



Holy Protection of the Mother of God, Denver

And the Byzantine Catholic Outreach of Fort Collins

Pastor's Reflection

The Feast of Saint Nicholas is fun for the kids, but it is also a time for all of us to thank the Lord for the gift of holy bishops, pastors, and spiritual fathers. (It is a time for all pastors to examine their consciences and ask for the grace to be worthy of the trust that the Church and our people place in us.)

As we know all too well, not all the pastors of the Church, in any age, have been true to their name, not all have been true "shepherds." Some have even been thieves and robbers, seeking their own will, slaying the sheep for their own selfish ends, not laying down their lives as the Good Shepherd did, and as all the Church's shepherds are called to do.

On the Feast of our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, however, we remember one who was a worthy shepherd and who continues his fatherly ministry by his intercession. As we seek that intercession we also ponder his deeds and example.

Three stories come to my mind.

The first is the story of three daughters of a poor and desperate man, who are delivered from lives of slavery and prostitution when Nicholas secretly provides three dowries of gold coins from his personal inheritance. The second is of his physical assault on the heretic Arius who denied the divinity of Christ, a slap that earned him a jail sentence stripped of his episcopal vestments—and a midnight visit from the Theotokos,

who loosed his chains and reinvested him with an omophorion. The third is the story of men unjustly condemned to death, whom the holy bishop rescued at the last moment by seizing the sword of the executioner, confronting the unjust judge, and obtaining their release.

In each story Nicholas risks himself and gains a victory for the people who were entrusted to his care or sought his aid. In each story Nicholas shows himself to be an instrument of the sovereign love of God at work in history. A love that seeks to be loved for love's sake. A love that will not rest until all that is not love in this world is subdued and purged away.

The reality of human life is a tumult of conflicting forces, evil is real. In the midst of this Christ our God who has won the victory by his Cross slowly and ineluctably works to conquer our hearts and the hearts of his enemies through a love that never quits.

Nicholas the shepherd reveals the loving heart of the Good Shepherd his Master through his gentleness, moderation, humility, and self-effacing poverty. Consider the tender way in which he rescued the daughters of the poor man, saving them by discreetly giving their father another pace than the desperate evil he was considering. This is Sovereign Love gently nudging us away from the sin of despair and restoring hope.

But Saint Nicholas also reveals that loving heart of God when, in a flash of judgment, he slaps the thief and robber, Arius, who denied the true unity of the Father and Son, which is itself the eternal fountain of all love, or when he snatched the sword from the executioner and harangued the Prefect Eustathios until he confessed his heinous crime against the innocent. The saint's love sought this confession not in vengeance but for the sake of replacing cruelty with love. Once that wicked judge repented of his sin, Saint Nicholas received him and led him back into the fold.

The love of God can be fierce, a contrary gale of circumstances that stir our consciences into a raging storm, and the same love is the still small voice of absolution that soothes our consciences and leads us into the serene harbor of the Good Shepherd's will. And this is yet another way in which Nicholas resembled his Master—a fourth story, in which Saint Nicholas came over the waters to labor alongside distressed sailors, helping them with sail and rigging until their vessel was free of the rocky shallows and safely anchored.

Perhaps our lives are a storm of anxiety, uncertainty about the path we should follow, or fear for loved ones who are far away on dangerous roads. Perhaps we ourselves have wandered from the flock and done things we shouldn't have done.

Perhaps we have lost courage and hope and need to hear again a word from the Shepherd of our souls to lead us back to the safe harbor of his will.

If we need it, let us ask for it. Let us beg the Good Shepherd himself to enable us to hear the sound of his voice. And let us ask Saint Nicholas, too, to intercede for us, that we may spend the rest of the Philip's Fast in peace and repentance and joyful expectation of the coming the true and Good Shepherd of our souls. God be with us.

-Fr Joel

Contact Information

Fr Joel Barstad

Parochial Administrator

Email: frbarstad@ephx.org

Office: 720-910-3084

Mobile: 720-910-3082

Making Appointments with Fr Joel

1. Office hours: MTWF afternoons (<http://www.calendly.com/frbarstad>)
2. Other times: Call/text or email

Flocknote

If you haven't joined Flocknote, please do. Flocknote will be one of the primary ways we will be communicating.

Text HPDEN to 84576 or visit us online at holyprotectiondenver.flocknote.com

Calendar

Our website includes a calendar where you can find the most current information about liturgical services. It can be found at <https://holyprotection.org/about/calendar/> .

Upcoming

Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra - Tuesday, December 6

Maternity of the Holy Anna - Thursday, December 8

Our Lady of Guadalupe -Monday, December 12

Nativity Our Lord - Sunday, December 25

Synaxis of the Theotokos - Monday, December 26

Stephen the First Martyr - Tuesday, December 27

Financial Statement

11/01/22

Holy Protection of the Mother of God Profit & Loss

October 1 through November 1, 2022

Oct 1 - Nov 1, 22

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 · HPMG Income	
4100 · HPMG Collections Income	
4110 · Tithes - Adults	6,029.00
Total 4100 · HPMG Collections Income	<u>6,029.00</u>
4400 · HPMG Special Inc.(Non Cath.)	
4470 · Candles/Votives	65.95
Total 4400 · HPMG Special Inc.(Non Cath.)	<u>65.95</u>
Total 4000 · HPMG Income	<u>6,094.95</u>
Total Income	<u>6,094.95</u>
Gross Profit	6,094.95
Expense	
5000 · Holy Protection Expenses (Regular)	
5100 · HPMG Parish Admin. & General	1,396.18
5200 · HPMG Church Operating Costs	1,411.18
5400 · HPMG Personnel Expenses	4,669.74
Total 5000 · Holy Protection Expenses	<u>7,477.10</u>
Expenses Due to Transitional Period	
5115 · Moving Expenses	4,454.57
5153 · Professional Services	1,458.85
5242 · Equipment Purchase	284.07
5264 · Repairs & Maintenance	257.08
5399 · Other Rectory Expenses	360.00
Total - Transitional Expenses	<u>6,814.57</u>
Total Expense	<u>14,291.67</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-8,196.72</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-8,196.72</u></u>

