
Commemoration of the Day:

Saint Isaac was tonsured as a monk when he was young, and through his ascetical struggles in the desert, he acquired every virtue. He was also found worthy of receiving the gift of prophecy from God. When he learned that Orthodox Christians were being persecuted, and their churches were being closed or destroyed, he left the wilderness and went to Constantinople to console and encourage the Orthodox, and to oppose the heretics.

As Emperor Valens, an arian, was leaving the capital with his soldiers, Saint Isaac cried out, "Emperor, reopen the churches of the Orthodox, and then the Lord will help you!" The Emperor ignored the Saint's words and continued on his way. This continued for several days; sometimes in a pleading tone, and sometimes in a reproachful manner. He also threatened divine retribution if Valens did not honor his request. Offended by Isaac's audacity, Valens had him thrown into a deep pit.

With God's help, Saint Isaac was able to get out of the pit. He overtook the Emperor and said, "You wanted to destroy me, but Angels pulled me out of the mire. Hear me! Reopen the churches for the Orthodox and you shall defeat the enemy. If you do not heed me, however, then you shall not return. You will be captured and burned alive. Learn from experience that it hurts you to kick against the goads" The Emperor was astonished at the Saint's boldness and ordered his attendants Saturninus and Victor to seize the monk and keep him in prison until his return. Saint Isaac's prophecy was soon fulfilled. On August 9, 378 a fierce battle was fought near Adrianoupolis, during which the imperial army was defeated. Valens and his chief of staff took refuge in a barn filled with straw, and the attackers set it ablaze. The two men were burnt alive, just as Isaac had foretold.

Back in Constantinople, some of the soldiers who survived the battle came to Isaac's prison cell and said to him, "Prepare to make your defense before the Emperor, who is coming to put you on trial." Isaac replied, "The stench of his charred bones has assailed my nostrils for more than seven days." When this event became known, the clergy and the people released Saint Isaac from prison. With great respect, they approached him in order to receive his blessing. Then the holy Emperor Theodosios the Great came to the throne. On the advice of Saturninus and Victor, he summoned the Elder, according him much honor. Obeying his instructions, he banished the Arians from Constantinople and restored the churches to the Orthodox.

Saint Isaac was present at the Second Ecumenical Council at Constantinople in 381, where he was responsible for much of its success because of his zeal in defending Orthodox doctrine. Saturninus built a monastery for the Saint in Constantinople, where monks gathered around him. Saint Isaac was the monastery's Igoumen and spiritual guide. The monastery was later named for his disciple St. Dalmatius who he appointed as his successor.

(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. Online orders are due today, 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.

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.

Donations in memory of departed loved ones for the Pascha Lily baskets can be given to Marie Evanina, baskets are \$25 each. Sign up sheet for the Paschal Grave watch is on the candle desk, please sign up to participate in these important prayers.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“Pride is the extreme poverty of the soul that thinks itself to be rich and mistakes darkness for light.”

-St. John Climacus

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

March 28th – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

March 29th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

March 29th – Deanery Mission Vespers – 4:00pm – Hosting!

April 1st – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00pm

Contact Information:

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Fourth Sunday of Great Lent St. John Climacus (of the Ladder) March 22nd, 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