

St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral

Stavropigia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyiv Patriarchate

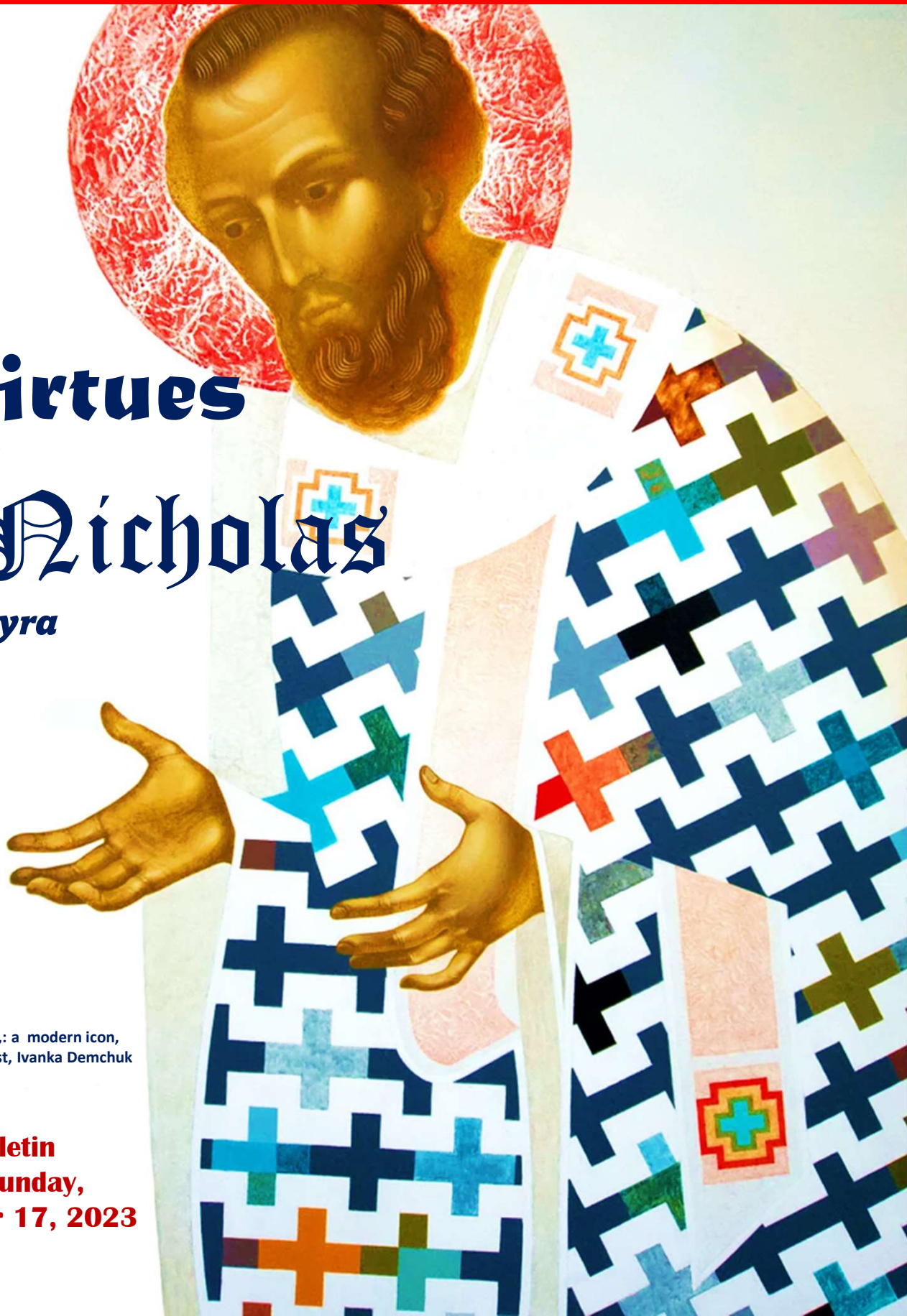
817 N. 7th Street, Philadelphia – stnicholaseoc.org

