
Commemoration of the Day:

Saint Stephen of Makhra was a native of Kiev. He accepted monasticism at the monastery of the Caves, where he spent several years in deeds of obedience and prayer. The oppressions of the Latins compelled him to journey on to Moscow, where Great Prince Ivan II graciously received him, permitting him to settle in the locale of Makhra not far from Gorodisch, 35 versts from the Sergiev monastery.

Having built himself a cell and spending his life at ascetic labors, and esteeming silence, he did not accept those wishing to join him. But then he yielded to the requests, and in this way, in 1358 he founded a monastery, in which he was established as igumen.

Living near his monastery were the Yurkov brothers. Fearing that the land which they ruled might be given over to the monastery, they threatened to kill the holy ascetic. The admonitions of the monk did not help. Saint Stephen then moved to a different place. Sixty versts north of Vologda, at the River Avnezha, he founded with his disciple Gregory a monastery in the name of the Holy Trinity. Great Prince Demetrius Ioannovich sent books and other liturgical items to the Avnezhsk wilderness, but the venerable Stephen sent them in turn to the Makhra monastery. Having returned to his monastery, Saint Stephen ordered life in it according to a cenobitic Rule.

When Saint Sergius of Radonezh moved from his monastery, in order to find a place for his ascetic deeds, Saint Stephen then received him, and gave the great ascetic Sergius his own disciple Simon, who knew the surrounding area quite well. Saint Sergius settled together with Simon on the island of Kirzhach, where he founded a monastery.

Saint Stephen was strict with himself and indulgent towards others. He worked for the monastery the hardest of all, he zealously guided the brethren to the ways of salvation with gentle and quiet talks, and he wore very old and coarse clothing.

The monk lived to extreme old age, became a schemamonk and died in 1406 on July 14. In 1550 during the construction of a new stone church in the name of the Holy Trinity, his holy relics were found to be incorrupt. They were glorified by blessings of help in various sicknesses and misfortunes for all who called on the name of the saint.

(Adapted from OCA.org)

Announcements

Parish Family Picnic is scheduled for Sunday July 21st following the Divine Liturgy. If you haven't signed up yet please do, the sign up sheet is at the candle desk.

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

July and August Charity is dedicated to the Diocese of Alaska. The Diocese and many of its parishes are very poor, and have made a general appeal to the OCA for assistance.

St. John's Russian Orthodox in Mayfield is doing a used shoe drive for sending overseas. If you have worn but not abused shoes, boots, sandals etc that are taking up space and collecting dust please consider donating them. A collection receptacle will be set up next week in the parish hall. (Please keep pairs together by tying laces or using string to tie them together.)

Panikhida is being offered on behalf of James "Jim" Donovan by his loving family at the conclusion of Liturgy today.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“Sacred Tradition is the very Church; without the Sacred Tradition the Church does not exist. Those who deny the Sacred Tradition deny the Church and the preaching of the Apostles.”

-St. Nectarios of Aegina

Prayers for the Sick:

Archbishop Nathaniel	Thom
Archpriest Vladimir	Nancy
Priest John	Julie
Archpriest Michael	Joan
Archpriest Gregory	James
Priest Michael	Thomas
Archpriest John	Diane
Matushka Gloria	Cathy
Matushka Myra	Peter

Upcoming Services:

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
August 3rd – Great Vespers – 6:00pm
August 4th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

Contact Information:

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Olyphant PA 18447	

3rd Sunday after Pentecost: Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

July 14th, 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