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## **Commemoration of the Day:**

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Saint Kyriake was the only child of Dorotheus and Eusebia. One day a wealthy magistrate wished to betroth Kyriake to his son. Not only was she young and beautiful, but her parents were wealthy, and the magistrate wished to control that wealth. The magistrate went to her parents to request her hand, but Saint Kyriake told him that she wished to remain a virgin, for she had dedicated herself to Christ. The magistrate was angered by her words, so he went to the emperor Diocletian to denounce the saint. He sent Saint Kyriake to be interrogated by his son-in-law and co-ruler Maximian at Nicomedia.

Maximian urged her not to throw her life away, promising her wealth and marriage to one of Diocletian's relatives if she would worship the pagan gods. Saint Kyriake replied that she would never renounce Christ, nor did she desire worldly riches. Enraged by her bold answer, Maximian had her flogged. Shamed by his failure to overcome a young woman, Maximian sent Saint Kyriake to Hilarion, the eparch of Bithynia, at Chalcedon. He told Hilarion to either convert Kyriake to paganism, or send her back to him.

Making the same promises and threats that Diocletian and Maximian had made before, Hilarion was no more successful than they were. Saint Kyriake challenged him to do his worst, because Christ would help her to triumph. The saint was suspended by her hair for several hours, while soldiers burned her body with torches. Not only did she endure all this, she also seemed to become more courageous under torture. Finally, she was taken down and put into a prison cell. That night Christ appeared to her and healed her wounds. When Hilarion saw her the next day, he declared that she had been healed by the gods because they pitied her. Then Hilarion urged her to go to the temple to give thanks to the gods. She told him that she had been healed by Christ, but agreed to go to the temple. The eparch rejoiced, thinking that he had defeated her.

In the temple, Saint Kyriake prayed that God would destroy the soulless idols. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake which toppled the idols, shattering them to pieces. Everyone fled the temple in fear, leaving Hilarion behind. Instead of recognizing the power of Christ, the eparch blasphemed the true God as the destroyer of his pagan gods. He was struck by a bolt of lightning and died on the spot. Saint Kyriake was tortured again by Apollonius, who succeeded Hilarion as eparch. When she was cast into a fire, the flames were extinguished. When she was thrown to wild beasts, they became tame and gentle. Therefore, Apollonius sentenced her to death by the sword. She was permitted time to pray, so she asked God to receive her soul, and to remember those who honored her martyrdom. Just as Saint Kyriake ended her prayer, angels took her soul before the soldiers could strike off her head. Pious Christians took her relics and buried them in a place of honor.

(Adapted from OCA.org)

## **Announcements**

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

Parish Council Meeting is today after/at the end of coffee hour.

St. Elijah the Prophet's commemoration falls on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who wishes to have their chariots (automobiles) blessed please plan for after Divine Liturgy on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

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## **Spiritual Food for Thought:**

“The Church of Christ is the kingdom not of this world. It does not possess any of the attractions of the earthly world. It is persecuted and slandered. Yet it not only avoids perishing in the world but grows and defeats the world! This happens everywhere, and here in our land as well. ... We must share our spiritual richness, truth, light, and joy with others who do not have these blessings. And this duty does not only lay upon the pastors and the missionaries but on the lay persons as well, since the Church of Christ, according to the wise comparison of the Holy Apostle Paul, is the body, and every member takes part in the life of the body.”

-St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow  
Enlightener of North America  
Farewell Sermon 1907

## 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  
Thomas  
Diane  
Cathy

## Upcoming Services:

July 13th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

July 14th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

July 20th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

July 21st – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am (Blessing of Vehicles)

July 27th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

July 28th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

## Contact Information:

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: All Saints of North America

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 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