

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule of Services and Classes

Sat. Jan 14	5 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. Jan 15	11 am	Divine Liturgy <i>followed by Parish Picnic at the Jones Home in Buckeye</i>
Wed. Jan 18	8:30 am	Royal Hours for Theophany
	6 pm	Festal Vigil Eve Theophany
Thurs. Jan. 19	10 am	Festal Liturgy Theophany <i>w/ Great Blessing of Waters</i>

Be sure to pick up your 2023 ASONA Parish Calendar today!

Sunday, January 15 - ASONA Parish Picnic and Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars. On Sunday, Jan. 15 we will depart immediately after Liturgy (no Coffee Hour) for the Jones Household. Maps and directions will be published. Prepare for a fantastic parish event!

If you, or someone you know, needs to take our **New Member Class**, be sure Fr. John has your email for the link. It is an Online Class, and everyone wishing to join our parish must take this class.

REMEMBER, PRAY FOR PEACE,
PRAY FOR EACH OTHER,
AND PREPARE

FLOCKNOTE. Did you know - you must personally sign up for the Flocknote texts and emails (see below). If you do not add your name to Flocknote, you will be removed after a month. Please add your name and phone number! Go to ASONA.flocknote.com and sign up online!

Sign up easily! Text ASONA to 84576

stay up to date via email or text alerts - *Remember to add your name*

ALL SAINTS OF
ORTHODOX

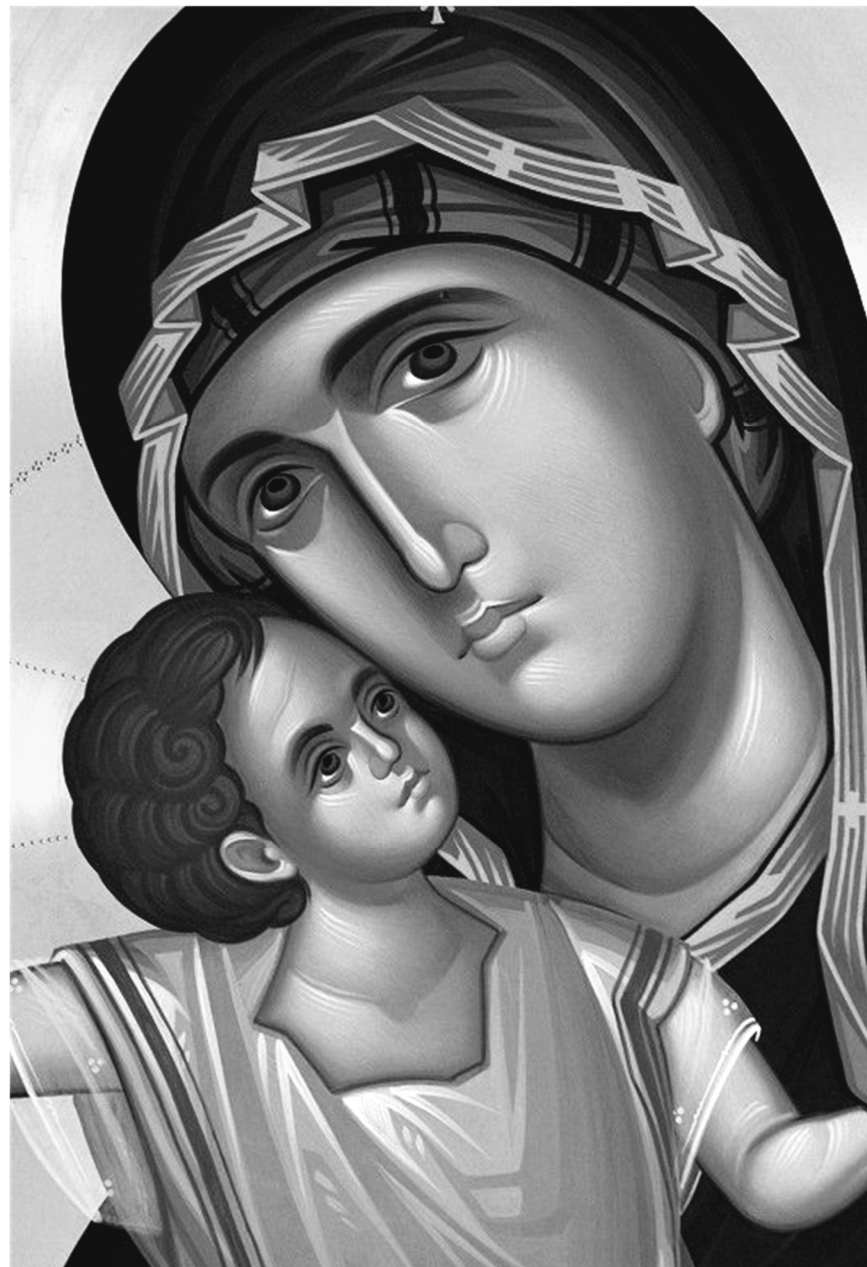


NORTH AMERICA
CHURCH

SUN. JAN. 8, 2023

SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY

TONE 5



Prokeimenon in Tone 5 (Ps 12)

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever!

v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

In the 4th Tone:

Wondrous is God in His Saints!

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 1:11-19

Brethren, I make known to you, that the Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.+

Alleluia in Tone 5 (Ps 89)

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy Truth from generation to generation.

Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and my Truth will be prepared in the heavens.

And in the 4th Tone:

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness!

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-23

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*" Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "*A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.*" Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "*He shall be called a Nazarene.*"+





IMPORTANT DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Pre-Lent begins at the end of this month!

