
Commemorations of the Day:

Saint Pelagia of Tarsus in Cilicia lived in the third century, during the reign of Diocletian, and was the daughter of illustrious pagans. When she heard about Jesus Christ from her Christian friends, she believed in Him and desired to preserve her virginity, dedicating her whole life to the Lord. Emperor Diocletian's heir (a boy he adopted), saw the maiden Pelagia, was captivated by her beauty and wanted her to be his wife. The holy virgin told the youth that she was betrothed to Christ the Immortal Bridegroom, and had renounced earthly marriage. Pelagia's reply greatly angered the young man, but he decided to leave her in peace for awhile, hoping that she would change her mind. At the same time, Pelagia convinced her mother to let her visit the nurse who had raised her in childhood. She secretly hoped to find Bishop Linus of Tarsus, who had fled to a mountain during a persecution against Christians, and to be baptized by him. She had seen the face of Bishop Linus in a dream, which made a profound impression upon her.

Along the way Saint Pelagia, by the grace of God, met Bishop Linus. Pelagia immediately recognized the bishop who had appeared to her in the dream. She fell at his feet, requesting Baptism. At the bishop's prayer a spring of water flowed from the ground. Bishop Linus made the Sign of the Cross over Saint Pelagia, and during the Mystery of Baptism, angels appeared and covered the chosen one of God with a bright mantle. After giving the pious virgin Holy Communion, Bishop Linus offered a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord with her, and then sent her to continue her journey. She then exchanged her expensive clothing for a simple white garment, and distributed her possessions to the poor. Returning to her servants, Saint Pelagia told them about Christ, and many of them were converted and believed. She tried to convert her own mother to Christ, but the obdurate woman sent a message to Diocletian's son that Pelagia was a Christian and did not wish to be his wife. The youth realized that Pelagia was lost to him, and he fell upon his sword in his despair. Pelagia's mother feared the emperor's wrath, so she tied her daughter up and led her to Diocletian's court as a Christian who was also responsible for the death of the heir to the throne. The emperor was captivated by the unusual beauty of the virgin and tried to turn her from her faith in Christ, promising her every earthly blessing if she would become his wife.

The holy virgin refused the emperor's offer with contempt. Diocletian sentenced Pelagia to be burned in a red-hot bronze bull. Not permitting the executioners to touch her body, the holy martyr signed herself with the Sign of the Cross, and went into the brazen bull and her flesh melted like myrrh, filling the whole city with fragrance. Saint Pelagia's bones remained unharmed and were removed by the pagans to a place outside the city. Four lions then came out of the wilderness and sat around the bones letting neither bird nor wild beast get at them. The lions protected the relics of the saint until Bishop Linus came to that place. He gathered them up and buried them with honor. Later, a church was built over her holy relics.

(from OCA website)

Announcements

May charity collection will be dedicated to St. Tikhon's summer camp. The specific purpose is not yet designated. Additionally, Vladyka is asking anyone who is able to please donate their time to help with the camp as the number of staff is directly correlated to the number of campers that can be accommodated and the quality of their experience.

May parish council meeting is scheduled to May 18th to accommodate the blessing of graves and a visit from Archbishop Mark.

Following coffee hour today Fr. Nathan will join the faithful in the parish cemetery for the annual blessing of the graves. We should plan to meet at the cemetery in Blakely at 1230pm.

Archbishop Mark will be coming for an Archpastoral visit on Sunday May the 11th. We will be joined by the faithful from All Saints Parish. The Divine Liturgy should begin at the usual time with the hours preceding it. Vladyka will arrive at approximately 9am.

Paint and Sip social has been reset for Sunday June 1st. A signup sheet will be on the candle desk next week.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“The prayer ‘Our Father’ is a continual and daily confession: the petition for the forgiveness of our sins is a confession of sins.”

+St. Nektarios of Aegina

Prayers for the Sick:

Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Vladimir
Priest John
Archpriest Gregory
Archpriest John
Archpriest Daniel
Matushka Gloria
Matushka Myra
John

Thom
Nancy
Joan
James
Thomas
Diane
William
Oliver
Timothy
Joseph

Upcoming Services:

May 10th – Great Vespers – 5pm

May 11th – Divine Liturgy – 930am

May 17th – Great Vespers – 5pm

May 18th – Divine Liturgy – 930am

Contact Information:

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3rd Sunday of Pascha; Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women May 4th, 2025



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

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