

December 3, 2023 / T one 2
27th Sunday After Pentecost

Christ is Among Us! He is and Always Shall Be!



ONE More Week For the Angel Tree!!

Dear Parish Family, in the spirit of St Nicholas let's open up our hearts again this Christmas season and participate in our annual Angel Tree. The display will be set up on November 15. We will then have through St. Nicholas Sunday December 10th to donate before the gifts are presented to St. Nicholas!

The Angel Tree display has two boxes—one for the orphanage and one for the seminarians.

This year we are excited to collect monetary donations for the Korolevo orphanage in Ukraine. If you wish to donate to the orphanage, please make checks payable to the Mission Society with a note at the bottom. We are collecting Amazon gift cards for the 10 seminarians at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS Cyril and Methodius, where our beloved Deacon Thomas is diligently studying. We would like these Amazon gift cards to be in denominations of \$10 and \$25 (\$25 is about what it costs for our seminarians to buy a book).

These gift cards can be found at Smith's grocery stores (either in store or on-line), Wal-Mart, Albertsons and anywhere other gift cards are sold. We are also collecting Christmas cards and notes of encouragement for the seminarians. If you want to specifically address a card to Deacon Thomas, simply put his name on the front of the envelope.

**Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix
Most Reverend Kurt Burnette Apostolic Administrator**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church
1837 Alvarado Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 Parish office: (505) 256-1539
www.olphnm.org**

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday 10:00 am—4:00 pm
Thursday OFF

THEOSIS: 2nd & 4th Thursday
Bible Study 6:45 pm / Zoom

Advisory Board

Fr. Chris Zugger, Dan Riley, Rafael Plut,
Jeff Brewer, Michael Grega, Alicia Wells

Finance Council

Matthew Blain, Maria Alden

**Father Artur Bubnevych, Pastor
Rectory (505) 268-2877
abbaolph@gmail.com**

**Father Deacon Thomas Donlin
donlin.thomas@gmail.com**

**Father Christopher Zugger
pastor emeritus
(505) 256-1787**

**Frchris.zugger@gmail.com
www.frchriszugger.com**

**Father Tyler Strand
(516) 661-0883
tylerastrand@yahoo.co.uk**

**Confession (Mystery of
Reconciliation):**

9:00—10:00 am on Sundays, before or
after weekday Liturgies, or by appoint-
ment with Father

**Mysteries of Baptism/Chrismation/
Eucharist:**

Must be arranged three months in
advance.
(Pre-Jordan requirement)

Mystery of Crowning:

Must be arranged six months in
advance
(Pre-Cana requirement)

Sick and Shut-Ins: It is the family's
responsibility to notify the parish office
when a parishioner is in the hospital or
confined to home because of sickness or
old age. Father will bring the confined
person the Holy Mysteries on a regular
basis. It is recommended that one re-
ceive the Anointing of the Sick before any
major surgery. Please don't let the priest
be last to know that someone is ill!

May the Lord Bless your kindness and
generosity to His House!

ONLINE GIVING / ONLINE TITHING

is available on our website:

For those parishioners who can't attend in person or
traveling or anyone who find this more convenient,
we just set up a new way to tithe online using your
credit card or debit card information. You can do a
one-time donation or setup weekly donations!! You
will receive a receipt and statement immediately after
donating. The software takes a very small percent-
age of the donation, but its worth it for the ease of
the system. You can donate using your computer /
smartphone at: [ps://www.olphnm.org/giving](https://www.olphnm.org/giving).

Welcome to our Church! If you are looking for a spiritual home, contact Father Artur/Fr Chris or the office staff for more information. God bless you!

Ephesians 6:10-17; Luke 18:18-27

8:30 am Rosary 9:00 am Festal Matins & Confessions
10:00 am Divine Liturgy for Parish Family, Benefactors & Friends
Eternal Lamp: Holy Protection of the Mother of God over People of Ukraine

YouTube Live
ECF Classes

Dec 4 Mon

Barbara Great Martyr / John Damascene / 2 Tim 2:20-26; Lk 20:27-44



9:00 am +Aaron Karcher by Charity Karcher

Dec 5 Tue

Sabbas Venerable Gal 5:22-6:2; Mt 11:27-30

9:00 am God's Blessing on Mary Carmen Lopez by Cindy Loescher
6:00 pm CAFÉ meeting at UNM

Dec 6 Wed

St Nichols of Myra Archbishop/Solemn Holy Day / Heb 13:17-21; Lk 6:17-23



6:00 pm God's Blessing on Sullivan Family (Tom Jr.)

