

# Saints Lunch & Learn

## 6/8/2025

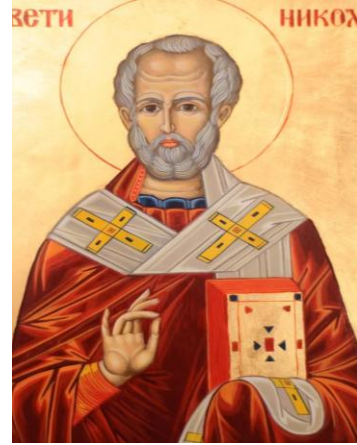


***Adapted by Paul Burgess  
from materials  
prepared by Paul Lang  
for his Sabbatical  
5/26/25-8/25/25***



# **Saint Nicholas**

## Patron Saint of New York City, USA & Amsterdam, Holland



*Patron saint of children and sailors  
(and Christmas, I guess)*



*One of the most famous  
and influential meetings of  
the early Church  
happened in the year 325  
AD, an ecumenical  
council convened by  
Emperor Constantine.*

*In the course of the  
meeting, a man named  
Arius (Paul Sausman)  
argued passionately that  
Jesus (Evan Bancroft)  
was not the equal of God  
the father (Duane Hix) or  
the Holy Spirit (Michael  
Bancroft).*





*His arguments agitated Nicholas (Sandy Steadman), a bishop from Myra– so much so that eventually Nicholas crossed the room and slapped Arius (Paul Sausman) in the face!*

*Those gathered agreed that Nicholas (Sandy Steadman) had done wrong, and he was stripped of his position and thrown in jail in chains.*



*That night, Nicholas (Sandy Steadman) was visited by Jesus (Evan Bancroft) and his mother, Mary (Kay Kaufman). They asked him, “Why are you in jail?” He replied, “Because of my love for you.” They freed Nicholas, with Jesus giving him a copy of the scriptures and Mary giving him an omophorion -a scarf/stole worn by a bishop.*

*When the jailer (Evan Bancroft) came in the morning, he found Nicholas (Sandy Steadman) calmly reading the scriptures in his cell, dressed as a bishop, and the chains on the ground.*



When the council heard this, they (having already determined Arius's position to be heretical) reinstated Nicholas to his previous position.

***Another Story of St Nicolas:*** There was once a family that lived in Myra that had three daughters but was desperately poor.

*The father (Karen McMenamin, unable to provide a dowry so his daughters (Nancy Smith, Caroline Davis, Charlotte Ridley) could marry honorably and unwilling to accept charity, resolved to sell the girls into slavery as soon as they came of age.*

*The daughters begged him to reconsider, but he was too committed to this patriarchal thinking to change his mind.*





*The night before the eldest (Caroline Davis) was to come of age, the local bishop, Nicholas (Will Ridley), secretly crept up to the house and tossed a bag of gold coins into her room. The bag held enough for a dowry, and so the girl was happily married instead of being sold into slavery.*

*When the middle daughter (Nancy Smith) came of age, Nicholas (Will Ridley) repeated this sneaky act of charity.*

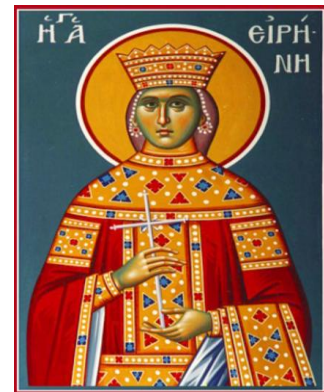


When the youngest daughter was to come of age, her father of the family was determined to learn the identity of the secret benefactor and hid outside her window.



*Nicholas (Will Ridley) learned of his plan, though, and outsmarted the father by sneaking up to the roof and dropping the bag of gold coins down the chimney, where it landed in the stockings the girl had hung to dry in the fireplace earlier.*

## **Saint Irene** Patron Saint of Santorini, Greece



*Patron saint of police officers*



A Roman governor in Macedonia named Dulcitus became infatuated with a Christian woman named Irene, who refused his advances. Even when he threatened her with death, she steadfastly persisted in her desire to remain faithful to her one true bridegroom, Christ.



