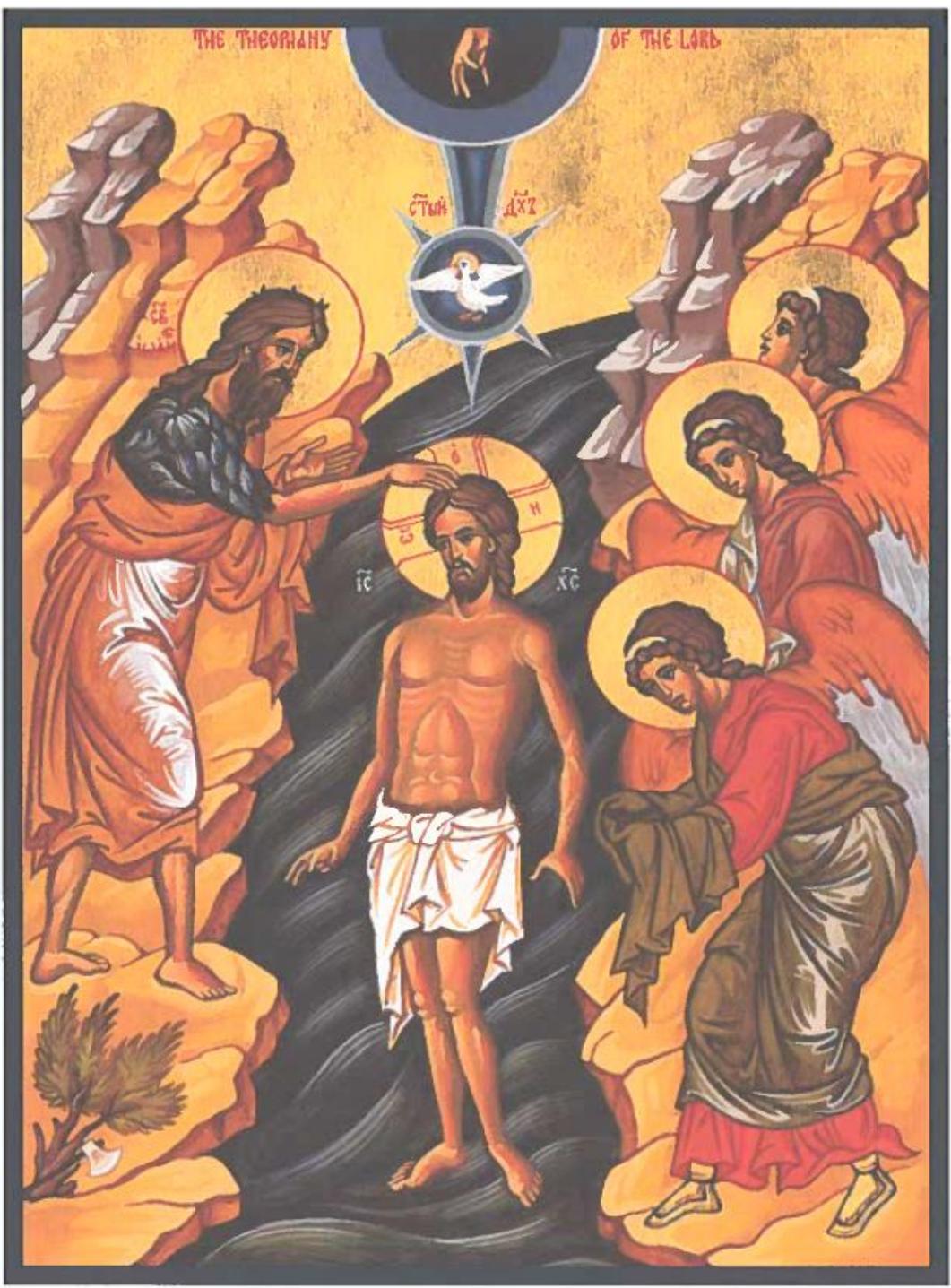


THE THEOPHANY

OF THE LORD



SAINT NICHOLAS

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

980 Bridle Path Road | Bethlehem, PA 18017-3120 | T: 610-867-0402
stnicholasoca.org



Reverend Matthew Joyner, Rector
Cell: 570-468-2261
Email: nkyorthodox@gmail.com

Very Reverend James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Ms. Patty Felix, Council Chair

