

## ***Logic Barrier Con't***

We take care, my brethren, of our health, we respect the scientists, but we do not forget what we hear in services that the Priests ask from God: *“For this holy house, and those who enter it with faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord!”*

May God be with us!

### **Statement of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon on Surge of COVID-19 Cases**

To the Venerable Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

As you know, most parts of the world are currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases. [According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), in the United States alone, there were over 184,000 cases and around 1,500 deaths reported on Sunday, November 22, 2020.

My prayers and those of the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America are offered for all those who have suffered and continue to suffer because of this virus, especially our Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters. Together with the Holy Synod, I also offer fervent prayers for the medical professionals who care for those who are ill with COVID-19.

The national and local authorities across North America are encouraging a greater level of caution while adopting a series of measures in the attempt of limiting the spread of the virus. After many months marked by the present pandemic, and which have tested us in unprecedented ways, this surge comes right before one of the most beloved civil holidays in America, Thanksgiving. Thus, observing these important measures requires an even greater spirit of self-sacrifice on our part. While celebrating Thanksgiving this year, we will celebrate with care and caution, born out of love. For it is not solely for our own health, but out of love for our neighbor, that we must do everything we can to protect one another by limiting the spread of this virus not only in our parishes, but in the greater community.

I want to encourage all members of the faithful to celebrate Thanksgiving, but with all prudence,

caution, and love for our neighbor. Further, I take this moment to reiterate the following to all the parishes, monasteries, institutions, and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America: hold fast to the directives and guidelines put forward by the Holy Synod for the whole Church, and your diocesan bishop in particular for your specific local situation. Remain vigilant in precautions against COVID-19, and continue to practice good hygiene, maintain social distancing, wear masks, and follow carefully the other important measures and practices directed by the diocesan bishops and the public health authorities. Of primary importance is to be particularly attentive to potential symptoms, and refraining from leaving our house if we are in any way sick.

At the same time, I want to encourage all of you not to be fearful but rather to be strengthened and comforted by this blessed season in which we prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. I assure you, no steps we take this year to guard against the spread of the coronavirus will prevent us from giving thanks to God for all that he has given us. In anticipation of the coming of the True Light, Jesus Christ, the great Physician and Healer of our souls and bodies, we cling to those words of the Psalmist, “I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my firm foundation, my refuge, and my deliverer (Ps 18.1-2).”

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed eternally with the Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit preserve us in these days and grant us health and his peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
+TIKHON  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



### **\$1, 000 Received**

- Thank you Donna Schoonmaker & Lori Kiser for donating \$500 each to help plan the Christmas Day Dinner. The balance of this money will be put in the Catastrophic Fund for future use.
- Thank you Latitudes Restaurant, here in Marblehead, for donating pies for dessert.

## Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

### Commemorated on [December 6](#)

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the

man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to Saint Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshipping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant." ***Con't Next Page***

## *St. Nicholas Con't*

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicean Symbol of Faith, and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by

the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to Saint Constantine in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (See May 9).

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonderworker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him.

The first Russian Christian prince Askold (+ 882) was baptized in 866 by Patriarch Photius (February 6) with the name Nicholas. Over the grave of Askold, Saint Olga (July 11) built the first temple of Saint Nicholas in the Russian Church at Kiev. Primary cathedrals were dedicated to Saint Nicholas at Izborsk, Ostrov, Mozhaisk, and Zaraisk. At Novgorod the Great, one of the main churches of the city, the Nikolo-Dvorischensk *Con't Next Page*

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church, later became a cathedral.

Famed and venerable churches and monasteries dedicated to Saint Nicholas are found at Kiev, Smolensk, Pskov, Toropetsa, Galich, Archangelsk, Great Ustiug, Tobolsk. Moscow had dozens of churches named for the saint, and also three monasteries in the Moscow diocese: the Nikolo-Greek (Staryi) in the Chinese-quarter, the Nikolo-Perervinsk and the Nikolo-Ugreshsk. One of the chief towers of the Kremlin was named the Nikol'sk.

Many of the churches devoted to the saint were those established at market squares by Russian merchants, sea-farers and those who traveled by land, venerating the wonderworker Nicholas as a protector of all those journeying on dry land and sea. They sometimes received the name among the people of "Nicholas soaked."

Many village churches in Russia were dedicated to the wonderworker Nicholas, venerated by peasants as a merciful intercessor before the Lord for all the people in their work. And in the Russian land Saint Nicholas did not cease his intercession. Ancient Kiev preserves the memory about the miraculous rescue of a drowning infant by the saint. The great wonderworker, hearing the grief-filled prayers of the parents for the loss of their only child, took the infant from the waters, revived him and placed him in the choir-loft of the church of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) before his wonderworking icon. In the morning the infant was found safe by his thrilled parents, praising Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Many wonderworking icons of Saint Nicholas appeared in Russia and came also from other lands. There is the ancient Byzantine embordered image of the saint, brought to Moscow from Novgorod, and the large icon painted in the thirteenth century by a Novgorod master.

