



SAINT NICHOLAS

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Ms. Patty Felix, Council Chair

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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 19, 2020

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. Ven. Macarius the Great of Egypt (390-391). Ven. Macarius of Alexandria (394-395). St. Mark, Archbishop of Ephesus (15th c.). Ven. Makáry the Faster, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves–12th c.). Ven. Makáry the Deacon, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves–13th-14th c.). Righteous Theodore of Novgorod, Fool-for-Christ (1392). Opening of the Relics of Ven. Savva (Sabbas) of Storozhévsk and Zvenígorod (1652). Virgin Martyr Euphrasia of Nicomedia (303). St. Arsenius, Archbishop of Kerkyra (Corfu–8th c.).

Coffee Hour Hosted By: Revitalization Committee - Bright Hope Luncheon

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:

Monday 6:30 am – 11:00 am

Tuesday 6:30 am – 9:00 am

Wednesday 6:30 am – 11:30 am

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

7:00 pm – Active Service Meeting

Saturday, January 25, 2020

5:00 pm – Confessions

6:00 pm – Vespers

Sunday, January 26, 2020 – 32nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:10 am – Hours

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

Coffee Hour to benefit St. Michael's Cathedral in Sitka, Alaska

Upcoming:

Monday, January 27, 2020 – 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 – 7:00 pm Orthodoxy on Tap

Sunday, February 16, 2020 – Annual Parish Meeting after Liturgy

Sunday Hymns from the Octoechos, Tone 5

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Tone 4 Troparion (St. Nicholas)

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of humility and teacher of abstinence. So you won the heights by humility, riches by poverty; O Holy Father Nicholas intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Resurrection)

When Christ God the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

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: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Read by: Reader Matthew Lezinsky

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia Verses - Tone 6

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God. (Ps 90/91:1)

He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust." (Ps 90/91:2)

Gospel Lesson for Today: Luke 18:35-43

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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.

Sanctity of Life Sunday 2020

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon
January 19, 2020

To the honorable Clergy, venerable Monastics, and pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

From ancient times, all who have believed in the One God have believed that He takes special care in the formation of each human being. As God Himself expressed to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" (Jeremiah 1:5).

In the moment of conception in the mother's womb, a human being comes into existence. Yet even before being conceived and formed, this human being is known by God. God exists outside of time, and already knows and loves each one of us personally, knowing what we will do and who we will become both in this life and in eternity. As Solomon proclaims, "God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. *For he created all things that they might exist*" (Wisdom of Solomon 1.13-14). God wants us to be alive, and certainly, this is why we must speak against abortion and its legalization in our country: it is in opposition to God's loving plan to bring a human being into the world to live.

For just as He consecrated Jeremiah a prophet so that he might speak God's word, God brings each human being into the world with a unique purpose of speaking a unique word to the world, to reveal something to the world that will bring it closer to Him. Our lives are intended to be a period of sanctification, each one of us helping in the salvation and sanctification of our neighbor, and in this way being sanctified ourselves. Whatever occupations we have, together with the universal human callings to be loving children, siblings, parents or friends, can thus be holy and life-giving. For the purpose of all of our lives' activities is ultimately to become sanctified images of God by imitating God in caring for others. Because of this, we must give every human being the opportunity to live their life and work toward sanctification, just as we have been given that opportunity.

Sanctity of Life Sunday 2020

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon
January 19, 2020
(continued)

And what does this work of sanctification look like? Keeping in mind that David instructs us to “turn away from evil, and do good” (Psalm 33:15), we must begin to sanctify ourselves and the world by preaching the truth about evil, just as Jeremiah did. Above all, we reject Cain’s first sin of murder, in all of its loathsome forms: murder against the unborn, murder through violence, murder by starvation or deprivation, and murder of the ill and elderly. We also reject greed, lust, and selfishness, and we reject harming others, being dismissive of others, and hating others. We then “do good” by being imitators of God in caring for one another, by speaking the truth in love, and by emptying ourselves for the sake of others. Remembering that “this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life” (John 6:40), we couple our efforts of care for humanity with a call to the world to believe in the Son of God, Jesus the Savior of the human race, who was “given as a ransom for all,” because His Father “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:6, 4).

Yet we know that despite our efforts to do good, each of us falls at times and does evil. But with incredible compassion, our God who knew us before we were formed in our mother’s womb still loves and respects us. He still loves each and every human being, despite our faults and mistakes, even those who have made terrible mistakes and have worked evil.

Thus, if we recognize that our purpose in this life is to become images of God, we must also forgive, help, pray for, and love all those who have committed wrong. In imitation of our loving God, whose mercy is immeasurable, we too must love those who have been involved in the evil of abortion, showing mercy and compassion to the poor, desperate, and confused parents who have committed abortions, and praying fervently for the repentance of abortion doctors and advocates everywhere. We must love them and forgive them their sins, knowing that God loves all of humanity and is willing to forgive all sins.

Sanctity of Life Sunday 2020

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon
January 19, 2020
(continued)

At the same time, we cannot allow any excuse for abortion. We firmly believe that a new person comes into being in the moment of conception, and because of this, we must ever strive to prevent abortions from happening, making sure our local communities know of the many Christian-supported pregnancy crisis services available to unprepared and confused young parents. In turn, our churches must ever be willing to love and help such parents and their unborn children.

