

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Abercius, Equal to the Apostles; Seven Sleepers of Ephesus

October 22nd, 2023

Assigned Readings:

Galatians 1:11-19

Luke 16:19-31

Saints of the Day:

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths were sons of illustrious citizens of Ephesus. The youths were friends from childhood. When the emperor Decius arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ. Their military belts and insignia were quickly taken from them. Then the youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom. Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst.

The Lord placed the youths into a miraculous sleep lasting almost two centuries. In the meantime, the persecutions against Christians had ceased. During the reign of the holy emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) there were heretics who denied that there would be a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept the youths alive, and they awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed. Going toward the city to buy bread for the group, Saint Iamblicus was astonished to see a cross on the gates. Hearing the name of Jesus Christ freely spoken, he began to doubt that he was approaching his own city. He brought the Bishop of Ephesus to the entrance of the cave. There he read upon the metal plaques the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing of the cave on the orders of the emperor Decius. Going into the cave and seeing the saints alive, everyone rejoiced and perceived that the Lord, by waking them from their long sleep, was demonstrating to the Church the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection.

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.

Archbishop Mark will be in Olyphant at All Saints on November the 12th. Father Paul has invited us to come and celebrate together with His Eminence.

On December the 2nd the Wilkes-Barre Deanery is hosting an event at All Saints. Divine Liturgy at 9 a.m. followed by a Lenten brunch. Then a discussion and Q&A with Nathan Hoppe, OCMC's longest-serving missionary. The Deanery would like to have a solid number for attendees by November 26th so that proper arrangements can be made.

Fall Piroghi making is scheduled for Nov. 2nd and 4th. 10:30 am for pinching. Please let Matushka Kyra know of any orders before October 29th.

Upcoming Services:

October 28th – Great Vespers – 5 pm.

October 29th – Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am.

Contact Information:

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Troparion and Kontakion of the Day

Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world// great mercy.

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 of the Resurrection – Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, //
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Kontakion of the Resurrection – Tone 3

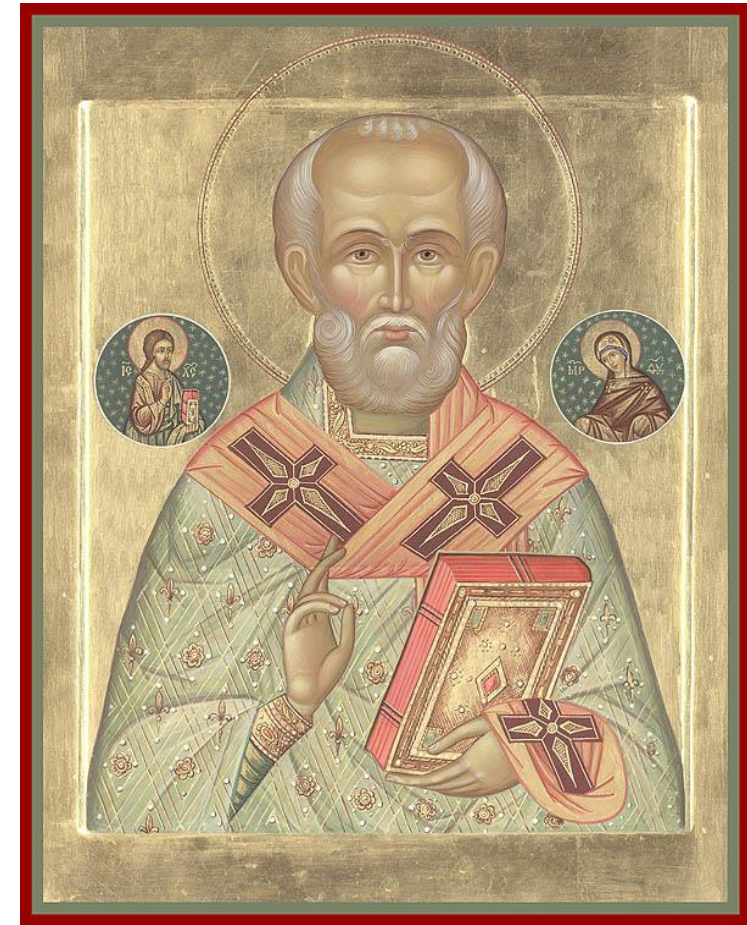
On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power

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



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