

- BLESSING BAGS:

The Thanksgiving Dinner project of two weeks ago provided a full meal, everything needed for a full thanksgiving day table, to 200 families. Thank you to those who participated and contributed. As I mentioned on Sunday, while we may not be able to gather together as a whole parish in worship and in the Agape Meal, the Thanksgiving Dinner project shows how much we CAN do and how much blessing there is in the work, during COVID for the good of our neighbors. So, let's set our aim on another charitable project: we annually assemble and distribute "Blessing Bags" for the homeless. Contained in these kits are combs, wipes, toothbrush and toothpaste, a gift card, a rain poncho, a prayer card, protein bars, water bottle, and other items. We can put together 50, 100 or 200 kits, depending on how many folks get involved and what kind of budget we establish. The kits are distributed by the Redwood Gospel Mission and by parish members who have them ready to give to a person in need that they meet. This project needs a manager this year. Denise Pellizzer has organized it for several years now, but cannot this year, although she's very happy to help us get it started. If you are interested in managing this worthy project, please email me or Denise Pellizzer, and we will get it started. Fr Lawrence: [Lmargitich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lmargitich@sbcglobal.net)  
Denise: [accentoncolor@gmail.com](mailto:accentoncolor@gmail.com)

- DECEMBER 9, FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN:

Each December 9th the Church remembers the day of the [Conception of the Virgin Mary](#), by her parents Sts. Joachim and Anna. She who would become the mother of the Savior was conceived like everyone else. She was not exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son (Pope Pius IX). Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his *Commentary on Luke*. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. [Click HERE](#) for a sermon about this Feast Day.

- ON PRAYER:

Do not pray that things may be according to your desires, for they are not always in keeping with the will of God. Better pray as you were taught, saying: "Thy will be done" on me (Matt. 6:10). And ask thus about all things, for He always desires what is good and profitable for your soul, whereas you do not always seek it. —*St. Nilus of Sinai*

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



## December 6

### St. Nicholas of Myra



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

- TROPARION OF ST. NICHOLAS, Tone Four:

The Truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness and a teacher of temperance; for this cause, thou hast achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master, Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ.

- KONTAKION OF ST. NICHOLAS, Tone Three:

Thou, O righteous Nicholas, in Myra truly wast shown forth as a sacred minister fulfilling Christ's holy Gospel; for thou didst lay down thy life for thy flock and people and, O Saint, didst save the innocent from unjust death. Wherefore, thou wast sanctified as a great initiate of the divine grace of God.

### ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Dec. 5: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Sabbas the Sanctified  
3:30 PM, Catechism: *On the Virgin Mary*  
5 PM, Vespers with Litya / Confessions
- Sunday, Dec. 6: 8:30 AM, Resurrectional Matins  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy (Women's Quartet)
- Monday, Dec. 7: 7 PM, Men's Group at the Firepit
- Tuesday, Dec. 8: 5 PM, Vespers, Feast of the Conception of the Theotokos
- Wednesday, Dec. 9: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of the Conception of the Theotokos  
4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank  
5 PM, Vespers  
7 PM, Online Study of the Messiah prophecies
- Thursday, Dec. 10: 9 AM, Akathist of the Protection of the Theotokos (in the Cathedral)
- Friday, Dec. 11: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, Dec. 12: 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Spyridon  
5 PM, Vigil of the Resurrection, the Holy Ancestors and St. Herman of Alaska

- REMINDER:

Our Parish Photo Phone Directory is a wonderful resource: use it as a prayer list, and offer a prayer for each person listed, or use it to call those in the parish that you might not see regularly or at all. If you don't have a Directory, call the office at 707-584-9491 and leave a message for Bobbi Griovski.

- FESTAL GREETINGS:

May the Lord bless all those who bear the name of the great Bishop St. Nicholas of Myra: Priest Nicholas, Reader and Choir Master Nicholas, Gloria Colleen Collins, Nicole Myles, Nicholas Nicholson, Nikolay Sarmadzhiev and Noula Daya, Alex Nicholas Stameroff, as well as Ambrose Brodeur (on Monday). Many Years.

- RANDOM THOUGHTS:

Each December 6th we celebrate the life and fatherly care of St Nicholas, not because he was a good, charitable, generous, faithful bishop. He has those qualities, only because he had the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22ff). The [Epistle of the day](#) lays that out for us. The famous generosity of Saint Nicholas, and his deep love for his flock, was fueled by his love for Christ. He emptied himself for his flock, and was again filled and nourished at the Divine Liturgy. Saint Nicholas reminds us to live a new way: to "attain to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... [and] to grow up in every way into him who is the head..." (Ephesians 4: 13-15). His life reminds us that we don't need to be a bishop or have an official position in the Church hierarchy. Of course the church is hierarchical, surely it must be; yet it is also *just as much* charismatic—i.e. those whose lives are animated by the Holy Spirit of God are leaders too. We don't need a red Santa outfit, we don't need a bag of toys. What we need is a giving and loving heart, a soul that is always seeking God's will, a love of our Holy Orthodox Faith, to be willing to "step up" to serve the Church community and to serve the poor when called upon by God. Like St. Nicholas, we will gradually attain the "heights of heaven by humility." Today especially (and every Thursday of each week) we ask the prayers and help of St. Nicholas. —*Fr Lawrence*

- VESPERS HYMN IN HONOR OF ST. NICHOLAS:

O Father Nicholas, thou art the fragrant temple of the all-Holy Spirit, a fountain flowing with the myrrh of gladness, the divine spices of Christ. For thou hast gone out into all the earth as an imitator of the Apostles, through the telling of thy wonders. Thou hast appeared in dreams to people far and near, delivering those who were to die unjustly from the sword, and saving from dangers those who call on thee. As we praise thee unceasingly, set us free from approaching calamities by thine intercessions!