*Determined to have his way by force, Dulcitus (Michael Bancroft) tried to force his way into Irene's (Jeanne Bolick) room one night while she was praying but found himself blocked by an invisible force (Donna Adkins).*

*He was thrown back into the kitchen, where he clanged noisily into pots and pans before landing in the extinguished fireplace. He was so covered in soot that his servants couldn't recognize him.*



Embarrassed, bruised, and angry, Dulcitus decided to take revenge on Irene and had her brought before him in court. Wanting her to share his humiliation, he commanded that she be stripped naked. When the soldiers tried to follow his order, they found that her clothes seemed to be stuck to their bodies and could not be removed. Before their confusion could be resolved, Dulcitus suddenly fell into a deep sleep from which no one could wake him. The trial was suspended, and Dulcitus was carried home— when he crossed the threshold, he suddenly awoke. Dulcitus's rage was not dampened by this miraculous surprise nap. He cruelly decided to sell Irene into slavery.

*While en route to Irene's new masters, though, the convoy (Christine Zaineddin & Donna Adkins) guarding her were overtaken by two more soldiers (Tom Bolick & Paul Sausman) who appeared to shine. They told the convoy, "Dulcitus has given new orders: that you take this woman to the summit of a nearby high mountain."*



The soldiers were confused but followed these new orders. Hearing this made Dulcitus even more angry— the two luminous men were not soldiers, but angels. Dulcitus gathered an even larger company of soldiers and travelled to the mountain.



*He could see her on the summit but was unable to find a path up to where she was. Eventually, he ordered a soldier (Paul Sausman) to shoot Irene with an arrow. Irene (Jeanne Bolick), mortally wounded, calmly raised her voice to Dulcitus below and told him, "I mock your impotent malice and go to my Lord Jesus Christ pure and undefiled."*

*She then peacefully lay down and died, passing away on Easter.*



# Saint Blaise

## Patron Saint of Dubrovnik, Croatia



*Patron saint of wool combers, wild animals, candle makers and ailments of the throat*



Blaise started his life as a physician but eventually became a bishop. At that time, where he lived was under the control of Roman Governor Agricola, who gave orders that all Christians should be rounded up and fed to wild beasts. Blaise's friends warned him his life was in danger, so he fled to the hills outside the city and lived in a cave.

*The animals (Kay Kaufman & Duane Hix) in the surrounding forest seemed to sense that Blaise (Mike Boyd) was someone with medical ability, and they came to his cave (Maggie Burgess, Medora Hix) to be healed of their injuries. This happened so often that even local farmers noticed, and they would visit Blaise for his help if their animals got sick.*



One day, a group of Agricola's hunters were traveling through the forest, looking for wild animals that would eat animals in the amphitheater. They came across Blaise's cave, which was surrounded by wild animals waiting patiently for the saint's medical attention. Knowing that Blaise would fetch a better prize than even the animals, they took him captive and returned to Agricola.



*On the way, they passed a wolf (Duane Hix) who had just stolen a pig (Kay Kaufman) from a poor woman (Maggie Burgess), leaving her destitute and without a source of income. Blaise (Mike Boyd) sternly told the wolf to return the pig– to the astonishment of the soldiers, the wolf did so, leaving the pig unharmed in the care of its owner.*

Agricola was amazed when his soldiers told him this story but nevertheless demanded that Blaise renounce his faith if he wished to live.

