
Saints of the Day:

Saint Alexis was born at Rome into the family of the pious and poverty-loving Euphemitus and Aglaia. The couple was childless for a long time and constantly prayed to the Lord, and He consoled the couple with the birth of their son Alexis. At the age of six he began to read and successfully studied the mundane sciences, but it was with particular diligence that he read Holy Scripture. As a young man, he began to imitate his parents: fasting strictly, distributing alms. Early on he desired to leave the world and serve God. His parents, however, had arranged for Alexis to marry a beautiful and virtuous bride.

On his wedding night, Alexis gave her his ring and his belt (which were very valuable) and secretly left his home. Arriving in the city of Edessa, where the Icon of the Lord “Not-made-by-Hands” was preserved, Alexis sold everything that he had, distributed the money to the poor and began to live near the church of the Most Holy Theotokos under a portico. He used a portion of the alms he received to buy bread and water, and he distributed the rest to the aged and infirm. Each Sunday he received the Holy Mysteries. His parents searched for him, even sending servants to Edessa, but they did not recognize the beggar sitting at the portico as their master. His body was withered by fasting, his comeliness vanished, his stature diminished. The saint recognized them and gave thanks to the Lord that he received alms from his own servants. Saint Alexis dwelt in Edessa for seventeen years.

When he was recognized in the city for his holiness he shunned the attention and praise boarding a ship bound for parts further east. A storm took the ship far to the West and it reached the coast of Italy. The saint journeyed to Rome and decided to live in his own house. Unrecognized, he humbly asked his father’s permission to settle in some corner of his courtyard. Euphemitus settled Alexis in a specially constructed cell and gave orders to feed him from his table. Living at his parental home, the saint continued to fast and he spent day and night at prayer. He humbly endured insults and jeering from the servants of his father. The cell of Alexis was opposite his wife’s windows, and the ascetic suffered grievously when he heard her weeping. Only his immeasurable love for God helped the saint endure this torment. Saint Alexis dwelt at the house of his parents for seventeen years and the Lord revealed to him the day of his death. Then the saint, taking paper and ink, wrote certain things that only his wife and parents would know. He also asked them to forgive him for the pain he had caused them.

On the day of Saint Alexis’ death in 411, Archbishop Innocent was serving Liturgy in the presence of the emperor. After the Liturgy a Voice was heard in the temple: “Seek the Man of God in the house of Euphemitus.” All hastened there, but the saint was already dead. His face shone like the face of an angel, and his hand clasped a letter. When the letter was read, the righteous one’s wife and parents tearfully venerated his holy relics. The body of the saint was placed in the center of the city, and was placed in a marble crypt. A fragrant myrrh began to flow from the holy relics, bestowing healing upon the sick. The venerable relics of Saint Alexis, the Man of God, were buried in the church of Saint Boniface.

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 still place orders online until March 22nd at gardnerscandiestfundraising.com using our group # 10-1554.

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

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

Great Lent begins tomorrow. Please see the calendar for additional services.

Next Sunday is the Sunday of Orthodoxy, please remember to bring your icons to celebrate their protection at the 7th Ecumenical Council.

Mission Vespers of Annunciation next Sunday at 4PM, St. Michael Church Jermyn PA.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

True Fasting lies in rejecting evil, holding one’s tongue, suppressing one’s hatred and banishing one’s lust, evil words, lying and betrayal of vows.

St. Basil the Great

Prayers for the Sick:

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Archbishop Nathaniel | Thom |
| Archpriest Vladimir | Nancy |
| Priest John | Julie |
| Archpriest Michael | Joan |
| Archpriest Gregory | James |
| Matushka Gloria | James |
| Matushka Myra | Gerald |

Upcoming Services:

March 18th – Canon of St. Andrew – 6pm

March 19th – Canon of St. Andrew – 6pm

March 20th – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 6pm

March 23rd – Great Vespers – 6pm

March 24th – Divine Liturgy: Sunday of Orthodoxy – 9:30am

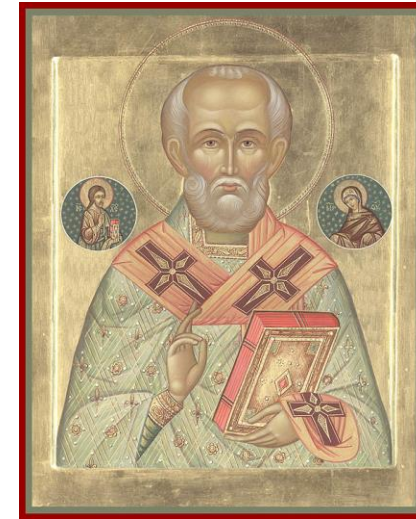
March 24th – Mission Vespers @St. Michael in Jermyn at 4pm

March 25th – Vesperal Divine Liturgy: Feast of Annunciation 9:30am.

Contact Information:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Parish Mailing Address | Website |
| St. Nicholas Orthodox Church | Stnicholasolyphant.org |
| P.O. Box 142 | |
| Olyphant PA 18447 | |
| | Phone number: |
| Driving Address | 570-489-3891 |
| 600 E. Lackawanna St | |
| Olyphant PA 18447 | Email: |
| | Frnathan.clausson@gmail.com |

Sunday of Forgiveness: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise March 17th, 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