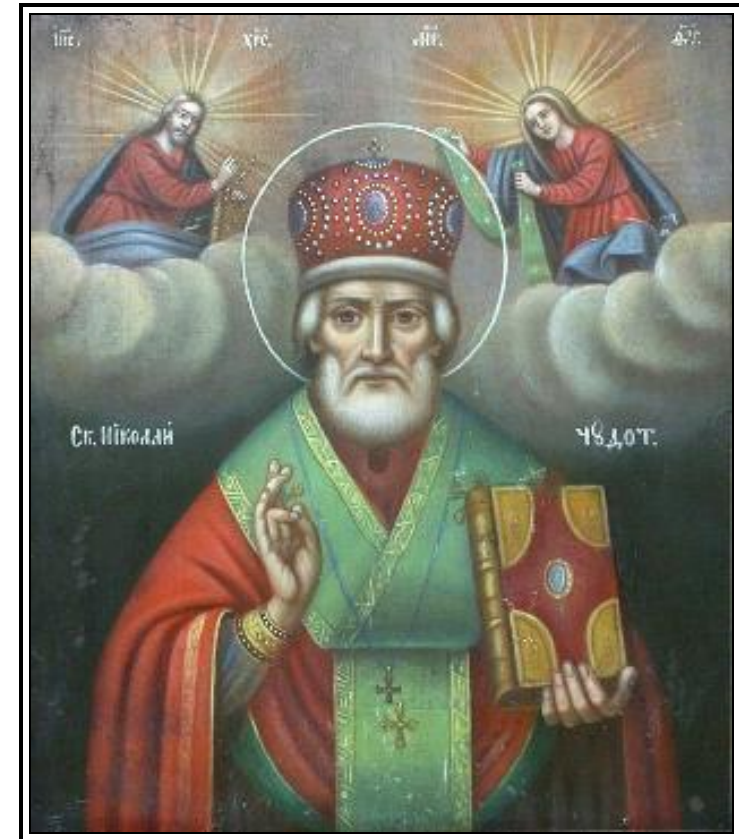


The Christian Emperor Justinian built a church in his honor at Constantinople in the suburb of Blacharnæ (location of the Church of the Protecting Veil – the Pokrov) about the year 340. He has always been honored with great veneration in the Latin and Greek Churches. The Russian Church seems to honor him more than any other saint after the Apostles.

PRAYER

O Saint Nicholas, bountiful Father and special Patron of our Byzantine Catholic Church, you are a shepherd and teacher to all who invoke your protection, and who, by devout prayer, call upon you for aid. Hasten and save the flock of Christ from ravenous wolves; and by your holy prayers protect all Christians saving them from worldly disturbances, earthquakes, attacks from abroad, from internal strife, from famine, flood, fire, sword, and sudden death. As you had mercy on those three generals in prison and saved them from the king's wrath, now also have mercy on me who by word, deed, and thought have sunk into the darkness of sin. Save me from the just anger of God, and from eternal punishment. Through your intercession and aid as well as through His own mercy and grace, may Christ our God allow me to lead a tranquil and sinless life, and save me from standing at «his left,» but deem me worthy to stand at «his right» with all the saints. Amen.

Our Holy Father Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, The Wonderworker



6 December

Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
4480 State Route 981
Latrobe, Pennsylvania
15650

6 December 2011

Divine Liturgy of our Holy Father Saint John Chrysostom

The Propers for the solemnity of Our Holy Father Nicholas
the Wonder-Worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
are located on PAGES 274 - 276 in your green pew book.

All the Laity are expected to exercise their universal priesthood
received at their Baptism and Chrismation by offering «the work
of the people» - The Liturgy - with full ministry of voice.



Hymn during the Great Incensation before the Divine Liturgy:
«O, Who Loves Nicolas»

The Epistle is taken from Hebrew 13: 17 – 21

Brethern: Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they
keep watch over you as men who must render an account. So act
that they may fulfill their task with joy, not with sorrow, for that
would be harmful to you. Pray for us; we are confident that we have
a good conscience, wishing, as we do, to act rightly in every
respect. I especially ask your prayers that I may be restored to
you very soon.

May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the
great Shepherd off the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant,
Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do
his will. To Christ be glory forever! Amen.



GOSPEL Luke 6:17 – 23

At that time, coming down the mountain with the Twelve, Jesus stopped at
a level stretch where there were many of His disciples; a large crowd of
people was with them from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coast of Tyre
and Sidon, people who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases.
Those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured; indeed, the
whole crowd was trying to touch Him because power went out from Him
which cured all. Then raising His eyes to His disciples, He said: «Blest are
you poor, the reign of God is yours. Blest are you who hunger; you shall be
filled. Blest are you who are weeping; you shall laugh. Blest shall you be
when men hate you, when they ostracise you and insult you and proscribe
your name as evil because of the Son of Man. On the day they do so,
rejoice and exult, for your reward shall be great in heaven.»



It is the common opinion that Saint Nicholas was a native of Patara in
Lycia, Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). He became a monk in the
monastery of Holy Zion near Myra. Of this house he was made Hegumen



or Abbot by the Archbishop, its founder. When the See of
Myra, the capital of Lycia, fell vacant, St. Nicholas was
appointed its Archbishop. It is said that he suffered for
the Faith under the Emperor Diocletian, and that he was
present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea (325) as
an opponent of Arianism. His death occurred at Myra in
the year 342.

The characteristic virtue of Saint Nicholas appears to
have been his charity for the poor. It is also related that he
greatly disciplined his body and was abstemious from his
very infancy. Saint Nicholas is regarded as the special
patron of children, and our well-known Santa Claus (from the Dutch) is a
corruption of Saint Nicholas.