
Commemoration of the Day:

The Hieromartyr Alexander was a priest from Síde in Pamphylia. He suffered for Christ during a time of persecution in the reign of Emperor Aurelian in the third century. When the ruler Antoninus arrived at Síde he ordered Father Alexander to be brought before him for interrogation. He began by asking him, "Who are you?" The Saint replied, "I am a Christian, a priest, a shepherd of Christ's rational flock."

Antoninus continued, "Where is this flock of Christ?" The Saint replied, "Christ God created all the people who live in the world; those who believe in Him are the sheep of His flock. Those who have fallen away from their Creator, those such as yourself, who worship idols, which are fashioned by human hands, may not belong to His holy flock. At the Last Judgment, they will be placed on His left side, along with the goats."

The ruler said to him, "Now I am going to torture you for two reasons; first, so that you will show me where to find those who believe in Christ and secondly, so that you can offer sacrifices to our gods." Again, Antoninus asked Father Alexander, "Who was Christ?" The Saint replied, "Christ is the Savior of the world, He is Life and Light for those who believe in Him."

Antoninus said: "How can this man who died on a cross be a Savior?" Saint Alexander declared, "It is indeed marvelous and surprising that He took upon Himself the Cross and death in the flesh of His own will, His Divinity shattered the power of Hades, and released those who were held captive there. He put Death to death, and rose from the dead. Not only did He arise from the dead Himself, He also raised many of the dead with Himself: 'the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His Resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many'. With Himself, Christ has resurrected the entire human race."

Antoninus exclaimed, "Are you mad? How could a tormented Jew, who was unable to help Himself, possibly help others?" The Saint replied, "It is not I, but you yourself who are mad. You are spiritually blind, therefore you do not understand the mystery of our salvation, accomplished by Christ the Lord."

Then the ruler ordered that Saint Alexander be tortured. He was beaten, tormented on a wheel, and plunged into a vessel of boiling resin and oil, then he was placed in a fiery furnace. By the grace of God, the Saint was preserved unharmed. Saint Alexander was taken to the heavenly abodes to dwell with Christ, His Saints, and His Holy Angels. After his beheading, Eustáthios, an honest man, and a Christian, took the much-suffering body of the Holy Martyr and buried him with honor, glorifyng and praising Christ God.

(adapted from the OCA website)

Announcements

Our parish Parish Book Study continues on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month following Vespers. Our next text will be The Art of Myrrh Bearing. The next meeting will be on March 28th.

March Charity will be directed toward Providence Pregnancy Center as part of the OC Life National Baby Shower.

April Parish Council meeting will be following coffee hour on the 19th.

Gardners Candy fundraiser is now available. In person orders are due today, online orders are due March 22nd. Our group ID# 10-1554.

The Deanery has asked St. Nicholas to host the Mission Vespers service on St. Mary of Egypt Sunday, March 29th. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Deanery Mission Vespers will be held at St. Michael's in Jermyn on today at 4pm.

Please keep the newly departed Handmaiden of God, Joan, in your prayers through the 40th day of her repose. She is a daughter of our parish and a life long member.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“If you cannot fast from food. Then at least fast from evil words, evil thoughts and evil deeds.

-St. John Chrysostom

Prayers for the Sick:

Archpriest Vladimir
Archpriest John
Archpriest Gregory
Archpriest John
Archpriest Daniel
Priest Michael
Matushka Gloria
Matushka Myra
John

James
Thomas
Diane
William
Oliver
Timothy
Joseph
Agape

Upcoming Services:

March 18th – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 6:00pm @ All Saints

March 21st – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

March 22nd – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

March 25th – Feast of the Annunciation, Vespersal Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

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Third Sunday of Great Lent Veneration of the Cross March 15th, 2026



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
His Eminence, Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Rev. Nathan Clausson – Rector
Very Rev. Vladimir Fetcho – Attached
Very Rev. John Nightingale – Attached
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director
Thomas LaTournous – Parish Council President