

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### The Protection of our most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

#### Assigned Readings

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:10, Hebrews 9:1-7

Luke 6:31-36, Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

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#### Festal Commemoration:

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church. On Sunday, October 1, during the All-Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew, at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven.

After completing her prayer, she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed “more than the rays of the sun.” Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” Epiphanius answered, “I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe.”

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, “O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard.”

The protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because of an attack by a large pagan Russian fleet. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself. Ironically, this Feast is considered more important by the Slavs than by the Greeks.

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## Announcements

September/October Charity is dedicated to the Shipley family, of St. Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church in Chico CA. Matushka Priscilla recently passed away, and there are many expenses related to medical bills, funeral arrangements etc. The OCA and the Diocese have both made requests for care and support to be rendered at this time. Please keep the family in your prayers. May the Lord make Matushka Priscilla’s memory to be eternal.

Our fall pierogi sale is set for Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, with sales to start at 3pm. Pierogis will be sold boiled and fried for \$12 a dozen, first come first serve. Pierogi making will be on Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>. Food prep is at 8:30am, pierogi pinching starts at 10:30am both days. Pinching is when we need lots of help; many hands make for light work.

Divine Liturgy on October the 8<sup>th</sup> will be earlier to adjust for traffic issues related to the Steamtown Marathon. One day only Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:00am, with hours to start at 8:40am.

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#### Upcoming Services:

October 7<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers – 5 pm.

October 8<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy – 9 am.

#### Contact Information:

Parish Mailing Address  
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
P.O. Box 142  
Olyphant PA 18447

Website  
Stnicholasolyphant.org

Driving Address  
600 E. Lackawanna St  
Olyphant PA 18447

Phone number:  
570-489-3891

Email:  
Frnathan.clausson@gmail.com

## Troparion and Kontakion of the Day

### Tone 8 - Troparion (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### Tone 4 - Troparion (Protection)

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,  
illuminated by thy coming, O Mother of God.

Beholding thy pure image, we fervently cry to thee:

“Encompass us beneath the precious veil of thy protection;

deliver us from every form of evil

by entreating Christ, thy Son and our God,//

that He may save our souls.”

### Tone 8 - Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.

Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,//

and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### Tone 3 - Kontakion (Protection)

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,

and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.

Angels and bishops worship,

Apostles and Prophets rejoice together,//

since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.

## Prayers for the Sick:

Archpriest Vladimir

Thom

Priest John

Julie

Priest James

Joan

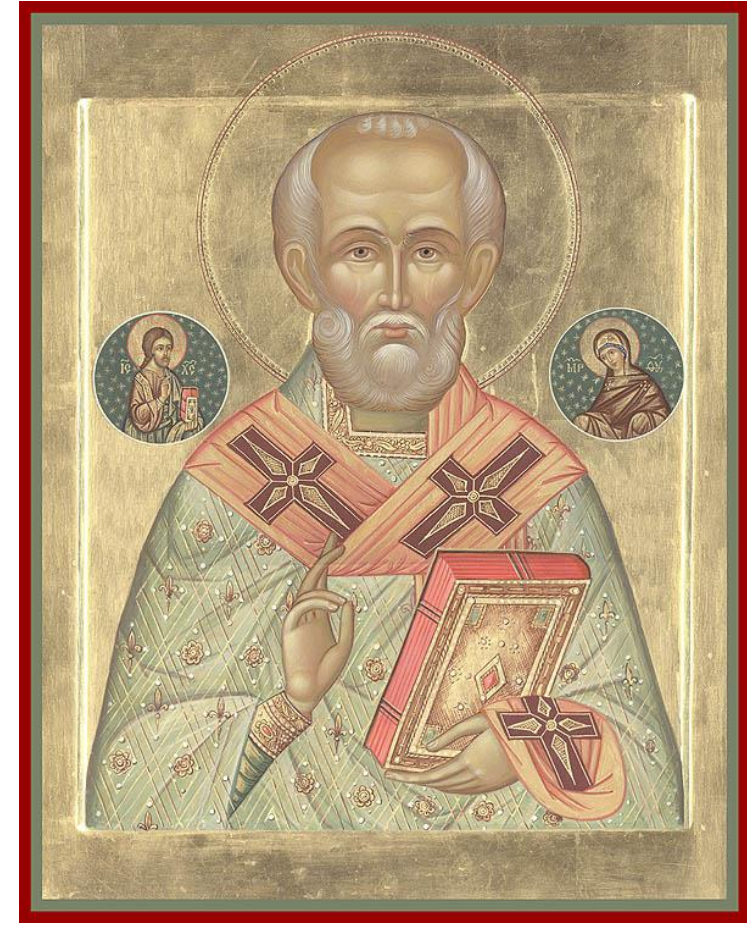
Matushka Gloria

Vera

Matushka Myra

Marie

Matushka Nancy



## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Fr. Nathan Clausson – Acting Rector

Fr. John Nightingale – Attached

Mark Howanetz – Choir Director

Rick Cesari – Parish President