Two depictions of the wonderworker are especially numerous in the Russian Church: Saint Nicholas of Zaraisk, portrayed in full-length, with his right hand raised in blessing and with a Gospel (this image was brought to Ryazan in 1225 by the future wife of Prince Theodore, the Byzantine Princess Eupraxia, who perished in 1237 with her husband and infant son during the incursion of Batu); and

Saint Nicholas of Mozhaisk, also in full stature, with a sword in his right hand and a city in his left. This recalls the miraculous rescue of the city of Mozhaisk from an invasion of enemies, through the prayers of the saint. It is impossible to list all the grace-filled icons of Saint Nicholas, or to enumerate all his miracles.

Saint Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

Saint Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).

### **Ephesians 5:9-19 (*Epistle*)**

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

### **Luke 17:12-19 (*Gospel*)**

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

## Connect, Problem-Solve, and Gather Insights with Parish Leaders like you Pre-Register Today!

When you serve the Church, are you joyful and invigorated? Or do you feel your service is a thankless, lonely, or overwhelming burden? As the body of Christ, we are called to encourage one another. To do this, we need connections!

**Peer Learning** offers you the opportunity to connect with other parish leaders like you to problem-solve, share best practices, gather insight, and celebrate successes.

**The Pan-Orthodox Peer Learning program is for:**

- Clergy
- Parish Council Presidents
- Church Treasurers
- Council Members and Ministry Leaders
- New or Emerging Leaders

We need your input to group peer learning cohorts by church leadership roles, topic interests, and meeting availability. Each group will meet monthly, January through June, under the guidance of a **trained facilitator**. Before each meeting you will receive a short article, podcast, or video link related to the chosen topic as a way to kick-off the monthly conversation. After **enriching discussion**, each member will be encouraged to **implement one take-away** concept or practice. The cohort structure will keep us together, committed, and accountable as we strive to be **faithful stewards** in our leadership responsibilities.

### Sample Topics Include:

- Resilience - responding to change
- Casting vision
- Engaging people in service
- Setting boundaries
- Avoiding burn-out
- Conflict resolution
- Active listening
- Cultivating trust
- Building consensus
- Good governance processes
- Onboarding new leaders
- Succession planning

- Running efficient meetings
- Aligning budget to mission
- How to talk about money
- Financial transparency
- Financial audits
- Communication strategies

## His Eminence Archbishop David

On November 27, 2020, His Eminence, the Most Reverend David (Mahaffey), Archbishop of Sitka and Alaska, fell asleep in the Lord after [a grave illness](#). He was the ruling hierarch of the Diocese of Alaska of the Orthodox Church in America from 2014 until his repose.



Sterry David Mahaffey Jr. was born in Altoona, PA on May 25, 1952. He was raised in the United Methodist Church, where he was actively involved in youth activities and eventually became a lay minister. After graduating from high school, he was employed in various jobs for over two decades, until he devoted himself fully to the Church. At this time, he also studied at Indiana University of Pennsylvania for two years (1970-72) and met Karen Meterko, whom he married on May 5, 1973 at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Urey, PA. The young couple initially attended both Methodist and Orthodox services every Sunday. David Mahaffey was soon drawn to explore the Orthodox faith and after attending the 1975 Memorial Day Pilgrimage at St. Tikhon's Monastery, he decided to seek reception into the Orthodox Church. He was chrismated on November 16, 1975 by Fr. Raphael Rozdilski at his wife's parish, where their wedding had taken place. He soon enrolled in the Late Vocations Program of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, graduating in 1980. Before leaving the Pittsburgh see when he was elected OCA Primate in 1977, Bishop Theodosius (Lazor) tonsured David Mahaffey a reader. Bishop Kyrill (Yonchev) of Pittsburgh would later ordain him a subdeacon and then a deacon on April 12, 1981. Deacon David would serve in various parish's *Con't Next Page*

## *Archbishop David Con't*

to assist priests or would accompany the bishop for archpastoral visitations throughout the diocese. On occasion, the bishop would send him to serve Typika alone at parishes that did not have a priest.

In 1992, Deacon David was inspired to leave secular employment and to undertake studies at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Having sold their house, his wife and four children lived with her parents for a year as Deacon David began his studies. The family was reunited when Deacon David was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Archbishop Kyrill on July 31, 1993 and assigned to service St. Michael's Church in Old Forge, PA. After completing his seminary studies with honors in 1997, he was assigned as rector of the parish and would remain there until 2006. At the same time, he continued his education, earning two bachelor degrees (2003), magna cum laude, in theology and philosophy and a master's degree (2005) in theology, all from the University of Scranton.

A year after his assignment to Holy Trinity Church in Pottstown, PA in 2006, [Matushka Karen fell asleep in the Lord](#), after battling cancer. Father David was transferred to St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, PA in 2009.

Delegates to the Assembly of the Diocese of Alaska on September 15, 2012 nominated Father David to fill the vacant Alaskan see. He was tonsured a Riasophore Monk on September 23, 2012 by Archbishop Tikhon of Philadelphia at St. Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery Church. After his subsequent tonsure to the Lesser Schema on February 10, 2013 by Igumen Sergius (Bowyer), Abbot of Saint Tikhon's Monastery, Hieromonk David was released from the pastorate at Saint Nicholas Church and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, raised to the rank of Archimandrite and appointed chancellor and administrator of the Diocese of Alaska, effective March 1, 2013.

