
Commemorations of the Day:

Saint Simeon the Stylite was born in the Cappadocian village of Sisan of Christian parents, Sisotian and Martha. At thirteen years of age he began to tend his father's flock of sheep. He devoted himself attentively and with love to this, his first obedience. When Simeon was eighteen, he received monastic tonsure and devoted himself to feats of the strictest abstinence and unceasing prayer.

His zeal, beyond the strength of the other monastic brethren, so alarmed the Igumen that he told Simeon that to either moderate his ascetic deeds or leave the monastery. Saint Simeon then withdrew from the monastery and lived in an empty well in the nearby mountains, where he was able to carry out his austere struggles unhindered. After some time, angels appeared in a dream to the Igumen, who commanded him to bring back Simeon to the monastery. The monk, however, did not long remain at the monastery. After a short while he settled into a stony cave, situated not far from the village of Galanissa, and he dwelt there for three years, all the while perfecting himself in monastic feats. A whole crowd of people began to throng to the place of his efforts, wanting to receive healing from sickness and to hear a word of Christian edification. Shunning worldly glory and striving again to find his lost solitude, the monk chose a previously unknown mode of asceticism. He went up a pillar six to eight feet high, and settled upon it in a little cell, devoting himself to intense prayer and fasting.

Elders living in the desert heard about Saint Simeon, who had chosen a new and strange form of ascetic striving. Wanting to test the new ascetic and determine whether his extreme ascetic feats were pleasing to God, they sent messengers to him, who in the name of these desert fathers were to bid Saint Simeon to come down from the pillar. In the case of disobedience they were to forcibly drag him to the ground. But if he was willing to submit, they were to leave him on his pillar. Saint Simeon displayed complete obedience and deep Christian humility. The monks told him to stay where he was, asking God to be his helper. The monk gradually increased the height of the pillar on which he stood. His final pillar was 80 feet in height. Around him a double wall was raised, which hindered the unruly crowd of people from coming too close and disturbing his prayerful concentration.

Saint Simeon spent 80 years in arduous monastic feats, 47 years of which he stood upon the pillar. Many pagans accepted Baptism, struck by the moral staunchness and bodily strength which the Lord bestowed upon His servant. The first one to learn of the death of the saint was his close disciple Anthony. Concerned that his teacher had not appeared to the people for three days, he went up on the pillar and found the dead body stooped over at prayer.

(Adapted from OCA website)

Announcements

September Charity will be determined at the Parish Council meeting. Thank you to all who gave during the drive for the Diocese of Alaska, over a million dollars was collected in total throughout the OCA as part of this effort.

Due to very low response/interest we will not be putting together a religious education program for the local parishes here at St. Nicholas. A smaller plan will be put in place to help our parish children grow in their faith.

Plans are being made to do our Annual Fall Fresh Fried Piroghi sale Monday October the 13th. Piroghi making will likely be Thursday the 9th and Saturday the 11th. Please mark your calendars.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“Do not be angry with him who slanders, do not rejoice at his slander and do not hate him who slanders his neighbor. This is what it means not to judge. Do not have hostile feelings towards anyone and do not let dislike dominate your heart; do not hate him who hates his neighbor. This is what peace is: encourage yourself with this thought, “Affliction lasts but a short time, while peace is for ever, by the grace of God the Word. Amen.”

-St. Moses of Ethiopia

Prayers for the Sick:

Archbishop Nathaniel	Thom
Archpriest Vladimir	Nancy
Priest John	Joan
Archpriest Michael	James
Archpriest Gregory	Thomas
Archpriest John	Diane
Matushka Gloria	Cathy
Matushka Myra	William
Debie	Oliver

Upcoming Services:

September 7th – 9th Hour, Vespers and Lity for Nativity of the Theotokos

September 8th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am Nativity of the Theotokos

September 13th – 9th Hour, Vespers and Lity for Exaltation of the Cross

September 14th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

September 15th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

Contact Information:

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10th Sunday after Pentecost: Church New Year; St. Symeon the Stylite And his mother Venerable Martha

September 1st, 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