

## St. Nicholas



St. Nicholas of Myra, who lived in the third century A.D., was so noted for his great generosity that he became a symbol of gift giving throughout the world in many guises, such as England's Father Christmas, Holland's Sinterklass, and Santa Claus in the United States. Nicolas was born in Patara, now Turkey. He developed a strong commitment to help others and used his personal wealth to help the sick and the suffering. He became known worldwide as the protector of students and all children. Nicholas was made bishop of Myra for his good works. For a long time he lived in a cave near

Bethlehem, which is now preserved as a place of pilgrimage. As bishop of Myra, he attended the Council of Nicaea, and thus helped develop the Nicene Creed. Nicholas died in 343 and was buried in his cathedral in Myra. Several centuries later, his body was moved to Bari, Italy, where it rests in a basilica dedicated to his name.

*Eternal God, in your great love you gave your servant, Nicholas, a perpetual name for deeds of kindness on land and sea. Grant that your church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, for the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt and grief: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*

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## Calendar of Events

*If you would like to see your event listed here, please email [Clelia](mailto:Clelia) or [garritycpg@gmail.com](mailto:garritycpg@gmail.com). If you would like to see your event listed in the diocesan calendar, please email [Barbara](mailto:Barbara).*

### SAVE THE DATES

**Dec 10 & 17, ADVENT ACTIVITY, Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM** followed by a simple soup supper, St. Christopher's, Boulder City.

**Dec 12, ADVENT RETREAT, St. Paul's, Elko; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.** Lunch will be provided. To RSVP, email [kalbrethsen@yahoo.com](mailto:kalbrethsen@yahoo.com), or call 775-738-3264.

**Dec 12, DAY OF ART FOR KIDS, Grace in the Desert, Las Vegas.** For information call 702-838-7444

**Dec 13, MYRON HEATON CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 4:00 PM, Grace in the Desert.** For information call 702-838-7444

**Dec 18-19, DAWN, DAY AND DUSK: SETTING A MODERN CLOCK BY ANCIENT HOURS: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTIAN PRACTICE OF CONTEMPLATION, A LAKE TAHOE RETREAT,** an offering of the the Office of Young Adult Ministries of the Episcopal Church, USA; the Frensdorff School of Christian Formation; and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Carson City. 5:00 PM Friday 12/18 - 6:00 PM Saturday 12/19. Registration deadline 12/04/2009. Cost \$40.00- all meals included. To register contact [frensdorff.school@gmail.com](mailto:frensdorff.school@gmail.com)

**Dec 20, CEREMONY OF LESSONS AND CAROLS, 10:30 AM,** All Saints', Las Vegas

**Dec 24, CHRISTMAS MUSIC BY ALL SAINTS' CHOIR, 10:30 PM,** All Saints', Las Vegas

**Dec 24, MIDNIGHT MASS (with bells and smells).** Sing along caroling begins at 10:30 PM followed by the Eucharist, St. Chirstopher's, Boulder City

**Jan 10, BAPTISM OF THE LORD - EPIPHANY CHORAL EVENSONG WITH RECITAL: BEDE PARRY, ORGANIST, 5:30 PM,** All Saints', Las Vegas

**Jan 30, AN INTRODUCTION TO EFM MENTORING led by Connie Patterson, Dioscesan EFM Coordinator, 7:00 - 9:00 PM** at Bishop Dan's home: 136 Camino Francisco, Henderson, NV 89012. No charge; no registration - just drop in and help us organize a face-to-face EFM (or 2) in the South.

**Feb 14, ORGAN RECITAL - HANS U. HIELSCHER, International Recitalist, 7:30 P.M.,** All Saint's, Las Vegas.

**Feb 17, ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY WITH SPECIAL MUSIC BY ALL SAINTS' CHOIR, 7:00 PM,** All Saints', Las Vegas

**Mar 19-21, YOUTH SERVICE WEEKEND, Camp Galilee** - An excellent opportunity for youth ages 14-18 to spend the weekend at the camp and provide volunteer work to prepare the camp for the summer camping program. Prospective counselors can be part of the camp experience and be interviewed during this weekend, as well. Leadership will be provided by Fr. Jeff Paul, Executive Director Stuart Campbell, and experienced summer counselors. The cost of the weekend will be \$50. To register, call 775-749-5546.

**Mar 13, LENTEN QUIET DAY AT GRACE led by Rev. Mary Bredlau, 9:00 AM - 12 noon,** concluding with the Eucharist, and then a simple soup lunch in the parish hall. Please RSVP directly to Rev. Mary at

RevMaryB@cox.net or 702-540-3012, by two days prior.

**Mar 28, PALM SUNDAY - CONCERT BY ALL SAINTS' CHOIR, 5:30 PM, All Saints', Las Vegas**

**May 28-31, MEMORIAL DAY ADULT RETREAT, Camp Galilee.** The program will begin Friday, May 28 with dinner and conclude Monday, May 31 just after breakfast. The cost for the weekend is \$164.00 per person and covers all meals and lodging. Optional activities are provided by Galilee staff and will include guided short walks, kayaking excursions, evening stargazing, and a Sunday Eucharist. There will be plenty of time for personal reflection. Leadership will be provided by the Rev. Jim Beebe and Stuart Campbell. To register call 775-749-5546.

