

## MARTYR JOHN OF DAMASCUS

St. John was born around 680 at Damascus, Syria, into a Christian family. His father, Sergius Mansur, was a treasurer at the court of the Caliph. John and his foster brother received a good education. Sergius ransomed a slave from captivity, the learned monk Cosmas of Calabria, and entrusted the boys' education to him; they readily mastered their courses. After Sergius' death, John occupied ministerial posts at court and became the city prefect.

Iconoclasm was spreading in Constantinople, and John wrote 3 treatises, "Against Those who Revile the Holy Icons." The iconoclast emperor Leo III was enraged, so he plotted and sent the Caliph a forged letter supposedly from John, offering John's help to Leo in conquering the Syrian capital. The angry Caliph ordered that John removed from his post, that his right hand cut off, and that he be led through the city in chains.

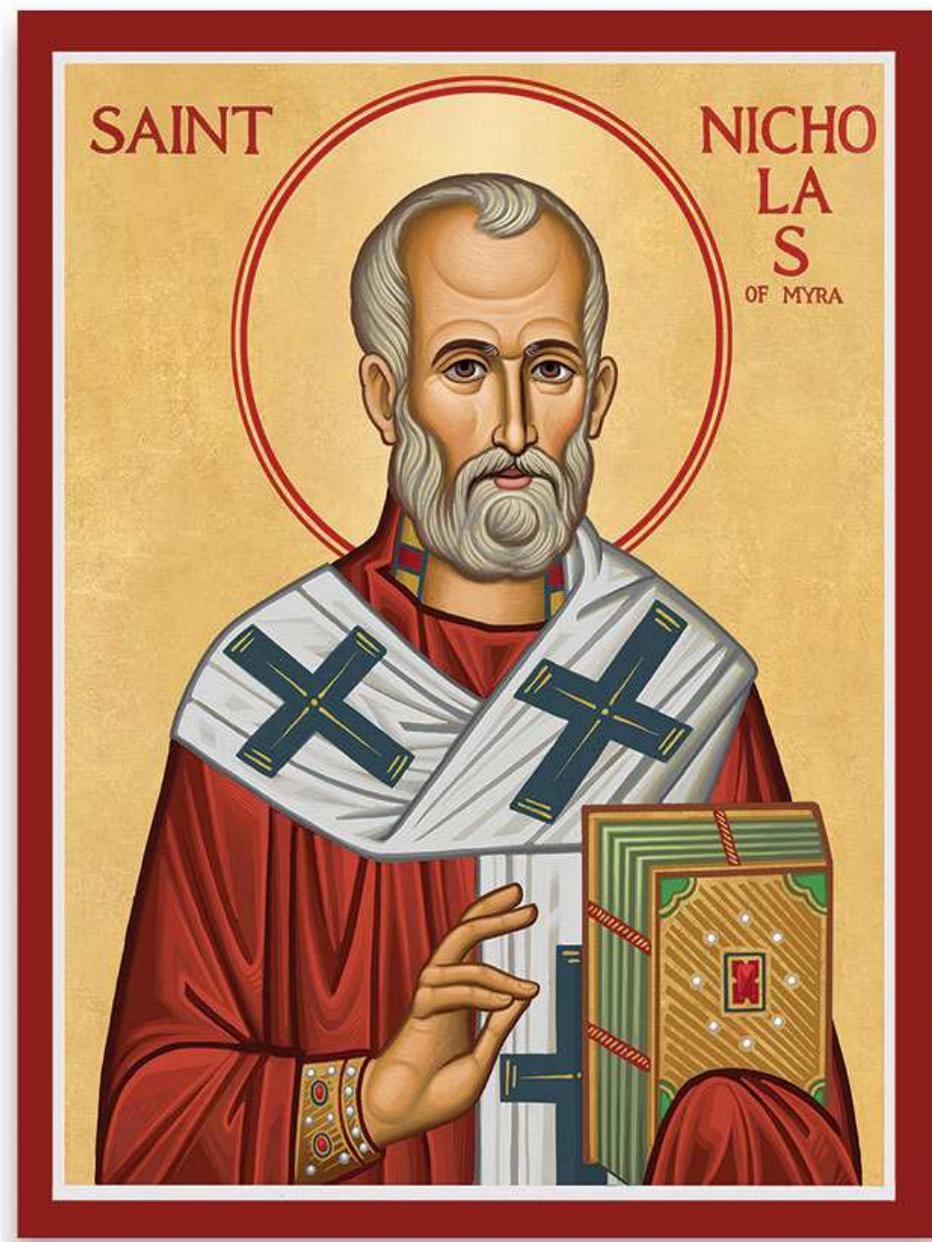
Others returned the severed hand to St. John. He pressed it to his wrist and prayed to the Theotokos, falling asleep in front of her icon. He heard her voice telling him he had been healed and to toil unceasingly with his restored hand. Only a small red mark around his wrist remained as a sign of the miracle.

