

St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church

30 Cross Street - Auburn, New York 13021 (www.stnicholasauburn.com)

Very Reverend Michael Speck – Pastor (315) 246-6051 mspeck100@gmail.com

Office Hours 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Thursday or any time by appointment

Reverend Deacon David Donch Reverend Deacon Michael W. Speck

Reader Nathaniel Donch

Sr. Warden - Greg Michaels Jr. Warden – Reverend Deacon David Donch

Secretary – Jane Kimak

Treasurer – Glenn Peters

Sunday, November 24, 2024



22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple. Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria (305-313). Great Martyr Mercurius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (3rd c.). Martyr Merkúry of Smolensk (1238). Ven. Mercurius, Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.). Empress Augusta, Porphyrius the General, the 50 philosophers and the 200 Soldiers martyred with the Great Martyr Catherine (305-313). Virgin Mastridia of Alexandria. Ven. Simon, Abbot of Soiga Monastery (Vologdá—1562).

Nativity Fast

Saturday, November 23 — 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 24 - 9:00 AM – Confessions

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour

Wednesday, November 27 - No Divine Liturgy

Thursday, November 28 – 8:30 AM - Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy

Saturday, November 30 - 5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 1 – 8:40 AM – Adult Education

- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

If you have any questions regarding your annual financial statements please contact Matushka Jonni Donch at 315-730-7421 or by e-mail at johannadonch@msn.com

Our contribution envelopes for 2025 have arrived. Please pick them up in the church basement.

We pray that you will have a Happy Thanksgiving. Let us remember that God is the source of all the blessings we receive. Let us take time out of our busy schedules to come together in thanksgiving at Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning to show gratitude to our Most Loving God!

We also thank you for your Food Pantry Ministry donations. Please continue your generous support so that we may assist as many people as possible as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach. Thank you very much!

Please remember that we are now in the time of the Christmas Fast of the Church. Our lives should be directed to spiritual efforts as we approach the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ! The Church grants us a suspension of the Nativity Fast for the civil holiday of Thanksgiving

Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors

When Bishop Michael was consecrated to the Episcopacy in 2010, he took the tens of thousands of dollars he received as gifts to establish the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program. He appealed to the faithful saying, "Please consider becoming a Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor! By offering a sacrificial gift of whatever you are able this year, you will enable our Diocese to financially support a vitally important ministry of your choice." Three vital ministries were identified for targeted funding through the DDB: (1) support for mission parishes, (2) support for seminarians, and (3) support for struggling existing parishes.

The collection for the DDB is falling short of its goal this year. I ask you to be generous and consider making a donation of any amount to this vital program. If you make a check payable to the Diocese of New York and New Jersey Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor program we will forward it to the Diocese and you will be recognized for your kindness. Anonymous donations are also gladly accepted. Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry.

May God Bless You Richly!

Great Martyr Katherine of Alexandria



Commemorated on [November 24](#)

The Holy Great Martyr Katherine was the daughter of Konstos, the governor of Alexandria, Egypt during the reign of Emperor Maximian (305-313). Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Katherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. Young men from the most worthy families of the empire sought the hand of the beautiful Katherine, but she was not interested in any of them. She told her parents that she would enter into marriage only with someone who surpassed her in nobility, wealth, comeliness and wisdom.

Katherine's mother, a secret Christian, sent her to her own Spiritual Father, a saintly Elder living in a cave outside the city, for advice. After listening to Katherine, the Elder said that he knew of someone who surpassed her in everything. "His countenance is more radiant than the shining of the sun, and all of creation is governed by His wisdom. His riches are given to all the nations of the world, yet they never diminish. His compassion is unequalled."

This description of the Heavenly Bridegroom produced an ardent desire in the soul of the holy maiden to see Him. "If you do as I tell you," said the monk, "you will gaze upon the countenance of this illustrious man." In parting, the Elder gave Katherine an icon of the Theotokos with the Divine Child on Her arm and told her to pray with faith to the Queen of Heaven, the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom, and she would hear Katherine and grant her heart's desire. Katherine prayed all night and was permitted to see the Most Holy Virgin, Who said to her Divine Son, "Behold Thy handmaiden Katherine, how fair and virtuous she is." But the Child turned His face away from her saying, "No, she is ugly and unbelieving. She is a foolish pauper, and I cannot bear to look at her until she forsakes her impiety."

Katherine returned again to the Elder deeply saddened, and told him what she had seen in the dream. He received her, instructed her in the faith of Christ, admonished her to preserve her purity and integrity and to pray unceasingly. She then received the Mystery of Holy Baptism from him. Again Saint Katherine had a vision of the Most Holy Theotokos with her Child. Now the Lord looked at her tenderly and gave her a beautiful ring, a wondrous token of her betrothal to the Heavenly Bridegroom (this ring is still on her hand).

At that time Emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival. The Saint confessed her faith in the One True God, and exposed the errors of the pagans. The beauty of the maiden captivated the Emperor. In order to convince her of the superiority of pagan wisdom, the Emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians of the Empire to dispute with her, but the Saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves.

Unable to persuade the Saint, Maximian tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Hearing her angry refusal, the Emperor ordered his men to subject the Saint to terrible tortures, and then throw her in prison. The Empress Augusta, who had heard much about the Saint, wanted to see her. She prevailed upon the military commander Porphyrios to accompany her to the prison with a detachment of soldiers. The Empress was impressed by Katherine's strong spirit, and her face was radiant with divine grace. The holy martyr explained the Christian Faith to them, and they were converted to Christ. On the following day, they again brought the martyr to the judgment court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, she was urged to renounce the Christian Faith and to offer sacrifice to the "gods." The Saint steadfastly confessed Christ and she was taken to be tortured on four wheels with sharp iron spikes, but an Angel smashed the instruments of execution, which shattered into pieces with many pagans standing nearby.

After seeing this miracle, the Empress Augusta and the imperial courtier Porphyrios and 200 soldiers confessed their faith in Christ before everyone, and they were beheaded. Maximian tried again to entice the holy martyr, offering to marry her, and again he was refused. Saint Katherine remained faithful to her heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and after praying to Him, she laid her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword.

The relics of Saint Katherine were taken by the Angels to Mount Sinai. In the VI century, the venerable head and left hand of the holy martyr were found through a

revelation and transferred with honor to the newly-constructed church of the Monastery on Mount Sinai, built by the holy Emperor Justinian (November 14).

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which

we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us, and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions-- to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually--to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord--To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us--and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

*Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October
in the year of our Lord 1789.*

Go: Washington

There is
Always
SOMETHING TO BE
Thankful
FOR

A decorative graphic with the text "There is Always SOMETHING TO BE Thankful FOR" arranged in a circular pattern. The words "Always" and "Thankful" are written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The words "There is", "SOMETHING", "TO BE", and "FOR" are written in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font. The entire text is surrounded by several autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown, scattered around the words.