

SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reverend Matthew Joyner, Rector

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Very Reverend James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Ms. Patty Felix, Council Chair

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

Jennifer Bzik, Administrative Assistant

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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)

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stnicholasoca.org

Schedule for the Week of February 9, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE – Tone 1. Leavetaking of the Meeting. Beginning of the Lenten Triodion. Martyr Nicephorus of Antioch in Syria (ca. 257). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Innocent, Bishop of Irkutsk (1805). Ven. Pankratii (Pancratius) of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves–13th c.). Ven. Nikifor (Nicephorus–1557) and Gennádii (Gennadius–ca. 1516), of Vazheozérsk. Hieromartyrs Marcellus, Bishop of Sicily, Philagrius, Bishop of Cyprus, and Pancratius, Bishop of Taoromina (1st c.).

Coffee Hour Hosted By: NSS (National Slovak Society)

Father Matthew's Office Hours This Week

Wednesday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Weekly Calendar

*****Fast Free Week*****

Pierogi:

Monday 6:30 am – 11:00 am

Tuesday 6:30 am – 9:00 am

Wednesday 6:30 am – 11:30 am

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

Thursday, February 13, 2020 - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm Soup Kitchen Volunteers
Alliance Hall, 245 N. Sixth St, Allentown

Saturday, February 15, 2020 - 5:00 pm – Confessions
6:00 pm – Vespers

Sunday, February 16, 2020 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son

9:10 am – Hours

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

Annual Parish Meeting after Liturgy

Sunday Hymns from the Octoechos, Tone 1

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!"

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection!

Tone 4 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears! Let us cry to our Savior: "Have mercy on us, O only merciful One!"

Tone 1 Kontakion (Feast)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

~~Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!
~~Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Epistle Lesson for Today: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Read by: Joe Kavchok

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra - what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia Verses - Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

~~God gives vengeance to me, and subdues people under me! (Ps 17:48)

~~He magnifies the salvation of His King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps 17:51)

Tone 8

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word! (Lk 2:29)

Gospel Lesson for Today: Luke 18:10-14

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Communion Hymn

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

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. (Ps 115/116:13)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Hymn to the Theotokos

Tone 3

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee! In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful discern a figure: every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who has no beginning, the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Megalynaria of the 9th Ode Meeting of the Lord

(to be sung before communion)

O pure Virgin mother that which came to pass in you, is beyond thee understanding of angels and men.

Desiring to save Adam the creator took up abode in your pure and spotless womb, O virgin Mother of God.

All creation blesses you, O pure Virgin. And in faith glorifies you as the Theotokos.

O Mary Theotokos you are the mystic tongs, who conceived in your pure womb Christ Who is the Living Coal

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians protect, preserve and aid, all who put their hope in you.

Candle Offerings for Sunday, February 9, 2020

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Susan Guydan, Offered by Subdn Michael & Michele D. Guydan

Vigils on North Wall Window Sills

Happy Birthday Fr. Tom Edwards, Offered by Cate & Paddy

Offerings Missed for Sunday, February 2, 2020

(with apologies for the oversight)

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple

In Memory of Alexander Radchuk, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

IMO Donations Received

In Memory Of Sarkis Acopian, Offered by Helen Acopian

In Memory Of Theresa Lopata, Offered by Pat & Wash Telepchak

In Memory Of Ted Fedora, Offered by Barry & Ann Marie Bretz, Bryan & Denise Distefano, Julianna Dranichak, Patricia Felix, Helen Haney, Paul & Dorothy Havrilko, Guliana Holobeny, John Koretski, Paula & John Lahutsky, Nick & Judy Lezinsky, Kathy Lichtenwalner, Barbara Monarek, Barbara Roman, Deacon Mikal & Martha Sawarynski, Dorothy Stafiniak, Ola Tatusko, Pat & Wash Telepchak

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 21, 2020 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Paska Bread Baking

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 - 7:00 pm Active Service Meeting

Friday, February 14, 2020 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm - Paska Bread Baking

Friday, March 6, 2020 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Paska Bread Baking

Sunday, March 29, 2020 - Deadline for Paska Bread & Pierogi Sale orders

Saturday, April 11, 2020 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Paska Bread & Pierogi Sale
Pick Up Day

Monday, May 18, 2020 - Pennsylvania March For Life (Harrisburg, PA)

Orthodox Scouting Sunday - February 9, 2020

by The Most Rev. Archbishop David, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska

Each year we come to this Sunday in February to celebrate Scouting in our communities. Throughout our country we will join in recognizing the contributions they have all made to our churches and various institutions through their hard work, dedication to duty and love of country and Faith. They have a comradery not found in any other organization. This idea of fellowship in Faith, love and respect for others is the guiding principle that makes their work so beneficial and important.



Today I address not only our Scouting Youth and Leaders who are before you, but I also address the Families, parents and children in attendance who do not yet know the values that Scouting offers.

We live in an age where it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a harmonious existence with others. Some are quick to judge those not like themselves and others simply want to avoid contact as much as they can. Neither of these options are suitable for a population to coexist. There must be an effort made to not only coexist, but to communicate with and learn from each other so that as a society we can all improve our way of life and social existence.

As our children grow, parents all ponder many questions about their future. Every effort is made to protect them from harmful situations. We all hope they will have a life more fulfilling than our own. In our pursuit for our children we enroll them in various things to aid their maturity and growth. It may be a sports team, or social club, or a hobby group of like-minded people. There is no

shortage of organizations vying for their attention. These organizations have no respect for your preferences in Faith, in fact, many times practices or even games are scheduled for Sunday mornings; this leaves the parent with a very difficult choice. Sad to say more often than not, it is the church that seems to be left out. Add to this that other families involved in such organizations may have no pious life at all and it is reflected in the way their own children behave at times.

