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## Saints of the Day:

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Saint Anastasia the Patrician of Alexandria was raised in Constantinople, where she came from an aristocratic family. She was well-educated, beautiful and an image of virtue who was well esteemed at the court of the Emperor Justinian. Widowed at a young age, Anastasia decided to leave the world and save her soul far from the bustle of the capital. She secretly left Constantinople and went to Alexandria. Not long after her departure, she heard that the Emperor Justinian, himself now a widower, was looking for her to seek after her hand in marriage.

Anastasia sought out a known spiritual elder, Abba Daniel. He dressed her dressed her in a man's monastic garb and called her the eunuch Anastasius. Having settled her in one of the very remote caves, the Elder gave her a Rule of prayer and ordered her never to leave the cave and to receive no one. Only one monk knew of this place. His obedience was to bring a small portion of bread and a pitcher of water to the cave once a week, leaving it at the entrance. The nun Anastasia dwelt in seclusion for twenty-eight years. Everyone believed that it was the eunuch Anastasius who lived in the cave.

The Lord revealed to her the day of her death. Having learned of her approaching death, she wrote several words for Abba Daniel on a potsherd and placed it at the entrance to the cave. The Elder came quickly and brought everything necessary for her burial. He found the holy ascetic still alive, and he confessed and communed her with the Holy Mysteries. At Abba Daniel's request, Saint Anastasia blessed him and the monk accompanying him. With the words: "Lord, into Thy hands I commend my spirit," the saint died in peace.

When the grave was prepared, the Elder gave his disciple his outer garment and ordered him to dress the deceased "brother" in it. As he was putting on the rassa, the monk noticed that she was a woman, but he did not dare to say anything. However, when they returned to the monastery after they buried the nun, the disciple asked Abba Daniel whether he knew the "brother" was a woman, and the Elder related to the young monk the life of Saint Anastasia.

## 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.

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.

The Maslanitza will be held next week following Forgiveness Vespers. If anyone would like to donate a covered dish please see Matushka Kyra. Also there is sign up sheet on the candle desk so that we have a general idea of how many will be attending.

Last day to eat meat is today. This week is dairy, eggs and fish are still allowed.

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## Spiritual Food for Thought:

"Great Lent is considered the tithe of the year, during which believers try to be what they ought always to be."

-Fr. Thomas Hopko (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 16<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6pm

March 17<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 930am.

Forgiveness Vespers immediately after Divine Liturgy.

Maslanitza in the Church Hall following Vespers.

## Contact Information:

Parish Mailing Address  
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
P.O. Box 142  
Olyphant PA 18447

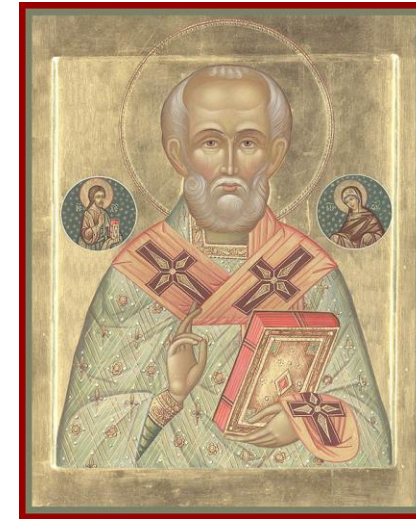
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## 40<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of the Last Judgement March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## 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