When the Caliph heard, he asked forgiveness and wanted John restored to office, but St. John refused. He gave away his riches and went to Jerusalem with his brother. He entered the monastery of St. Savva the Sanctified as a simple novice.

The monks were daunted by his great learning and former rank, but one experienced Elder consented to be his spiritual guide. The Elder forbade John to do anything at all according to his own will and gave him various tasks to test his commitment. One of the monks died, and his brother begged St. John to compose something consoling for the service. John refused for a long time but finally took pity and consented, writing his renowned funeral troparia. For this disobedience, the Elder banished him from his cell. John fell at his feet, pleading for forgiveness. The other monks also pleaded for John to be allowed to return. Finally the Elder imposed a penance; if John wished to be forgiven, he must wash out all the chamber pots and clean the monastery latrines with his bare hands. This John eagerly and joyfully completed. Then, in a vision, the Elder was commanded by the Theotokos to allow St. John to write again.

When the Patriarch of Jerusalem heard of St. John, he ordained him priest and made him a preacher at his cathedral. But St. John soon returned to the Lavra, where he spent his life writing spiritual books and church hymns. He left only to denounce the iconoclasts at the Council of 754. They subjected him to imprisonment and torture, but he endured everything and remained alive, dying around the year 780.

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# THE TRINITARIAN

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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 5 - VOLUME LX

TONE 8

DECEMBER 4, 2022

## ***TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

*Greatmartyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana, at Heliopolis in Syria;*

*Ven. John of Damascus; St. John, Bishop of Polybotum;*

*Glorification of New Hieromartyr Protopresbyter Alexander Hotovitzky, missionary in America*

“Singing the praises of the Trinity, you followed God by enduring suffering; you renounced the multitude of idols, O holy martyr Barbara. In your struggles, you were not frightened by the threats of your torturers, but cried out in a loud voice: “I worship the Trinity in one God-head.”

Kontakion, Tone IV

“Let us sing praises to John, worthy of great honor, the composer of hymns, the star and teacher of the Church, the defender of her doctrines: through the might of the Lord’s Cross, he overcame heretical error and as a fervent intercessor before God, he entreats that forgiveness of sins may be granted to all.”

Kontakion, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:1-6

TODAY’S GOSPEL: LUKE 17:12-19

### **HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:**

Monday, December 5	6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
Tuesday, December 6	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Saturday, December 10	5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

### **WELCOME VISITORS!**

We are very glad you have come to worship the Holy Trinity with us this morning! Please participate in the services at your comfort level. Our greeters will kindly assist you with whatever questions or needs you may have. The communion of Christ’s Body and Blood is reserved for practicing Orthodox Christians. All are invited to come forward at the end of the service to receive the blessed bread. Please stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better!

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Monday, December 5 (St. Sabbas)	I Timothy 1:1-7 Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 20:27-44 Matthew 11:27-30
Tuesday, December 6	Hebrews 13:17-21	Luke 6:17-23
Wednesday, December 7	I Timothy 1:8-14 I Timothy 1:18-20; 2:8-15	Luke 21:12-19 Luke 21:5-7,10-11,20-24
Thursday, December 8	I Timothy 3:1-13	Luke 21:28-33
Friday, December 9 (St. Anna)	I Timothy 4:4-8,16 Galatians 4:22-31	Luke 21:37-22:8 Luke 8:16-21
Saturday, December 10	Galatians 3:8-12	Luke 13:18-29

**COMING EVENTS**

**DECEMBER:**

- 4, TODAY St. Nicholas Celebration - Lenten Potluck Brunch
- 5, Monday 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers
- 6, Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
- 11, Sunday Second Sunday Food Sale  
Parish Council meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Nativity Concert at St. Paul's Church
- 18, Sunday 3:00 p.m. Concert at St. Theodosius Cathedral

**SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SALE:**

We will have another Food Sale in December, so plan to visit the food tables after Divine Liturgy next Sunday. If you are able to cook or bake, please donate items. Many thanks to those who have faithfully worked to make this monthly fundraiser a success.

**LA COUPOLE OPEN HOUSE:**

Come in and browse the selection of unique gifts, Christmas cards and ornaments. All children's books are 20% off.

