
Commemorations of the Day:

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths were sons of illustrious citizens of Ephesus. The youths were friends from childhood. When the emperor Decius arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ. Their military belts and insignia were quickly taken from them. Then the youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom. Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst.

The Lord placed the youths into a miraculous sleep lasting almost two centuries. In the meantime, the persecutions against Christians had ceased. During the reign of the holy emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) some heretics denied that there would be a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept the youths alive, and they awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed. Going toward the city to buy bread for the group, Saint Iamblicus was astonished to see a cross on the gates. Hearing the name of Jesus Christ freely spoken, he began to doubt that he was approaching his own city. He brought the Bishop of Ephesus to the entrance of the cave. There he read upon the metal plaques the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing of the cave on the orders of the emperor Decius. Going into the cave and seeing the saints alive, everyone rejoiced and perceived that the Lord, by waking them from their long sleep, was demonstrating to the Church the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead.

The emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and spoke with the young men in the cave. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection. The emperor wanted to place each of the youths into a jeweled coffin, but they appeared to him in a dream and said that their bodies were to be left upon the ground in the cave. In the twelfth century the Russian pilgrim Igumen Daniel saw the holy relics of the seven youths in the cave.

(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.)

His Eminence Archbishop Mark will be visiting our sister parish of All Saints on Sunday August the 18th and has asked that we join him in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Blessing of fruit will take place after Divine Liturgy next Sunday on the Afterfeast of the Transfiguration.

Parish Council meeting after Divine Liturgy today.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“If men of our day simply restrained their tongues and stopped insulting each other, then half of all the evil in the world, and half of the evil spirits would disappear.”

-St. Nikolai Velimirovich
+1956

Prayers for the Sick:

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

Thom
Nancy
Joan
James
Thomas
Diane
Cathy
William
Oliver

6th Sunday after Pentecost: Seven Holy Sleepers of Ephesus

August 4th, 2024

Upcoming Services:

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

August 10th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

August 11th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

August 17th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

August 14th – 9th Hour, Vespers and Lity for Eve of Dormition

August 15th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos



Contact Information:

Parish Mailing Address
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 142
Olyphant PA 18447

Website
Stnicholasolyphant.org

Phone number:
570-489-3891

Driving Address
600 E. Lackawanna St
Olyphant PA 18447

Email:
Frnathan.clausson@gmail.com

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