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## **Commemorations of the Day:**

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The Holy Martyr Nikephoros (Nikēphóros) lived in the city of Syrian Antioch. In this city lived also the presbyter Sapricius, with whom Nikephoros was very friendly, so that they were considered as brothers. They quarreled because of some disagreement, and their former love changed into enmity and hate.

After a certain time Nikephoros came to his senses, repented of his sin and more than once asked Sapricius, through mutual friends, to forgive him. Sapricius, however, did not wish to forgive him. Nikephoros then went to his former friend and fervently asked forgiveness, but Sapricius was adamant.

At this time the emperors Valerian (253-259) and Gallius (260-268) began to persecute Christians, and one of the first brought before the court was the priest Sapricius. He firmly confessed himself a Christian, underwent tortures for his faith and was condemned to death by beheading with a sword. As they led Sapricius to execution, Nikephoros tearfully implored his forgiveness saying, “O martyr of Christ, forgive me if I have sinned against you in any way.”

The priest Sapricius remained stubborn, and even as he approached death he refused to forgive his fellow Christian. Seeing the hardness of his heart, the Lord withdrew His blessing from Sapricius, and would not let him receive the crown of martyrdom. At the last moment, he suddenly became afraid of death and agreed to offer sacrifice to idols. In vain did Saint Nikephoros urge Sapricius not to lose his reward through apostasy, since he already stood on the threshold of the heavenly Kingdom.

Saint Nikephoros then said to the executioner, “I am a Christian, and I believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. Execute me in place of Sapricius.” The executioners reported this to the governor. He decided to free Sapricius, and to behead Nikephoros in his place. Thus did Saint Nikephoros inherit the Kingdom and receive a martyr’s crown.

(Adapted from OCA website)

## **Announcements**

February charity is earmarked for St. Herman’s Seminary in Alaska.

Perogi making is planned for Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> and Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>, pinchers please arrive by 11am. Many hands make for light work.

Mark your calendars for the Maslenitsa on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will follow after Divine Liturgy and Forgiveness Vespers.

We have a vacancy in the position of auditor for the parish. Any person who is willing to serve in this important capacity please talk to Fr. Nathan.

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### **Spiritual Food for Thought:**

“God is working. He has His own rhythms. Everything is changing, but at a very different pace than our crazy society is used to. This race, this panic, the wave that makes us so busy leaves God untouched. God doesn’t get into these crazy rhythms. He moves to the rhythm of His love and patience.”

Elder Nectarios Vitalis

## 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

## Beginning of the Lenten Triodion: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee; Leave taking of The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at the Temple.

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Upcoming Services:

(No Vespers is planned for the 15<sup>th</sup>, as we have a busy day planned in the parish hall. Hope to see you there.)

February 16<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am



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## 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