
Commemoration of the Day:

The Holy Great Martyr Niketas was a Goth. He was born and lived on the banks of the Danube River, suffering for Christ in the year 372. The Christian Faith was already spreading throughout the territory of the Goths at that time. Saint Niketas believed in Christ and was baptized by the Gothic bishop Theophilus, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council. Pagan Goths started to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in a civil war.

After Fritigern, at the head of a Christian army, defeated the pagan Athanaric, the Christian Faith continued to spread among the Goths. The Arian bishop Ulfilas, the successor to Bishop Theophilus, created a Gothic alphabet and translated many spiritual books into the Gothic language, including the Holy Scriptures. Saint Niketas worked tirelessly among his fellow Goths to teach them about Christ. Through his personal example and inspired words, he brought many of them to the Christian Faith.

After his defeat, however, Athanaric managed to regroup his forces. He returned to his own country and regained his former power. Since he remained a pagan, he continued to hate the Christians and persecuted them, seeking revenge for the humiliation he had endured at their hands.

Saint Niketas had to contend against both visible and invisible enemies. In opposing these invisible enemies, he converted many pagans to Christ, and strengthened the faithful for the contest of martyrdom. Filled with zeal for God, the Saint denounced the persecutor Athanaric for his cruelty and impiety, because he subjected the Christians to severe torments.

Saint Niketas prevailed against both of these enemies. He trampled the devil underfoot, and defeated Athanaric in battle. The cruel tormentor was troubled because he was unable to convert Saint Niketas to his own impiety, and so he resolved to capture the Saint and put him to death.

Saint Niketas endured many tortures, and then he was thrown into a fire. Although his body was not burnt by the fire, he surrendered his soul to God, and his relics were illumined by a radiant light. By night, a Christian named Marianus, took the body of Saint Niketas, and buried it in Cilicia. Afterward, it was transferred to Constantinople. Part of the relics of the Great Martyr Niketas were later given to the monastery of Vysokie Dechani in Serbia. Thus Saint Niketas received an unfading crown of glory from Christ on September 15, 372.

(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 14th. Piroghi making will likely be Thursday the 10th and Saturday the 12th. Please mark your calendars. Also we will need to plan a clean up prior to the event to prep the garage.

Thank you to all those who donated to help fund the purchase of the A/C unit for the parish hall: Fr. John and Mat. Kyra, Mat. Gloria, Thom and Nancy Latournous, and Stephanie and Brittany Sakson.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“Let them push you, but do not push. Let them crucify you, but do not crucify. Let them insult, but do not insult. Let them slander, but do not slander. Be meek, and do not be zealous in evil.”

-St. Isaac the Syrian

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

12th Sunday after Pentecost: Sunday after Exaltation of the Cross, Afterfeast of the Exaltation; Greatmartyr Nicetas the Goth

September 15th, 2024

Upcoming Services:

September 21st – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

September 22nd – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

September 27th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

September 28th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am



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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