
Saints of the Day:

Holy Empress Theodora was the wife of the Byzantine emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast (829-842), but she did not share in the heresy of her husband and secretly venerated the holy icons. After the death of her husband, Saint Theodora governed the realm because her son Michael was a minor. She convened a Council, at which the Iconoclasts were anathematized, and the veneration of icons was reinstated. Saint Theodora established the annual celebration of this event, the Triumph of Orthodoxy, on the first Sunday of the Great Fast. Saint Theodora did much for the Holy Church and fostered a firm devotion to Orthodoxy in her son Michael. When Michael came of age, she retired from governing and spent eight years in the monastery of Saint Euphrosynē, where she devoted herself to ascetic struggles and reading books that nourished her soul. A copy of the Gospels, copied in her own hand, is known to exist. She died peacefully around the year 867.

In 1460, her relics were given by the Turks to the people of Kerkyra (Corfu).

Saint Demetrios (Dēmétrios) of Priluki, Wonderworker, was born into a rich merchant's family in Pereyaslavl-Zalessk. Receiving monastic tonsure at one of the Pereyaslavl monasteries, the saint later founded the Saint Nicholas cenobitic monastery on the Saints Boris and Gleb Hill at the shore of Lake Plescheevo near the city, and became its igumen. In 1334 Saint Demetrios first met with Saint Sergius of Radonezh, and from that time, he frequently conversed with Saint Sergius. Under the influence of the Radonezh wonderworker, Saint Demetrios decided to withdraw to a remote place, and went north with his disciple Pachomius.

Not far from Vologda, at the bend of a river in an isolated spot, Saint Demetrios decided to form the first of the cenobitic monasteries of the Russian North. The people of Vologda and the surrounding gladly consented to help the saint. The owners of the land, Elias and Isidore, even trampled down a grain field, so that the monastery might be built immediately. In 1371 the wooden Savior Cathedral was built, and brethren began to gather. Many of his disciples of from Pereyaslavl came to join him here. Saint Demetrios combined prayer and strict asceticism with kindness. He fed the poor and hungry, he took in strangers, he conversed with those in need of consolation, and he gave counsel. He loved to pray in solitude. The saint accepted contributions to the monastery cautiously, so that the welfare of the monastery would not be detrimental to those living nearby.

The Lord granted His servant the gift of clairvoyance, and he attained a high degree of spiritual perfection. Saint Demetrios died at an advanced age on February 11, 1392. The brethren approaching found him as though asleep, and his cell was filled with a wondrous fragrance.

Announcements

A signup sheet is on the candle desk 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.

Diocesan Women's retreat is planned for March 2, 10am-3pm at Holy Trinity Church in Stroudsburg PA. Topic is "The Gift of Compassion" and the guest speaker is Presbyteria Kerry Pappas. Free of charge and open to all women in the diocese.

Thank you to everyone who came out this week for a successful piroghi making on Thursday and Saturday. I will report numbers next week when I have a final count. The hard work and dedication of everyone involved was greatly appreciated.

If you haven't picked up your 2024 St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Parish Calendar, they are still available at the candle desk. The calendars were donated in memory of John and Josephine Chichilla, thank you to the family for this generous gift to the parish.

Please mark your calendars early before summer travel plans fill them. The Annual Family Parish Picnic date was set at the Parish Meeting last week. It will be Sunday July the 21st, following Divine Liturgy. The Evanina family has again offered to allow us to use their yard as a sight for festivities. God willing it won't rain this year.

Panikhida is offered this morning in memory of Joseph and Dorothy Fetchina on the occasion of their wedding anniversary. May He make their memory to be eternal!

Spiritual Food for thought:

"The Most Holy Mother of God prays for us ceaselessly. She is always visiting us. Whenever we turn to her in our heart, she is there. After the Lord, she is the greatest protection for mankind."

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Prayers for the Sick:

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

Julie
Joan
Marie
James
James
Dimitrios

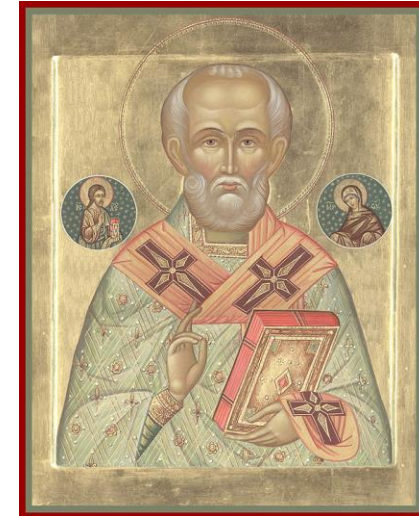
36th Sunday after Pentecost Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste

February 11th, 2024

Upcoming Services:

February 17th – Great Vespers – 6pm

February 18th – Divine Liturgy – 930am.



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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