

## Welcome to St Nicholas

**We welcome all of our visitors! Please fill out a visitor card and take a coffee mug. Please join us for "Trapeza" down the street and get to know us!**

Parents, please SUPERVISE your children after church. Accompany them to the hall and to their classes. At the hall, children should play INSIDE the fences behind the building, not in the front or all over the property.

- The Brotherhood will be having a meeting today on the deck during trapeza to discuss ways for us to contribute to the parish community, and any interested men are welcome to join.
- From the youth group leaders: Our first meeting is Wednesday Sep 6th in the hall from 7pm-8:30pm. We'll be having some snacks, playing ice breaker games, and having fun.
- We are currently testing the first few pages of a new website for the Church at <https://new.orthodox.net>. Converting all of the pages over to the new format will be a gradual process since orthodox.net has been around since 1996! We will have a mix of new and old pages for some time, but please feel free to test out the new website and offer any feedback you have to [support@orthodox.net](mailto:support@orthodox.net). Also drop an email there if you would like to get involved with the website in some way. Basically, reworking orthodox.net is like overhauling an aircraft carrier.
- We are glad to announce that Sunday School for this year will begin on Sunday, September 17th! Registration is open for the children's classes. You can get a registration form from Vladimir, our new Sunday School registrar! There is an annual fee of \$20 for 1 child, \$30 for 2 children, and \$35 for 3 or more children. We are on the third year of our four-year curriculum rotation, so the primary theme is the Gospels, the life of Christ. Several classes also have an additional focus.

Please see service schedule on inside of bulletin

## Mitey Mites

**Collection for mortgage reduction**

## Saving Orthodox Piety

**Please remember that it is not sufficient to just come to Sunday Liturgy! If you wish to find salvation, you must be pursuing a conscious Orthodox Life, centered around prayer and fulfillment of God's commandments. You must be fighting the passions of your soul and body with the aid of frequent confession, and communion as often as your confessor advises.**



# St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

**ROGOR Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America**



**September 3 / Aug 21, 2023  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy  
Апостола от 70-ти Фаддея**

### **Apostle Thaddeus, Troparion in Tone IV.**

О holy Apostle Thaddeus, witness of God, / Who appeared in the flesh for our sake, / you brought the light of saving grace to those in darkness / and were revealed as an excellent physician to those in Edessa. / Wherefore shelter those who fervently seek you..

### **Ап. от 70-ти Фаддея. Тропарь, глас 2.**

Днесъ Едѣс град веселѣтся, / приѣм тобою Крещѣния баню, / и Авгарь, страстей пременѣн, твою пѣмѣть слѣвит. / С нѣмиже поѣм и мы: / весѣлія духовнаго испѣлни живѣт наш / и страсти исцѣли, / Фаддѣе апѣстоле, молѣтвами твоими.

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## Services this week

<b>Mon 9/4</b>	<b>6:30am</b>	<b>Matins</b>
<b>Tue 9/5</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Vespers</b>
<b>Wed 9/6</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy</b>
<b>Wed 9/6</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Vespers</b>
<b>Thu 9/7</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy</b>
<b>Thu 9/7</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Vespers, Moleben with Akathist to St Nicholas</b>
<b>Fri 9/8</b>	<b>6am</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy</b>
<b>Sat 9/9</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Confessions (please sign up)</b>
<b>Sat 9/9</b>	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Vigil, followed by Confessions</b>
<b>Sun 9/10</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Confessions (please sign up)</b>
<b>Sun 9/10</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Hours and Liturgy, Trapeza, Catechism class</b>
<b>Sun 9/10</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Vigil for Beheading of St John the Forerunner</b>

Please visit our website, [orthodox.net](http://orthodox.net), to find links for the calendar and confession sign-ups. Donations can be made via PayPal or by check.

## Scripture Readings

**Mark 16:1-8** (2nd Matins Gospel)

**1 Corinthians 16:13-24**

**Matthew 21:33-42**

Orthodox calendar on [holytrinityorthodox.com](http://holytrinityorthodox.com) or app

## Lives of Saints

### Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy (+44)

Saint Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy, was by descent a Hebrew, and he was born in the Syrian city of Edessa. The holy Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy must be distinguished from Saint Jude, also called Thaddeus or Levi (Comm. June 19), who was one of the Twelve Apostles.

