
Commemoration of the Day:

The beginning of her confession to St. Zosimas:

“I was born in Egypt and when I was twelve years old, I left my parents and went to Alexandria. There I lost my chastity and gave myself to unrestrained and insatiable sensuality. For more than seventeen years I lived like that and I did it all for free. Do not think that I refused the money because I was rich. I lived in poverty and worked at spinning flax. To me, life consisted in the satisfaction of my fleshly lust. One summer I saw a crowd of people from Libya and Egypt heading toward the sea. They were on their way to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. I also wanted to sail with them. Since I had no food or money, I offered my body in payment for my passage. And so I embarked on the ship. Now, Father, believe me, I am very amazed, that the sea tolerated my wantonness and fornication, that the earth did not open up its mouth and take me down alive into hell, because I had ensnared so many souls. I think that God was seeking my repentance. He did not desire the death of a sinner, but awaited my conversion. So I arrived in Jerusalem and spent all the days before the Feast living the same sort of life, and maybe even worse. When the holy Feast of the Exaltation of the Venerable Cross of the Lord arrived, I went about as before, looking for young men. At daybreak I saw that everyone was heading to the church, so I went along with the rest. When the hour of the Holy Elevation drew nigh, I was trying to enter into the church with all the people. With great effort I came almost to the doors, and attempted to squeeze inside. Although I stepped up to the threshold, it was as though some force held me back, preventing me from entering. I was brushed aside by the crowd, and found myself standing alone on the porch. I thought that perhaps this happened because of my womanly weakness. I worked my way into the crowd, and again I attempted to elbow people aside. However hard I tried, I could not enter. Just as my feet touched the church threshold, I was stopped. Others entered the church without difficulty, while I alone was not allowed in. This happened three or four times. Finally my strength was exhausted. I went off and stood in a corner of the church portico. Then I realized that it was my sins that prevented me from seeing the Life-Creating Wood. The grace of the Lord then touched my heart. I wept and lamented, and I began to beat my breast. Sighing from the depths of my heart, I saw above me an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. Turning to Her, I prayed.”

Announcements

Mission Vespers for St. Mary of Egypt today at 4:00pm

We are asking for donations for the baskets of flowers that will be placed around the Grave of our Lord at Pascha in memory of your departed loved ones. Please contact Father if you are willing to donate a basket for \$25. If you would like you can make a smaller donation toward the potted flowers decorating the church please use the Easter flower envelope in your box.

Sign up sheet is at the candle desk for grave watch, please sign up to read during the hours between services for Holy Pascha.

Anyone interested in assisting at Providence Pregnancy Center please speak to Fr. Nathan.

May parish council meeting will be Sunday May 12th.

Graves at the parish cemetery in Blakely will be blessed on the Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women, May the 19th.

A small BBQ is going to follow Vespers on the Friday evening of Bright Week. Anyone planning to attend Vespers please sign up so that we have an accurate head count, plan is to do it potluck style.

April charity collection is for Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“The amount of time we are given to repent is very limited, whereas the Kingdom of Heaven is endless.”

-St. Ephraim the Syrian

Prayers for the Sick:

Archbishop Nathaniel	Nancy
Archpriest Vladimir	Julie
Priest John	Joan
Archpriest Michael	James
Archpriest Gregory	James
Matushka Gloria	Gerald
Matushka Myra	Thomas
Thom	Diane

Upcoming Services:

April 24th – Presanctified Liturgy – 6:00pm

April 26th – Vespers for Lazarus Saturday at All Saints – 6:00pm

April 27th – Divine Liturgy: Lazarus Saturday at All Saints – 9:30am

Great Vespers – 6:00pm

April 28st – Divine Liturgy: Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem – 9:30am

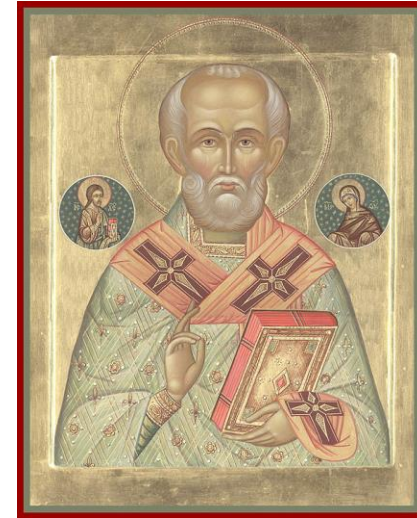
Bridegroom Matins – 6:00pm

Contact Information:

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5th Sunday of Great Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

April 21st, 2024



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Fr. Nathan Clausson – Acting Rector
Fr. Vladimir Fetcho – Attached
Fr. John Nightingale – Attached
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director
Thomas LaTournous – Parish President