

Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra ***December 6***

Come and celebrate the feastday of our parish!

Saturday, December 5

Great Vespers at 5:00 pm followed by a potluck dinner. Everyone is invited to bring a dish for the potluck dinner. Please bring a fasting dish (no meat or dairy on this day of the fast; fish, wine, and oil are permitted).

Sunday, December 6

Orthros at 8:15 am, Religious Education at 9:45 am, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am, followed by a coffee hour hosted by families who celebrate their nameday on December 6. If someone in your family celebrates their nameday on December 6, please contact Kitsa Wiersteiner or Tia Saffo to coordinate. For those bringing dishes, please bring a fasting dish (no meat or dairy on this day of the fast; fish, wine, and oil are permitted).

This saint, famed throughout the entire world, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of Patara in Lycia. They dedicated to God the only son He gave them. St. Nicholas was instructed in the spiritual life by his uncle, Nicholas, Bishop of Patara, and became a monk at New Sion, a monastery founded by his uncle. On the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all the property he inherited to the poor and kept nothing back for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charitable works, fulfilling the Lord's words: "Let now your left hand know what the right hand is doing" (Matthew 6:3). When he embraced a life of solitude and silence, thinking to live in that way until his death, a voice from on high came to him: "Nicholas, set about your work among the people if you desire to receive a crown from Me." Immediately after that, by God's wondrous providence, he was chosen as archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. He was cast into prison during the persecutions of Diocletian and Maximian, but even there continued to instruct the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, and, in his zeal, struck Arius with his hand. For this act, he was removed from the Council and from his Episcopal duties, until some of the chief hierarchs had a vision of our Lord Christ and His most holy Mother showing their sympathy with Nicholas.

This wonderful saint was a defender of the truth of God, and was ever a spirited champion of justice among the people. On two occasions, he saved three men from undeserved sentences of death. Merciful, trustworthy and loving right, he walked among the people like an angel of God. People considered him a saint even during his lifetime, and invoked his aid when in torment or distress. He would appear both in dreams and in reality to those who called upon him for help, responding speedily to them, whether close at hand or far away. His face would shine with light as Moses' did, and his mere presence among people would bring solace, peace, and goodwill. In old age, he sickened of a slight illness, and went to his rest in the Lord after a life full of labor and fruitful toil. He now enjoys eternal happiness in the Kingdom of heaven, continuing to help the faithful on earth by his miracles, and to spread the glory of God. He entered into rest on December 6, 343. *(From The Prologue from Ochrid)*