When he came to Jerusalem for a feastday, he heard the preaching of John the Forerunner. After being baptized by him in the Jordan, he remained in Palestine. He saw the Savior, and became His follower. He was chosen by the Lord to be one of the Seventy Disciples, whom He sent by twos to preach in the cities and places where He intended to visit (Luke 10: 1).

After the Ascension of the Savior to Heaven, Saint Thaddeus preached the good news in Syria and Mesopotamia. He came preaching the Gospel to Edessa and he converted King Abgar, the people and the pagan priests to Christ. He backed up his preaching with many miracles (about which Abgar wrote to the Assyrian emperor Nerses). He established priests there and built up the Edessa Church.

Prince Abgar wanted to reward Saint Thaddeus with rich gifts, but he refused and went preaching to other cities, converting many pagans to the Christian Faith. He went to the city of Beirut to preach, and he founded a church there. It was in this city that he peacefully died in the year 44. (The place of his death is indicated as Beirut in the Slavonic MENAION, but according to other sources he died in Edessa. According to an ancient Armenian tradition, Saint Thaddeus, after various tortures, was beheaded by the sword on December 21 in the Artaz region in the year 50).

### Venerable Abramius, archimandrite, wonderworker of Smolensk (+1224)

The Monk Avraamii (Abraham) of Smolensk, a preacher of repentance and the impending Dread Last Judgement, was born in the mid XII Century at Smolensk to rich parents. From childhood he grew up in the fear of God; he was often in church and had the opportunity to read books. The parents hoped that their only son would enter into marriage and continue their illustrious lineage, but he sought after a different life. After the death of his parents, having given away all his wealth to monasteries, to churches and to the destitute, the saint walked through the city in rags, beseeching God to show him the way to salvation.

He accepted tonsure in a monastery of the Most Holy Mother of God, five versts from Smolensk, at the locale of Selischa. Having passed through various obediences there, the monk fervently occupied himself with the copying of books, culling spiritual riches from them. The Smolensk prince Roman Rostislavich (+1170) started a school in the city, in which they taught not only in Slavonic, but also out of Greek and Latin books. The prince himself had a large collection of books, which the Monk Avraamii made use of. He had asceticised for more than 30 years at the monastery, when in the year 1198 the hegumen persuaded him to accept the dignity of presbyter. Every day he made Divine Liturgy and fulfilled the obedience of clergy not only for the brethren, but also for the laypeople.

Soon the monk became widely known. This aroused the envy of the brethren, and then of the hegumen also, and 5 years later the monk was compelled to transfer to the Exaltation of the Cross monastery in Smolensk itself. From the offerings by the devout he embellished the cathedral church of the poor monastery with icons, and with curtains and candle-stands. He himself inscribed two icons on the themes which most of all concerned him: on the one he depicted the Dread Last Judgement, and on the other – the suffering of the trials of life. Lean and pale from extreme toil, the ascetic in priestly garb resembled in appearance Saint Basil the Great. The saint was strict both towards himself and towards his spiritual children. He preached constantly in church and to those coming to him in his cell, conversing with rich and poor alike.

The city notables and the clergy demanded of Bishop Ignatii to bring the monk to trial, accusing him in the seduction of women and the tempting of his spiritual children. But even more terrible were the accusations against him of heresy and the reading of forbidden books. For this they proposed to drown or burn the ascetic. At the trial by the prince and the bishop, the monk answered all the false accusations, but despite this, they forbade him to serve as a priest and returned him to his former monastery. A terrible drought occurred in consequence of God's wrath over the unjust sentence, and only when Sainted Ignatii put forth a pardon of the Monk Avraamii permitting him to serve and preach, did the rain again fall on the Smolensk lands.

The bishop Saint Ignatii built a new monastery in honor of the Placing of the Robe of the Most Holy Mother of God, and he entrusted the guidance of it to the Monk Avraamii, and he himself settled into it, having retired because of age from the diocese. Many were desirous to enter under the guidance of the Monk Avraamii, but he examined them very intensely and only after great investigation, so that at his monastery there were but 17 brethren. The Monk Avraamii, after the death of Saint Ignatii, having become his spiritual friend, even more so than before urged the brethren to reminisce about death and to pray day and night, that they be not condemned in the Judgement by God. Saint Avraamii died in the year 1224.