
Commemoration of the Day:

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir, and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces. Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back. There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes. Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow.

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (Saint Matthew), a lion (Saint Mark), an ox (Saint Luke), and an eagle (Saint John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth. During this vision the holy prophet fell down upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic service.

There are two significant elements in the visions of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory; and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life. The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter, is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Adapted from OCA.org)

Announcements

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.)

Parish Council is looking into the purchase and installation of an air conditioning unit for the main room of the church hall. The cost is approximately \$5800. Anyone who wishes to may donate to help off set the cost.

Flier on the bulletin board for a Southern BBQ at St. Tikhon's Seminary for supporters and friends of the Seminary. Space is limited.

A letter is also posted from Vladyka thanking all those individuals and parishes that assisted with and participated in the Diocesan Summer Camp held at St. Tikhon's earlier this month.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“One can of course, pray at home, but never as well as in church, surrounded by so many holy fathers raising their song to God as one.”

-St. John Chrysostom

Prayers for the Sick:

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

Thom
Nancy
Joan
James
Thomas
Diane
Cathy
William
Oliver

Upcoming Services:

July 27th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

July 28th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

August 3rd – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

August 4th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

August 5th – 9th Hour, Vespers and Lity for Eve of Transfiguration.

Contact Information:

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4th Sunday after Pentecost: Prophet Ezekiel, Venerable Simeon of Emessa

July 21st, 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