Dec 7 Thu

Ambrose Archbishop / Titus 1:5-2:1; Lk 21:28-33

Dec 8 Fri

Maternity of the Holy Anna / Solemn Holy Day / Gal 4:22-31; Lk 8:16-21



9:00 am Prayer & Witness in front of abortion clinic on San Mateo/Lomas
6:00 pm God's Blessing on Philip Leahy

Dec 9 Sat

Patapius Venerable / Eph 1:16-23; Lk 13:8-29

9:00 am (masks required) Health and Salvation of Christopher Webb and his Family by Lara Davis
10:30 am—4:00 pm Explorers Youth Group

Dec 10 Sun

28th Sunday After Pentecost / Col 1:12-18; Lk 17:12-19

4:00 pm Great Vespers / YouTube LIVE
Hebrew Scriptures for Sunday: Exodus 24:1-18; 1 Samuel 1:1-18; Isaiah 40:1-8
5:00 pm God's Blessing on Juanita Montoya

8:30 am Rosary
9:00 am Matins & Confessions
10:00 am Divine Liturgy for Parish Family, Benefactors & Friends /
After the dismissal St Nicholas Play / Visit of St. Nic
Eternal Lamp: Holy Protection of the Mother of God over People of Ukraine

YouTube LIVE
St Nicholas Award

YOUTUBE LIVE-STREAMING: OLPH Sunday / Holy Day Liturgies are available on YouTube. The link is <https://youtube.com/c/olphmedia>. Please click the "Subscribe" button to make it easier for you to find the channel in the future. Please, send your feedback about the quality of the live stream / comments / suggestions to Dan Riley: riley.dan@gmail.com

Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers:

Physician and Help of Those in sickness, Redeemer and Savior of the infirm; O Master and Lord of all, grant healing to your servants. Be clement, show mercy to those who have sinned much, and deliver them, O Christ, from their Iniquities, that they may glorify your might divine

Sharif Rabadi	Fr Robert Rankin	Juanita Montoya
Jenny Ford	Fr. Steve Washko	Jacob McTernan
Marilyn Fore	Buster Miscusi	Paola Terlaza
Sven & Barbara	Barbara De Lap	Ruth Sousa
Svensson	Irene Bradley	Linda Granci
Laurie Bienz	Soriah Chavez	Vicki Frank
Brent Dodson-	Abraham Haddad	Christopher Barlow
Sands	Marianne Gerace	Jordan Smith
Lara Davis	Michael Baron	Janet Worthington
Carol Donlin	Gabriel Preisler	Patti Klinkovsky
Marcie Dark	Jessica Pieniadz	Matt Williamson
Jesse Hebert	Rhonda	James Epstein
Fr Chris Zugger	Glasscock	Katy Ford
Fr Chris Andrews	Amber Roybal	Alton & Barbara
	Philip Leahy	Bertschinger

Intentions of the Rosary:

- 1st Decade: Help for persecuted Catholics, especially in communist and Islamic states
- 2nd Decade: Spiritual and physical growth of our parish and the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 3rd Decade: Increase in vocations to priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life to serve the Byzantine Catholic Church
- 4th Decade: Repose of the souls who have no one praying for them
- 5th Decade: Healing of the sick in body, mind and soul

Holy Father's Intentions / December For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

"The things which are impossible with men are possible with God!" The rich ruler was called to give all that he had to follow Jesus. We are all called to do this in our own manner, and those called to vocations of monastic life and holy orders do so in special way. Is a life of service and faithfulness to God and His Church as a priest, deacon, subdeacon, monk or nun something that may be for you or someone that you know?

Contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 or
email: vocations@ephx.org



Vocation Icon

Today: Brewer Family
Next Sunday:
Davidson-Talley Family

December 10, 2023

Cantor: Andrea Riley
 Reader: Michael Wells
 Altar Server: Michael Grega
 Trojca: Yvonne Serna
 Counters: Mary Blain &
 Cindy Loescher

**Propers for 12/10/23
 28th Sunday after Pentecost
 Tone 3**

Troparion- 135
v. Glory...
 Kontakion - 136
v. Now & Ever...
 Theotokion - 406
 Prokeimenon & Alleluia - 137
 Our Father - 68

The OLPH Prayer Warriors
 make intercessory prayer a daily
 commitment. We pray voluntarily and
 without bias; that is, we take to the
 Blessed Trinity the requests that
 come our way.

