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## Commemoration of the Day:

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Saint Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome, was a native of the Tuscany region of Italy. He received a fine education and entered into the clergy of the Roman Church. After the death of Pope Theodore I, Martin was chosen to succeed him.

At this time the peace of the Church was disturbed by the Monothelite heresy (the false doctrine that in Christ there is only one will, whereas in fact He has a divine, and a human will). The endless disputes of the Monothelites with the Orthodox took place in all levels of the population. Even the emperor and Patriarch Paul of Constantinople were adherents of the Monothelite heresy. The emperor published the heretical “Pattern of Faith”, obligatory for all the population. In it all further disputes were forbidden. When it was received at Rome in the year 649. Saint Martin, a firm supporter of Orthodoxy, convened the Lateran Council at Rome to condemn the Monothelite heresy. At the same time Saint Martin sent a letter to Patriarch Paul, persuading him to return to the Orthodox confession of faith.

In 654 he was accused of being in secret correspondence with the enemies of the Empire, the Saracens, and of blaspheming the Most Holy Theotokos, and of uncanonically assuming the papal throne. Despite the proofs offered of Saint Martin’s innocence, a military commander seized Saint Martin by night and took him to Naxos. Where he spent an entire year suffering deprivation and abuse, before being summoned to Constantinople for trial. The sentence announced was deposition from the episcopacy and execution. He was locked up among thieves awaiting death, but these proved more merciful to the saint than the heretics. When the dying Patriarch Paul was told of the trial and judgement He asked that the torments be stopped. St. Martin’s sentence was commuted to exile at Cherson in the Crimea.

Saint Martin departed to the Lord, exhausted by sickness, hunger and deprivations on September 16, 655. He was buried just outside the city of Cherson, in the Blachernae church of the Most Holy Theotokos where many miracles took place. Later, his relics were transferred to Rome. The Monothelite heresy was condemned at the Sixth Ecumenical Council in 680, twenty five years after the Confessor fell asleep.

(Adapted from the OCA website.)

## Announcements

St. Nicholas will be hosting Mission Vespers next Sunday April the 21<sup>st</sup>, St. Mary of Egypt Sunday, please plan to attend, and help with serving a Lenten meal afterwards.

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.

Sign up sheet is at the candle desk for grave watch, please sign up to read during the hours between services for Holy Pascha.

Anyone interested in assisting at Providence Pregnancy Center please speak to Fr. Nathan.

May parish council meeting will be Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Panikhida in memory of members of the Martin and Matechak families, especially for Fr. Joseph and Wanda on the anniversary of their birthday.

Graves at the parish cemetery in Blakely will be blessed on the Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women, May the 19<sup>th</sup>.

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## Spiritual Food for Thought:

“Child care is the most beautiful prayer.”

St. Iakovos of Evia

## 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:

April 17<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy at All Saints, Olyphant – 6:00pm

April 19<sup>th</sup> – Akathist to the Theotokos – 6:00pm

April 20<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Divine Liturgy: St. Mary the Egypt – 9:30am

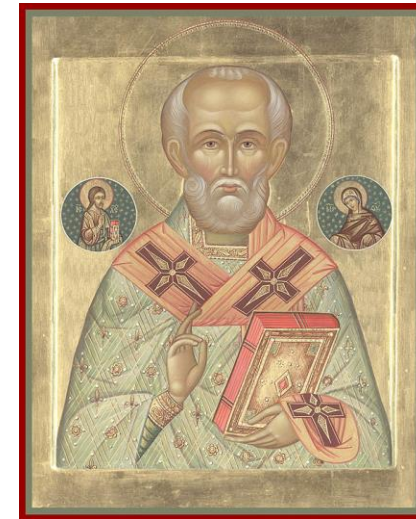
Mission Vespers: (we are hosting) – 4:00pm

## Contact Information:

Parish Mailing Address	Website
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Olyphant PA 18447	Phone number:
	570-489-3891
Driving Address	Email:
600 E. Lackawanna St	Frnathan.clausson@gmail.com
Olyphant PA 18447	

## 4th Sunday of Great Lent: St. John of the Ladder (Climacus)

April 14<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  
Thomas LaTournous – Parish President