

## **St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church**

**9112 Oleander Ave**

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**Fr. Stephen Washko, Administrator**

**Fr. Lee Perry, assisting**

**22nd Sunday after Pentecost: Nov 9, 2025**

**The Jubilee Year of Hope !**

**Prayer:** *He is the meadow of the inspired words of the Scriptures, the one who shows us the path to repentance, and the one who underwent so many sufferings. Therefore, let us venerate St. John Chrysostom as it is fitting, for we are the faithful who have been formed by his teaching, indeed now intercedes before the Lord that He may have mercy on our souls. [Matins, Nov 13.]*

**Phillip's Fast:** This Friday, Nov. 14, is the feast of the Apostle St. Phillip and also the beginning of the Phillip's (Advent) Fast in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord. We abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays and perform other acts of penance in praise of God and for the forgiveness of our sins. Extra prayer and Scripture reading (especially from the prophets and the Infancy narratives from the gospels of Luke and Matthew) are highly recommended. Almsgiving also forms a part of our Advent preparation. For those who would like to aid the suffering people of the Caribbean, you can send donations to the Catholic Medical Mission Board at: CMMB, 33-01 11th St, Long Island City, NY 11106 or visit their website at [cmmb.org](http://cmmb.org).

**Crowning in Marriage:** Let us pray for parishioners Robert Escobedo and Eileen Iniguez as they prepare for their great day on Friday, November 21, at 1:00 pm. Because this is also a feast day, **The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**, we will have our parish celebration the evening before, Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 pm. Please make note of this change in schedule.

**Retired Clergy Fund:** the second collection today. Thanks for your generosity!



**Chapel veils:** For those looking for chapel veils for liturgy (or as gifts), you can purchase beautiful chapel veils for only \$8.99 from [Autom.com](http://Autom.com). They have many other beautiful religious items, mostly for the Latin rite. You may find some other items that you can use. Autom is known for their favorable prices.

**The Moscow, Orthodox Patriarchate:** There is a saying that "the road to Constantinople passes through Moscow." In other words, if we ever expect to attain any form of unity with the Orthodox, we will have to start with the Russian Orthodox Church since it is the largest and most influential of the Orthodox churches.

Presently the Patriarch, Kirill, is the patriarch of Moscow and All Rus. Noted Catholic author, George Weigel, met him once in Washington, D.C. at a dinner held in his honor and describes him as "sophisticated and clever, linguistically gifted; capable of charm; and a politician down to his chromosomes!" This should not have been surprising. A few months short of his 26th birthday, then-Archimandrite Kirill was posted to the World Council of Churches in Geneva. In 1971, the only way a young Russian cleric would get that plum assignment was if he were on the leash (and perhaps the payroll) of the KGB, the Soviet security service (similar to our FBI)!

Fast forward to today, and, as patriarch, Kirill has aligned himself with another old KGB buddy, Vladimir Putin- mass murderer and child-kidnapper in Russian's war to destroy Ukraine. According to a report by the Free Russian Foundation:

*In early March 2022, as Russian troops occupied Bucha and Hostomel, Patriarch Kirill declared during a sermon at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior: "Russia is waging not a physical, but a metaphysical battle against the forces of evil in Ukraine." He framed this war as a struggle against sin, stating that it "has not only political significance" but is directly connected to the salvation of humanity- thus giving it religious and sacred justification.*

In other words, it's not a war; it's a crusade! Since then, the Russian Church has been engaged in the war on several fronts: Propaganda and ideological support at home; direct interaction at the frontlines- "mystical support" involving sacred objects, prayers, and rituals to sanctify the war effort; diplomatic manipulation abroad through international ecumenical organizations and espionage.

The Moscow Patriarchate has its own TV channel, SPAS, which reaches every Russian household free of charge. Kirill decreed on this station that any Russian soldier who died in the war would have all his previous sins automatically washed away- a heresy! Even worse was the SPAS documentary entitled "God at War"- which is blasphemy.

It is difficult to now hold that the way to unity with Constantinople is through Moscow, whose patriarch has now abandoned Christian orthodoxy and committed blasphemy. The Russian Orthodox Church has become little more than an arm of the Russian government.

**Sunday, Nov 2:** Offertory: \$393.00. Candles: \$112.00. Attendance: 32 people.

**Safe Environment:** The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions, and programs, is committed to assuring a Safe Environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. For additional information regarding the Eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any concerns, please contact Subdeacon Paul Kilroy, Safe Environment Program Coordinator Cell: (702) 498-5972 -- Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 203- Email: [sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org](mailto:sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org) Or Victim Assistance Coordinator, Deacon Michael Hannifi

