

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

11200 Elgin Boulevard, Spring Hill, Florida 34608 · 352 584 5461 · htoc-sh@outlook.com · www.htoc-sh.org

A parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America · Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

HTOC Weekly Update

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Sunday, December 8, 2024 · 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Observance of Saint Nicholas Day

We look forward to seeing you then!

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... Instead, let us encourage each other all the more...”

Hebrews 10:25

The Original Santa Claus

On **December 6**, the Church honors **Saint Nicholas of Myra** — the real-life inspiration behind the holiday figure of Santa Claus. (We’ll celebrate his day on December 8, when we can all be together with our parish priest, Father Alexis Woytek.)



A fourth-century bishop from what is now southwest Turkey, he was a Christlike man of private charity and public justice, as stories from his life report.

In one, he saved a bankrupt widower’s three daughters from being trafficked on the streets by throwing bags of gold coins through their window under cover of night, so that they had dowries to be honorably wed.

In another, he rescued three law-abiding men from a crooked judge’s unjust death sentence by storming the town square just before their beheading and snatching the sword from the executioner’s hand in the nick of time.

Nicholas remains a popular saint worldwide — particularly among Carpatho-Rusyns and other Slavic peoples — as a model of faith and gospel values who cared for the young and the innocent. Learn more online about him and the love he still inspires at the Saint Nicholas Center website (www.stnicholascenter.org).

Christmas at HTOC

Christ is born! Glorify him! Join us **9 a.m. Wednesday, December 25, 2024** to celebrate **Christmas** — The Nativity, the birth of Christ Jesus — with Compline, Carols, and Divine Liturgy. **Remember: Jesus is the reason for the season!**

Donate Christmas Flowers

Help deck out our church for Christmas with beautiful flowers that befit the joy of that holy day! See parish treasurer **Lydia Pinkowski** to donate early toward the cost of poinsettias and other floral decorations. Thank you

MORE! ➡

Pitch In!

Church doesn't happen on its own. It happens when all of us pool our time, talent, and treasure together and put them at God's disposal to do his will as followers of Jesus. In a word, that's **stewardship**. Want to lend a helping hand? See our parish priest, Father Alexis Woytek to find out what needs doing. Want to become a supporting member? See our parish treasurer, Mrs. Lydia Pinkowski to find out how. Thanks for pitching in to make **your** church happen!

Safe and Sound

COVID is no longer a global pandemic, but coronavirus still crops up now and then, here and there. Please keep alert and take sensible precautions while our church remains open.

If you feel ill, please stay home, follow doctor's orders, and take good care of yourself. Let us know if you want us to pray for you. We look forward to seeing you again once you get well!

Please feel free to wear a face mask if your health requires it or you just feel safer doing so.

Please respect personal space and give each other courteous leeway.

Thanks for your consideration, which is simply part of doing what Christ Jesus told us to do: "**Love others as much as you love yourself**" (Mark 12:31).

Reach Out!

The Church doesn't exist for itself. God calls it to reach out and share his love with the world that it lives in. Our parish charity bin is one way that we do such **outreach**, by collecting nonperishable food that our friends at **People Helping People in Hernando County** (phphernando.org) share with locals in need. Download a **grocery list** from our website (tinyurl.com/htoc-list). Thanks for reaching out and helping others through **your** church's charity!

Next Week!

Join Father Alexis Woytek and our church family on

Sunday, December 15, 2024 · 9:30 a.m.

Typica · Reader's Service

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

We look forward to seeing you then!

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... Instead, let us encourage each other all the more..."

Hebrews 10:25