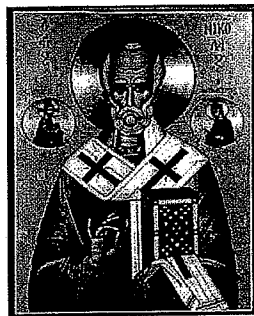


The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
December 1, 2013
+St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker+
(Feast Day on December 6, 2013)



“O who loves Nicholas the Saintly! O who serves Nicholas the Saintly!”
~ Hymn to St. Nicholas

Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 5, 6:30 ~ Vespers for St. Nicholas
Friday, December 6, 10:00 ~ Liturgy for St. Nicholas



Happy St. Nicholas Day!



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Troparion - Tone 4

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith,
an icon of meekness and a teacher of abstinence;
thy humility exalted thee;
thy poverty enriched thee.
Hierarch Father Nicholas,
entreat Christ our God
that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion - Tone 3

Thou revealed yourself, O saint, in Myra as a priest,
For thou fulfilled the Gospel of Christ
By giving up thy soul for thy people,
And saving the innocent from death.
Therefore thou art blessed as one become wise in the grace of God.

This Week's Bible Verse

“For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye,
than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”

~Luke 18:25

What does this mean?

It is hard for people with lots of money and things to
become holy, because they begin to get greedy and think
only about there money, and not God.

St. Nicholas

Nicholas was born many years ago in Asia Minor near the city of Myra. He was a very clever child, and when he was five years old he was already studying the Bible. His parents were good people and taught Nicholas to love God and everyone. There are hundreds and hundreds of stories about the wonderful things Nicholas did. All of them show how much Nicholas was loved by the people who knew him. This book tells just a few of the best-known of these stories.

When Nicholas was a boy of sixteen, his parents died and left him a lot of money. He wanted to use this money to help the poor. One day he heard about a man who was so poor that he could not buy enough food for his three daughters. Finally, the man sadly decided that he must take the children to the town and sell them. Nicholas was very sorry for him.

So that night he filled three bags with money and then went to the poor man's house. Tiptoeing quietly so that he would not be heard, he slipped the bags through the window. But the poor man had seen him and next morning he told his friends: "Nicholas has given us gold. Now I don't have to sell my children!" The friends of the poor man were happy and praised Nicholas for his goodness and love.

Nicholas wanted to give his life to God. For a time he went away from Myra to live and pray alone. Then he became a priest. Not long afterwards it happened that the Bishop of Myra died. The people said that the first man to enter the church the next morning was to be their new bishop. As usual Nicholas arose very early and went to the church. The people waiting there saw him and said: "Nicholas is to be our new bishop, it is the will of God!" Though Nicholas had thought of living a life of solitude he decided it would be wrong to ignore what had just happened.

So Nicholas accepted the will of the people and on the day of his consecration there were great celebrations in Myra. All the people of the city wanted to join in the festivities.

For more than twenty-five years, Nicholas looked after his people. Everybody in Myra loved him very much, and when he died many people went to his house to pray for him. But when they looked into the room they had a great surprise. They saw the dead Nicholas surrounded by angels and archangels ready to guide him to heaven.

-St. Nicholas Center

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ST. NICHOLAS



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