
Commemoration of the Day:

Saint Marcellus, igumen of the Monastery called “the Unsleeping Ones,” was a native of the city of Apamea in Syria. His parents were wealthy, but died when he was young. He received his education first at Antioch, and then at Ephesus. All his possessions left him by his parents he distributed to the poor, thereby sundering his ties to the world. Under the guidance of an experienced elder at Ephesus, Marcellus entered upon the path of asceticism. He later went on to Byzantium to Saint Alexander, igumen of the monastery named “the Unsleeping.” The monastery received its name because in it psalmody was done constantly, both day and night, by alternating groups of monks. Saint Alexander accepted Marcellus and tonsured him into the monastic schema. Zealous in the works of watchfulness, fasting and prayer, the saint received great spiritual talents and the gift of clairvoyance.

After the death of Saint Alexander, Abba John had made Marcellus his own closest assistant. After John’s death, Saint Marcellus was chosen igumen of the monastery in spite of his own wishes, and in this position he remained for sixty years. News of his saintly life spread far. People came to Marcellus from afar, both the illustrious and the common, rich and the poor. Many times they saw angels encircling the saint, attending and guarding him. With the help of God, the monastery of “the Unsleeping Ones” flourished. So many monks came to place themselves under the direction of Saint Marcellus that it became necessary to enlarge the monastery and the church. Saint Marcellus received donations from believers for expansion, and built a beautiful large church, a hospital, and a hostel for the homeless. By his prayers the monk treated the sick, cast out devils and worked miracles. When a ship with his monks came into danger on the Black Sea, the saint calmed the tempest by his prayers. Another time, when they told him that a fire was raging at Constantinople, he prayed tearfully for the city, and the fire subsided as if extinguished by the tears of the monk.

John, the servant of a certain Arian nobleman named Ardaburios, was unjustly accused of something, and he hid out at the monastery to escape his master’s wrath. Ardaburios twice demanded that Saint Marcellus hand John over to him, but he refused. Ardaburios then sent out a detachment of soldiers, who surrounded the monastery, threatening to slay anyone who interfered with their mission. The brethren went to the abba, asking him to surrender John and save the monastery. Saint Marcellus signed himself with the Sign of the Cross, then boldly went out alone through the monastery gate towards the soldiers. Lightning flashed in the sky, thunder rumbled, and the Cross appeared shining brighter than the sun. The soldiers threw down their weapons and took to flight. Ardaburios, learning from the soldiers what had happened, was frightened, and because of Saint Marcellus he pardoned the servant.

Saint Marcellus peacefully departed to the Lord in the year 485.

(Adapted from OCA website)

Announcements

January charity is to be dedicated to the Diocesan Seminarian support for the Seminarian in our Diocese. I can personally attest to how much this support means to the Seminarists, as the support is both fiscally needed, but the thought and intention truly lifts the spirits.

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

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

Due to the Service for the Eve of Theophany the January parish council meeting will be held on the second Sunday, the 12th of January.

The annual parish meeting will be held on the 2nd of February with a weather delay date of the 9th if necessary.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“For an individual Christian love can easily turn to self-love, and freedom can be confused with self-will. It is in the community of the church that we are able to find the measure of balance that we all need.”

-Metropolitan Tikhon
Heirarch of the OCA

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 31st – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

January 1st – Divine Liturgy: Circumcision of the Lord,

St. Basil the Great – 9:30am

January 4th – Great Vespers – 6:00pm

January 5th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30am;

Vigil with Blessing of Waters – 12:00pm

Contact Information:

Parish Mailing Address
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Olyphant PA 18447

Website
Stnicholasolyphant.org

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570-489-3891

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27th Sunday after Pentecost: Sunday after the Nativity Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord December 29th, 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