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## Commemoration of the Day:

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Saint Theodosius the Great lived during the fifth-sixth centuries, and was the founder of cenobitic monasticism. He was born in Cappadocia of pious parents. Endowed with a splendid voice, he zealously toiled at church reading and singing. Saint Theodosius prayed fervently that the Lord would guide him on the way to salvation. In his early years he visited the Holy Land and met with Saint Simeon the Stylite, who blessed him and predicted future pastoral service for him.

Yearning for the solitary life, Saint Theodosius settled in Palestine into a desolate cave, in which, according to Tradition, the three Magi had spent the night, having come to worship the Savior after His Nativity. He lived there for thirty years in great abstinence and unceasing prayer. People flocked to the ascetic, wishing to live under his guidance. When the cave could no longer hold all the monks, Saint Theodosius prayed that the Lord Himself would indicate a place for the monks. Taking a censer with cold charcoal and incense, the monk started walking into the desert. At a certain spot the charcoal ignited by itself and the incense smoke began to rise. Here the monk established the first cenobitic monastery, or Lavra. Soon the Lavra of Saint Theodosius became renowned, and up to 700 monks gathered at it.

Saint Theodosius was extremely compassionate. Once, when there was a famine in Palestine and a multitude of people gathered at the monastery, the monk gave orders to allow everyone into the monastery enclosure. His disciples were annoyed, knowing that the monastery did not have the means to feed all those who had come. But when they went into the bakery, they saw that through the prayers of the abba, it was filled with bread. At the monastery, Saint Theodosius built a home for taking in strangers, infirmaries, and also a shelter for the dying. Seeing that people from various lands gathered at the Lavra, the saint arranged for services in the various languages: Greek, Georgian and Armenian.

During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Anastasius there arose the heresy of Eutychius and Severus, which recognized neither the sacraments nor the clergy. The emperor accepted the false teaching, and the Orthodox began to suffer persecution. Saint Theodosius stood firmly in defense of Orthodoxy and wrote a letter to the emperor on behalf of the monks. The holy Elder then showed great zeal for the truth. Leaving the monastery, he came to Jerusalem and in the church, he stood at the high place and cried out for all to hear: "Whoever does not honor the four Ecumenical Councils, let him be anathema!" For this bold deed the monk was sent to prison, but soon returned after the death of the emperor.

Saint Theodosius accomplished many healings and other miracles during his life, coming to the aid of the needy. Before his death, Saint Theodosius summoned to him three beloved bishops and revealed to them that he would soon depart to the Lord. After three days, he died at the age of 105. The saint's body was buried with reverence in the cave in which he lived at the beginning of his ascetic deeds.

(Adapted from the OCA website.)

## Announcements

Our parish Parish Book Study continues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month following Vespers. Our next text will be The Art of Myrrh Bearing. The next meeting will be on January the 10<sup>th</sup>.

January Charity will be directed toward the Diocesan Appeal for Seminarian Support.

Annual parish meeting is scheduled for February the 1<sup>st</sup>, this is the first formal announcement as per the parish bylaws. Agenda for the meeting will be available Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Anyone who wishes to have their home blessed this year please reach out to Fr. Nathan to schedule.

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## Spiritual Food for Thought:

“God arranges for us to meet certain people so that we could pass on the good given to us by God and enrich each other’s souls. The devil will try to do everything to make sure these meetings become useless and even harmful.”

-St. Theophan the Recluse

## Prayers for the Sick:

Archpriest Vladimir  
Archpriest John  
Archpriest Gregory  
Archpriest John  
Archpriest Daniel  
Priest Michael  
Matushka Gloria  
Matushka Myra  
John  
Thom

Nancy  
Joan  
James  
Thomas  
Diane  
William  
Oliver  
Timothy  
Joseph  
John

## Upcoming Services:

January 17<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

January 18<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

January 24<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

January 25<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

## Contact Information:

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**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost;  
Sunday After the Theophany  
Afterfeast of the Theophany  
Ven. Theodosius the Great, the Cenobiarch  
January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania  
His Eminence, Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

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