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## Commemorations of the Day:

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Saint Onesimus, Apostle of the Seventy in his youth was a servant of Philemon, a Christian of distinguished lineage, living in the city of Colossae, Phrygia. Guilty of an offense against his master and fearing punishment, Saint Onesimus fled to Rome, but as a runaway slave he wound up in prison. In prison he encountered the Apostle Paul, was enlightened by him, and was baptized. In prison Saint Onesimus served the Apostle Paul like a son. Saint Paul was personally acquainted with Philemon, and wrote him a letter filled with love, asking him to forgive the runaway slave and to accept him like a brother. He sent Saint Onesimus with this letter to his master, depriving himself of help, of which he was very much in need. When he received the letter, Saint Philemon not only forgave Onesimus, but also sent him back to Rome to the apostle. Saint Philemon was afterwards consecrated bishop of the city of Gaza.

After the death of the Apostle Paul, Saint Onesimus served the apostles until their end, and he was made a bishop. After the death of the holy apostles he preached the Gospel in many lands and cities: in Spain, Carpetania, Colossae, Patras. In his old age, Saint Onesimus occupied the bishop's throne at Ephesus, after the Apostle Timothy. When they took Saint Ignatius the God-Bearer to Rome for execution, Bishop Onesimus came to meet with him with other Christians, as Saint Ignatius mentions in his Epistle to the Ephesians.

During the reign of the emperor Trajan, Saint Onesimus was arrested and brought to trial before the eparch Tertillus. He held the saint in prison for eighteen days, and then sent him to prison in the city of Puteoli. After a certain while, the eparch sent for the prisoner and, convincing himself that Saint Onesimus maintained his faith in Christ, had him stoned, after which they beheaded the saint with a sword. A certain illustrious woman took the body of the martyr and placed it in a silver coffin. This took place in the year 109.

Saint Paphnutius had the gift of tears, which Saint John of the Ladder says (Step 6:1) is preceded by the remembrance of death. For worldly people, this remembrance may lead to fear and distress, but for Saint Paphnutius it led to constant prayer and the guarding of his mind.

By remembering the hour of death and God's judgment, Saint Paphnutius was able to free himself from worldly distractions and passions through prayer, repentance and fasting. This, in turn, led to tears.

(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 February the 28<sup>th</sup>.

February charity will be directed toward the the breadbasket of NEPA. March Charity will be directed toward Providence Pregnancy Center as part of the OC Life National Baby Shower.

March Parish Council meeting will be on March the 8<sup>th</sup>, after the new parish council is installed at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Thank you to everyone who came out and worked so hard at our successful perogi making events last week.

Today is the beginning of the last week to prepare for the Great Fast and so we are called to give up eating meat products this week. I encourage everyone to begin a portion of the fast this week in preparation.

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## Spiritual Food for Thought:

“True love is not shown by eating together, nor by addressing one another with lofty words, nor by flattering speech, but by correcting one another and seeking the good of our neighbor, by lifting up the one who has fallen.”

-St. John Chrysostom

## Prayers for the Sick:

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

Joan  
James  
Thomas  
Diane  
William  
Oliver  
Timothy  
Joseph  
Agape

## Upcoming Services:

February 21<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Divine Liturgy and Forgiveness Vespers – 9:30am

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Canon of St. Andrew – 6:00pm

February 25<sup>th</sup> – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 6:00pm

February 27<sup>th</sup> – Moleben to St. Theodore – 6:00pm

## Contact Information:

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Lenten Triodion;  
Meatfare Sunday  
Sunday of the Last Judgment  
February 15<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