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

Jennifer Bzik, Administrative Assistant
Email: assistant4stnicholas@outlook.com

Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

(Please note - Information to be included in next week's bulletin must be submitted by noon on Thursday. Thank you! ~ Jennifer N. Bzik)

Schedule for the Week of January 5, 2020

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4. Eve of Theophany . Sunday before Theophany. Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas (303). Ven. Syncletica of Alexandria (ca. 350). Prophet Micah (9th c. BC). Virginmartyr Apollinaria of Egypt (ca. 470). Ven. Phosterius the Hermit (9th c.). Ven. Menas of Sinai (6th c.). Ven. Gregory of Crete (ca. 820). Ven. Romanos, Martyr (1694).

Coffee Hour Hosted By: Denise & Bryan Distefano

Father Matthew's Office Hours This Week

Office Hours during house blessing season will be irregular. Please call if you would like to schedule an appointment to see Fr. Matthew.

Weekly Calendar

Pierogi: No Pierogi Making This Week! Happy New Year

Sunday, January 5, 2020 - Theophany Eve

9:10 am - Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm - Theophany Eve Holy Supper

6:00 pm - Great Compline with
Great Blessing of Water

Monday, January 6, 2020 - Holy Theophany

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 - 7:00 pm - Communication Meeting

Saturday, January 11, 2020

5:00 pm - Confessions

6:00 pm - Vespers

Sunday, January 12, 2020 - 30th Sunday after Pentecost, Afterfeast of the

9:10 am - Hours

Theophany

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy (Church School after Communion)

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 - 7:00 pm - Christian Education meeting

Candle Offerings for Sunday, January 5, 2020

Vigils in Altar

Happy 90th Birthday GG Pa, Offered by Sophia & Jacob

Vigils in Altar

In Memory Of Carole Fair, Greatly Missed, Offered by Fr. Tom & Mat. Evelyn

Votives in Altar

Happy Birthday Valerie Roberts
Offered by Gordon, Matt, Jess, Alex, Megan, Nick and Tosha

Votives in Iconostas

Happy Birthday Baba Roberts
Offered by Evie, Hannah, Emily and Lillianna Roberts

Vigil in Side Candle Holders

Memory Eternal for Alex Smolenski's Birthday, Offered by Julia

Crosses

In Memory Of Vasile Dudearuu, Offered by Victoria Dimonie

Vigils on the Tetrapod

Happy Anniversary Mike & Fran Slivka
Offered by Slivka Children & Grandchildren

Vigils on Icon Table

Happy Birthday Michael Slivka, Offered by Fran Slivka

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Frank Peter Guydan
Offered by Subdn Michael & Michele Guydan

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of the Theophany of Our Lord

In Memory Of Michael & Mary Stetz, Offered by Pat & Joan

Sunday Hymns from the Octoechos, Tone 4

Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

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!"

Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast)

The river Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha, after Elijah had been taken up to heaven. The waters were parted in two, and the stream became a dry path. This was truly a type of baptism, by which we pass over the stream of life. Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

Tone 2 Kontakion (Forefeast)

O Christ, in Thy compassion and infinite mercy, Thou art coming as a man to be baptized in the Jordan, in order to take away the many transgressions of us all, clothing me in the garment of ancient glory of which I was cruelly stripped bare.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Forefeast)

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: "Do not be afraid to baptize me, for I come to save Adam, the first-formed man!"

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps 27/28:9)

To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)

Epistle Lesson for Today: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

(Sunday Before Theophany)

Read by: Reader Nicholas Lezinsky

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Epistle Lesson for Today: 1 Corinthians 9:18-27

Read by: Reader Nicholas Lezinsky

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Alleluia Verses

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us!. (Ps 66/67:1-2)

That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations. (Ps 66/67-3)

Gospel Lesson for Today: Mark 1:1-8

(Sunday Before Theophany)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.'" John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Gospel Lesson for Today: Mark 1:1-8

Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?" He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you." Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages." Now as the people were in

expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Hymn to the Theotokos

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we magnify you.

