

29th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of the Holy Fathers,
Sunday before the Nativity of Christ,
Eve of the Nativity of Christ
December 24th, 2023

Assigned Readings:

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Matthew 1:1-25

Saint of the Day:

The Holy Martyr Eugenia is commemorated on the Eve of the Nativity, though she attained her crown in the heavenly kingdom on the feast of the Nativity. The daughter of a prefect of Egypt named Philip, Eugenia learned of the Christian faith from the writings of St. Paul that were banned in Alexandria. She left home under a ruse and sought out a local group of monastics in the desert. She and her two companions dressed as men and hid their identities so that they could continue in their ascetic practices.

In time a pilgrim to the community was smitten with the “monk Eugene” and when rebuffed went to the authorities claiming to have been sexually assaulted. Thus exposing the monk to trial and the community to persecution. When the saint presented herself to the local authorities she was able to easily prove her innocence, simply by revealing her true identity to the Prefect overseeing her trial: her own father, Philip. Her family would come to accept the true faith, though at some cost. Her father was assassinated by those who hated the Christian faith, and her mother and siblings were forced to flee Egypt and return to Rome.

Going with her family when it returned home, St. Eugenia sought out an ascetic community in the area and continued her spiritual life. Converting many women in the area she aroused the anger of local authorities who imprisoned her and sentenced her to death. In a vision Our Lord appeared to the great martyr and told her that He would welcome her home in ten days time on His own nativity.

Announcements

December Charity is Sleep in Heavenly Peace; and organization that provides beds to underprivileged children. Donations are kept 100% in the local chapter and are used to build and deliver beds by volunteer staff.

Parish Council meeting is scheduled for January the 7th.

Upcoming Services:

December 24th – Nativity Vigil; Compline and Matins 12:30 pm.

December 25th – Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
– Divine Liturgy 930 am.

December 27th – Fr. Paul has invited local parishioners to All Saints for the
Feast of St. Stephen, the Third Day of Christmas – 930 am.

December 30th – Great Vespers 5:00 pm.

December 31st – Divine Liturgy 930 am.

Contact Information:

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Troparion and Kontakion for the Day

Troparion of the Resurrection – Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion of the Holy Fathers – Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of Faith,
for the Three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared,
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.
So by their prayers O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion of the Prefeast – Tone 4

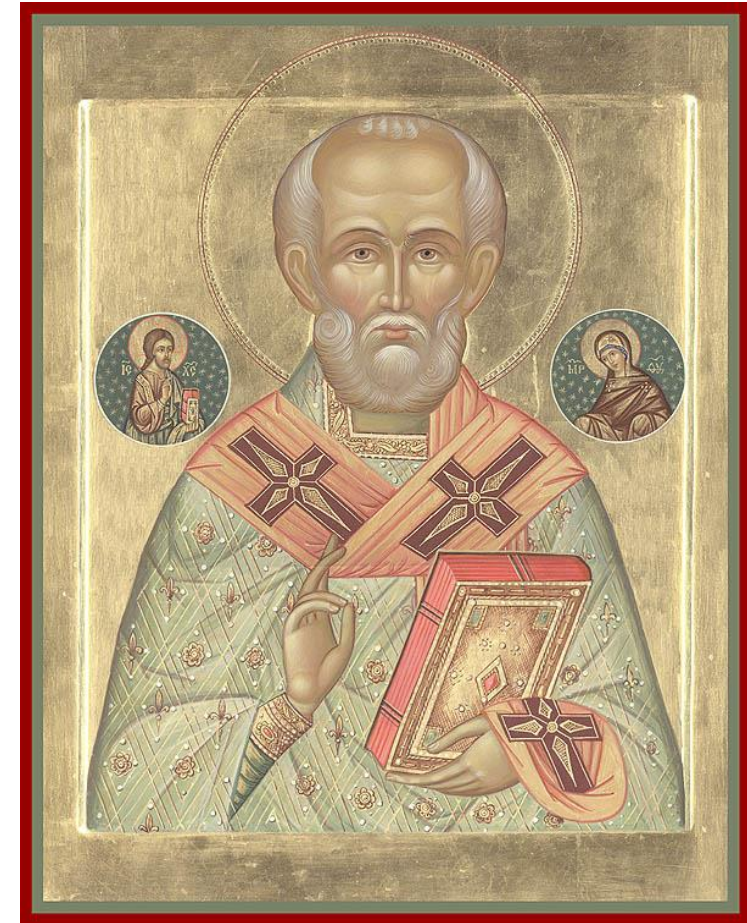
Mary was of David’s seed,
so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the queen.
Christ is born raising up the image that fell of old.

Kontakion of the Holy Fathers – Tone 1

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha!
The lamb is on her way to give birth to the chief shepherd she carries in her womb.
The Godbearing forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,
And with the shepherds, they will glorify the virgin nursing him.

Kontakion of the Prefeast– Tone 3

Today the Virgin proceeds to the cave
Where she will give birth past understanding to the word from all eternity.
Rejoice universe when the tidings are proclaimed!
Glorify with the angels and shepherds
The one who chose to be manifest as a newborn child while remaining the Eternal God!



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Fr. Nathan Clausson – Acting Rector
Fr. Vladimir Fetcho – Attached
Fr. John Nightingale – Attached
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director
Rick Cesari – Parish President