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## **Commemorations of the Day:**

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The Holy Virgin Martyr Zlata, that “golden vessel of virginity, and undefiled bride of Christ,” was born in the village of Slatena, in the Meglena diocese, on the border of Bulgaria and Serbia, when Bulgaria was under the Turkish Yoke. Her father was poor and he had four daughters. Saint Zlata was beautiful in appearance, and her soul was beautiful as well. From childhood she displayed an unusually strong character, and an unshakeable faith in Christ.

A certain Turk became obsessed with her, and kidnapped her one day as she was gathering wood with some other women. He brought her to his house, and repeatedly tried to seduce the maiden, and persuade her to convert to Islam, saying that he would make her his wife. Zlata, however, resisted and asserted: "I know only Christ as my Bridegroom, Whom I shall not deny, even if you tear me to shreds."

Since persuasion and flattery proved unsuccessful, the Turk began to threaten her with grievous torments. The glorious martyr was not frightened by these threats, however. For six months the impious Hagarenes tried to make Zlata accept their religion, but she remained steadfast. Then they ordered the saint's parents and sisters to convince her to become a Moslem. Otherwise, they would kill Zlata and torture them.

The Saint's parents and sisters wept and urged her to deny Christ “just for the sake of appearances,” so that they might be spared torture and death. Saint Zlata was unmoved by their pleas, and replied, “You who now urge me to deny Christ are no longer my parents and sisters. Instead, I have the Lord Jesus Christ as my father, the Lady Theotokos as my mother, and the Saints of our Church as my brothers and sisters!”

When the Moslems saw that they could not weaken the Saint's resolve, they tortured her for three months, beating her with clubs. Later, they peeled strips of skin from her body so that the earth was reddened by her blood. Then they heated a skewer and passed it through her ears. Standing nearby was her Spiritual Father, Hieromonk Timothy of Stavronikēta Monastery on Mount Athos, She sent word to him to pray that she would persevere until the end. It was he who recorded her martyrdom.

Finally, the Moslems fell into a rage at having been defeated by a woman, so they tied her to a tree and cut her virginal body to pieces with their knives. Her pure soul was received by Christ, Who bestowed on her the double crowns of virginity and martyrdom. Certain Christians gathered her relics secretly and buried them with great reverence. Saint Zlata suffered for Christ on October 13, 1795.

(Adapted from OCA website)

## **Announcements**

The October charity collection will be dedicated toward the Olyphant Police K-9 Unit.

Our Annual Fall Fresh Fried Perogi sale is set for tomorrow.

Special thanks given to Matushka Gloria for purchasing the new refrigerator for the parish garage. (This equipment is vital for the Perogi Sale tomorrow.)

Parish Council Meeting in October will be held today following coffee hour.

October is clergy appreciation month in the OCA, Fr. Nathan would like to let everyone know that he already feels very appreciated by the community of St. Nicholas. It would be wonderful to give some love and care to our parishes two retired priests, who are both continually helpful in the parish ministry.

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

“When people are empty of Christ, a thousand and one other things come and fill them up: jealousies, hatreds, boredom, melancholy, resentment, a wordly outlook, wordly pleasures. Try to fill your soul with Christ so that it's not empty.”

-St. Mark the Ascetic

## **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  
Timothy

## **Upcoming Services:**

October 19<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

October 20<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

October 26<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

October 27<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30pm

## **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)

# **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council**

**October 13<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