

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Before the Exaltation of Cross After Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

September 10th, 2023

Assigned Readings

2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4, Galatians 6:11-18

Matthew 22:1-14, John 3:13-17

Saints of the Day:

The Holy Virgins Menodora, Nymphodora, and Metrodora, were sisters from Bithynia. Brought up in a Christian Spirit, they withdrew from the city into the desert, desiring to lift up their minds to God and free themselves from the illusory world, and thus to live their lives in purity and virginity as true brides of Christ. They gave themselves to fasting, prayer, and toil, and God adorned them with the gift of wonderworking. When people began to bring the sick to them for healing they became known against their will. Coming to the attention of the local pagan governor, who being amazed by their beauty wished to marry them to his nobles.

When the sisters refused to renounce Christ they were tortured and executed in order from oldest, Menodora, to youngest, Nymphodora. When she was near death the executioners offered Menodora the chance to renounce and Christ and offer sacrifice to the gods. Her reply was, "Don't you see that I am doing nothing but offer myself as sacrifice to my God?" Each sister was in turn first shown the body of her elder sister(s) and urged to deny Christ. They instead chose to follow as brides of Christ.

Christians collected their bodies and buried them properly. Part of the relics of the holy martyrs are preserved on Mt. Athos in the Protection Cathedral of the Saint Panteleimon Russian monastery, and the hand of Saint Metrodora is on the Holy Mountain in the Monastery of the Pantocrator.

Announcements

Welcome to all those visiting with us this week. Thank you for coming to help us wish Fr. Vladimir many years of well deserved and long earned retirement after serving for over 50 years as the rector of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church.

Suggestions for the September Charity Collection should be provided to Fr. Nathan or a parish council member.

Our fall pierogi making and sale is planned for October 5th, 7th and 9th. With the plan to make pierogi on Thursday and Saturday morning. Then sell them deep fried on Monday.

Special Parish Meeting is to be held next Sunday to discuss style, color, material and contractor for the upcoming parish roofing and siding project.

Upcoming Services:

September 13th – (Thursday) 9th Hour, Great Vespers and Lity – 5 pm

September 14th – Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross – 930 am.

September 16th – Great Vespers – 5 pm.

September 17th – Divine Liturgy – 930 am.

Contact Information:

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Troparion and Kontakion of the Day

Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death, and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion – Theotokos – Tone 4

Thy nativity, O Virgin,
has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,
has shone from thee, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing//
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Kontakion of the Resurrection – Tone 5

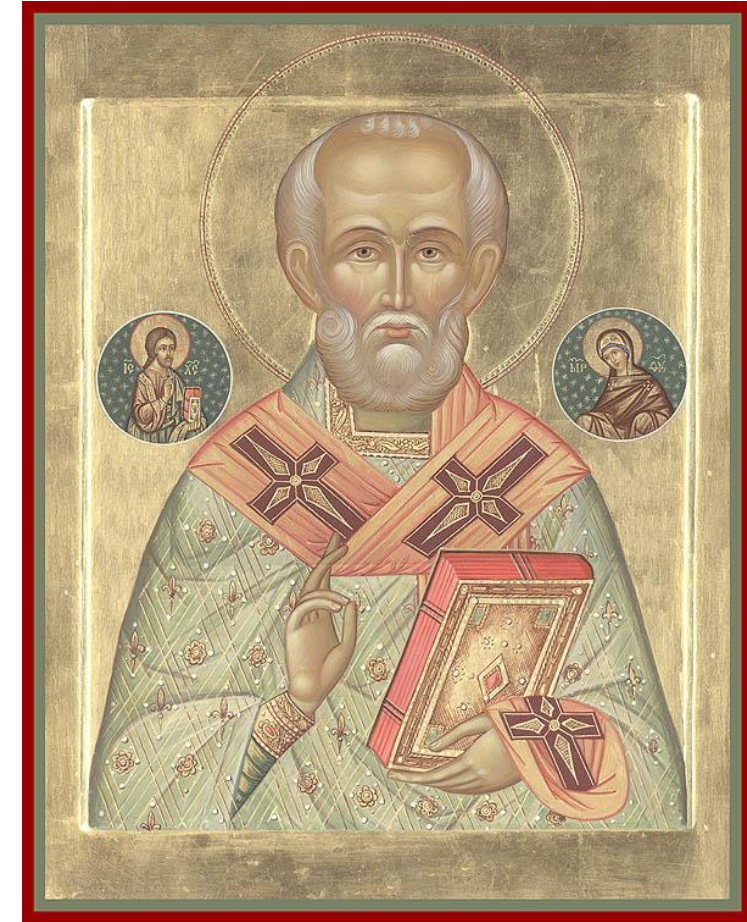
Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,//
and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

Kontakion – Theotokos – Tone 4

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin,
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,
Adam and Eve — from the corruption of death.
And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee://
“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

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