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## **Commemorations of the Day:**

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The Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God “Of the Sign” is one of the most ancient icons of the Russian Church. In the thirteenth century during the Tatar invasion, when all the Russian realm was put to the extremest tribulation, the city of Kursk, ravaged by the Horde of Batu, fell into desolation.

One day in the environs of the city a hunter noticed the ancient icon, lying on a root face downwards to the ground. The hunter lifted it and saw that the image of the icon was similar to the Novgorod “Znamenie” Icon. With the appearance of this icon immediately there appeared its first miracle. Just as the hunter lifted up the holy icon from the earth, right then, at that place where the icon lay, gushed up strongly a spring of pure water. This occurred on September 8, 1259. The hunter decided not to leave the icon in the forest and settled on as a resting place an ancient small chapel, in which he put the newly-appeared image of the Theotokos. Soon inhabitants of the city of Ryl’a heard about this, and being in location not far away, they began to visit the place of the appearance for venerating the new holy image.

They transferred the icon to Ryl’a and put it in a new church in honor of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos. But the icon did not long remain there. It disappeared and returned to its former place of appearance. The inhabitants of Ryl’a repeatedly took it and carried it to the city, but the icon incomprehensibly returned to its former place. Everyone then realized, that the Theotokos preferred the place of appearance of Her Icon. The special help granted by the Mother of God through this icon is bound up with important events in Russian history: with the war of liberation of the Russian nation during the Polish-Lithuanian incursion in 1612, and the 1812 Fatherland war. From the icon several copies were made, which also were glorified.

Also commemorated on this day of the Nativity of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary are several other of her icons named for the city. Each is remembered as the Icon of the Mother of God of [city name], including: Pochaev, Kholm, Symask, Glinsk, Domnitsa, Isaakov, and Lukianov.

(Adapted from OCA website)

## **Announcements**

September Charity will be dedicated to the Breadbasket of NEPA in order to help feed the those in need throughout our community. The October charity collection will be dedicated toward the Olyphant Police K-9 Unit.

Plans are being made to do our Annual Fall Fresh Fried Piroghi sale Monday October the 14<sup>th</sup>. Piroghi making will likely be Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars. Also we will need to plan a clean up prior to the event to prep the garage.

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### **Spiritual Food for Thought:**

“Therefore, when anger comes, close your mouth tightly, and do not speak to him who curses, dishonors, reproaches, or bothers you in any way without reason. Then this snake will writhe around in your heart, rise up to your throat, and (since you don’t give it a way out) will choke and suffocate. When this is repeated several times, it will diminish and cease entirely.”

-St. Joseph the Hesachyst

## **Prayers for the Sick:**

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

Thom  
Nancy  
Joan  
James  
Thomas  
Diane  
Cathy  
William  
Oliver

## **Upcoming Services:**

September 13<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Hour, Vespers and Lity;

Eve of Exaltation of the Cross – 6:00pm

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

September 15<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

## **Contact Information:**

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# **11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; Sunday before Exaltation of the Cross**

**September 8<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