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## Saints of the Day:

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The Holy Martyrs Eutropius, Cleonicus and Basiliscus were comrades of St. Theodore the Recruit, or of Tyro. Though arrested alongside him they remained in prison after St. Theodore's martyrdom. When the governor that had arrested the group died suddenly after the execution of St. Theodore the companions remained in prison for some length of time as the interim governor refused to pass sentence on them. When the new governor was formally assigned, he was more inhumane than his predecessor and had the three men brought before him for judgment. The first two were brothers and the third a kinsmen of St. Theodore, all three were young men, and cared for one another as brothers in faith and spirit.

The governor sought first to separate the three men by offering them different bribes and praise, beginning with the two brothers. When he offered them to dine with him on fine foods they refused citing the Psalms, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly." When he offered them large quantities of silver, they reminded him that their Lord was betrayed for wealth in silver and declined. Finally, they told the governor, "As the Holy Trinity is indivisible, so are we indivisible in faith and inseparable in love."

Having failed to separate the young saints he then turned to the old tactics of torture. These attempts were equally of no avail as the saints endured with such peace that the soldiers themselves asked to stop carrying out the punishments ordered. At one point during their struggle the saints received a vision of Jesus Christ in His glory with St. Theodore telling them, "Behold, the Savior has come to help you that you may know life eternal." They were beaten repeatedly and had hot tar poured upon their bodies among other tortures. When it was clear that nothing would dissuade them of the true faith they were ordered to be executed by crucifixion. The saints gave thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ that He would honor them to suffer as He himself had suffered.

The third member of the group Basiliscus was not tortured directly with his compatriots but rather left to watch them suffer. This psychological assault was as useless as every other tactic brought against the saints. He would later be beheaded and is also remembered individually on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Announcements

The PRC (pregnancy resource center) that we will be working with as part of the OC Life National baby shower is Providence Pregnancy Center in Scranton.

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. Please provide the email address you would like submitted to the diocese.

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 a return to our normal Wednesday and Friday fasts. Next Sunday is Meatfare so use this week to empty the cupboards of meat products in preparation for Great Lent.

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.

Special Parish Meeting: Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>, with a singular agenda of a special election ballot for the Parish Council.

Panikhida offered for the newly departed Vera Price on the 40<sup>th</sup> day (3/1) as part of this mornings Divine Liturgy.

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### Spiritual Food for Thought:

"The weapon of every Christian is heartfelt prayer, Lord Jesus Christ have mercy upon me."

-Elder Ephraim of Arizona, (of Blessed Memory.)

**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

**Upcoming Services:**

March 9<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6pm

March 10<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 930am.

**Contact Information:**

Parish Mailing Address  
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Olyphant PA 18447

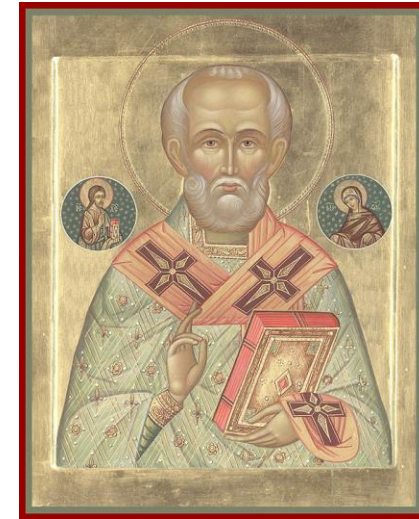
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**39<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**



**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