The Virtues of St. Nicholas

Bishop of Myra

"Saint Nicholas; a modern icon,
by Ukrainian artist, Ivanka Demchuk

**Bulletin
for Sunday,
December 17, 2023**

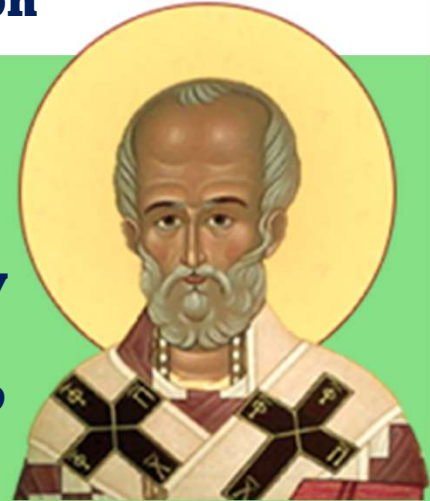




The fictitious, jolly, red-suited Santa Claus, who brings gifts on Christmas Day, is based on the life and virtues of the

VERY REAL

Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, who lived in the 4th Century (270-343). Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, St. Nicholas is also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker.



St. Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, travelers, orphans, children – *and our Cathedral.*

His Feast Day is Tuesday, December 19, 2023, and we will celebrate his memory on Sunday, December 17, 2023, with a Moleben following Divine Liturgy, and then at our annual Patron Saint Lunch in the Cathedral Hall.

St. Nicholas exemplified Christ-like virtues during his lifetime:

**FAITH,
GENEROSITY,
COMPASSION,
KINDNESS,
CHARITY,
OUTREACH,
LOVE**



Congratulations to Nicholas Philipp, Nicholas Borriello, Nicholas Janoczkin, Nicholas Pawlow and all those named Nicholas in our Parish and in our lives on the Feast Day of St. Nicholas!



On Sunday, December 17, we also celebrate the

- ❖ **106th Anniversary of St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral**
 - ❖ **7th Anniversary of Bishop Luke as Rector of St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral; and his**
 - ❖ **2nd Anniversary of Ordination to Vicar Bishop**
- You are invited to this joyous celebration!***

❧ PROGRAM ❧

In the Sanctuary

- ❖ **Vesting of Bishop Luke at 9:00 AM**
- ❖ **Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at 9:15 AM**
- ❖ **Moleben to St. Nicholas following Divine Liturgy**
- ❖ **St. Nicholas Patriarchal Choir Sings Hymns to St. Nicholas**

In the Cathedral Hall

- ❖ **Blessing of Food by Bishop Luke at 11:00 AM**
 - ❖ **Patron Saint Nicholas Lunch**
 - ❖ **Santa Claus is coming to town!**

Tickets: \$25

No charge for children under age 12

All ticket sales benefit the St. Nicholas Cathedral Building Fund

**THANK YOU to Vicki Borriello, her family and friends
for donating and preparing the meal.**

Please text or call Vicki to RSVP: 610-357-5474

**THANK YOU to Alex and Nicholas Janoczkin for being
great elves and donating the gifts for Santa's bag!**



LIVES OF THE SAINTS



**Congratulations to Barbara Latsios,
Barbara McMonigle, Barbara Marozzi
– and all those named Barbara
in our Parish and in our lives
on the Feast Day of St. Barbara!**

**Feast Day of
Saint Barbara
Sunday, Dec. 17**

*St. Nicholas Cathedral is
blessed to have
St. Barbara's relics.*

Holy Great Martyr Barbara lived and suffered during the reign of Emperor Maximian (305-311). Her pagan father, Dioscorus, was a rich man in the Syrian city of Heliopolis. After the death of his wife, he devoted himself to his only daughter. Seeing Barbara's extraordinary beauty, Dioscorus hid her from the eyes of strangers. He built a tower for Barbara, where only her pagan teachers were allowed to see her. But eventually Barbara began to ask herself questions about the Creator of the beautiful world she saw from her tower window.