Thus, this year, as we mark the sorrowful 47th anniversary of the legalization of abortion, we remember to hate the sin of abortion, and to make ever effort we can to stop it from happening, while loving the misguided and confused ones who have been involved in abortions, knowing that God is willing to forgive all transgressions. In this way, we fulfill the purpose that God has given us in this life to become His images and presence in the world, while helping others - unborn and born alike - to have that same opportunity to come to "the knowledge of the truth" and fulfill their own lives' God-intended purposes. For this "truth," as we all should be reminded of again and again, is that:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. *For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*" - John 3:16-17

With love in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Candle Offerings for Sunday, January 19, 2020

Vigils in Altar

Happy Birthday Pat Grammes, Offered by Joan

Vigils in Altar

Happy Birthday Pat Grammes, Offered by Joan

Vigils in Altar

Happy Birthday Pat Grammes, Offered by Joan

Votives in Altar

Happy Birthday John McGarrity, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry Bretz

Vigil in Side Candle Holders

In Memory Of William Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Vigil in Side Candle Holders

In Memory Of William Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Crosses

Happy Birthday Jason Tomsic, Offered by Radio Family

Vigils on the Tetrapod

Happy Birthday Jason Tomsic, Offered by Keri, Talia & Jones

Vigils on Icon Table

In Memory Of Donna Mason, Offered by Fr. James & Mat. Pat

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory of Mary Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

Save Travels Fr. James & Mat. Pat

Vigils on South Wall Window Sills

Happy Birthday Pat Shea, Offered by Shirley & Michael Isbansky

Announcements

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

Sunday, January 19, 2020 - TODAY!!!

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. She will be joined by Antoinette Manis of the Bright Hope Staff. We have invited them 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.

2019 Donation Receipts Available

The 2019 donation receipt letters are available at the candle desk. Please be sure to stop by and pick yours up so that we can minimize the cost of mailing. Any letters not picked up by Sunday, January 26, 2020 will be mailed on Monday, January 27, 2020. Thank you!

Announcements

An Amazing Milestone!

Mrs. Helen Karel will be turning **101** on January 30, 2020. Let's shower her with cards to let her know we're thinking of her. Send cards c/o Thomas Karel, 1838 Larchmont Ln, Lancaster, PA 17601.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped and cooked for the Epiphany Eve Holy Super. Your efforts helped to make a beautiful dinner, which was much appreciated.

~Judy Lezinsky

New St. Nicholas Ministry!

We are seeking volunteers to develop a Property Care Ministry for the parish. In general, volunteers will routinely check the property and grounds 1x a month and identify areas that require attention or repair. Volunteers will report monthly findings to the parish administrative assistant so it can be determined if repairs will be contracted "out" or if they can be done by "in-house" volunteers with handy abilities. If you are interested in leading the monthly property checks and/or would like to be called upon for your handy services, please sign-up at the candle desk. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Distefano or Jennifer Bzik.

House Blessing Schedule

The House Blessing Schedule is posted on the bulletin board. If you are not listed but would like to have your house blessed, please contact Fr. Matthew.

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 Holobeney.

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) one year term

Auditor Positions:

Four (4) one year terms

Announcements

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. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to "St. Michael Cathedral". Thank you!

Orthodoxy on Tap February 11, 2020

Come join us at Orthodoxy on Tap for an evening of fellowship and discussion. Guest speaker Zach Sokol will present on the topic "The Intersection between Faith and Science." Fegley's Brew Works in Bethlehem, Feb. 11th at 7:00pm. Email metz.mike747@gmail.com for questions.

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!

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

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.)

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, Theodore Fedora, 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, Mary 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, The newborn Liliana Roberts

Handmaidens of God: Mat. Ashley Joyner, Jamee Bresee-Slivka, Emily Guiducci, Leona Roberts & their unborn children

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

A MODEL OF MEEKNESS

Today we feature a saint whose life teaches us that greatness often lies merely in doing simple things to the very best of our abilities. St. Euthymius is given the distinction of being referred to as "the Great," even though he spent most of his life in obscurity.

ST. EUTHYMIUS THE GREAT was born in Militene of Armenia in 377 A.D. Blessed with a firm desire to totally dedicate his life to serving the Lord, he was ordained to the holy priesthood at the tender age of 19. Devoted to the monastic way of life, Euthymius soon withdrew into the wilderness between Jerusalem and Jericho. He lived in a cave, filling his life with prayer and meditation. His reputation for piety and spirituality spread rapidly, and pilgrims from far and near sought him out, eager to receive his wise counsel. He became well-known for his profound spiritual sayings, always emphasizing the importance of love and humility in one's life. A follower of strict ascetic practices, Euthymius would leave his cave each Lent and retire to the desert, where he would remain in solitude until Pascha.

St. Euthymius the Great was blessed by the Lord with longevity of years. He died in 473 A.D. at the age of 97. His final request was that the monastery which had been founded near his cave would always keep its gates open to visitors, offering warmth and hospitality to all who entered.

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

Daily Scripture Readings

Week of January 20, 2020

Monday	James 2:14-26	Mark 9:42-10:1
Tuesday	James 3:1-10	Mark 10:2-12
Wednesday	James 3:11-4:6	Mark 10:11-16
Thursday	James 4:7-5:9	Mark 10:17-27
Friday	1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10	Mark 10:23-32
Saturday	1 Thessalonians 5:14-23	Luke 16:10-15
Sunday	1 Timothy 1:15-17	Matthew 15:21-28