



St. Nicholas

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JACOBS CREEK, PA.

Orthodox Church

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October 7, 2018

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Commemoration of the Holy Martyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles

Thecla of Iconium (1st cent)

This Week:

FRIDAY – 7 p.m. BIBLE STUDY

Miraculous Icon The miraculous Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Theotokos from Taylor, Pa. will be at Holy Cross Church in Mt. Lebanon on **Friday, Nov. 9**. See the bulletin board.

Many thanks! to everyone who helped at the Ladies Guild Flea Market last week!

Parenting Seminar A workshop on “Raising Believing Children” will be held on **Saturday, October 27** at Camp Nazareth. See the bulletin board for more information.



St. Thekla the Protomartyr, Equal-to-the-Apostles

The holy, glorious and right-victorious Protomartyr **Thekla** (or *Thecla*) the Equal-to-the-Apostles devoted her life to God at a time when all Christians were shunned.

Saint Thekla was born in Iconium to wealthy parents. After having heard St. Paul speak on chastity, she decided she must follow Christ and abandon her plans to marry. Her mother and her fiancé were opposed to this decision, and their accusations to the governor landed St. Paul in prison. St. Thekla slipped away from her house to listen to St. Paul in prison, having bribed the guards with her gold jewelry to gain entrance.

At his trial, St. Paul was banished from the city, and Thekla refused to change her mind against all the tears, threats, and reasonings her mother and the governor could apply. She was firm in her conviction to follow Jesus Christ the Bridegroom. Her mother, enraged, persuaded the judge to sentence St. Thekla to burn to death. Emboldened by her love for Christ, she made the sign of the Cross over the flames, and was surrounded by a light, untouched by the flames. Rain, and hail extinguished the fire, and, with thunder, helped to drive away those who wished to put Thekla to death.

She sought out St. Paul and his companions, including St. Barnabas, who were hiding in a cave near the city. She spread the gospel of Christ with them in Antioch, and throughout her life performed many miraculous feats and suffered many tortures to give glory to God. Having retired to a desolate region of Isaurian Seleucia with the blessing of St. Paul, Thekla continued to preach God's word and heal His children.

When St. Thekla had reached the age of 90, envious pagan sorcerers came to defile her. A large rock split open when St. Thekla called on Christ the Savior to help her, and the rock covered her, and she offered up her soul to the Lord. The saint is especially beloved among Orthodox Christians from Syria and other Middle Eastern countries.

Youth Encounter for ages 8-18 will be held at Camp Nazareth **November 9-11**. See the bulletin board.

See Father Ed for an application.

Christmas candy order forms are now available in the vestibule. Please support this fundraiser for our youth.

No services in Jacobs Creek on Saturday October 13.