Scouting gives us all of the good behaviors we aspire our children to have, while minimizing the bad ones. In Scouting, all youth are taught the Scout Oath, which ends with this phrase, "To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." Each and every Scout lives by this code in every aspect of their life. We can even say, the more involved they are in Scouting, the more likely they are to practice these virtues. Is this not a desire we would want for all young men and women? We can offer it to them with Scouting, BSA.

So today I offer my most heartfelt thanks to the Scouts who work so hard to deliver the good work of Scouting to your community. I extend an invitation to parents of all ages, and grandparents as well, to get involved in Scouting. To help improve the life of those you care so much about; whose futures you long to improve, to help them become the fine outstanding citizens we know they are capable of becoming. And to the youth, your future can be even brighter than you know through your participation in Scouting, BSA.

For more information on the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting and the work of scouting got to their website at <https://www.eocs.org>

God bless our Scouts and Leaders.

Your servant of Servants,

His Eminence Archbishop David Archbishop of Sitka and Alaska
Episcopal Liaison to the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting

Scouts of St. Nicholas

Wash Telepchak, Eagle (1946)
Patric Shea, Order of Arrow, Eagle (1948)
Michael Dorosh, Alpha Omega, Order of Arrow, Eagle (1958)
Dr. Gregory Radio, Order of Arrow, Eagle (1964)
Daniel Jubinski, Alpha Omega, Order of Arrow, Eagle (1987)
Gordon Roberts, Eagle
David Cudlic, Order of Arrow, Assistant Scout Master
Peter Metz- Star
David Metz - Star
Michael Metz - Life
Christopher Metz - Star
Alexander Hodson, Cub Scout - Bear
Christopher Hodson, Cub Scout - Lion
River Stokes, Cub Scout - Wolf
Nicholas Bzik, Cub Scout - Tiger

Announcements

Annual Parish Meeting Reports Available

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2020. Please be advised that the agenda and reports are now available at the candle desk for review prior to the meeting. Please stop by to pick up a copy at your convenience.

Thank You

To my wonderful parish family, thank you so much for your love and support during this difficult time. Your prayers, cards and calls have been very much appreciated. A special thank you to our wonderful Choir who sounded beautiful as they always do.

~Betty Fedora~

Announcements

A Note of Thanks

Dear Congregation of St. Nicholas,

Thank you for your generous donation to Bright Hope for Sanctity of Human Life. The donation goes a long way in strengthening us. It allows us to have a positive impact in the lives of men, women and youth of the Lehigh Valley.

God Bless You,

The Staff of Bright Hope

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

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family to celebrate our 90th birthdays. Your generosity is overwhelming. May God Bless each and everyone for your generous donations.

Thank you for a delicious meal and all the hard work putting this spectacular coffee hour together.

Also, the beautiful pictures. Thank you Barry!

Presently, donations collected total over \$ 7000.00. We will be sending the money to Alaska after this Sunday. If anyone still would like to contribute please see Judy Lezinsky.

This is the Day which the Lord has made. Let Us Rejoice!

Paul and Dorothy Havrilko

Update: The exact Dollar amount received was \$7,283.00. Checks were sent last Monday Feb 3rd and were to be received by Friday the 7th. So if people are concerned about their checks being deposited, give it a little time.

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 Holobenly.

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

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.

Announcements

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.

Paska Bread & Pierogi Sale

Please contact Maxine Marsh to place orders for the Paska Bread & Pierogi Sale. Orders must be placed by noon on Sunday, March 29, 2020 and picked up on Saturday, April 11, 2020 between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.

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

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

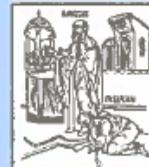
Servants: Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Jean Butrymowicz, Helen & George Cotirgasanu, Roberta Cusick, Val Danchenko, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, Barbara Horsky, David Gowarty, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Jonathan Hontz, Michael H. Isbansky, Doris Johnson, 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, Cate Shea, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, John Uzick, Irene Witanek

Child of God: Emily Estrin

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.

PERCEPTION IS NOT REALITY!



There is an old saying with which we are all familiar: *"Things are not always what they seem to be."* These wise words certainly apply to the main characters in the Parable of **THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE.**

In the story, our Lord tells us that two men go to pray in the temple. The Pharisee, a well-respected leader in the Jewish religious community, presents God with a "litany" of his good works: he fasts, he tithes, he lives a spiritual life. The Publican, a despised tax collector, undoubtedly has nothing in his life of which he is proud. All he can offer to the Lord is a simple plea: "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

The perception of the Pharisee would be that he is a man to be held in high esteem. In reality, he is someone who did all of the right things for the wrong reasons! The opposite could be said of the Publican. While shunned by society, Christ tells us that his sincerity caused him to find favor with God. Truly, *"he who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* (Luke 18:14)

In his "Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke," St. Cyril of Alexandria writes: *"We must remember that when we pray, we are speaking to the God Who knows all things."* On this, the first of the Pre-Lenten Sundays, let us remember that the Lord is not impressed with prideful boasting, for He knows the secrets of our hearts. Without real humility, there can be no true sorrow for our sins, and no reconciliation with God.

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

Daily Scripture Readings

Week of February 10, 2020

Monday	2 Peter 1:20-2:9	Mark 13:9-13
Tuesday	2 Peter 2:9-22	Mark 13:14-23
Wednesday	2 Peter 3:1-18	Mark 13:24-31
Thursday	1 John 1:8-2:6	Mark 13:31-14:2
Friday	1 John 2:7-17	Mark 14:3-9
Saturday	2 Timothy 3:1-9	Luke 20:46-21:4
Sunday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Luke 15:11-32