She became convinced that the idols her father and teachers worshipped were merely the work of human hands and could not have created the world. The desire to know the true God so consumed her soul that Barbara decided to devote all her life to this goal and spend her life as a virgin. The fame of her beauty spread throughout the city, and many sought her hand in marriage. But despite the entreaties of her father, she refused all of them. Barbara warned her father that his persistence might end tragically and separate them forever. Dioscorus decided that the temperament of his daughter had been affected by her life of seclusion. He therefore permitted her to leave the tower and gave her full freedom in her choice of friends and acquaintances. This was how Barbara met young Christian maidens in the city, and they taught her about the Creator of the world, the Trinity and the Divine Logos. Through the providence of God, a priest arrived in Heliopolis from Alexandria disguised as a merchant. After instructing her in the mysteries of the Christian faith, he baptized Barbara, and then returned to his own country.

During this time a luxurious bathhouse was being built at the house of Dioscorus. By his orders the workers prepared to install two windows. But Barbara, taking advantage of her father's absence, asked them to make a third window, thereby forming a Trinity of light. On one of the walls of the bathhouse Barbara traced a cross with her finger. The cross was deeply etched into the marble as if by an iron tool. Later, her footprints were imprinted on the stone steps of the bathhouse. The water of the bathhouse had great healing power.

When Dioscorus returned and expressed dissatisfaction about the change in his building plans, his daughter told him how she had come to know the Triune God, the saving power of the Son of God, and the futility of worshipping idols. Dioscorus went into a rage and grabbed a sword. Barbara fled before he could strike her. After a long and fruitless search for his daughter, two shepherds directed him to the cave where Barbara was hiding. Dioscorus beat his daughter terribly and then placed her under guard attempting to wear her down with hunger. Finally he handed her over to Martianus, the prefect of the city. They beat Saint Barbara fiercely. By night Saint Barbara prayed fervently, and the Savior Himself appeared and healed her wounds. She continued to suffer even more torments at the hand of her father. In the end, Dioscorus himself executed Saint Barbara. The wrath of God was quick to punish both torturers, Martianus and Dioscorus. They were killed after being struck by lightning.

Source: oca.org

In the 6th Century the relics of the holy Great Martyr Barbara were transferred to Constantinople. 600 years later, they were transferred to Kyiv by Barbara, the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenos, who married the Ukrainian Prince Michael Izyaslavich. They rest now at Kyiv's Saint Vladimir Patriarchal Cathedral and in our own St. Nicholas Cathedral. His Holiness Patriarch Philaret blessed the transfer of some of Saint Barbara's relics to St. Nicholas Cathedral, and they were hand-delivered from Kyiv by Bishop Luke in June 2017.

**ALTAR CANDLES LIT TODAY
In Memory Of Beloved
Parents**

HELEN

on the 5th Anniversary of her passing

and

STEPHEN

on the 16th Anniversary of his passing

*Offered by Judy and Tom Hanney
and Family*

Memory



Stephen and Helen Sameruck

Eternal

Schedule of Services



Saturday, December 16	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, December 17	8:45 am: Reading of the Hours 9:00 am: Vesting 9:15 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, followed by Moleben to St. Nicholas and Patron Saint Lunch in the Cathedral Hall
Saturday, December 23	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, December 24	8:45 am: Reading of the Hours 9:00 am: Vesting 9:15 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy
Saturday, December 30	5:00 pm: Vespers
Sunday, December 31	8:45 am: Reading of the Hours 9:00 am: Vesting 9:15 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy
Saturday, January 6 CHRISTMAS EVE	5:00 pm: Holy Supper in the Cathedral Hall 6:30 pm: Vespers; Confession; followed by the Patriarchal Choir singing Christmas Carols
Sunday, January 7 CHRISTMAS DAY	8:45 am: Reading of the Third Hour 9:00 am: Vesting 9:15 am: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, followed by the Patriarchal Choir singing Christmas Carols and Christmas Lunch in the Cathedral Hall



SUNDAY VIGIL CANDLES LIT TODAY

1. For the health of my nephew, Chris Kavchok, offered by Diane Kavchok and Family
2. For the health of Ellen and Phil Hanavin, Love, Susan
3. For the health of Ray McNulty, on his birthday, Love, Judy, Tom and Family
4. For the health of Nicki McMonigle, on her birthday, offered by the Sisterhood
5. For the health of our daughter, Nicki McMonigle, on her birthday, offered by Mom and Dad McMonigle
6. For the health and speedy recovery of Barbara Latsios, offered by Barbara and Jim McMonigle
7. For the health and speedy recovery of Barbara Latsios, offered by the Murphy Family
8. For the health of Renee Murphy on her birthday, offered by Diane Kavchok
9. For the health and speedy recovery of Ron Healey, Love, Mom and Dad
10. For the health of Susan Guz, Love, Ellen and Phil
11. In memory of Helen Sameruck, Love, Ellen and Phil



