

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus and 13 others at Lycia

July 23rd, 2023

Assigned Readings

Romans 15: 1-7

Matthew 9: 27-35

Saints of the Day

The saints commemorated today are almost all martyrs. Trophimus, Theophilus and the 13 with them at Lycia, but also Sts. Apollinaris and Vitalius of Ravenna.

Of some we know a great deal, of others very little. While we know the circumstances of the martyrdoms at Lycia we have lost the names of many in the party, with only two recorded to the present day. We know a great deal of St. Apollinaris, a disciple of St. Peter who came to modern day Italy with St. Peter on his journey to Rome. He was appointed Bishop of that city by the Apostle and served there until his martyrdom, except for 3 years spent in exile. St Vitalius by contrast we have almost no verifiable data except his name and place of martyrdom, even the dates associated with his life are in doubt, his social status, role in the church etc. In some accounts he is a Hieromartyr, or monastic, in some he is married, and in others the Bishop of Ravenna. These are not exclusive possibilities, as his martyrdom dates to before the formal institution of monasticism and the celibacy of the episcopal office.

All of this is to emphasize to ourselves the reality of our own witness to the truth of Christ. It is, and never should be, about us personally. We should seek not to etch our names or stories into history, but only to live a life that holds true to the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. When we pass from this life, we will be remembered by those that loved us and were loved by us. In time our memory will fade on this earth, but it will be eternal in the memory of our Lord. This is what the martyrs understood, lived for, witnessed to, and ultimately gave their lives as witness too.

May we each live our lives with the same intentionality in our own faith.

Announcements

Our new charity collection effort will be for funds to purchase school supplies and/or meals for needy students in the community. We are currently reaching out to the local school district to determine the best form and greatest need at which to direct efforts, more details to follow.

Retirement dinner for Fr. Vladimir Fetcho is being held after Divine Liturgy at Fiorelli's in Peckville on September 10th. Cost for tickets is \$30 per person.

We are currently looking into dates in late September or early October to do a fried pierogi sale. This would involve a pierogi making session on Saturday and a fresh frying and sales date on a Monday. Please communicate with parish council or Father Nathan regarding your availability for different dates.

Upcoming Services:

July 29th – Great Vespers 5:00 pm

July 30th – Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.

August 5th – 9th Hour, Great Vespers with Lity

August 6th – Divine Liturgy, Feast of the Transfiguration 9:30 am.

Contact Information:

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Troparion and Kontakion of the Day

Troparion to St. Nicholas – Tone 4

The truth of things revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness and a teacher of abstinence. You thus reached the heights through humility and wealth through poverty.

O Holy Hierarch Father Nicholas, // pray to Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion to St. Nicholas – Tone 3

You proved yourself to be a holy priest, O Nicholas; You served God in Myra and lived the gospel of Christ. You offered your life for your people; You rescued the innocent from death.//

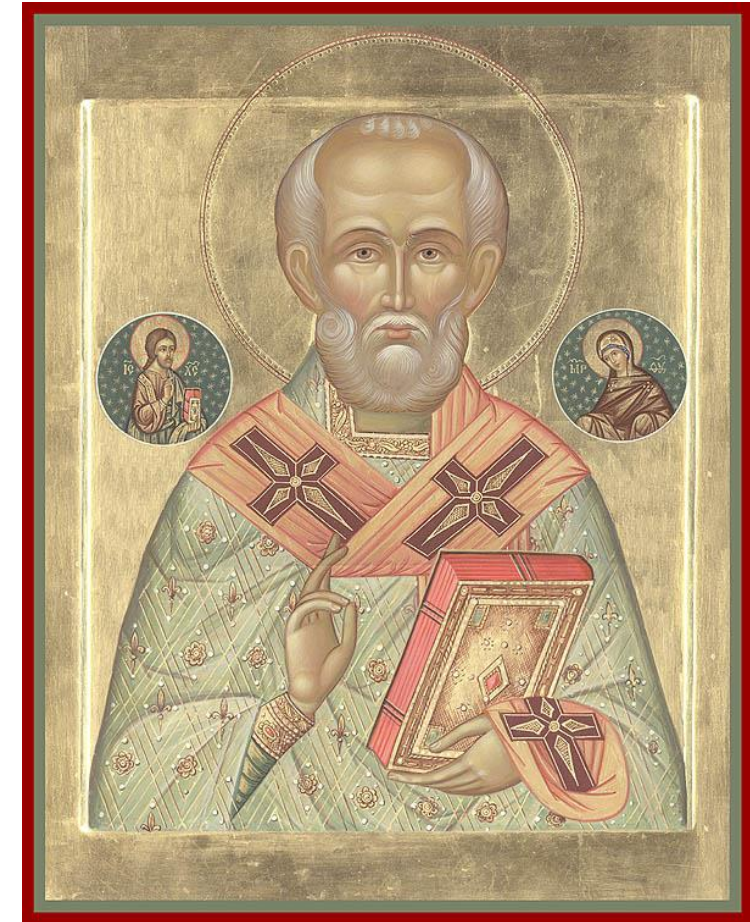
Therefore God has glorified you as a trustworthy guide of things divine.

Steadfast Protectress – Tone 6

Steadfast protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith, hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us O Theotokos// For you always protect those who honor you.

Prayers for the Sick:

Archpriest Vladimir	Thom
Priest John	Julie
Priest James	Joan
Matushka Gloria	Vera
Matushka Myra	Marie
Matushka Nancy	



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Fr. Nathan Clausson – Acting Rector
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director
Rick Cesari – Parish President