
Commemoration of the Day:

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm. The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilos, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes.

In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel.

Proclamation of the Synodikon of Orthodoxy:

As the prophets beheld, as the apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the teachers have dogmatized, as the universe has agreed, as grace has shown forth, as truth has revealed, as falsehood has been dissolved, as wisdom has presented, as Christ has awarded, let us declare, let us assert, let us preach in like manner to Christ our true God and honor his saints in words, in writings, in thoughts, in deeds, in churches, in holy icons – worshipping him as God and Lord, and honoring them as his true servants and offering them proper veneration. This is the faith of the Apostles, this is the faith of the Fathers, this is the faith of the Orthodox, this is the faith which has established the universe.

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. Items will still be collected next Sunday.

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.

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.

We are asking for donations for the baskets of flowers that will be placed around the Grave of our Lord at Pascha in memory of your departed loved ones. Please contact Father if you are willing to donate a basket for \$25. If you would like you can make a smaller donation toward the potted flowers decorating the church please use the Easter flower envelope in your box.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“The most important thing in fasting is not to eat each other.”

- Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev

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

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

March 27th – Presanctified Liturgy at All Saints – 6:00pm

March 29th – Panikhida – 6:00pm

March 30th – Great Vespers – 6pm

March 31st– Divine Liturgy: Sunday of Orthodoxy – 9:30am

Contact Information:

Parish Mailing Address

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

P.O. Box 142

Olyphant PA 18447

Driving Address

600 E. Lackawanna St

Olyphant PA 18447

Website

Stnicholasolyphant.org

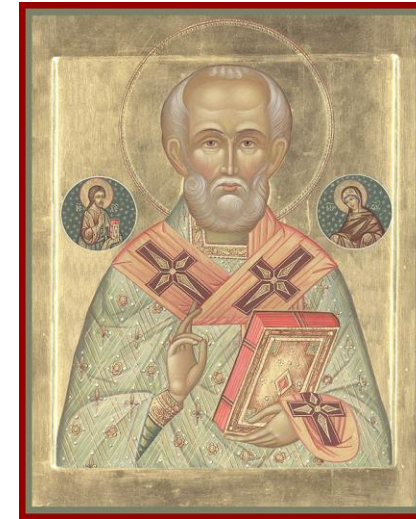
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1st Sunday of Great Lent: Triumph of Orthodoxy & Forefeast of Annunciation March 22nd, 2024



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