

In the early Church, preaching was mainly concentrated on the Jews. The Apostles eventually came to interpret Jesus' instruction "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . ." (Matthew 28:19) to include the Gentiles. Understanding and fulfilling His Great Commission was very important for the future growth of the Church. It allowed more people to partake in the universal Gospel of Christ. Gentiles could now be saved and received into the life of the Church. Antioch was the spot that marked this new page in human history.

There are four words that help tell the story of the early Church. They are **PERSECUTION, PREACHING, POWER AND PROOF**. Let us begin by examining each step on this path to the Truth.

PERSECUTION goes back to the stoning of the first martyr, Saint Stephen. This attack was intended to destroy the fledgling movement but the opposite happened. Believers were scattered, only causing more growth.

PREACHING involves missionary work. Enlightened disciples went out, teaching the correct doctrine, guided by the Holy Spirit. To this day, we are asked to go forth and spread the Word to all corners of the earth.

POWER is provided by the guiding hand of our Lord. A large number of pagan idolators began to believe and turned to the message of salvation through Christ.

With God's blessing, the **PROOF** is exciting. Lives were being changed and many noticed it. A new name was bestowed upon the faithful. **"The disciples were first called CHRISTIANS in Antioch."** (Acts 11:26) Let me ask you, do others know that you are a follower of Christ? Make it evident that our Lord lives through you each and every day!

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

Kontakion in the Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουλευθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

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✠ FROM GENTILE ✠
TO CHRISTIAN ✠

Around the time of Christ, **ANTIOCH** was a major Greek city. It was settled near the Mediterranean coast of current day Syria. Although the Apostolic Church had begun in Jerusalem, Antioch was destined to become the **SECOND CENTER OF CHRISTIANITY**. How did this come about?

BULLETIN OF ST GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CAPE COD

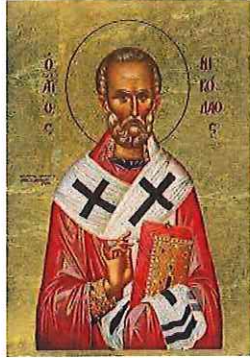
For the period of December 6th - December 12th

Orthros 8:30 - Divine Liturgy 9:45

Rev. Fr Timothy Curren, Proistamenos

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IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS



December 06
10th Sunday of Luke

December 06
Nicholas the New Martyr of Asia Minor

Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

St Nicolas lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great and reposed in 330. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. He

returned to Myra and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. He is the patron of all travellers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

Saturday Dec 12th

St Spyridon the Wonderworker

Orthros 8:30

Divine Liturgy 9:45

ST GEORGE broadcasts services live on the internet.

Your presence in the Church is subject to audio and video recording.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th

Hebrews 13:17-21

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 13:17-21

Ἀδελφοί, πείθεσθε τοῖς ἡγουμένοις ὑμῶν, καὶ ὑπέκτετε· αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀγρυπνοῦσιν ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ὑμῶν, ὡς λόγον ἀποδώσοντες· ἵνα μετὰ χαρᾶς τοῦτο ποιῶσιν, καὶ μὴ στενάζοντες· ἄλυσιτελές γὰρ ὑμῖν τοῦτο. Προσεύχεσθε περὶ ἡμῶν· πεποιθήμεν γὰρ ὅτι καλὴν συνείδησιν ἔχομεν, ἐν πᾶσιν καλῶς θέλοντες ἀναστρέφεσθαι. Περισσότερος δὲ παρακαλῶ τοῦτο ποιῆσαι, ἵνα τάχιον ἀποκατασταθῶ ὑμῖν. Ὁ δὲ θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης, ὁ ἀναγαγὼν ἐκ νεκρῶν τὸν ποιμένα τῶν προβάτων τὸν μέγαν ἐν αἵματι διαθήκης αἰωνίου, τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν, καταρτίσαι ὑμᾶς ἐν παντὶ ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ εἰς τὸ ποιῆσαι τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ, ποιῶν ἐν ὑμῖν τὸ εὐάρεστον ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ, διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ· ᾧ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

So great an evil is envy. For not against strangers only, but even against our own, is it ever warring.

St. John Chrysostom

Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 13:10-17

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἰησοῦς διδάσκων ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦμαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτήν ὁ Ἰησοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· γύναι, ἀπολέουσα τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀναγκῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἕξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βούν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δὲ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραὰμ οὖσαν, ἣν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινόμενοις ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ.