
Commemoration of the Day:

The Holy Great Martyr Katherine was the daughter of Konstos, the governor of Alexandria. Young men from the most worthy families of the empire sought the hand of the beautiful Katherine, but she was not interested in any of them. She told her parents that she would enter into marriage only with someone who surpassed her in nobility, wealth, comeliness and wisdom.

Katherine's mother, a secret Christian, sent her to her own Spiritual Father, a saintly Elder living in a cave outside the city, for advice. After listening to Katherine, the Elder said that he knew of someone who surpassed her in everything. "His countenance is more radiant than the shining of the sun, and all of creation is governed by His wisdom. His riches are given to all the nations of the world, yet they never diminish. His compassion is unequalled." This description of the Heavenly Bridegroom produced an ardent desire in the soul of the holy maiden to see Him. After a period of prayer Katherine had a vision in a dream in which Christ declined her for her impiety. She returned again to the Elder deeply saddened, and told him what she had seen in the dream. He received her, instructed her in the faith of Christ, admonished her to preserve her purity and integrity and to pray unceasingly. She then received the Mystery of Holy Baptism. Saint Katherine had a second vision in which the Lord gave her a beautiful ring, a wondrous token of her betrothal to the Heavenly Bridegroom. This ring still rests upon her hand in the reliquary at Mt. Sinai.

When the Emperor Maximian came to Alexandria for a pagan festival. Among the 'celebrations' were the execution of the confessors of Christ, who would not deny Him under torture. They were condemned to death in the fire. Katherine's love for the Christian martyrs, and her fervent desire to ease their sufferings, compelled her to speak on their behalf. Introducing herself, the Saint confessed her faith in the One True God, and exposed the errors of the pagans. The Emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, but the Saint got the better of the wise men. Unable to persuade the Saint, he tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Hearing her angry refusal, the Emperor ordered his men to subject the Saint to terrible tortures, and then throw her in prison. The Empress Augusta, having heard of this great woman, went to see her. The holy martyr explained the Christian Faith to them, and they were converted to Christ.

Then they brought the martyr to the judgment court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, she was urged to renounce the Christian Faith. The Saint steadfastly confessed Christ and she was taken to be tortured, but an Angel smashed the instruments of execution, which shattered into pieces with many pagans standing nearby. Saint Katherine remained faithful to her heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and after praying to Him, she laid her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword.

The relics of Saint Katherine were taken by the Angels to Mount Sinai.

(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.

Please remember that the Advent fast has begun. Fish, wine and oil are officially permitted on the weekends. This time is meant for our benefit, not punishment.

The OCA has given a blanket exception for Thanksgiving longer than I have been Orthodox. Please enjoy the holiday, feast sumptuously and enjoy the time with family and friends. Just remember to take a moment and give thanks unto Him who is the source of all our abundance.

The Canonization of Matushka Olga continues in Alaska, she was reinterred in her reliquary last weekend. It is truly wonderful to have an American born saint from the 20th century. May Matushka Olga's God pleasing prayers continue for all Orthodox Christian in this nation.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“Let us fast, my children. Do not listen to those who say that fasting is nothing, and that this is something from monks. This is not from monks, my children, forgive me, God says this. The first commandment of God is fasting, and our Christ fasted.”

-St. Iakovos of Evia

Prayers for the Sick:

Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Vladimir
Priest John
Archpriest Gregory
Archpriest John
Matushka Gloria
Matushka Myra
John
Thom
Nancy

Joan
James
Thomas
Diane
Cathy
William
Oliver
Timothy
Brittany
Stephanie

Upcoming Services:

November 30th – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

December 1st – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

December 5th – 9th Hour, Great Vespers and Litya for Patronal Feast – 6:00pm

December 6th – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

Banquet to follow.

Contact Information:

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22nd Sunday after Pentecost: Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos November 24th, 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