**NATIVITY CONCERT:**

The annual Nativity Concert with combined choirs of area Orthodox churches will be Sunday, December 11, at 5:00 p.m. Please plan to join us at St. Paul's Church at 4548 Wallings Rd. in North Royalton for this enjoyable evening. Admission is free and open to all! Free will donations will benefit local Orthodox ministries. Refreshments will be served in the Hellenic Center following the concert.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:**

Please remember to donate for flowers that will adorn our church during the Nativity season. There is an envelope in your box that you can use during the upcoming weeks.

**PARISH COUNCIL:**

The Parish Council will meet next Sunday after the Divine Liturgy.

**CONCERT AT ST. THEODOSIUS:**

On Sunday, December 18, St. Theodosius Cathedral will be open to all for tours - at 1:00 p.m.; and for a concert - at 3:00 p.m. The choir will present selections of liturgical music for the Nativity as well as from the yearly worship cycle. There will also be a sing-along of popular carols.

**FLOWERS:**

The flowers today are offered by Paul and Jane Gardner in blessed memory of William and Helen Chychlyk.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

There are many dates in the new year awaiting donors! Please sign up in the kitchen.

**TRINITARIAN COVERS:**

A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to offer covers in 2023. Your donation goes toward the printing costs of our weekly Trinitarian. Cost is \$10, or \$20 for Pascha and Christmas covers.

**THE "SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS"**

HTOC is collecting items during this Nativity season in cooperation with West Side Catholic Center to help clients in need. The list below is of desired items. Please bring your donation to church by December 11, as they will be picked up that day after the Divine Liturgy. There is a collection table in the Fellowship Hall.

Thick insulated gloves of all sizes

Men's boxer briefs, Med.-3X

Footed pajamas, size newborn to 5T

Diapers, sizes 4, 5, 6

Gift cards to Target, Kohl's and Giant Eagle; agency will use for necessary items

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

Bulletin 5 – Volume LX

December 4, 2022

**EPHREM THE SYRIAN**  
**HYMNS ON THE NATIVITY - HYMN 11**

1 Our Lord, no one knows  
how to address Your mother. [If] one calls her  
“virgin,”  
her child stands up, and “married”—  
no one knew her [sexually]. But if Your mother is  
incomprehensible, who is capable of  
[comprehending] You?

**Refrain: *Praise to You for Whom, as Lord of  
all, everything is easy.***

2 For she is Your mother—she alone—  
and Your sister with all. She was to You mother;  
she was to You sister. Moreover, she is Your  
betrothed  
with the chaste women. In everything,  
behold, You adorned her, Beauty of Your mother.

**Refrain: *Praise to You for Whom, as Lord of  
all, everything is easy.***

3 For she was betrothed according to nature  
before You came; yet she conceived  
outside of nature after You came,  
O Holy One, and she was a virgin  
although she gave birth to You chastely.

**Refrain: *Praise to You for Whom, as Lord of  
all, everything is easy.***

4 Mary acquired by You all the attributes  
of married women: conception within her  
without sexual union, milk in her breasts  
not in the usual way. You have suddenly made  
the parched earth into a source of milk.

**Refrain: *Praise to You for Whom, as Lord of  
all, everything is easy.***

5 If she carried You, Your great mountain  
lightened its burden. If she fed You  
[it was] because You hungered. If she gave You  
a drink  
[it was] because You willed to thirst. If she  
embraced You,  
the coal of mercy preserved her bosom.

**Refrain: *Praise to You for Whom, as Lord of  
all, everything is easy.***

6 A wonder is Your Mother: The Lord entered her  
and became a servant; He entered able to speak  
and He became silent in her; He entered her  
thundering  
and His voice grew silent; He entered Shepherd  
of all;  
a lamb He became in her; He emerged bleating.

**Refrain: *Praise to You for Whom, as Lord of  
all, everything is easy.***

7 The womb of Your mother overthrew the orders:  
The Establisher of all entered a Rich One;  
He emerged poor. He entered her a Lofty One;  
He emerged humble. He entered her a Radiant  
One,  
and He put on a despised hue and emerged.

**Refrain: *Praise to You for Whom, as Lord of  
all, everything is easy.***

8 He entered, a mighty warrior, and put on fear  
inside her womb. He entered, Nourisher of all,  
and He acquired hunger. He entered, the One  
who gives drink to all,  
and He acquired thirst. Stripped and laid bare,  
He emerged from [her womb], the One who  
clothes all.