

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday After the Exaltation of Cross Martyrs Sophia, Faith, Hope and Love

September 17th, 2023

Assigned Readings

2 Corinthians 4:16-15, Galatians 2:16-20

Matthew 22:35-46, Mark 8:34-9:1

Saints of the Day:

Saint Sophia and her daughters Faith, Hope, and Love were martyred during the reign of Emperor Hadrian by Governor Antiochus. Citizens of the empire living in modern-day Italy, they did not hide their faith in Jesus Christ.

Widowed while her children were still young, St. Sophia raised her daughters to be dedicated Christians. They would have their belief and dedication in Christ brought to the ultimate challenge while the daughters were still young, being 10, 9 and 8 respectively. The daughters are often referred to as Holy Virgins or Holy Youths.

Having prayed and prepared the girls for what was most likely to come when they were brought to answer for the crime of renouncing the pagan religion of the empire, they showed no fear when they were brought before the authorities. In a testament to the cruelty that was exhibited by the Romans, the girls were subjected to various forms of torture before being beheaded. Each saw what was done to their sisters while they waited for their own turn, and their mother was forced to watch the entire time. St. Sophia encouraged her daughters to hold fast to their Lord and Savior, and the Holy Youths put to shame their tormentors with their steadfast dedication to their God.

As a final act of cruelty, they set St. Sophia free and allowed her to bury her daughters. For three days she wept by their graves and then gave up her spirit to the Lord. She is regarded as a Bloodless Martyr, having suffered in her heart rather than in her flesh, but having been slain just the same for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Announcements

September Charity is dedicated to the Shipley family, of St. Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church in Chico CA. Matushka Priscilla recently passed away, and there are many expenses related to medical bills, funeral arrangements etc. The OCA and the Diocese have both made requests for care and support to be rendered at this time. Please keep the family in your prayers. May the Lord make Matushka Priscilla's memory to be eternal.

Our fall pierogi making and sale is planned for October 5th, 7th and 9th. With the plan to make pierogi on Thursday and Saturday morning. Then sell them deep fried on Monday starting at 3pm.

Special Parish Meeting is to be held at the end of coffee hour to discuss style, color, material and contractor for the upcoming parish roofing and siding project.

Thank you to all who organized and worked so hard on Father Vladimir's retirement celebration last week. It was a beautiful event, may God grant all who assisted many years. And of course, Many Years to our Rector Emeritus Fr. Vladimir and Matushka Marianne

Upcoming Services:

September 23rd – Great Vespers – 5 pm.

September 24th – Divine Liturgy – 930 am.

Contact Information:

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Troparion and Kontakion of the Day

Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, //
glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Cross – Tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross, //
preserve Thy habitation!

Kontakion of the Resurrection – Tone 6

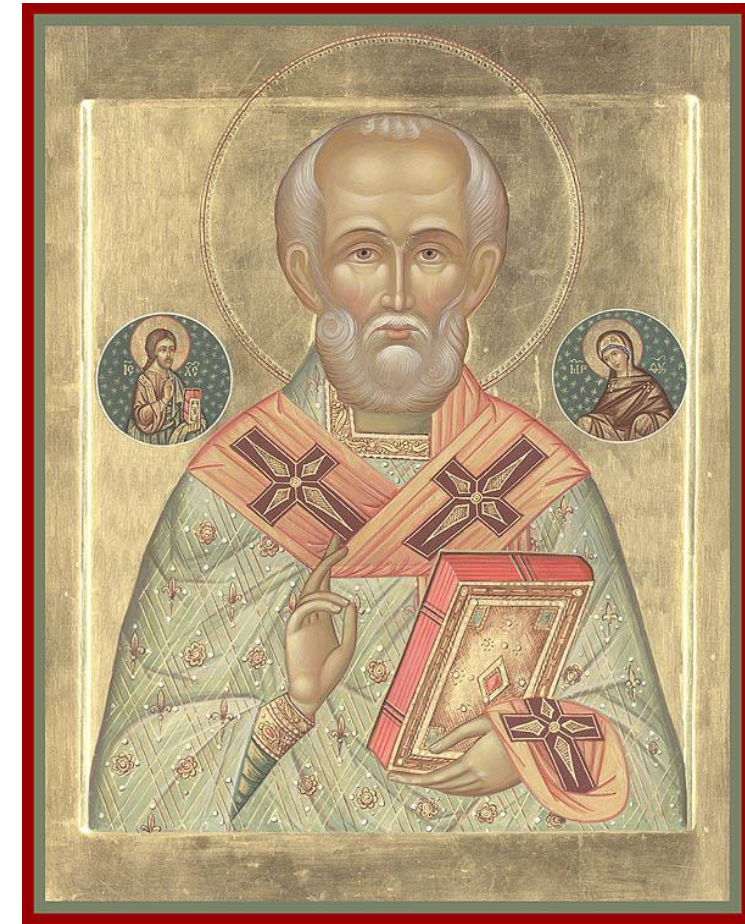
When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion of the Cross – Tone 4

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God;
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power,
granting them victories over their adversaries //
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

Prayers for the Sick:

Archpriest Vladimir	Thom
Priest John	Julie
Priest James	Joan
Matushka Gloria	Vera
Matushka Myra	Marie
Matushka Nancy	



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Fr. Nathan Clausson – Acting Rector
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director
Rick Cesari – Parish President