CATHEDRAL COUNCIL

- Thomas J. Hanney, President
- Susan Guz, Vice-President
- Ellen Hanavin, Treasurer
- Frank Borriello, Secretary

ST. NICHOLAS PATRIARCHAL CHOIR

- Eve Edwards, Soprano
- Nancy Stott Trauger, Alto
- Nathaniel McEwen, Tenor
- Andrew Bowling, Bass
- Susan Guz, Choir Director

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

- Thomas J. Hanney
- Susan Guz
- Alex Janoczkin
- George Latsios
- Frank Murphy



CLERGY

Bishop Luke (Zhoba) of Philadelphia,
Rector, St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral
V. Rev. Father Oleksii Kacharai

St. Nicholas Patriarchal Stavropigia Orthodox Cathedral
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Email sneoc100@gmail.com to contribute information to this Bulletin. Info must be received by 9 am on WEDNESDAY to be published in the Sunday Bulletin.
Editor-Publisher: Susan Guz

Happy Birthday



On Sunday, December 10, 2023, Bishop Luke, Father Oleksii and parishioners sang **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** to Renee Murphy, who celebrates her birthday on **Tuesday, December 12.** Many more happy and healthy years!

'TIS THE Season OF Giving



*Are the St. Nicholas Cathedral
CLERGY on your list?*

This year you will find in your weekly envelope box a “Special Offering” envelope for Clergy. This is the perfect time of year to show your appreciation to Bishop Luke, Father Oleksii – and Patriarch Philaret – for any spiritual guidance, advice, compassion, friendship, kindness or special help you may have received from them during the year.

You can indicate on the envelope to whom your gift is intended – and either hand it directly to Bishop Luke or Father Oleksii or leave it at the candle room window. You can also sign your name – or remain anonymous.



“Freely you have
received; freely give.
Matthew 10:8

NATIVITY FAST



The Orthodox Church prepares its faithful to welcome the Nativity of Christ in a worthy manner by means of a 40-day Nativity fast, which lasts from November 28 to January 7.

Let us journey toward the Feast of the Nativity with joyous hearts! Fast not only from food, but also from hatred and fear. Repent. Do good and be kind to all. Forgive. Be generous. Give alms. In all things, give glory to God.

PIEROGI and HALUSHKI for the holidays – while they last!

Prices: \$12/dozen for potato/cheese pierogi. \$8/quart for halushki.

Order online: stnicholaseoc.org/donate/pierogi-special



Christmas Vigils

- Christmas Vigils will be published in the Sunday, January 7th edition of the Bulletin and lit in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, Saturday, January 6, and Christmas Day, Saturday, January 7.
- For those of you who arranged for Christmas vigils in past years, please look for an email soon from Diane Kavchok confirming your information. For our newcomers: please contact Diane – kavchokd@aol.com – to give her the names for your vigils.

There were 206 Christmas vigils illuminating the Sanctuary last year!



ANNUAL VIGIL CANDLES LIT AT EVERY SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