A note on the Financial Statement: Thank you for your faithful giving! As we work through the exceptional expenses we encountered this summer and fall, we are also getting a better grasp on our regular parish expenses. Early in the new year we will present a budget that we as a parish can use to gauge our needs and increase our giving. Many Catholics have a vague feeling that they ought to be giving more but without clear needs and guidelines it is hard to know how much is reasonable. I look forward to beginning that conversation, but in the meantime, if you have general questions about our financial condition, please direct them to Fr. Joel. If you have specific questions, please direct them to Melanie at admin@holyprotection.org.
-Fr Joel

Ways to Give

King Soopers Community Rewards - If you haven't already designated Holy Protection as your local charity and you shop at King Soopers, please follow the steps here.

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>

We are listed as Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church. Thank you!

AmazonSmile - If you haven't already designed Holy Protection as your charity and you use Amazon, please follow the steps here.

<https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/community/how-to-sign-up-for-amazonmile>

We are listed as Pastor of Holy Protection of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic. Thank you!

Prayer Requests

For those who are sick or in special need of prayer

- Alexis
- Chelsea Wegman
- Sarah Thilenius

- Dorothy
- Sarah
- Samuel
- Norma
- Erica

For the departed

- Ardeth Dickson
- Helen
- Luis
- Demetri
- Joanna
- Alan

- Ramiro
- Adelaila
- Bob
- Cameron
- Audrey
- Adam

Holy Mysteries

Canonical Ascription: Every Catholic is a member not only of the universal Catholic Church, but also of one of the 22 particular, ritual, *sui juris* churches that comprise the Catholic Church. The largest of these churches is the Latin Church. Holy Protection Denver is a parish of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix, which is part of the *sui juris* Byzantine Catholic (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh. The Saints Cyril and Methodius Russian community is part of the Russian Greek Catholic Church.

A person's ascription is generally determined at baptism or by the formal process of transfer from one church *sui juris* to another. A person's canonical ascription can significantly impact the administration of the holy mysteries of initiation and crowning, regardless of where one regularly attends Divine Liturgy and for how long one has done so. Therefore, please allow ample time to address these issues when you request baptism or marriage.

Sacraments of Initiation: Full Byzantine initiation—Baptism, Chrismation, and First Communion—is the norm, even for infants, for ascribed members of the Eastern Churches belonging to the Byzantine liturgical family. Latin Catholics baptized as infants normally receive Confirmation and First Communion separately and at a later age. A Byzantine Catholic priest can baptize a person who will be an ascribed member of the Latin Church with the permission of his or her territorial pastor; permission to Chrismate/Confirm, however, comes from the local Latin bishop.

Mystery of Crowning: The Eparchy requires a preparation period of at least six months. For couples both of whom are Latin Catholics, the local archdiocese requires a preparation period of eight months, which will be followed in this parish to allow time for requesting the extra permissions required in such a case. Marriages should not be celebrated during the Fasting Seasons of the Church, but especially not during the Great Fast.

Funerals: Please contact Fr Joel to arrange funerals and other memorial services.

Sick Calls/Anointing/Hospital Visits: Please contact Father Joel directly at 720-910-3082 if you or a family member needs Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, or a visit at home, a hospital, or a care facility. The Mystery of Holy Anointing will also be offered in the church once during each of the four penitential seasons.

Mystery of Holy Penance: The Mystery of Holy Penance will be celebrated an hour before evening feast day Divine Liturgies and, for now, on Wednesdays at noon and Saturday mornings; this service includes time for individual confessions. Individual confessions may also be scheduled at other times by appointment.

Divine Liturgy: Generally, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, as well as on feast days. For obligatory and solemn feasts, a Vespereal Divine Liturgy will, if possible, be celebrated the evening before the day and a regular Divine Liturgy on the day itself. In addition, the Divine Praises, mainly Matins and Vespers, will be celebrated most weekdays but especially in preparation for Divine Liturgies.

Safe Environment

The Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Eparchy of Phoenix is available to help anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. We will listen to your needs and support you. We will also help you make a formal complaint and arrange a personal meeting with the Bishop or his delegate if desired.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR: Dcn. Michael Hanafin
(cell) (480) 307-5182 -- (email) vac@ephx.org

The Safe Environment Coordinator for the Eparchy of Phoenix is available to answer any inquiries and to receive reports regarding Safe Environment-related observations or concerns.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Sdcn. Paul Kilroy
(office) (602) 861-9778, ext. 204 -- (Cell) (480) 745-0316
(email) sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org

Saints Cyril and Methodius Russian Greek Catholic Community

At St John Francis Regis Chapel, Regis University, Denver, CO 80221



Announcement: We are anticipating a return to receiving communion from a common spoon in the near future. Please practice this mode of receiving, especially with your children. Your head should be tilted back, your mouth should be wide open, and you should receive without touching the spoon.

Vespers and book club: Join us each Monday at 7:30 pm on Zoom to pray vespers and learn about faith and spirituality. We will begin Time and Despondency by Nicole Roccas on December 5. Contact Deacon Basil for a copy of the book. [Join Zoom Meeting](#)