Announcements

Theophany Eve Holy Supper

A Strict Lenten Holy Supper will be served at 4:30 pm on Theophany Eve, Sunday, January 5, 2020. Please sign up at the candle desk if you are interested in attending. Thank you to Judy Lezinsky for hosting!

Request for Annual Church Organization Reports

Please note that all Church Organization Reports **must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant by January 15, 2020** in order to prepare the packets for the Annual Parish Assembly. Packets will be distributed to parishioners from the candle desk beginning on January 26, 2020 for their review prior to the meeting on February 16, 2020.

House Blessing Schedule

If you are interested in having Fr. Matthew bless your home this year, please sign up on the sheet at the candle desk. Thank you!

Upcoming Events Information Request

If your church ministry or group will be having any event or using the church facilities in any way, please notify Jennifer Bzik so that she may reflect the information on our internal calendar. You may also indicate if the event should be posted on the church website for the public. Thank you!

Announcements

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church hosting Bright Hope Pregnancy Support Centers

Sunday, January 19, 2020

Sunday, January 19, 2020 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Our Parish Council and the Revitalization Committee are pleased to co-host a presentation to our parish by Bright Hope Pregnancy Support Centers' Community Relations Director, Jennifer Davies. We have invited her to join us for Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour and then to present a summary of the wonderful work they do in the Lehigh Valley and across our nation.

Bright Hope honors life and offers hope by providing pregnancy support services, resources and life skills education to women, men and youth. It is more than pro-life. It is pro-ABUNDANT-life, striving to save the lives of the unborn and to care for the men and women facing unplanned pregnancy. Bright Hope provides resources for their needs, not only to choose life but to begin a life that is self-sufficient.

We hope you will welcome them. All proceeds given during Coffee Hour will be donated to Bright Hope and it is our wish that after Bright Hope's presentation, St. Nicholas will become an on-going benefactor.

Please Help Me Be Accurate!

When you're signing up for things at the candle desk, please print clearly so that I can use accurate information with correct spellings. I am human, so mistakes will happen, but your neatness is a big help in getting things right as much as possible. Thank you!!! ~~~ Jennifer Bzik

Announcements

Annual Church Office Elections

What you need to know to vote in the Annual Parish Meeting being held on February 16, 2020 and to run for Church Office: According to our By-Laws in order to vote and participate in the discussions you must be a member at least 18 years of age and in good standing (both financially and sacramentally) for one (1) year. In order to run for Church Office you must be a member in good standing for two (2) years, same as above.

If you are interested in running for Church Office please contact Father Matthew Joyner or any one of the Nominating Committee members who are Bryan Distefano, Moses Hodson and Guliana Holobeny.

Please note the Parish Council Vice President and Secretary are chosen by and from the newly elected Parish Council to serve for one (1) year terms.

Parish Council Officer Positions:

Parish Council President (one year)
Treasurer (one year)
Financial Secretary (one year)

Parish Council Positions:

Three (3) three year terms
One (1) two year term

Auditor Positions:

Four (4) one year terms

Benefit for St. Michael's Cathedral in Sitka, AK

Sunday, January 26, 2020 the coffee hour will be in honor of Paul and Dorothy Havrilko's 90th birthdays. All proceeds will be donated to St. Michael's Cathedral in Sitka, Alaska. This Cathedral was established in 1844 and is an active parish. They have major renovations that need to be fixed and they are in need of monetary donations. Many of our parishioners had the opportunity to visit the Cathedral a year ago in August. This Cathedral houses the Wonder Working Icon of Our Lady of Sitka. Please open your hearts and give generously to this cause.

Announcements

New Prayer Book Sign Up Sheet

New prayer books that were available at the candle desk for \$20 have sold out. We will be ordering additional prayer books. Please sign up at the candle desk if you are interesting in purchasing a new prayer book.

In the Beginning: A Study of the Book of Genesis

Presented by Father Matthew

Sundays after Coffee Hour

All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend!



Looking for a gift for someone?

We've got a perfect way to say "Thanks!"
or "I'm Thinking of You".

Grocery Gift Cards are the ideal gift that everyone can use. When you purchase a gift card from our parish, you are helping our parish earn 5% income every time on each card. Last year alone, your card purchases helped raise \$2,000 for our church.

