
Commemorations of the Day:

Saint Mark Eugenikos, Archbishop of Ephesus, was a stalwart defender of Orthodoxy at the Council of Florence. He would not agree to a union with Rome which was based on theological compromise and political expediency. The Byzantine Emperor was seeking military assistance from the West against the Moslems who were drawing ever closer to Constantinople. Saint Mark countered the arguments of his opponents, drawing from the well of pure theology, and the teachings of the holy Fathers. When the members of his own delegation tried to pressure him into accepting the Union he replied, "There can be no compromise in matters of the Orthodox Faith." Although the members of the Orthodox delegation signed the Tomos of Union, Saint Mark was the only one who refused to do so. When he returned from Florence, Saint Mark urged the inhabitants of Constantinople to repudiate the dishonorable document of union. He died in 1457 at the age of fifty-two, admired and honored by all.

Blessed Theodore of Novgorod was the son of pious parents, wealthy citizens of Novgorod. Having been raised in strict Christian piety, and having reached the age of maturity, he took on himself the ascetic deed of foolishness for Christ's sake. He gave all his possessions to the poor, and he lived in great poverty until the end of his life, not even having a roof over his head, nor warm clothes on cold days. When he discovered a mutual enmity between the Novgorod citizens of the Torgov quarter and the inhabitants of the Sophia quarter, Blessed Theodore pretended to be feuding with Blessed Nicholas Kochanov who lived in asceticism on the opposite Sophia side. When Blessed Theodore happened to cross over the Volkhov Bridge to the Sophia side, then Blessed Nicholas pushed him over to the Torgov side. Theodore did the same thing when Nicholas chanced upon on the Torgov side. The blessed ones, spiritually in agreement with each other, by their unusual behavior reminded the people of Novgorod of their own internecine strife, which often ended in bloody skirmishes.

The blessed one possessed the gift of clairvoyance. By warning people to see to their bread, he was actually predicting an impending famine. Another time he said, "This will be bare, it will be fine for sowing turnips." This was his prediction of a fire that devastated the streets of the Torgov quarter. Blessed Theodore foresaw his own end and said to the Novgorod people, "Farewell, I'm going far away." During his life, the citizens of Novgorod saw him as a saint pleasing to God, and had a high regard for him. After his death in the year 1392, the holy fool was buried, at his request, in the Torgov quarter, at Lubyantsa in the church of the holy Great Martyr George, at the porch where the saint usually loved to spend his time in unceasing prayer. A chapel was built over his holy relics.

(Adapted from OCA website)

Announcements

January charity is to be dedicated to the Diocesan Seminarian support for the Seminarians in our Diocese. February charity is earmarked for St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska.

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

Anyone wishing to have their homes blessed this year please contact Fr. Nathan, he will be available to bless homes by appointment until Meatfare Sunday, February 23rd.

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:

"The longer we remain without confessing, the worse it is for us, the more entangled we become in the bonds of sin, and therefore the more difficult it is to give an account."

+St. John of Kronstadt

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 25th – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

January 26th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

February 1st – 9th Hour, Vespers and Lity for the Feast – 5:00pm

February 2nd – Divine Liturgy Feast of the Presentation – 9:30am

Contact Information:

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

Website
Stnicholasolyphant.org

Phone number:
570-489-3891

Driving Address
600 E. Lackawanna St
Olyphant PA 18447

Email:
Frnathan.clausson@gmail.com

30th Sunday after Pentecost: Venerable Macarius the Great of Egypt January 19th, 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