
Saints of the Day:

Saint Leo I the Great, Pope of Rome (440-461), received a scholarly education. He chose not to pursue worldly success and instead yearned for the spiritual life. He was ordained an archdeacon under holy Pope Sixtus III, after whose death Saint Leo was chosen as Bishop of Rome in September 440. Saint Leo combined pastoral solicitude and goodness with an unshakable firmness in the confession of the Faith.

He was in particular one of the basic defenders of Orthodoxy against the heresies of Eutyches and Dioscorus, who taught that there was only one nature in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was also a defender against the heresy of Nestorius. He exerted all his influence to put an end to the unrest by the heretics in the Church, and by his letters to the holy emperors Theodosius II (408-450) and Marcian (450-457).

He actively promoted the convening of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, at Chalcedon in 451, to condemn the heresy of the Monophysites. At the Council a letter of Saint Leo to the deceased Saint Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople (447-449) was read, in which the Orthodox teaching about the two natures [the divine and the human] in the Lord Jesus Christ was set forth. All the bishops present at the Council were in agreement with this teaching, and so the heretics Eutyches and Dioscorus were excommunicated from the Church.

Saint Leo was also a defender of his country against the incursions of barbarians. In 452, by the persuasive power of his words, he stopped Attila the Hun from pillaging Italy. Again in the year 455, when the leader of the Vandals [a Germanic tribe], Henzerich, turned towards Rome, he persuaded him not to pillage the city, burn buildings, nor to spill blood.

He knew the time of his death beforehand, and he prepared himself, with forty days of fasting and prayer, to pass from this world into eternity. He died in the year 461 and was buried at Rome. His literary and theological legacy is comprised of 96 sermons and 143 letters, of which the best known is his Epistle to Saint Flavian.

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions. Our Lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law.

Announcements

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.

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.

Information about the upcoming drive for the OC Life National Baby Shower will be presented next week.

Individuals interested in helping with the planned Church Education Program coming in the fall please speak to Fr. Nathan so that you can be set up for the necessary background checks and clearances as per the OCA guidelines.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

He assumed "the form of a servant" without the defilement of sin, enriching what was human, not impairing what was divine: because that "emptying of himself," whereby the Invisible made himself visible, and the Creator and Lord of all things willed to be one among mortals, was a stooping down in compassion, not a failure of power.

-St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome; *The Tome*

Prayers for the Sick:

Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Vladimir
Priest John
Archpriest Michael
Archpriest Gregory
Matushka Gloria
Matushka Myra

Thom
Julie
Joan
James
James
Dimitrios

37th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of Zacchaeus; St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome February 18th, 2024

Upcoming Services:

February 24th – Great Vespers – 6pm

February 25th – Divine Liturgy – 930am.

Contact Information:

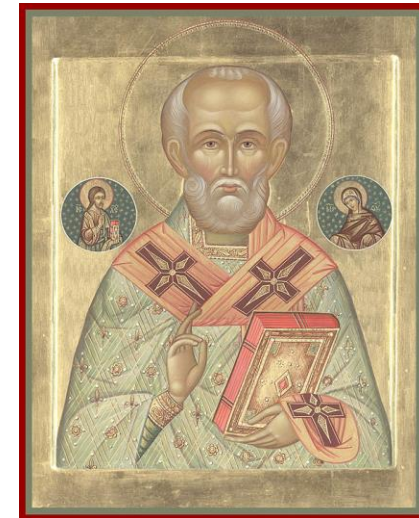
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St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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