Archimandrite David [Mahaffey] was [elected by the Holy Synod of Bishops](#) of the Orthodox Church in America to fill the vacant Episcopal See of Sitka and Alaska on October 16, 2013.

He was [consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska on February 21, 2014](#)

Throughout his diaconate and priesthood, Father

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David had served as education coordinator at various levels, developing educational software, lecturing and conducting retreats, particularly for youth, in both the Eastern and Western Pennsylvania dioceses. During his priestly service in the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, he held several administrative positions including district dean and Metropolitan Council member. From 2005 until his departure to Alaska, he taught at St. Tikhon's Seminary and Alvernia University in Philadelphia, PA.

During his episcopal tenure in Alaska, Archbishop David traveled tirelessly and worked energetically to inspire and educate the flock consisting largely of the Native peoples of the oldest diocese of the Orthodox Church in America.

Archbishop David is survived by his four children: Nikolas David, Sterry Michael, Seth Robert and Kyra Ann, together with their families, including his beloved grandchildren. He is also gratefully remembered by the faithful flock in the places where he served and taught in Pennsylvania and Alaska.

May Archbishop David's memory be eternal!

### **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

**Help defray cost of Christmas Flowers & have your family remembered at the Christmas Liturgy during the Great Entrance. Cost \$15**

#### **Fr. Andrew: (4)**

- For the Health of Holy Assumption & the parishioners
- For the Health of my family & friends
- In Memory of my Father & Mother George & Dorothy & all my family
- In Memory of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

#### **Laura Kovach: (3)**

- In memory of departed members of the Mazur, Polansky, and Kovach families
- For God's blessing and good health to our family, friends, and fellow parishioners
- For God's blessings, peace, and good health to Fr. Andrew



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## Orthodox Hierarchs of Chicago Gather in Fellowship

The hierarchs of Chicago gathered for an informal dinner on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Constantine and St. Helen Romanian Cathedral in Chicago. In a recent call with His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae, His Eminence Archbishop Paul brought up the idea of getting the local hierarchs together informally for conversation, and Archbishop Nicolae agreed and arranged for the gathering to take place. In attendance was Archbishop Nicolae of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Archbishop Peter of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, Archbishop Paul of the Orthodox Church in America, Metropolitan Nathaniel of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Bishop Longin of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and Bishop-Elect, Archimandrite Timothy (Bakakos).

The evening began with a memorial service in the cathedral for the late Serbian Patriarch, Irinej led by Archbishop Nicolae and Bishop Longin. Following the service, the hierarchs continued their event with dinner and took the opportunity to talk about current matters regarding the life of their flock. One of the main topics discussed was the current pandemic and how it has been affecting numerous aspects of their respective communities. Other pastoral topics were also informally discussed.

At the conclusion of the pleasant evening, the hierarchs expressed their desire to gather again in the near future.

## VIGILS 11/29/20

**Basil Glovinsky (2)** Healing and recovery to Karen and Marquerite & Denny

**Susan Guzy (5)** Birthday blessings to brother Gary (November 27); 4 Special intentions

**Laura Kovach (3)** For health and healing of Joe, Betty, Betty, Julia, Andrea, Mark, Dana, Bodhi, Cheryl, Jim, Wayne, David, JC, Janis, and Tony; God's healing to everyone suffering from the coronavirus especially Kathi & Don, George, Paul & Yvonne, Fred & Sandy, Megan, and Denny; In memory of my Godfather Alex Mazur; And memory eternal to David Langston.

**Sandy Martin (1)** Special intentions

**Jim Mazur(2)** In memory family and friends; For health of family and friends

**Ron & Bobbie Royhab (1)** For health of George and Marianne Royhab

**Twarek (8)** Health and recovery of Gary and Heidi Steyer, and Denny and Marguerite Bird; Health and recovery of JC Geisman; Health and recovery of Tony; God's blessing to Cole on his military journey; Health of Jewel, Natalie and Morgan and their unborn babies; Health and recovery of Jim, Cheryl and Laura; Health of Janis, Matt, Wayne, Tom, Ron, Mary, Loren, Joe, Sonya, David, Julia, Tom, Jason, Margi & Joe, Betty, MaryAnn & Bob, Judy, Chuck, Bohdi, Liz, Diane, Stella, Jake, Helen





**Christmas Day  
Free Dinner  
Everyone Welcome**

hosted by

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church  
110 East Main Street, Marblehead, OH



**Drive-by Pick-up or local delivery only.**

**Pre-order must be received no later than Sunday, December 20, 2020.**

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**When:**

Christmas Day  
Friday, December 25, 2020

**Pick-up Time:** 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Local delivers:** After 3:00 pm

**Cost:** Free



Ham                      Potatoes  
Vegetables              Salad  
Roll                        Dessert