
Commemoration of the Day:

Saint Nicholas, Enlightener of Japan, was born Ivan Dimitrievich Kasatkin on August 1, 1836 in the village of Berezovsk, where his father served as deacon. On June 24, 1860, in the academy temple of the Twelve Apostles, Bishop Nectarius tonsured him with the name Nicholas. On June 29, the Feast of the foremost Apostles Peter and Paul, the monk Nicholas was ordained deacon. The next day, on the altar feast of the academy church, he was ordained to the holy priesthood. Later, at his request, Father Nicholas was assigned to Japan as head of the consular church in the city of Hakodate.

At first, the preaching of the Gospel in Japan seemed completely impossible. In Father Nicholas's own words: "the Japanese of the time looked upon foreigners as beasts, and on Christianity as a villainous sect, to which only villains and sorcerers could belong." He spent eight years in studying the country, the language, manners and customs of the people among whom he would preach. In 1868, the flock of Father Nicholas numbered about twenty Japanese. At the end of 1869 Hieromonk Nicholas reported in person to the Synod in Peterburg about his work. A decision was made, on January 14, 1870, to form a special Russian Spiritual Mission for preaching the Word of God among the pagan Japanese. Father Nicholas was elevated to the rank of archimandrite and appointed as head of this Mission. In 1873 Archimandrite Nicholas began the construction of a stone building in Tokyo which housed a church, a school for fifty men, and later a religious school, which became a seminary in 1878. In the second half of 1877, the Mission began regular publication of the journal "Church Herald." By the year 1878 there were already 4115 Christians in Japan, and there were a number of Christian communities. Church services and classes in Japanese, the publication of religious and moral books permitted the Mission to attain such results in a short time.

Archimandrite Nicholas petitioned the Holy Synod in December of 1878 to provide a bishop for Japan. He was consecrated a bishop on March 30, 1880. Returning to Japan, he resumed his apostolic work with increased fervor. He completed construction on the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Tokyo, he translated the service books, and compiled a special Orthodox theological dictionary in the Japanese language. Great hardship befell the saint and his flock at the time of the Russo-Japanese War. For his ascetic labor during these difficult years, he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop. In 1911, half a century had passed since the young hieromonk Nicholas had first set foot on Japanese soil. At that time there were 33,017 Christians in 266 communities of the Japanese Orthodox Church, including 1 Archbishop, 1 bishop, 35 priests, 6 deacons, 14 singing instructors, and 116 catechists.

On February 3, 1912, Archbishop Nicholas departed peacefully to the Lord at the age of seventy-six. The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified him on April 10, 1970, since the saint had long been honored in Japan as a righteous man, and a prayerful intercessor before the Lord.

(Adapted from OCA website)

Announcements

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

Perogi making is planned for tomorrow, Monday February 17th, pinchers please arrive by 11am. Many hands make for light work. A snow date will be set later for yesterday's weather-based cancellation.

Mark your calendars for the Maslenitsa in two weeks on Sunday, March 2nd. 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.

March Parish Council meeting is set for Sunday the 16th.

Archbishop Mark will be visiting our sister parish for the Sunday of Orthodoxy. As has been our recent custom, Fr. Paul has invited us to join All Saints for Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March the 9th.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

"The Lord calls to Him all sinners; He opens His arms wide, even to the worst among them. Gladly he takes them in His arms, if only they will come to Him."

+St. Macrina of Optina

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:

February 22nd – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

February 23rd – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

March 1st – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

March 2nd – Divine Liturgy, Forgiveness Vespers – 9:30am

Contact Information:

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The Lenten Triodion: Sunday of the Prodigal Son February 16th, 2025



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