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## **Commemorations of the Day:**

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Saint Patapios was born at Thebes into a pious Christian family. Reaching the age of maturity, he scorned the vanity of this world, and so he went into the Egyptian desert where he became known for his ascetic deeds. Though he wished to live in silence, people began coming to him for advice. To every tired pilgrim who visited his cell, he offered rest and hospitality, as well as spiritual instructions and profitable counsel for the salvation of one's soul. The Saint's reputation spread quickly, and every day many arrived at his cell in order to hear these beneficial instructions from his lips.

Later, he went to Constantinople, where he had a cell by the city wall, near the Blachernae church. But even here, he soon became known. The infirm started to gather around Patapios, and because he had been granted the gift of healing, he helped all those in need. Once a certain woman was afflicted by the terrible disease of cancer, and worms came forth from her breasts. Not only did she suffer a great deal of pain in her chest, but throughout her entire body as well. She was in constant pain, and it reached her heart, so that she was near death. The doctors could not help her, and she felt she was wasting her money without obtaining relief. Therefore, she came to Saint Patapios and fell at his feet, begging him to heal her. The worms were devouring her flesh even before she was in the grave, causing her such pain that she longed for death.

The Saint answered, "If you have faith in the Lord, and have no doubt that you shall be healed, then let it be done according to your faith."

Sighing from the depths of her soul, she said, "I believe, O Lord that You know all things which are hidden and unknown, and that You are all-powerful. Therefore, have mercy on me and heal me." Then the Saint asked the woman to let him see the effects of her distress. When he saw the ravages of the disease, he was struck with awe, saying, "Your affliction is indeed great, and difficult to cure. Go in peace, for you shall not suffer anymore." As soon as he said this, the woman was healed and went home rejoicing and glorifying God. She told of this miracle everywhere, and praised Saint Patapios.

After a life adorned with virtue and miracles, Saint Patapios fell asleep in the Lord and was buried in the church of Saint John the Baptist.

(Adapted from OCA website)

## **Announcements**

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 continues. Fish, wine and oil are officially permitted on the weekends. This time is meant for our benefit, not punishment.

Thank you to everyone who came out for our last perogi making of 2024. In addition to the laughter and camaraderie we shared in making the perogis the parish generated a profit of \$3466.

Thank you to everyone who made Friday's festivities possible. A special thank you to Brittany and Stephanie Sakson who took the lead on organizing the banquet following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

2025 Calendars are available and were donated in memory of the Chichilla family.

Panikhida at the conclusion of service today in honor of the departed founders of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. May their memory be eternal!

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

“If you get used to praying with fervour, you will not need a teacher, for God will open your mind to Him without the need for any intermediary.”

-St. John Chrysostom

## **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  
William  
Oliver  
Timothy

## **Upcoming Services:**

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

December 15<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

December 21<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers – 5:00pm

December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

## **Contact Information:**

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## **24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Venerable Patapius of Thebes December 8<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