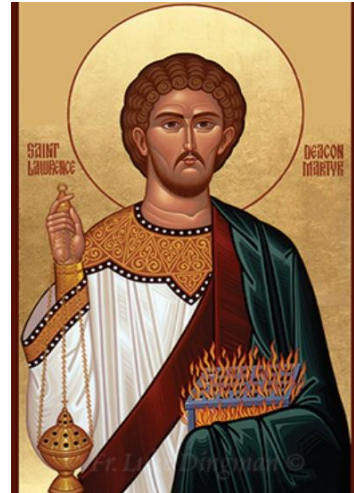
*When Blaise (Mike Boyd) refused, Agricola (Duane Hix) commanded his soldiers to drown Blaise by throwing him into a lake. When they followed his orders, Blaise didn't sink but stayed on top of the water. He walked to the center of the lake and called to the assembled group of intrigued pagans that if they really believed in the power of their gods, they were welcome to join him. Several (Maggie Burgess, Medora Hix, Kay Kaufman) tried but were drowned.*



Eventually, Blaise heard a voice from heaven saying, “Go back to shore— it’s time to accept your fate.” He obeyed without fear to the shore, where Agricola beheaded him.

# Saint Lawrence

## Patron Saint of Skagen, Denmark



*Patron saint of school children, poor people,  
cooks and comedians*



Growing up, Lawrence had a close friend and traveling companion— eventually, this friend became Pope Sixtus II and named Lawrence the archdeacon of Rome, a position that put Lawrence in charge of the Catholic church’s treasury.

The Roman emperor, however, was a greedy man— in 258, he decreed that all church officials would be put to death, and the church’s resources would become property of the state.

*He sent a prefect  
(Penny Hartery) after  
Sixtus (Gerry  
McLaughlin) and  
Lawrence with a  
detachment of  
soldiers (Tim Duffy).  
The prefect found the  
two men in worship  
and immediately  
executed Sixtus.*



Before doing the same to Lawrence, the prefect demanded that he turn over the wealth of the church. Lawrence, unafraid, agreed to do so quite cheerfully, but told the prefect that the treasure was so large that he required three days to gather it. The prefect was satisfied and resolved to return in three days.



*Lawrence (Bob Hall) spent the next three days giving away as much of the church's wealth as possible to the poor (Anne Rothrock, Josetta McLaughlin), the sick, and the suffering of the region.*

When the prefect returned, he found no silver or gold— instead, Lawrence brought him to a large gathering of the poor and destitute, saying “Here are the treasures of the church. You see, the church is truly rich— far richer than your emperor!”

*The prefect, enraged and humiliated, ordered that a gridiron be heated until it was cherry red, and Lawrence (Bob Hall) be forced to lay down on it. Lawrence did not appear to feel any pain as a result of his execution, but at one point told his torturers (Penny Burke), “I’m well done on this side— turn me over!”*



# Saint Mungo

## Patron Saint of Glasgow, Scotland



*Namesake of a hospital in the Harry Potter books*



There once was a princess named Thenaw, who became pregnant out of wedlock.

*Her father, the king (Mark Steger), was so unhealthily committed to patriarchal ideas of purity that he had Thenaw (Cathy Williams) put on a chariot that was driven off a high cliff. Miraculously, the chariot landed gently on the ground without hurting Thenaw and her unborn child.*



Her father, convinced that this miracle was evidence of witchcraft, ordered that Thenaw be put adrift on a small boat on the river, where she would float out to sea and eventually starve. However, the boat floated upriver, against the current, and landed in a small pagan village.

The villagers gave Thenaw shelter, and she gave birth to a boy she named Mungo. Mungo was raised with the help of a missionary who was teaching the locals about Christ. When Mungo came of age, he followed in the steps of his mentor and did missionary work himself.



*One day, a messenger (Julie Page) from the queen of a nearby kingdom came to Mungo (Peggy Viser).*

The queen had been accused by her husband of infidelity. He demanded that she show him a ring he had given her years before, claiming that she had gifted it to her lover.



*In reality, her husband  
(Mark Steger) had  
secretly stolen the ring  
himself and thrown it into  
a river.*

The queen, who was facing execution because she couldn't produce the ring, reached out for help to Mungo in desperation.

*Mungo ordered the messenger (Julie Page) to go fishing in the nearby river. When the messenger caught a fish, he was shocked to find the queen's (Ann Johnson) ring inside of it.*



He took the ring to the queen, who was able to prove the king's allegations false.