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## **Saints of the Day:**

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Saint Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople was born and raised in Constantinople, where he received a fine education. He was rapidly promoted at the court of the emperor Constantine VI Porphyrogenitos his mother, the holy Empress Irene (August 7), and the saint attained the rank of senator. During these times the Church was agitated by the turmoil of the Iconoclast disturbances. The holy Patriarch Paul (August 30) although he had formerly supported Iconoclasm, later repented and resigned his office. He withdrew to a monastery, where he took the schema. When the holy Empress Irene and her son the emperor came to him, Saint Paul told them that the most worthy successor to him would be Saint Tarasius (who at this time was still a layman).

Tarasius refused for a long time, not considering himself worthy of such high office, but he then gave in to the common accord on the condition, that an Ecumenical Council be convened to address the Iconoclast heresy. Proceeding through all the clerical ranks in a short while, Saint Tarasius was elevated to the patriarchal throne in the year 784. In the year 787 the Seventh Ecumenical Council was convened in the city of Nicea, with Patriarch Tarasius presiding, and 367 bishops attending. The veneration of holy icons was confirmed at the council. Those bishops who repented of their iconoclasm, were again received by the Church. Saint Tarasius wisely governed the Church for twenty-two years. He led a strict ascetic life. He spent all his money on God-pleasing ends, feeding and giving comfort to the aged, to the impoverished, to widows and orphans, and on Holy Pascha he set out a meal for them, and he served them himself. The holy Patriarch fearlessly denounced the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos when he slandered his spouse, so that he could send her to a monastery, freeing himself to marry his another. Saint Tarasius resolutely refused to dissolve the marriage of the emperor, for which the saint fell into disgrace at court.

He reposed in the Lord in the year 806 and was buried at a monastery he helped to construct during his tenure as Patriarch. Many miracles were attributed to his relics.

## **Announcements**

Information about the upcoming drive for the OC Life National Baby Shower will be presented at coffee hour.

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.

Gardner's Candy orders are available now. You can place orders until March 10<sup>th</sup> with Anne Thomashefsky or online until March 22<sup>nd</sup> at [gardnerscandiestfundraising.com](http://gardnerscandiestfundraising.com) using our group # 10-1554.

This week is the "fast free" week in our cycle of preparatory weeks prior to Great Lent.

The parish council will be installed next Sunday at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and the newly installed council will have its first meeting following coffee hour.

St. Nicholas will be hosting Mission Vespers on Sunday April the 21<sup>st</sup>, St. Mary of Egypt Sunday, please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

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

"Throw out of your head the idea that you can, through a comfortable life, become what you must be in Christ."

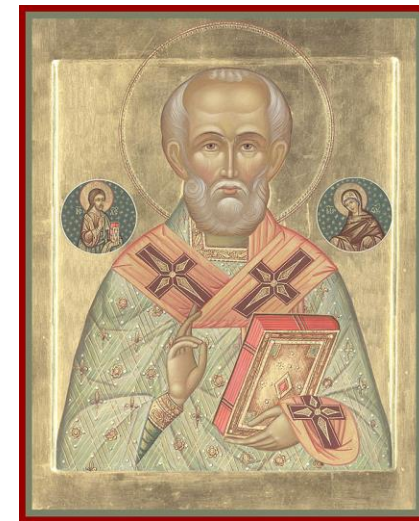
-St. Theophan the Recluse

## Prayers for the Sick:

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

Thom  
Julie  
Joan  
James  
James  
Dimitrios  
Gerald

## 38<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee; St. Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## Upcoming Services:

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers – 6pm

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 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