
Commemorations of the Day:

Martyrs Akepsimas the Bishop, Joseph the Presbyter and Aeithalas the Deacon of Persia were leaders of the Christian Church in the Persian city of Naesson. His flock devotedly loved their hierarch for his ascetic life and tireless pastoral work.

The emperor Sapor ordered his men to seek out and kill Christian clergy. Saint Akepsimas also was arrested, even though he was already an eighty-year-old man. They took him to the city of Arbela, where the holy Elder refused to offer sacrifice to the Persian gods. For this he was fiercely beaten and thrown into prison, where on the following day the seventy-year-old priest Joseph and the deacon Aeithalas were severely beaten and thrown into jail with him. For three years the saints were held in confinement, and suffered from hunger and thirst.

The holy bishop was beheaded, but the presbyter and deacon were taken into the city to be stoned. The execution of the presbyter Joseph was prolonged for several hours. A guard was placed near the place of execution, so that Christians would not take the body of the holy martyr. On the fourth night a strong windstorm raged near the city, lightning killed the guard, the wind tossed stones about, and the body of Saint Joseph disappeared. Deacon Aeithalas was taken to the village of Patrias, where he was stoned. Christians secretly buried his body. A tree grew on the saint's grave, and its fruit brought healings.

Saint Snandulia of Persia is mentioned in the account of the martyrdom of Saints Joseph the priest and Aethalas the deacon. Snandulia was a devout Christian of the city of Arbela who visited those who suffered in prison for the sake of Christ. When she learned that Saints Joseph and Aethalas were in the prison, she went with her servants by night and bribed the guards with gold. They allowed her to take the saints to her home until daybreak. She took them home and put them to bed, tending their wounds, and kissing their shattered hands and feet. She returned them to prison in the morning as promised.

Soldiers went to the homes of the Christians to force them to come to the judgment hall. They dug a hole and placed Saint Joseph in it, then put stones in the hands of the Christians and compelled them to stone him. Saint Snandulia was among these Christians, but she refused to throw stones at the aged priest. Then they gave her a lance and told her to kill Saint Joseph. She said that she would rather drive the lance into her own heart than to wound the saint with it.

(Adapted from OCA website)

Announcements

November and December charity will be directed to the IOCC relief effort for those suffering from hurricanes Helene and Milton that recently struck the United States.

November Parish Council Meeting is to be held on the second Sunday, November the 10th.

Please note that Great Vespers will be returning to 5pm on Saturdays starting next week November the 9th. Thank you to all the parishioners who were patient with the adjustment to the later time for most of the previous year.

Perogi orders for the pre-advent perogi making are to be given to Matushka Kyra by Sunday 11/10. Perogi will be made on Monday 11/11 and Saturday 11/16, all who are available to help are encouraged to come. The time is well spent in fellowship and support of the parish.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“For, to say it all in one word, the virtue of baptism is to be understood as a covenant with God for a second life and a purer conversation. And indeed all need to fear this very much, and to watch our own souls, each one of us, with all care, that we do not become liars in respect of this profession.”

-St. Gregory the Theologian
Oration 40

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:

November 9th – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

November 10th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

November 16th – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

November 17th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

Contact Information:

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19th Sunday after Pentecost: Hieromartyrs Akepsimas, Bishop in Persia, Presbyter Joseph, and Deacon Aeithalas

November 3rd, 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