 18
Morning Prayer

Saturday, September 19
4:15-4:45 pm Confessions
4:35 pm Prayer Rule of the Theotokos (Byzantine Rosary)
5:00 pm Vespers/Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 20—Sunday after the Exaltation 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*

"Don't let sin separate us from Christ. When we believe that He loves us and we love Him, we don't feel strangers and distanced from Him even when we sin. We have secured His love and however we behave we know that He loves us."

Elder St. Porphyrios

Please remember in your prayers:

For health and salvation: Fr. Chris Zugger, 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, Basil, Dorothy Savok, Spruce Lynch, Truman Beer, Natalie, John Michalski, Phyllis Shepherd, Sherry, Bruce Heller, Gayle Veker

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

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.

Eastern Christian Formation (ECF): Next Sunday, September 20, will be an Adult Eastern Christianity class at 12:45 p.m. The theme for this class is ***"Why Did the Jews Reject Jesus as the Messiah?"*** Adults and young adults are encouraged to attend as part of their spiritual development. All are welcome!

The Fall 2026 40 Days for Life campaign runs from September 23 through November 1, 2026.
Anchorage Campaign
At St. Nicholas, the Order of the Office of Prayer and Supplication for the Victims of Abortion, Prayed to Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ will be prayed every Wednesday after Divine Liturgy.
Vigil Location:
Planned Parenthood
4001 Lake Otis Parkway, Anchorage, AK
Participating in the Vigil:
Our presence on the sidewalk offers a visible witness to the sanctity of human life. Through prayer and peaceful presence, we seek to support mothers and fathers, pray for those affected by abortion, and witness to the dignity of every human life.
Please consider joining us in prayer during this 40-day campaign.

Thanksgiving Day: On Thursday, November 26, 2026, St. Nicholas of Myra Parish will celebrate Thanksgiving Day.
We will begin our celebration with the Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Following the Liturgy, we will pray special prayers of thanksgiving.
After the prayers, we will gather for a potluck fellowship meal. A sign-up sheet will be available in the parish hall.
Come and participate in the Thanksgiving Divine Liturgy. Give thanks to the Giver of all good things, and join us as we share a meal and celebrate together as a parish family.

Help Us Raise the Roof!
Dear Parishioners, Friends, and People of Goodwill,
With gratitude to God, we are preparing to replace the roof of our Parish Hall next year. The estimated cost is **$45,000**.
Our Parish Hall is a special place where we gather for fellowship, meals, celebrations, and many other parish events. By supporting this project, you are helping us care for a place that brings our parish family together.
Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. Please prayerfully consider supporting our Roof Fund, and share this appeal with family, friends, and former parishioners who may wish to help.
To donate:
Make checks payable to the parish and write "Roof Fund" in the memo.
For online giving, please use the QR code.

Christmas Holy Supper: This year, we will gather for a communal Holy Supper on Thursday, December 24, in our parish hall.
This beautiful custom of our Byzantine tradition offers a wonderful opportunity for those among us who are exploring and discovering the rich horizons of the Byzantine Catholic Church. It is also a special way for our entire parish family to enter together into the joyful and glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
We need volunteers to help prepare the Holy Supper, as well as assistance with setup and cleanup. A sign-up sheet is available in the hall. Please sign up so that we can get an accurate headcount for the meal.
Thank you for helping make this celebration a joyful and meaningful occasion for our parish family!

ST. NICHOLAS

MEMORIAL WALL

Place your loved ones on the memorial wall to be remembered throughout the year.
$150 for the placement of the name.
$30 annual fee.

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL: "Certainly, God did not send his Son into the world to judge world, but so that the world should be saved through him." Christ is truly the salvation of the world. As Christians, we are called to be little Christs. Each of us can bring salvation to the world by living the life of Christ. Is God calling you to show his salvation to the world by a life of prayer and repentance as a priest, deacon, monk or nun? To learn more, contact the Vocations Office at 602-861-9778 or email: vocations@ephx.org

Reflections on the present Scriptures: In John 3:13–17, our Lord reveals the heart of the Gospel: the Son of God has come down from heaven to save humanity. "No one has ascended into heaven but He who came down from heaven, the Son of Man." These words point directly to the mystery of the Incarnation. Christ is not merely a teacher who has discovered the way to God; He Himself is the One who comes from the Father. He descends to our fallen condition in order to raise us into communion with God.