The Prayer Warriors meet on Zoom
 every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for
 themed meetings. If you would like to
 join the Prayer Warriors, would like
 additional information, and/or would
 like for us to pray for your inten-
 tions, please contact Patricia
 at pocb@unm.edu

Alicia's Hall Report

Thanks to Evie for hosting the social and
 happy birthday to Elijah! The Frito pie
 was scrumptious! And after Evie's call to
 serve Jesus by cleaning up after our-
 selves, everyone did a great job! Keep
 up the good work! Thanks to Cathy, Julia,
 Andrea, and the Jilek's for leaving the
 hall crumb free. Next week we'll have
 pasta Bolognese, green beans, salad,
 garlic bread and cake for our St. Nicho-
 las celebration. Please sign up to contrib-
 ute to the meal & have a blessed week!

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
 go/10C054AAAAA2AA4F94-olph](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AAAAA2AA4F94-olph)

Coming Events—Mark Your Calendars Now

Tue Dec 12	Advisory Board Meeting 6:00 pm
Fri & Sat Dec 15 & 16	Women's Day of Reflection
Fri Dec 22 Strict Fast	9:00 am Royal Hours 7:00 pm Great Compline
Mon Dec 25	Christmas-Birth of Our Lord Holy Day of Obligation 9:00 am Matins 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Tue Dec 26,	Synaxis of the Theotokos Solemn Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy
Wed Dec 27	Stephen Protomartyr Simple Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy
Mon Jan 1 2024	Circumcision / Solemn Holy Day 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St Basil / Blessing of Litija / Myrovanije
Fri Jan 5 Day of Strict Fast	Vigil of Theophany Noon— carpool to Rio Grande (parking lot of the National Hispanic Cultural Center on Avenida Chavez) Procession to the River 1:00pm Great Vespers with the Great Blessing of the Rio Grande
Sat Jan 6	Theophany of Our Lord Holy Day of Obligation 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Great Blessing of Water / Myrovanije
Mon Jan 29 Tue Jan 30	Three Holy Hierarchs / Simple Holy Day 6:00 pm Vigil Liturgy 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Fri Feb 2	Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna / Solemn Holy Day 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy Blessing of Candles / Myrovanije
Sat Feb 3	1st All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / Panachida
Mon Feb 12	First Day of the Great Fast
Sat Mar 2	3rd All Souls Saturday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy / Panachida
March 1—3	Lenten Retreat with Fr Michael O'Loughlin

Saint Nicholas Award 2023 - Every year in our parish since 1985, the advisory board recommends someone to receive this award. The requirements are simple: that the recipient(s) be practicing Catholics, that they engage in charitable work inside and outside of the parish quietly, not looking for applause, as an act of love for Christ. Also, the board looks for someone who other parishioners recognize as being good souls who exemplify this. An icon of the holy bishop is given to the recipient(s) on the Sunday closest to December 6th. We eagerly and prayerfully await the winner(s) of this honorable prize this year!!! O, who loves Nicholas the Saintly!

Fr. Chris will be preaching an Advent Retreat on the Christ Child, the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and preparing for Christmas at St. John XXIII church, December 13-15, at 6 pm, 4831 Tramway Ridge Drive N.E. Confessions will be heard during the talks.

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious **next Sunday**. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

The **MISSION SOCIETY** is pleased to present our beautiful *NEW 2023* Christmas card with the icon of the **Mother of God of Igor or Igorevskaya**. It takes its name from the Ukrainian prince Igor Olegovich. He was surprised by guards that kidnapped & jailed him. Before facing death, he prayed before the icon. The icon is once again the work of Iconographer Britta Prinzivalli. brittworks.com 100% of your card purchases & donations go to "**UKRAINE RELIEF**". The eparchy (diocese) of Mukachevo continues to serve thousands of refugees displaced by the fighting in the south and east who have sought food & shelter in the Transcarpathian Oblast of Ukraine. Your Christmas card purchases & donations helps refugees with basic needs.