Participating stores are: Giant, Valley Farm, and Weis Markets. Card denominations are \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, and \$100. Special value cards for \$200 and \$300 may be ordered upon request with advance notice. Cards do not expire, so please consider purchasing a Grocery Gift Card the next time you need to buy a gift for someone. Better yet, why not get yourself a grocery gift card to use for your weekly shopping purchases and help earn some money for our parish!

See Stephanie Pasquel for Grocery Gift Cards. (Cash or checks please.)

Announcements

**Throughout the year, please remember those
in our parish family who are homebound.**

Mrs. Jean Butrymowicz

Mr. Walter Grigoruk

Mr. Andrew Hasenecz

Mrs. Doris Johnson

Mrs. Helen Karel

Mrs. Pauline Kasick

Miss Mary K. Koretski

Mat. Olga Kudrikoff

Mrs. Antoinette Lebeduik

Mrs. Theresa Nalepa

Mat. Irene Rachko

Ms. Nancy Sabol

Mrs. Julia Smolenski

Mrs. Ola Tatusko

Heavenly Father...

Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent Your only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal us, Your Servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments, through the grace of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. For You are the source of healing, and to You we give glory; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers at the Divine Liturgy for the Health of the Servants of God:

Igumen David Lewis

Archbishop David Mahaffey

Archpriests: Thomas Edwards, John Perich, Rodion Pfeifer, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, Dimitri Oselinsky, David Shewczyk, Dennis Swenki, James Weremedic

Priests: Matthew Joyner, Ian Shipley, John Nightingale

Matushki: Ashley Joyner, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Irene Rachko, Maryann Oselinsky, Priscilla Shipley, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic

Servants: Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Jean Butrymowicz, Helen & George Cotirgasanu, Roberta Cusick, Val Danchenko, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, Barbara Horsky, David Gowarty, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Jonathan Hontz, Michael H. Isbansky, Doris Johnson, Sarah Jubinski, Pauline Kasick, Greg Konsevitch, Mark K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Olga Maksimova, Peter Marsh, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Mary Orzolek, Ryan Pinkowicz, Kiera Pheiffer, Gordon Roberts, Clara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Robert Schainfeld, Pauline Senick, Cate Shea, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, John Uzick, Irene Witaneck

Child of God: Emily Estrin

Handmaidens of God: Mat. Ashley Joyner, Tosha Roberts, Emily Guiducci, Leona Roberts & their unborn children

Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.

“THIS IS MY BELOVED SON”

For years, John the Baptist preached along the banks of the Jordan River, urging those who listened to repent. Although scores of people answered his plea by being baptized, the Church will forever focus upon the day when John was approached by *“the One Whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.”* The **BAPTISM OF CHRIST** is celebrated by our Holy Church as the Feast Day of **THEOPHANY**. It is a day of great theological significance.

Theophany is not merely a historical account of our Saviour’s Baptism, nor is it simply a commemoration of the beginning of Christ’s public ministry. It is rather a wonderful manifestation of God’s glory, of His love for mankind, and of His mercy and compassion, as expressed in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ. He became Incarnate in order to become a sacrifice of salvation for the sake of all humanity.

This Feast Day is also remembered for the manifestation of the Holy Trinity to the world for the first time. On Theophany, God the Father speaks to us from Heaven, God the Son is baptized in the waters of the Jordan and God the Holy Spirit appears to us in the form of a dove.

In the early Church, Theophany was a day reserved for the baptism of catechumens, unceasingly repeating the words of St. Paul: *As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.* It has also been a long-standing custom to bless water on this day. Faithful Orthodox Christians look forward to having their homes blessed and sanctified with holy water during this season.

Icon by Fr. Paul Drozdowski — www.pd-icons.com

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

Daily Scripture Readings

Week of January 6, 2020

Monday	Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4	Matthew 3:13-17 Mark 1:9-11
Tuesday	Hebrews 9:8-10, 15-23 Acts 19:1-8	Luke 21:12-19 John 1:29-34
Wednesday	Hebrews 10:1-18	Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24
Thursday	Hebrews 10:35-11:7	Luke 21:28-33
Friday	Hebrews 11:8, 11-16	Luke 21:37-22:8
Saturday	Ephesians 5:1-8	Luke 13:18-29
Sunday	Ephesians 4:7-13	Matthew 4:12-17