 Forward to a Friend

## The Call to Evangelism



He [Jesus] said to them [Peter and Andrew]. "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matt 4:19-20

"There is a deep human tendency to share with others something or someone we find attractive. Be it a movie, a good novel, or a person of integrity, we spread the news of our "find." The word for this when the "find" is the Good News of Jesus is evangelization. Peter and Andrew became evangelists as did James and John, Zebedee's sons. These four individuals encountered in Jesus the mystery of God's love and mercy. Their deepest desires were being addressed and, leaving their fishing nets, they ventured forth to "fish" for people, captivating them with the message of God's peace. The gift given them had to be shared. They were compelled to preach in season and out of season, offering the message of salvation to all who had an open heart." *Bishop Robert Morneau*

*The Episcopal Church Office of Communication* is offering an ongoing series of marketing materials, including Christmas ads, announcements, and postcards, for local and regional use by dioceses, congregations and provinces. Anne Rudig, Director of Communication for the Office of Communication said, "The purpose of these materials is to welcome all to the experience of Christmas in the Episcopal Church." The materials are available at: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/adcollaborative.htm>

"Lord, may we hear your call today and abandon our sin and selfishness so that we might become evangelists. May the good news incite us to go forth to share the grace that we have received. May we not fear to abandon ourselves to whatever you ask of us. May this advent season be a time of recommitment." *Bishop Morneau*



# Desert Angels Health Tip of the Week

## Holiday Nutrition Tip

If you go to a party and want to sample the luscious appetizers or cookies, wait until you are about to leave. Then take a few with you on your way out. This way you are able to taste the great food without overindulging.

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## ADVENT II

### Passionate Waiting

"If it is true that God in Jesus Christ is waiting for our response to divine love, then we can discover a whole new perspective on how to wait in life. We can learn to be obedient people who do not always try to go back to the action but who recognize the fulfillment of our deepest humanity in passion, in waiting. If we can do this, I am convinced that we will come in touch with the glory of God and our own new life." *Henri J. M. Nouwen, "The Spirituality of Waiting," Weavings, January 1987*

*Advent Action: "Obedience to God's plan for us should really be unqualified. For today, give a "yes, always" instead of a "yes, but" to God's requests; the word "but" inserts a condition into our relationship with God and signifies less than whole-hearted acceptance." Henri Nouwen*

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**Dean To Visit Congregations,** Since the Bishop cannot visit congregations as often as he would like, he is sending emissaries to supplement his roughly annual visits. We now have five new deans who will be visiting the congregations in their areas on an annual basis too. They are to preach, celebrate, and hear the concerns of the congregations, then keep the bishop informed. The deans will also serve as an additional council of advice for the bishop. Our deans are the Very Rev's. Mary Bredlau, Jeff Paul, Trudy Erquiaga, David Grube, and Red Sims. The deans are on their way to hear what is on your hearts.

**New Diocesan Staff,** Fr. Bernardo Iniesta Avila has been hired as our new Canon for Hispanic Ministries. Chuck McCray has been hired as our Canon for Adult Formation. Both begin work January 1, 2010.

**Deacon Bonnie Polley Speaks as CDSP,** The Rev. Bonnie Polley was guest preacher at the Episcopal Seminary of the West on Community Night; Dec. 3 as a guest of The Rev. Nancy G. Eswein, Director of Field Education at CDSP. Bonnie gave a seminar to second year students on her ministry as a Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada.

**St. Timothy's, Henderson offers a Grief Support Group,** both groups meet on the second and fourth Mondays and Thursdays of the month at the church. The groups are facilitated by hospice chaplains; meeting times are: Mondays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 6:30 PM. The groups offer support for those who have experienced any sort of loss. 43 W. Pacific Ave. in Henderson.

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Fallon offers a Bereavement Support "drop-in" group** the 2nd Monday of every month from 6:00 - 7:00 PM at the vicarage.

**Episcopal Recovery Ministries in Nevada** is in formation and will have its first meeting at Diocesan Convention in October. If you would like to participate in this ministry, or have questions, please contact Kathie Knutson Meier at 253-250-953, or 702-684-6444. The national website is <http://episcopalrecovery.org>

**The Bishop Wes Frensdorff School of Christian Formation: A new Education Venture of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada.** The school's mission is *To bring together all Nevada Episcopalians for Christian formation, empowering each other to live deeply into our Baptismal Covenant in our relationships, service in daily life, and witness to the world.* To learn more go to the new Frensdorff School of Christian Formation website: <http://frensdorffschool.webs.com/> You may contact them at: [frensdorff.school@gmail.com](mailto:frensdorff.school@gmail.com)

*Please submit your news briefs to Clelia at [garritycpg@gmail.com](mailto:garritycpg@gmail.com)*

#### Contact Information

eNews Chief: Clelia  
775.253.5579 (cell phone: no solicitors, please)

#### Ministry Quick Links

UTO

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Episcopal Books & Resources

Global Good (MGD's) Camp Galilee

CDSP

Episcopal Diocese of Nevada

 Forward to a Friend

#### About Us

The Episcopal Diocese of Nevada embraces 6,000 members from communities throughout Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona in 34 congregations and 2 new faith communities. Our electronic newsletter service and print journal, The Desert Spirit, are provided to parishes and members free of charge.

Persons interested in the ministry of communications may contact [Barbara](#), [Hallie](#), or [Karl](#) to get involved.

Persons wishing to opt-out and not receive the electronic newsletter can simply unsubscribe by selecting the link at the end of this newsletter.

Changes to snail mail addresses for The Desert Spirit must be sent to the [Editor](#).

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