St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church,

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Office Hours 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Thursday or any time by appointment
Reverend Deacon David Donch Reverend Deacon Alexander Anderson
Reverend Deacon Michael W. Speck
Reader Nathaniel Donch
Sr. Warden - Greg Michaels Jr. Warden – Reverend Deacon David Donch
Secretary – Karen Schoonover Treasurer – Glenn Peters

August 30, 2026

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Translation of the Relics of Rt. Blv. Great Prince St. Alexander Nevsky (1724). Sts. Alexander (340), John (595), and Paul the New (784), Patriarchs of Constantinople. Repose of Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Svir (1533). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Daniel, Prince of Moscow (1652). St. Christopher of Palestine

Sisterhood Pierogi Making on August 27, 28, and 29

Saturday, August 29 - 5:00 PM - Vespers
Sunday, August 30 – 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by a Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, September 2 – 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Saturday, September 5 - 5:00 PM – Vespers
Sunday, September 6 – 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy with Choir Responses sung by Members of St, Vladimir's Seminary

- **3:00 PM – Service of Crowning – Holy Matrimony of Alexandra Monson and Jack Ralbovsky**

Next Sunday the choir responses for our Divine Liturgy will be sung by seminarians from St. Vladimir's Seminary. We hope to make a generous donation to the seminary for their continued mission to prepare priests for the continuation of our church. Please make checks payable either to St. Vladimir's Seminary to our church and we will forward our donations. God Bless you for your generosity!

Please come to help with the Sisterhood Pierogi Making on August 27, 28, and 29. On-the-job training is available!

The annual Parish Council Conferences have been scheduled. Our conference is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Syracuse. All parish council members are expected to attend because the presentation will cover the Best Financial Practices that must be followed by all of our Diocesan parishes.

Please let interested friends or acquaintances know about the upcoming visitation of the Miracle-working Hawiian Iveron Icon of the Most Blessed Theotokos to our parish on Wednesday, October 14. More details will be forthcoming in the near future.

Translation of the relics of Saint Alexander Nevsky

Commemorated on August 30

The Holy Prince Alexander Nevsky (in monastic schema Alexis) died on the return journey from the Horde at Gorodtsa on the Volga, on November 14, 1263, and on November 23, 1263 he was buried in the Cathedral Church of the Nativity Monastery in the city of Vladimir.[1]

Veneration of the Prince began right at his burial, where a remarkable miracle took place. The saint extended his hand for the prayer of absolution (a written document placed in the coffin). Great Prince John (1353-1359), in his spiritual testament written in the year 1356, left to his son Demetrius (1363-1389), the future victor of the Battle of Kulikovo, "an icon of Saint Alexander." The incorrupt relics of the holy Prince were uncovered, because of a vision, before the Battle of Kulikovo in the year 1380, and then they were sent forth for a local celebration.

Russian commanders asked for the intercession of the holy Prince, glorified by his defense of the Fatherland, in the following times: On August 30, 1721 Peter I, after a lengthy and exhausting war with the Swedes, concluded the Nishtad Peace. On this day it was decided to transfer the relics of the holy Prince Alexander Nevsky from Vladimir to the new northern capital, Peterburg, on the banks of the Neva. Removed from Vladimir on August 11, 1723, the holy relics were greeted at Shlisselburg on September 20 of that year and remained there until 1724. On August 30, they were placed in the Trinity Cathedral of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra, where they now rest in Saint Petersburg. By an edict on September 2, 1724 a feastday was established on August 30.[2]

Archimandrite Gabriel Buzhinsky (later Bishop of Ryazan, + April 27, 1731) compiled a special service in remembrance of the Nishtad Peace, combining with it a service to Saint Alexander Nevsky.

The name of the Defender of the borders of Russia and the Patron of Soldiers is famous far beyond the borders of Russia. The numerous temples dedicated to Saint Alexander Nevsky bear witness to this. The most famous of them: the Patriarchal Cathedral at Sofia, the Cathedral church in Talinin, and a church in Tbilisi. These churches are a pledge of friendship of the Russian National-Liberator with brother nations.

The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Mother of God

Commemorated on August 31

The Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos in a church of Constantinople's Chalcoprateia district took place during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger. Before this the holy relic, entrusted to the Apostle Thomas by the Mother of God Herself, was kept by pious Christians at Jerusalem after Her Dormition. During the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise (886-911), his wife Zoe was afflicted with an unclean spirit, and he prayed that God would heal her.

The empress had a vision that she would be healed of her infirmity if the Belt of the Mother of God were placed upon her. The emperor then asked the Patriarch to open the coffer. The Patriarch removed the seal and opened the coffer in which the relic was kept, and the Belt of the Mother of God appeared completely whole and undamaged by time. The Patriarch placed the Belt on the sick empress, and immediately she was freed from her infirmity. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, then they placed the venerable Belt back into the coffer and resealed it.

In commemoration of the miraculous occurrence and the twofold Placing of the venerable Belt, the Feast of the Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos was established. Parts of the holy Belt are in the Vatopedi monastery on Mt. Athos, in Trier monastery, and in Georgia.