Christ then recalls the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the wilderness: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up." The image is striking. The Israelites who had been bitten by serpents were healed when they looked upon the bronze serpent. In the same way, fallen humanity, wounded by sin and death, is healed by turning toward Christ crucified.

For us, the Cross is therefore not simply an instrument of suffering or an example of heroic self-sacrifice. It is the revelation of divine love and the place where Christ enters fully into our death in order to destroy death. The One who is without sin accepts the consequences of our fallen condition without Himself becoming sinful. He gives Himself freely, and through His death He breaks the power of death.

The Cross also reveals something essential about God. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son." Salvation begins in the love of God. God does not save humanity because He is forced to do so, nor because humanity has earned salvation. He gives Himself because He loves His creation. The Cross is the supreme manifestation of this self-emptying, sacrificial love.

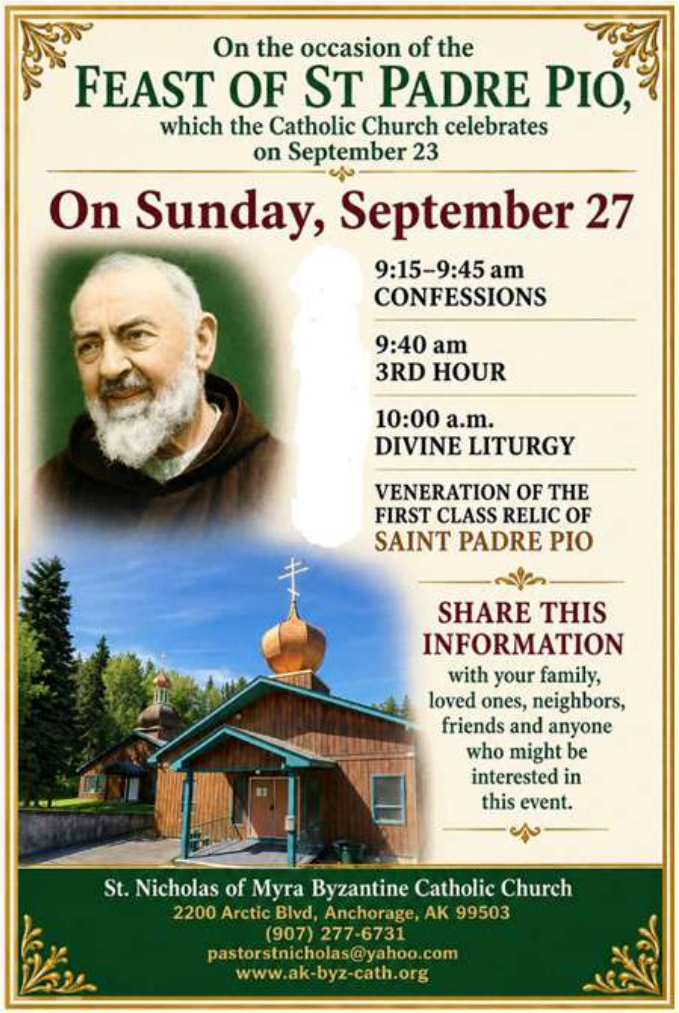
Yet Christ does not remain in the tomb. The Cross cannot be separated from the Resurrection. The One who is lifted up is the One who rises, trampling down death and opening the way to eternal life. This is why the Church proclaims not only Christ crucified but Christ risen. In Him, death is transformed from a final separation into the doorway to resurrection.

When Christ says that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life, "belief" is not merely intellectual agreement. In Eastern Christian understanding, faith means turning the whole person toward Christ—trusting Him, following Him, entering into His life, and receiving His grace. This life is begun even now through repentance, prayer, the mysteries of the Church, and communion with Christ.

Finally, Christ tells us that God "did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." This is a profound word of hope. Christ comes as Savior, not as one eager to condemn. His presence exposes the darkness, but His purpose is healing and restoration. He comes to recover the image of God in humanity and to bring us back into communion with the Father.

The Cross therefore stands before us as both judgment and mercy: judgment upon sin and death, and mercy toward the sinner. When we look upon Christ crucified, we see the immeasurable depth of God's love. And when we approach Him with repentance and faith, we discover that His Cross is not merely something He endured for us—it becomes the path by which we enter into His risen life.

