

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Venerable Maximus the Confessor,**

**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**Assigned Readings:**

Colossians 1:12-18

Matthew 22: 1-14

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**Saint of the Day:**

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Saint Maximus the Confessor was born in Constantinople and raised in a pious Christian family. When Saint Maximus entered into government service, he became first secretary and chief counselor to the emperor Heraclius, who was impressed by his knowledge and virtuous life. The Saint soon realized that the emperor and many others had been corrupted by the Monothelite heresy, which was spreading rapidly through the East. He resigned from his duties at court and went to the Chrysopolis monastery, where he received monastic tonsure.

St. Maximus was the greatest defender of Orthodoxy against the heresy of Monothelitism, itself essentially a new version of the earlier Monophysite heresy. He stood in opposition to both the Emperor and the Patriarchs of Constantinople, Antioch, and Alexandria who at various times during the controversy each supported the heretical view. Despite the pressure placed upon him Maximus was unafraid and persevered to the end in proving that there are in the Lord two wills and two natures.

By the Saint's efforts, one Council in Carthage and one in Rome stood firm, and both councils anathematized the false teaching. His sufferings for the sake of the true faith were great: afflicted by hierarchs, beaten by soldiers, imprisoned, and tortured. In the end, he had his tongue cut out and his right hand cut off to prevent him from teaching anymore the true faith, and then was sent into exile to die.

**Announcements**

Suggestions for our parish charity collection are still welcome.

Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>, with an inclement weather back-up date of February 11<sup>th</sup>.

A signup sheet is on the candle desk next week for house blessings. I will try to visit everyone who wishes their home to be blessed before the start of Great Lent. If you do not wish to have your house blessed, please tell Fr. Nathan.

Bottles of Holy Water blessed on the Feast of Theophany are available as is water to fill personal containers in the church.

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**Upcoming Services:**

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January 27<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6pm

January 28<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 930am.

**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

## **Troparion and Kontakion**

### **Tone 8 – Troparion of the Resurrection**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### **Tone 4 – Troparion of St. Nicholas**

The truth of things revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness and a teacher of abstinence.

You thus reached the heights through humility and wealth through poverty.

O Holy Hierarch Father Nicholas, // pray to Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

### **Tone 8 – Kontakion of the Resurrection**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.

Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//

and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### **Tone 3 – Kontakion to St. Nicholas**

You proved yourself to be a holy priest, O Nicholas;

You served God in Myra and lived the gospel of Christ.

You offered your life for your people;

You rescued the innocent from death.//

Therefore God has glorified you as a trustworthy guide of things divine.

### **Tone 6 – Steadfast Protectress**

Steadfast protectress of Christians,

constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners,

but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith,

hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us O Theotokos//

For you always protect those who honor you.

### **Prayers for the Sick:**

Archpriest Vladimir

Priest John

Archpriest Michael

Matushka Gloria

Matushka Myra

Thom

Julie

Joan

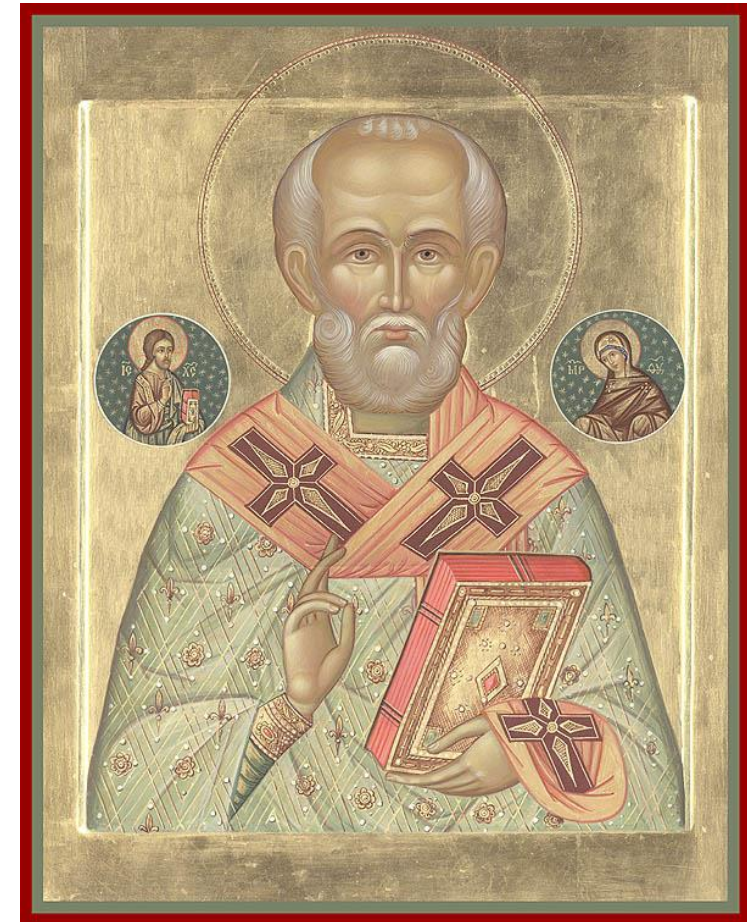
Vera

Marie

James

James

Dimitrios



## **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

Rick Cesari – Parish President