Sun. January 29	Zacchaeus Sunday
Sun. February 5	Publican and Pharisee Sunday
Sun. February 12	Prodigal Son Sunday
Wed. February 15	Feast of the Meeting of the Lord
Sun. February 19	Universal Judgment (<i>Meatfare</i>)
Sun. February 26	Expulsion from Paradise (<i>Cheesefare</i>)
Mon. February 27	Great Lent Begins!
Fri. April 7	Feast of Annunciation
Sat. April 8	Lazarus Saturday
Sun. April 9	Feast of Palm Sunday/ <i>Holy Wk begins</i>
Fri. April 14	Great and Holy (Good) Friday
Sat. April 15	Holy Saturday/Paschal Vigil
Sun. April 16	PASCHA!

Christ is born!

Glorify Him!



Let all the earth shall worship thee, and praise thee;
they shall praise name, O Most High.

SAINTS ALIVE

The lives and deeds of the heroes of our faith

ST. NIKEPHOROS THE LEPER

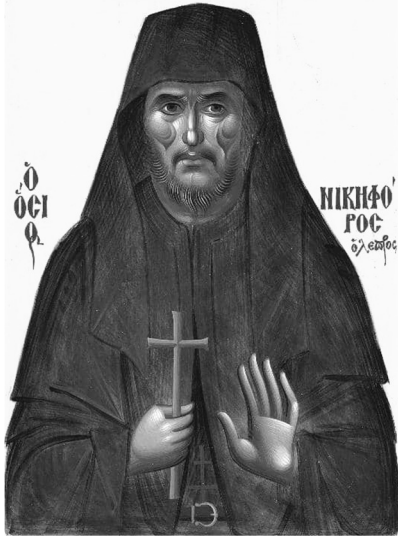
Father Nikephoros (Nicholas Tzanakakis in the world) was born in 1890 in a mountainous village in Khania, Crete.

His parents were simple and pious villagers, who died when he was still a young child, leaving him as an orphan. So, at the age of thirteen, he left his home. His grandfather, who had undertaken to raise him, went to Khania to work there in a barber shop in order to learn the job. Then he showed the first signs of Hansen's disease, (i.e. leprosy). The lepers were isolated on the island of Spinalonga because leprosy was a contagious disease and it was treated with fear and dismay.

Nicholas was sixteen years old when signs of the disease began to become more conspicuous, so he left on a boat to Egypt in order to avoid being confined to Spinalonga. He remained in Alexandria, working in a barber shop again, but the signs of the disease became more and more apparent, especially on his hands and face. That is why, through the intervention of a cleric, he went to Chios, where there was a church for lepers at that time, and the priest was Father Anthimos Vagianos, later Saint Anthimos (February 15).

Nicholas arrived in Chios in 1914 at the age of twenty-four. In the leper hospital of Chios, which was a complex with many homesteads, there was a chapel of Saint Lazarus, where the wonderworking icon of Panagia Ypakoe¹ (Feb. 2) was kept. In this space, the course of virtues was opened for Nicholas. Within two years Saint Anthimos considered him ready for the angelic Schema and tonsured him with the name Nikephoros. The disease progressed and evolved in the absence of suitable drugs, causing many large lesions (a drug was found in 1947).

Father Nikephoros lived with unquestioning, genuine obedience to his Spiritual Father, and with austere fasting, working in the gardens. He also recorded



the miracles of Saint Anthimos, which he had witnessed with his own eyes (many of these were related to the deliverance of those possessed by demons).

There was a special spiritual relationship between Saint Anthimos and the monk Nikephoros, who always remained close to him, as Father Theoklitos Dionysiatis writes in his book Saint Anthimos of Chios. Father Nikephoros prayed at night for hours on end making countless metanias, he did not quarrel with anyone, nor injure anyone's heart, and he was the master chanter of the temple. Because of his illness, however, he slowly lost his sight, and so he chanted the troparia and the Epistles from memory.

The Chios leprosarium was closed in 1957 and the remaining patients, together with Father Nikephoros, were sent to Saint Barbara's home for lepers in Athens, in Aigaleo. At that time, Father Nikephoros was about 67 years old. His members and his eyes were completely altered and distorted by the disease.

There, Father Eumenios also lived there at the home for lepers. He also suffered from Hansen's disease, but with the medication he received, he was completely cured. However, he decided to remain in the home for lepers for the rest of his life near his fellow sufferers, caring for them with much love. Thus he submitted to Father Nikephoros, to whom the Lord had given many gifts as a reward for his patience. A crowd of people gathered in the humble cell of the leper Nikephoros, in Saint Barbara in Aigaleo to obtain his prayers. Here are some testimonies of those who met him:

"He had the charisma of consoling those who were sad. His eyes were permanently irritated, and he had limited sight. He also had stiffness in his hands and paralysis in his lower limbs. Nonetheless, he endured all of this in the sweetest, meek, smiling, delightful way, and he was also pleasant and lovable."

Father Nikephoros reposed on January 4, 1964 at the age of 74. After three years, his holy relics were exhumed and found to be fragrant. Father Eumenios and other believers reported many cases where miracles occurred by calling on Saint Nikephoros to intercede with God.

The life of Saint Nikephoros was a brilliant example and model for everyone. He was pleasing to God because he had endured so much. St. Nikephoros has appeared to many in the last 3 years, promising to keep from harm and death those who ask him for help against the Covid virus/pandemic, encouraging them to attend Church services often.

Holy Father Nikephoros, pray unto God for us!

Glory to God for All Things!