May we therefore learn to look continually toward Christ, especially in times of suffering, temptation, and fear. As the Israelites looked toward the serpent and lived, so may we look toward the crucified and risen Lord, trusting that in Him we receive forgiveness, healing, and the hope of eternal life.



The Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion

From the Synaxarion

From Pagan Centurion to Apostle of the Gentiles

Soon after the suffering, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, a Roman centurion named Cornelius lived in Caesarea in Palestine. Although he was a pagan, Cornelius was known for his deep reverence for God and for his generosity toward those in need. As the Acts of the Apostles tells us, he was "devout and God-fearing," and his prayers and almsgiving had risen before God (Acts 10:1–4).

The Lord, who desires the salvation of every person, did not overlook Cornelius's sincere search for truth. One day, while Cornelius was praying in his home, an angel appeared to him and told him that his prayers had been heard. He was instructed to send messengers to Joppa and seek out Simon Peter, the Apostle of Christ.

Cornelius immediately obeyed. At the same time, the Apostle Peter was praying in Joppa when he received a remarkable vision. A great sheet was lowered from heaven, containing animals and birds of every kind. A voice commanded Peter to eat. Peter hesitated, since Jewish law regarded some of these creatures as ritually unclean. But the heavenly voice declared: "What God hath cleansed, you must not call common" (Acts 10:15).

This vision revealed something far greater than a change in dietary practice. God was showing Peter that the Gospel was not intended for one people alone. The salvation accomplished by Christ was offered to all nations. The dividing walls that had separated Jew and Gentile were being overcome in Christ. When Peter arrived at Cornelius's home, Cornelius received him with great joy and reverence. He gathered his relatives and friends so that they, too, might hear the message of salvation. Peter spoke to them about the earthly ministry of Jesus: His mighty works, His teaching about the Kingdom of God, His Passion and death upon the Cross, His Resurrection from the dead, and His Ascension into heaven. As Peter preached, the Holy Spirit descended upon Cornelius and all those gathered with him. They believed in Christ and received Holy Baptism. Thus Cornelius became the first recorded Gentile convert to Christianity.

His conversion reminds us that God's mercy knows no boundaries. Cornelius did not belong to the chosen people by ancestry, nor did he initially know Christ. Yet God saw his sincere heart and led him step by step into the fullness of truth. His story is a powerful witness that no person is beyond the reach of divine grace.

After his baptism, Cornelius left behind his former way of life and devoted himself entirely to the Gospel. The Apostle Peter ordained him a bishop, and Cornelius accompanied the apostles in their missionary work. Eventually, while Peter was in Ephesus with his helpers, he learned of the intense pagan worship taking place in the city of Skepsis. Lots were drawn to determine who should go there to preach Christ, and Cornelius was chosen.

The ruler of the city, a man named Demetrius, was devoted to the ancient Greek gods and hostile toward Christianity. When he heard that Cornelius had arrived, he summoned him and demanded to know why he had come. Cornelius answered that he had come to free the people from the darkness of ignorance and lead them to the knowledge of the true Light. Demetrius, angered by these words, ordered Cornelius to sacrifice to the pagan gods. The saint asked only that he be shown the idols. When he entered the pagan temple, Cornelius turned toward the east and prayed to the true God. Then an earthquake shook the place. The temple of Zeus and the idols within it collapsed.

The people were terrified, but Demetrius became even more enraged. Cornelius was bound and imprisoned, and plans were made to put him to death. Yet God revealed His power through an even greater miracle. During the night, Demetrius learned that his wife and child had apparently been killed beneath the ruins of the temple. Later, however, a pagan priest named Barbates reported that he had heard their voices from beneath the rubble—and that they were praising the God of the Christians.

The pagan priest, astonished by what he had witnessed, begged that Cornelius be released. Demetrius hurried to the prison and declared his belief in Christ, asking Cornelius to rescue his wife and child. Cornelius went to the ruins and prayed. Through the power of God, the buried family was brought out alive. Overcome by this miracle, Demetrius, together with his family, relatives, and companions, received Holy Baptism. Cornelius remained in the city and preached the Gospel, leading many of its pagan inhabitants to faith in Jesus Christ. He also ordained Eunomios as a presbyter to continue serving the Christian community. Cornelius eventually died peacefully in old age and was buried near the very pagan temple whose destruction had marked the beginning of the city's conversion to Christ.

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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:
Thank you for your support and love for our Parish.

