
Commemoration of the Day:

The Holy Martyr Justin the Philosopher was born around 114 at Sychem, an ancient city of Samaria. Justin's parents were pagan Greeks. From his childhood the saint displayed intelligence, love for knowledge and a fervent devotion to the knowledge of Truth. When he came of age he studied the various schools of Greek philosophy: the Stoics, the Peripatetics, the Pythagoreans, the Platonists, and he concluded that none of these pagan teachings revealed the way to knowledge of the true God. Once, when he was strolling in a solitary place beyond the city and pondering about where to seek the way to the knowledge of Truth, he met an old man. In the ensuing conversation he revealed to Justin the essential nature of the Christian teaching and advised him to seek the answers to all the questions of life in the books of Holy Scripture. "But before anything else," said the holy Elder, "pray diligently to God, so that He might open to you the doors of Light. No one is able to comprehend Truth, unless he is granted understanding from God Himself, Who reveals it to each one who seeks Him in prayer and in love." In his thirtieth year, Justin accepted holy Baptism (between the years 133 and 137). From this time Saint Justin devoted his talents and vast philosophical knowledge to preaching the Gospel among the pagans. He began to journey throughout the Roman Empire, sowing the seeds of faith. "Whosoever is able to proclaim Truth and does not proclaim it will be condemned by God," he wrote.

Justin opened a school of Christian philosophy. Saint Justin subsequently defended the truth of Christian teaching, persuasively confuting pagan sophistry (in a debate with the Cynic philosopher Crescentius) and heretical distortions of Christianity. He also spoke out against the teachings of the Gnostic Marcian. In the year 155, when the emperor Antoninus Pius started a persecution against Christians, Saint Justin personally gave him an Apology in defense of two Christians innocently condemned to execution, Ptolemy and Lucias. The Apology had such a favorable effect upon the emperor that he ceased the persecution. Saint Justin then journeyed to Asia Minor to proclaim the imperial edict throughout the area. While there he debated with the Rabbi Trypho at Ephesus. The Orthodox philosopher demonstrated the truth of the Christian teaching of faith on the basis of the Old Testament prophetic writings. Saint Justin gave an account of this debate in his work Dialogue with Trypho the Jew. A second Apology of Saint Justin was addressed to the Roman Senate. It was written in the year 161, soon after Marcus Aurelius (161-180) ascended the throne.

When he returned to Italy, Saint Justin, like the Apostles, preached the Gospel everywhere, converting many to the Christian Faith. When the saint arrived at Rome, the envious Crescentius, whom Justin always defeated in debate, brought many false accusations against him before the Roman court. Saint Justin was put under guard, subjected to torture and suffered martyrdom in 165.

(Adapted from OCA.org)

Announcements

Oue June Parish Council Meeting has been postponed to next week June 9th.

June Charity is being directed towards an equipment purchase for St. Tikhon's Summer Camp. We have been asked to sponsor the Camp Water Balloon Fight.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the piroghi making fundraiser this past week.

Plans are being made for a another Friday night BBQ on June 28th after Vespers for the Feast of St. Peter and Paul.

Parish Family Picnic is scheduled for Sunday July 21st following the Divine Liturgy. Please mark you calendars and plan to attend.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

"Some suffer much from poverty and sickness, but are not humbled,
and so they suffer without profit.

But one who is humbled will be happy in all circumstances,
because the Lord is his riches and joy,
and all people will wonder at the beauty of his soul."

-St. Silouan the Athonite

Prayers for the Sick:

Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Vladimir
Priest John
Archpriest Michael
Archpriest Gregory
Priest Michael
Matushka Gloria
Matushka Myra
Thom

Nancy
Julie
Joan
James
James
Thomas
Diane
Cathy
Dimitrios

Upcoming Services:

June 8th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

June 9th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

June 12th – Great Vespers with Lity; Eve of Ascension

Contact Information:

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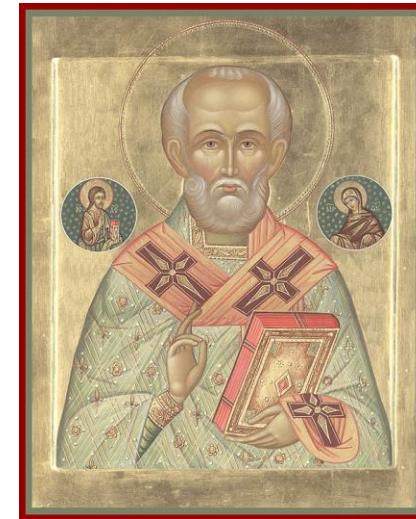
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5th Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

June 2nd, 2024



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