
Commemoration of the Day:

Saint Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow, was born in Volhynia of pious parents, Theodore and Eupraxia. Even before the birth of her son, the Lord revealed to Eupraxia the preordained blessedness of her son. At the age of twelve, young Peter entered a monastery. He successfully studied the book sciences of those times and eagerly fulfilled his monastic obediences. The future saint devoted much time to an attentive study of the Holy Scriptures, and he also learned iconography. The icons painted by Saint Peter were distributed to the brethren and to Christians who visited the monastery. Because of his virtuous and ascetic life, the igumen of the monastery had Saint Peter ordained as a hieromonk. After years of ascetic labors at the monastery, the hieromonk Peter, with the blessing of the igumen, left the monastery in search of a solitary place.

He built a cell at the Rata River and began to pursue asceticism in silence. Afterwards, at the place of his ascetic exploits, a monastery was formed, called the Novodvorsk. A church dedicated to the Savior was built for the monks who came to him. Chosen as igumen, Saint Peter guided his spiritual children, and never became angry with a guilty monk. Instead, he instructed the brethren by word and by example. The virtuous igumen and ascetic became known far beyond the vicinity of the monastery. Prince Yuri of Galicia frequently visited the monastery in order to receive spiritual instruction from the holy ascetic. The Mother of God appeared to the Abbott Gerontius when he sought the office upon the passing of the Metropolitan Maximus. Patriarch Athanasius of Constantinople elevated Saint Peter as Metropolitan of Russia, bestowing upon him the hierarchal vestments, staff and icon, brought by Gerontius. Upon his return to Russia in 1308, Metropolitan Peter arrived at Kiev after a year, and then proceeded on to Vladimir.

The chief hierarch was tested by many trials during his first years of guiding the Russian metropolitanate. Suffering beneath the Tatar Yoke the Russian land was in turmoil, and Saint Peter was often obliged to change the place of his residence. During this period the saint's labors and concerns to affirm the true Faith and morality in the realm were particularly important. He incessantly instructed the people and clergy on preserving Christian piety. He also brought quarrelsome princes to peace and unity. In the year 1312 the saint made a journey to the Horde, where he received a decree from Khan Uzbek, safeguarding the rights of the Russian clergy. In 1325 Metropolitan Peter, at the request of Great Prince John Kalita, transferred the metropolitan See from Vladimir to Moscow. This event had very great significance for all the Russian land. Saint Peter prophetically predicted deliverance from the Tatar Yoke and that Moscow would become the foremost city in Russia. With his blessing, the foundation of the cathedral of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos in the Moscow Kremlin was laid in August 1326. Saint Peter fell asleep in the Lord on December 21, 1326. The holy relics of the saint were buried in the Dormition cathedral in a stone crypt, which he himself had prepared.

(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. January charity is to be dedicated to the Diocesan Seminarian support for our Diocese.

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

Please note the upcoming services for Nativity Eve and Christmas. Additionally we will be hosting services for the Feast of St. Basil the great, and the Circumcision of Our Lord on January 1st. Service schedule for Theophany is to be determined, announcements will be made as soon as those plans are finalized.

Anyone wishing to have their homes blessed next year please contact Fr. Nathan, he will be available most evenings in January.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“Marriage is a school for virtue, where patience, forgiveness, and love are learned and practiced daily. It is a divine workshop where two souls are forged into one, in the image of Christ.”

-St. Theodore the Studite

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 24th – Vigil for the Feast of the Nativity – 6:00pm

December 25th – Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity – 9:30am

December 28th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

December 29th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

Contact Information:

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26th Sunday after Pentecost: Forefeast of the Nativity December 22nd, 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