September 6
Tithes: TBD
Attendance: 57

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:

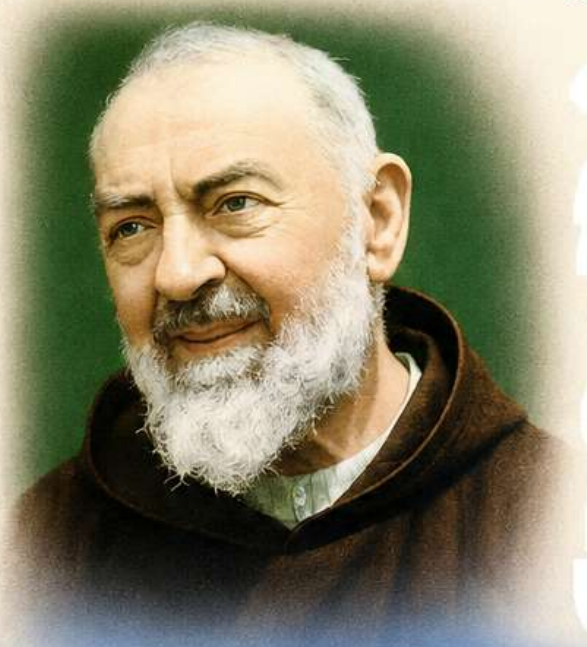
Subdeacon Paul Kilroy, Safe Environment Program Coordinator
Cell: (480) 745-0316 -- **Office:** (602) 861-9778 ext. 204 -- **Email:** sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org - or -
Victim Assistance Coordinator, Deacon Michael Hanafin
Cell: (480) 307-5182 -- **Email:** vac@ephx.org

On the occasion of the

FEAST OF ST PADRE PIO,

which the Catholic Church celebrates
on September 23

On Sunday, September 27



9:15–9:45 am
CONFESSIONS

9:40 am
3RD HOUR

10:00 a.m.
DIVINE LITURGY

VENERATION OF THE FIRST CLASS RELIC OF
SAINT PADRE PIO

SHARE THIS INFORMATION
with your family, loved ones, neighbors, friends and anyone who might be interested in this event.

St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church
2200 Arctic Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 277-6731
pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com
www.ak-byz-cath.org

Alaska State Council

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

2026 Pot O' Gold

Alaska Raffle

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Council/Assembly Selling Grand Prize Ticket: $1,000

TEN PRIZES:
$1,000 EACH

Top 5 Sellers of Most Tickets:

1st	$500
2nd	$400
3rd	$300
4th	$200
5th	$100

★ Council/Assembly Selling Grand Prize Ticket: $1,000 ★

FINAL DRAWING

Saturday, December 12, 2026 at 2:00pm
at Holy Family Cathedral
811 West 6th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska

All tickets purchased prior to Monday, September 7, 2026 will also qualify for an

EARLY BIRD DRAWING OF FIVE PRIZES: $500 each
Early Bird Drawing: Monday, September 7, 2026 at 2:00pm (same location)

Winners announced on alaskakofcstate.com
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Drawing All to Himself

O the marvelous power of the cross, the glory of the passion! No tongue can fully describe it. Here we see the judgment seat of the Lord, here sentence is passed upon the world, and here the sovereignty of the Crucified is revealed.

You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when You stretched out Your hands all the day long to a people that denied and opposed You, until at last the whole world was brought to proclaim Your majesty. You drew all things to Yourself, Lord, when all the elements combined to pronounce judgment in denouncement of that crime; when the lights of heaven were darkened and the day was turned into night; when the land was shaken by unwonted earthquakes, and all creation refused to serve those wicked people. Yes, Lord, you drew all things to Yourself. The veil of the temple was torn in two and the Holy of Holies taken away from those unworthy high priests. Figures gave way to reality, prophecy to manifestation, law to gospel. You drew all things to Yourself in order that the worship of the whole human race could be celebrated everywhere in a sacramental form which would openly fulfill what had been enacted by means of veiled symbols in that single Jewish temple.

Now that the multiplicity of animal sacrifices has ceased, the single offering of your body and blood takes the place of that diversity of victims, since you are the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and in Yourself you fulfill all the rites of the old law, so that as there is now a single sacrifice in place of all those victims, so there is a single kingdom formed of all the peoples of the earth.

St. Leo the Great