



St. Nicholas

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December 16 2018

29th Sunday after Pentecost

Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Zephaniah

Nativity Fast sermon series:

***“God the Lord has
appeared to us”.***

(Psalm 118)



Today's topic: ***God appears to Moses
through a Burning Bush.***

In Eastern Orthodox terminology, the preferred name for the event is *The Unburnt Bush*.

The theology and hymnography of the church view it as prefiguring the virgin birth of Jesus; Orthodox theology refers to Mary, the mother of Jesus as the *Theotokos (God bearer)*, viewing her as having given birth to Incarnate God without suffering any harm, or loss of virginity, in parallel to the bush being burnt without being consumed.

This Week:

TUESDAY – 5:00 p.m. Confessions
5:30 VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY

WEDNESDAY – Feast of *St.*
NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER,
ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA

Our sympathy is extended to Don Smoley and his family on the loss of his father, ***John Smoley***, this past week.

John was a master craftsman who designed and created numerous altars and icon screens throughout the U.S. and Canada including our altar and icon screen. *Vicnaja pamjat! Eternal memory!*

St. Nicholas Shrine

St. Nicholas' tomb in Myra (present day Turkey) became a popular place of pilgrimage. Because of the many wars and attacks in the region, some Christians were concerned that access to the tomb might become difficult. For both the religious and commercial advantages of a major pilgrimage site, the Italian cities of Venice and Bari vied to get the St. Nicholas relics. In the

spring of 1087, sailors from Bari succeeded in spiriting away the bones, bringing them to Bari, a seaport on the southeast coast of Italy. An impressive church was built over St. Nicholas' crypt and many faithful journeyed to honor the saint who had rescued children, prisoners, sailors, famine victims, and many others through his compassion, generosity, and the countless miracles attributed to his intercession. The St. Nicholas shrine in Bari was one of medieval Europe's great pilgrimage centers and Nicholas became known as "Saint in Bari." To this day pilgrims and tourists visit Bari's great Basilica di San Nicola and the crypt containing his holy relics



Stewardship pledge cards will be distributed in the coming weeks. We no longer have "*church dues*" but the submission of a stewardship pledge indicates your membership in our parish.

God has given us all our gifts and in gratitude we offer back a portion of our time, talents, and treasure.