1. +The Repose of the soul of Carol Dantine, offered by David Dantine, Jr. and Family. exp. 11/1/24
2. +The Repose of the souls of George and Barbara Wohar, offered by Barbara McMonigle and Family. exp. 11/1/24
3. +The Repose of the souls of John and Helen Guz; John and Mary Dzwonczyk; Paul and Anna Guz, offered by daughters/granddaughters Patricia Walker and Susan Guz. exp. 12/31/24
4. +The Repose of the souls of Helen and Michael Zaruba, and Christina and Christopher Natale. May Their Memory Be Eternal. Offered with love by Daughter/Sister/Aunt, Marcia O'Connor. exp. 10/1/26
5. +The Repose of the souls of All Members of the Sisterhood Fallen Asleep in the Lord, offered by the Sisterhood of the Pokrova. exp. 10/13/24
6. +The Repose of the souls of the Boljarevich Family, Anastasia (Nancy) Yarosh, Helen Kon, Helen and John "Whitey" Horbacz, Harry Mason, Sophie Gamble, Michael Zaruba and John Martin. PERPETUAL
7. +The Repose of the soul of my beloved husband, our devoted father and grandfather, Jack Kavchok. May his memory be eternal! Offered with love, Diane, John, Michael, Melissa, Makenzie, Riley and Kylie. exp. 8/1/24
8. +The Repose of the souls of Emil and Helen Levchenko offered by daughter, Ellen Hanavin. exp. 12/31/23
9. +The Repose of the souls of Irina and Michael Sierp, Konstantin, Olga, Lydia and Juris Teterski, Richard Boswell, and the health of all living members of the Teterski, Sierp, Boswell and Lis Families, offered by Susan Lis. exp. 10/18/24
10. +The Repose of the soul of our mother and grandmother, Helen Marx, offered by Victoria, Frank, Christopher, Stephanie, Julia, Nicholas, Krissy, Nathan and Morgan Borriello. exp. 4/19/24
11. +In memory of John and Susan Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/24
12. +In memory of Paul Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. Exp. 12/31/24
13. +In memory of Vera, Richard and Paul Wienckowski, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/24
14. +In memory of Evelyn Atlee, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 12/31/23
15. +In memory of Nadia Borriello, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 5/31/24
16. +In loving memory of our mother, Lillian Fox, and our sister, Karen Niehoff, offered by Renee Murphy and Gail Osborn & Families. exp. 9/1/24
17. +The Repose of the souls of the Kowal Family: Andrew, Paraskeva, Andrew, Catherine, Susan, John, Nionila, Anna, David, Franklin Shultz and Edward Barrett, offered by Drew Kowal. exp. 11/1/30
18. For the health of Mykhailo, Tetiana, David, Svitlana, Vitaliy, Marina, Viktor, Ilona, Bogdan, Oleksandra, Maksym, Volodymyr, Halyna, Victoria, Mykola, Bishop Luke and his family, Veronika, Tetiana, Oleksander, Diana-Olga, Hrustyna, Dimitriy, Diana; and +In memory of Mykhailo, Yaroslav, Anna, Petro, Bohdan and Hanna, offered by Michael, Tetiana and David Kuchmiak. exp. 12/31/23
19. +The Repose of the souls of Stephen and Helen V. Sameruck, offered by Barbara Latsios, Judy Hanney and families. exp. 10/25/24
20. +The Repose of the souls of Mary and Gregory Buckley. Memory Eternal. Offered by the children and grandchildren of the Buckley, Janoczkin and Wojnarowicz Families. exp. 12/31/24
21. +In memory of Alexander and Ewdokia Janoczkin and son Michail, offered by the Janoczkin, Wojnarowicz and Adams families. exp. 12/31/24
22. +In memory of Joseph and Mary Ann Visman, offered by Debbie and Michael. exp. 5/2/24
23. +In loving memory of newly-departed sister-in-law/aunt, Sandra Chelak, who passed away on April 18 and brother-in-law/uncle, George Chelak, who passed away on July 24. Memory Eternal. Offered by Dorothy Chelak, Denise Chelak and Nina Davis. exp. 5/21/24
24. +In loving memory of newly-departed brother-in-law/uncle, Paul Chelak, who passed away on November 17. With prayers for Paul's eternal rest and to comfort his beloved wife of 59 years, Adrienne, and children David, Gregory and Victoria and their families. Memory Eternal. Offered by Dorothy Chelak, Denise Chelak and Nina Davis. exp. 11/30/24

THE SCRIPTURE READING FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PRIEST: Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

READER: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The Prokeimenon in the 3rd Tone: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

CHOIR: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

READER: Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! Sing praises to our God, sing praises!

CHOIR: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: The reading is from the Galatians.

PRIEST: Let us attend!

READER: Brothers...But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. **(Galatians 3:23-29)**

PRIEST: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

READER: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: Wisdom!

READER: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! **CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

READER: In Thee, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame!
Be Thou a God of protection for me, a house of refuge, in order to save me!

CHOIR: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRIEST: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

CHOIR: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

PRIEST: Let us attend. So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him. Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' " And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." **(Mark 5:24-34)**

CHOIR: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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