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## **Commemorations of the Day:**

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The Martyrs Dadas, Gabdelas and Kazdoa accepted death for Christ under the Persian emperor Sapor. Dadas was chief steward under Sapor, and Saints Gabdelas and Kazdoa were the cruel emperor's own children. Not knowing that Saint Dadas was a Christian, the emperor appointed him as governor of one of the Persian districts. When it was discovered, he was stripped of all honors, sent to the court of the cruel torturer Andromelik and was condemned to be burned. Approaching the stake, Saint Dadas shielded himself with the Sign of the Cross, and the fire went out. Seeing this miracle, the emperor's stunned son Gabdelas believed in Christ and in the hearing of all, confessed his faith. The judge reported this to the emperor, and he commanded Saint Gabdelas to be fiercely tortured. But in all the sufferings divine strength preserved the saint. An angel of the Lord comforted him, and each time the Lord restored health and strength to him. Beholding the miraculous healing of the holy martyr, many prisoners in the prison with him became Christians, even the sorcerer Gargal, and thus accepted martyrdom.

The emperor's daughter Kazdoa, sister of the Martyr Gabdelas, secretly visited him in prison and brought him water. Another time Kazdoa saw her brother when the torturers tortured him anew. The holy martyr was hung on a cross, and a volley of arrows shot at him, but the arrows bounced off and struck the archers. Seeing his sister, he prevailed upon her to believe in Christ. Saint Kazdoa confessed herself a Christian, and by the command of her father the emperor Sapor, she was cruelly beaten and thrown into prison where her brother languished.

Suffering from her wounds, Saint Kazdoa asked her brother to pray for her. Saint Gabdelas, having said the prayer, assured his sister that she would suffer no more.

On the following day during new tortures Saint Gabdelas, seeing two presbyters Dadias and Abdi, asked them to bring oil and water, since he deeply wanted to receive holy Baptism. At this moment a cloud overshadowed the martyr, from which poured out water and oil, and a voice was heard: "Servant of God, you have already received Baptism." The face of the martyr became radiant, and in the air was the fragrance of perfume. The torturer commanded the saint to be pierced with spears, and after several hours he died with prayer on his lips.

At midnight the Martyr Gabdelas appeared to the priest Dadias, gave him a vessel with oil and sent him to the martyr Kazdoa to anoint her with oil and give her the Holy Mysteries. The priest did this and, at the very last, said to the holy martyr: "Sleep, sister, until the coming of the Lord," and Saint Kazdoa departed to the Lord. The mother of the holy martyr prepared her for burial and with joy buried her with the Martyr Gabdelas.

(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.

Fr. Nathan will be traveling the first weekend of October, Fr. John Kowalczyk will be covering the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Please welcome him.

Divine Liturgy will be early at 9am on October 13<sup>th</sup> on account of the annual Steamtown marathon. Hours will be read prior to Divine Liturgy as usual.

Parish Council Meeting in October will be held Sunday October the 13<sup>th</sup> following coffee hour.

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

"Hell can't be made attractive. So the devil makes attractive the road that leads there."

-St. Basil of Caesarea

## 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

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Venerable Cyriacus the Hermit, of Palestine

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Upcoming Services:

October 5<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers, Fr. Nathan out of town

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

October 12<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

October 13<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – **9:00am** – special time due to marathon.



## Contact Information:

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

Driving Address  
600 E. Lackawanna St  
Olyphant PA 18447

Website  
[Stnicholasolyphant.org](http://Stnicholasolyphant.org)

Phone number:  
570-489-3891

Email:  
[Frnathan.clausson@gmail.com](mailto: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