

Saint Nicholas of Myra

Byzantine Catholic Church

9112 Oleander Avenue. Fontana, CA 92335

Web Site stnicholasfontana.org

Holy Protection of Mary

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

The Most Reverend Artur Bubnevych, D.D., S.T.L.,

Website: ephx.org

A suffragan eparchy of

The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

The Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D., Metropolitan

Archbishop Website: archpitt.org

Served by

Fr. Stephen G Washko, Administrator.

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Sunday Liturgy 5:00 pm Confession: 4:30 pm

Holy Day Liturgy 7:00 pm Confession: 6:30 pm

4:00 pm Inquiry Meetings with Robert Escobedo

SUN AUG 2 TENTH PENTECOST SUNDAY TONE 1, P. 125 WITH THE LESSER BLESSING OF WATER

No Morning Liturgy

4:00 pm Cantor's Practice & Inquiry Class

4:30 pm Confessions & Third Hour

5:00 pm Divine Liturgy

All invited to our Coffee Social in the Parish hall

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, Solemn

Holy Day with the blessing of Fruit

Aug 6 Thursday Feast Day

7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

SUN, Aug 9 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 2 & Postfestive of Transfiguration, p. 130 & 346

No Morning Liturgy

4:00 pm Cantor's Practice & Inquiry Class

4:30 pm Confession & The Third Hour

5:00 pm Divine Liturgy

All invited to our Coffee Social in the Parish hall

PRAYERS NEEDED for our parish family, Esther Calamore, Elmira Calamore, Charles Amelin, Paul & Marcy Basay, Enedina Lopez & Special Intentions. **Expectant Mothers:** Eileen Escobedo & Meagan Odicino.

Clergy: Fr James Bankston, Msgr Michael Moran, Fr Robert Rankin & Fr Marcus Gomori.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Merciful Savior, you brought healing to your servant's son when he cried out for your mercy. Help us to follow you with faith, prayer and fasting, as we cry out for your mercy and healing in our world today. Give to your Church an abundance of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, monastic and religious life, we pray you hear and have mercy.



"Nothing will be impossible for you!" Jesus taught his disciples to pray and to fast with faith. In that faith, nothing would be impossible for them. This same truth is true today as we began the Dormition Fast yesterday. To see this more clearly, we need men and women of faith to serve the Church as priests, deacons, subdeacons, monks and nuns. If God may be calling you to this life, contact the Vocations Office at 602-861-9778 or email: vocations@ephx.org

BLESSING OF FRUITS FOR THE HOLY DAY each household is required to prepare a basket, box, bowl of fruit for the blessing. Be sure to bring them and place them around the tetrapod in church for the blessing. Grapes are featured and if not available Apples and other fruits. There is a special blessing for those who bring the Fruits to the church.

OUR EPARCHIAL TEACHERS FROM OUR PARISHES are meeting for the First Annual Retreat and Conference. Beth Gath from our parish is there along with Robert & Eileen Escobedo from St Nicholas Parish in Fontana. Robert says "Friday evening's opening by Father Chris Zugger and first talk by Father Daniel Dozier was phenomenal. Met a lot of great catechists and building amazing connections and bridges for the future." Our prayers go with them.

AUGUST 6th Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord - Blessing of Fruit:

In our Holy Church the offering of first fruits takes the form of a thanksgiving and blessing. The produce is then consumed by the faithful and their loved ones, or it can also be given to the poor and infirmed. The Liturgical concept behind the blessing is the faithful

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

offering back to God as a token of that which He in His loving-kindness has provided, which God then blesses and returns them to the faithful for their benefit and blessing.

The blessing of first fruits traditionally begins on the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord with the blessing of grapes. In local cities where grapes are not grown, other early-ripening fruits such as apples, plums, pears, etc. may be offered. At the end of the Divine Liturgy the priest blesses the first fruits, asking "...that the Lord may bless them, that they may be to us unto rejoicing, and that He may accept a gift of these fruits unto the cleansing of our sins..." The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day, is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in God's Paradise where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

It has also been a venerable tradition (especially amongst farmers) that as the harvest season progresses, the first fruits of each species be brought to the Church to be blessed, using a similar format, but a different prayer: "...that the Lord may receive our gift unto His eternal treasury and grant us an abundance of earthly goods..."

Blessing of Grapes - Representation of transformation
Grapes are blessed because they show physical transformation and represent a religious transformation.

- The transformation of flowers into fruit
- The transformation of fruit into wine
- The mystical transformation of wine into the Blood of Holy God the Son within the Holy Trinity / Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ in the Divine Liturgy.
- All fruits represent new life. Mature fruits are blessed in thanksgiving for a good harvest. New life and a good harvest are Holy God's gifts to us.

ON THE SAINTS

St. Symeon the New Theologian

The Church is the body of Christ, His bride, the world to come, and the temple of God. The members of His body are all the saints. However, not all of the saints who will please God have yet appeared, nor yet is thus complete, nor the world to come yet filled. I say this about God's Church. There are, though, many unbelievers in the world today who will believe in Christ; many sinners and debauched who will repent and change their lives; many undecided who will be persuaded. There are many, a great many, up to the sound of the last trumpet, who will prove well-pleasing to God and who have not yet been born. All those who are foreknown by God must be born, come into



Tone 1

August 2, 2026

being, before the world beyond our world, the world of the Church, of the first-born, of the heavenly Jerusalem, is filled up. Then shall the end come and the fullness of the body of Christ be complete.

PARISH CALENDAR

SATURDAYS LION'S CLUB 4-9 pm BINGO

JULY 31 TO AUG 2 EPARCHIAL CATHECHIST RETREAT IN PHOENIX. We have two of our teachers attending. Keep them in prayer.

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, Solemn Holy Day with the blessing of Fruit

Aug 6 Thursday Feast Day

7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, Holy day of Obligation with the blessing of Flowers

Aug 15 Saturday Feast Day

4:00 pm Divine Liturgy

COME JOIN US FOR THE 26TH ANNUAL OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SHRINE PILGRIMAGE!

AUGUST 21-22, 2026 in OLYMPIA, WA

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SHRINE

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX subscribes to the

Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. 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 Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.

For additional information regarding the Eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents of concerns, please contact:

Fr. Dcn. Michael Hanafin

Victim Assistance Coordinator

Cell: (480) 307-5182 - - email: vac@ephx.org

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