A packet of 5 cards sells for \$10 including envelopes. Each packet of cards includes a prayer list. Fill out the slip with the names of the recipients and return by mail or drop them by the parish office no later than Wednesday, December 20th. This gives us time to scan and e-mail them to Ukraine. Bishop Nil will place all these names on the altar at Holy Cross Cathedral in Ukraine & pray for your intentions at the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day. *In July 2023, Ukraine passed legislation moving its official Christmas holiday to December 25, further distancing itself from the traditions of the Putin-aligned Russian Orthodox Church, which celebrates the holiday on January 7.* Check out our website to see pictures of Bishop Nil praying for you & your loved ones during last Christmas & Easter liturgies! To donate or learn more visit our **website** at missionboronyavo.org

Guidelines for Volunteering at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

A volunteer is a valued part of the church. The volunteer should be at least 18 years of age. If under 18, the volunteer should be accompanied by a parent or have been given permission by the parent to perform volunteer activities while supervised by another adult.

All volunteers must be approved by the Pastor. At the Pastor's discretion, he can request letters of reference or additional information prior to approval.

All volunteers older than age 18 must complete a background check with the Eparchy of Phoenix and must complete the annual requirement for Safe Environment training.

For parishioners who are new to the parish, we ask for regular participation in the parish, the Holy Sacraments and Divine Liturgy for a period of one year before volunteering with Eastern Christian Formation, the Choir, or as an Altar Server.

December 6th: Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonder-worker

A WORLD-WIDE SYMBOL OF GIFT-GIVING and love, St. Nicholas (270-343) is more revered by the Church as a Wonderworker, both in life and in death. Nicholas was born to wealthy Christian parents in Patara, on the southwest coast of the Roman province of Lycia in Asia Minor. He was orphaned in an epidemic while he was still young and raised by his uncle, another Nicholas, the bishop of Patara. Of a religious disposition, Nicholas was tonsured as a reader by his uncle while quite young and eventually was ordained a priest. Obeying Christ's words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his own inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering.

As a prominent Christian, Nicholas was imprisoned during the persecutions of Diocletian and Galerius, which ended in 311. In response to his deliverance, Nicholas traveled to the Holy Land on pilgrimage. While there he reportedly lived with a group of monks in what is today Beit Jala. However Nicholas was not called to the monastic life and returned to Patara. On the return voyage the ship was threatened by a powerful storm. The terrified sailors were amazed to see the storm suddenly subside at Nicholas' prayers. This gave rise to the custom of praying to St Nicholas as protector of seamen.

In 317 Nicholas was chosen as archbishop of Myra, the provincial capital of Lycia. He was neither a great ascetic nor a martyr. His reputation rests on his pastoral concern for the people under his care, particularly the poor and the defenseless. The tenth-century life of St. Nicholas by Symeon the Translator tells of secret gift-giving to save an impoverished man's daughters from penury. St. Nicholas secretly left money to provide a dowry for each of the daughters in turn. These stories and more became known in the West and Nicholas became a favorite saint throughout Europe.

Nicholas and Arius

In 325 Nicholas reportedly attended the First Ecumenical Council called by the emperor to combat the Arian schism prevailing in parts of the empire. Only a few fragments of the official acts of the council have survived. The lists of participants which have come down to us vary in the number of bishops named.

Nicholas is named in a few of them and the story of his participation has become enshrined in the Church's liturgy and iconography. Always a firm opponent of Arianism, Nicholas reputedly opposed Arius personally at the council. As John the Deacon described it, "Animated like the Prophet Elias with zeal for God, he put the heretic Arius to shame at the synod not only by word but also by deed, smiting him on the cheek." Nicholas, the account continues, was deposed as a result. His omophorion and Gospel Book, signs of his office, were confiscated and he was imprisoned. During the night the Lord Jesus and the Theotokos appeared to Nicholas in prison, restoring the items taken from him. When the emperor was notified of what had happened, he pardoned Nicholas and reinstated him.

Since the eye-witnesses at the council, St Athanasius and Eusebius of Caesarea do not mention any such incident in their writings, modern authors tend to discount it. Nevertheless, icons of St. Nicholas often depict his vision of Christ and the Theotokos returning his omophorion and Gospel.

