
Commemoration of the Day:

The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas suffered in Nicomedia in the year 303, though some records indicate it may have been as early as 298. Saint Theopemptus was bishop in Nicomedia in the time of Diocletian. Speaking out against idolatry, he defended the faith in Christ. Because of this, he became one of the first victims of the Diocletian persecution.

The saint refused to obey the emperor's order to worship an idol of Apollo. He was brought before the Emperor, who threatened him with death if he did not deny Christ. The courageous bishop replied, "It is written: 'Fear not those who are able to kill the soul.' You, O King, have power only over my body. Do with it what ever you will!" Saint Theopemptus was thrown into a red-hot furnace, but by the power of God he remained alive. The emperor came to the furnace by night with a detachment of soldiers, and there he saw the saint alive and praying to God. Ascribing the miracle to magic, Diocletian thought to exhaust Saint Theopemptus by depriving him of food and drink for twenty-two days, but the martyr was preserved by the will of God. The emperor brought the famous sorcerer Theonas to overcome Bishop Theopemptus' supposed magical power. Theonas prepared a poison for Saint Theopemptus, put it into a little cake, and offered it to him to eat. The poison did no harm at all to Saint Theopemptus. Then Theonas tried an even stronger poison on the martyr, dissolving it in water. The Saint made the sign of the cross over the cup and drank the poison. Seeing that Saint Theopemptus remained unharmed, he came to believe in Christ. They threw him into prison together with the holy bishop, who taught and baptized him, giving him the name Synesios (which means "full of understanding").

At dawn Diocletian summoned Saint Theopemptus, and again tried to turn him to pagan impiety. Seeing that the bishop remained firm in his faith, he subjected him to many grievous tortures, after which the saint was beheaded. The holy martyr Theonas refused to offer sacrifice to idols, so he was buried alive in a deep ditch. This occurred at Nicomedia in the year 303.

The Holy Prophet Micah the First (or Micaiah) was a contemporary and companion of the Prophet Elias, living in the 9th century B.C. He prophesied the ruin of King Ahab in a war with the Assyrians, for which he was cast into prison. Set free after the downfall of Ahab (3 Kings 22: 8-22), the holy prophet Micah died as a martyr in the ninth century B.C. He prophesied entirely orally, writing nothing down. He should not be confused with the later minor prophet of the same name who wrote a prophecy regarding the Lord's birth in Bethlehem.

(Adapted from the OCA website and Prologue of Ochrid)

Announcements

January charity is to be dedicated to the Diocesan Seminarian support for the Seminarian in our Diocese. I can personally attest to how much this support means to the Seminarians, as the support is both fiscally needed, but the thought and intention truly lifts the spirits.

2025 Calendars are available and were donated in memory of the Chichilla family.

Anyone wishing to have their homes blessed next year please contact Fr. Nathan, he will be available most evenings in January.

Due to the Service for the Eve of Theophany the January parish council meeting will be held on the second Sunday, the 12th of January.

The annual parish meeting will be held on the 2nd of February with a weather delay date of the 9th if necessary.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

"All the teachers of the Church, all the Councils, and all the Divine Scriptures, exhort us to flee those who uphold other doctrines and to separate from communion with them."

-St. Mark of Ephesus

Prayers for the Sick:

Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Vladimir
Priest John
Archpriest Gregory
Archpriest John
Matushka Gloria
Matushka Myra
John
Thom

Nancy
Joan
James
Thomas
Diane
William
Oliver
Timothy

Upcoming Services:

January 11th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

January 12th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

January 18th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

January 19th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

Contact Information:

Parish Mailing Address
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 142
Olyphant PA 18447

Driving Address
600 E. Lackawanna St
Olyphant PA 18447

Website
Stnicholasolyphant.org

Phone number:
570-489-3891

Email:
Frnathan.clausson@gmail.com

28th Sunday after Pentecost: Sunday before Theophany Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas January 5th, 2024



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

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