St Nicholas became an increasingly influential public figure later in his episcopate. He successfully intervened to save three convicted looters who had been condemned to death, falsely accused of murder.

When a famine struck the region in 333 Nicholas intercepted a ship laden with wheat bound for Constantinople. He persuaded the seamen to leave a substantial portion for the people of Myra. When the ship arrived at the imperial capital it was found that it still had its entire original cargo. Nothing was missing. Another often-repeated story tells how the emperor had levied a heavy tax on the people of Myra. St Nicholas went to Constantinople and pleaded successfully with the emperor to have the taxes reduced. Nicholas dispatched the decree to Myra immediately by sea so that, when the emperor had second thoughts about the tax cut, St Nicholas could tell him that it had already been enforced.

The "Manna" of St. Nicholas

Nicholas died in Myra on December 6, 343 and was buried in his cathedral. His tomb became a famous pilgrimage site, blessed with many miracles. The tomb exuded a sweet-smelling liquid called the Manna of St. Nicholas. As a result his relics were not disturbed and parceled out to other churches. After the Seljuk Turks conquered the area, Italian merchants in Venice and Bari sought to "rescue" the saint from the Turks. In 1087 seamen broke into the tomb and spirited away the saint's body to Bari. It was enshrined by the pope in a great basilica built there in Nicholas' honor. The Manna continued to exude from the tomb in Bari as it had in Myra. Every year to this day a vial of this fluid is extracted from the tomb, mixed with blessed water and given to the faithful. (taken from: <https://melkite.org/faith/st-nicholas-december-6>)

December 4: Great Martyr Barbara Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian. She is the patron saint of engineers and miners, and for protection against lightning, and venerated as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

She was the daughter of the pagan Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was a secret Christian and thus believed in the Holy Trinity. Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he had to go away, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron too. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus beheaded her with his own sword, in the year 290.

December 8: Maternity of St. Anna/ Conception of St. Anne/ Immaculate Conception

We keep the feast of the Conception of Saint Anne/ Conception of the Theotokos, known in the West as the Immaculate Conception. Declared a dogma in 1854, the Immaculate Conception was taught by many Church Fathers and spiritual writers for centuries. In the Eastern Churches, this is kept on December 9, in order to emphasize that though sinless, Our Lady is still inferior to Christ, Who alone has a perfect pregnancy (March 25-December 25). However, the Latin Church preferred the date of December 8, giving Our Lady a perfect pregnancy (December 8 – September 8). Because the United States is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, our Byzantine Catholic Church has accepted the December 8th date in America.

The dogma teaches this: the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin. (Pope Pius IX)." What does this mean? The Catholic Encyclopedia tells us:

Mary was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin at the first moment of her animation, and sanctifying grace was given to her before sin could have taken effect in her soul. The formal active essence of original sin was not removed from her soul, as it is removed from others by baptism; it was excluded, it never was in her soul. Simultaneously with the exclusion of sin, the state of original sanctity, innocence, and justice, as opposed to original sin, was conferred upon her, by which gift every stain and fault, all depraved emotions, passions, and debilities, essentially pertaining to original sin, were excluded. But she was not made exempt from the temporal penalties of Adam — from sorrow, bodily infirmities, and death. The immunity from original sin was given to Mary by a singular exemption from a universal law through the same merits of Christ, by which other men are cleansed from sin by baptism. Mary needed the redeeming Savior to obtain this exemption, and to be delivered from the universal necessity and debt (debitum) of being subject to original sin. The person of Mary, in consequence of her origin from Adam, should have been subject to sin, but, being the new Eve who was to be the mother of the new Adam, she was, by the eternal counsel of God and by the merits of Christ, withdrawn from the general law of original sin. Her redemption was the very masterpiece of Christ's redeeming wisdom. He is a greater redeemer who pays the debt that it may not be incurred than he who pays after it has fallen on the debtor.

The feast of the Conception of Saint Anne originates in the monasteries of Palestine in the late 600s; it spread through the Syriac and Byzantine Churches so that by 1166 it was a holy day of obligation in the Byzantine Empire with no work allowed. In the texts of this feast, Mary is acclaimed as all-holy, immaculate, sinless, and most pure. Icons of "The Conception of St. Anne" shows SS. Joachim and Anne embracing at the Golden Gate after being told by angels that they would conceive a daughter who would become the mother of the Messiah.