





SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reverend Matthew Joyner, Rector

Cell: 570-468-2261

Email: nkyorthodox@gmail.com

Very Reverend James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Mr. Bryan Distefano, Parish Council President

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)

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

Schedule for the Week of March 15, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 6. St. Gregory Palamas. Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra. Martyrs Agapius, Publius (Pausis), Timolaus, Romulus, two named Dionysius, and two named Alexander, at Cæsarea in Palestine (303). Hieromartyr Alexander of Side, in Pamphylia (270-275). Martyr Nicander of Egypt (ca. 302).

There will be no coffee hour today

Father Matthew's Office Hours This Week

Wednesday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Weekly Calendar

Pierogi:

Monday 6:30 am – 11:00 am

Tuesday 6:30 am – 9:00 am

Wednesday 6:30 am – 11:30 am

Sunday, March 15, 2020----- 4:00 pm St. Gregory Palamas Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers at St. Philip (Antiochian) Orthodox Church, 1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

Monday, March 16, 2020----- 6:30 pm Safety Class w/Bob Novatnack
7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2020----- 7:00 pm Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2020--- 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 20, 2020----- 7:00 pm Akathist

Saturday, March 21, 2020----- 9:00 am Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy with Confessions to follow
5:00 pm – Confessions
6:00 pm – Vespers

Sunday, March 22, 2020----- 3rd Sunday of Lent - Veneration of the Cross
9:10 am – Hours
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy (Church School after Communion)
4:00 pm Veneration of Precious Cross Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 1031 Fullerton Ave, Allentown, PA 18102

Upcoming Events and Services

- Tuesday, March 24, 2020**----- 7:00 pm Active Service Meeting
- Wednesday, March 25, 2020**---6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy Annunciation
- Friday, March 27, 2020**----- 7:00 pm Akathist
- Saturday, March 28, 2020**----- 9:00 am Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy
5:00 pm - Confessions
6:00 pm - Vespers
- Sunday, March 29, 2020**----- Deadline - Paska Bread & Pierogi Sale orders
9:30 am Divine Liturgy St. John Climacus
4:00 pm St. John Climacus Pan-Orthodox
Lenten Vespers at St. Nicholas Russian
Orthodox Church, Bethlehem
- Wednesday, April 1, 2020**----- 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy
- Thursday, April 2, 2020**----- 7:00 pm Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt
- Friday, April 3, 2020**----- 7:00 pm Akathist
- Saturday, April 4, 2020**----- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Most Holy Theotokos
11:30 am Baptism of Remington Rose
Hashinger (Maxine Marsh's granddaughter)
5:15 pm - Monthly Panikhida
6:00 pm - Vespers (Confessions to follow)
- Sunday, April 5, 2020**----- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy St. Mary of Egypt
4:00 pm St. Mary of Egypt Pan-Orthodox
Lenten Vespers at St. Paul Antiochian
Orthodox Church, 156 E. Main Street,
Emmaus, PA 18049
- Wednesday, April 8, 2020**----- 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy
- Friday, April 10, 2020**----- 7:00 pm Matins for Lazarus Saturday
- Saturday, April 11, 2020**----- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Lazarus Saturday
11:00 am to 2:00 pm Paska Bread & Pierogi
Sale Pick Up Day
5:00 pm - Confessions
6:00 pm - Vespers

Sunday, April 12, 2020----- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Palm Sunday
4:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 13, 2020----- 9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy Holy Monday
7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 14, 2020----- 9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy Holy Tuesday
7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 15, 2020----- 9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy Holy
Wednesday
7:00 Holy Unction

Thursday, April 16, 2020----- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Holy
Thursday
7:00 pm The 12 Passion Gospels

Friday, April 17, 2020----- 9:00 am Royal Hours Holy Friday
4:00 pm Burial Vespers
6:30 pm Matins - Lamentations
All Night Watch

Saturday, April 18, 2020----- 9:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy Holy
Saturday
11:30 pm Paschal Vigil and Divine Liturgy
Followed by the blessing of baskets and the
Agape meal

Sunday, April 19, 2020----- 11:00 am Agape Vespers PASCHA

Monday, April 20, 2020----- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Bright Monday

Saturday, April 25, 2020----- 5:45 pm Ninth Hour
6:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, April 26, 2020----- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy St. Thomas Sunday
2:00 pm Blessing of the Graves

Saturday, May 9, 2020----- 9:00 am to noon Volunteer Event: Feed the
Children (See Mike Metz for info)

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

Sunday Hymns from the Octoechos, Tone 6

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 8 Troparion (St. Gregory Palamas)

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation, O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians, O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

Tone 4 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors! So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying: "Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea; but forgive us, O Master of all, so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!"

Tone 8 Kontakion (St. Gregory Palamas)

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology, together we sing thy praises, O God-inspired Gregory. Since thou now standest before the Original Mind, guide our minds to Him, O Father, so that we may sing to thee: "Rejoice, preacher of grace!"

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (Ps 11/12:7)

Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps 11/12:1)

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (St. Gregory Palamas)

My mouth shall speak wisdom, / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (Ps 48/49:3)

Epistle Lesson for Today: Hebrews 7:26-8:2

(St. Gregory Palamas)

Read by: Reader Nick Stepanoff

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Epistle Lesson for Today: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Read by: Reader Nick Stepanoff

And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Alleluia Verses - Tone 6

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

~~He who dwelleth 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)

Tone 2 (Triodion)

~~The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment. (Ps 36/37:30)

Gospel Lesson for Today: John 10:9-16

(St. Gregory Palamas)

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Gospel Lesson for Today: Mark 2:1-12

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He

said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" - He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. (Ps 111/112:6b-7a)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Candle Offerings for Sunday, March 15, 2020

Vigils in Altar

In Honor Of Olga Maksimova (Guliana's Mother) Birthday
Offered by The Holobeny Family

Vigils on Icon Table

Happy Birthday Peter Slivka, Offered by Mike & Fran Slivka

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of Helen Day, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry



The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

March 13, 2020

PLEASE POST IN A PUBLIC PLACE AND IN YOUR BULLETINS

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! I am writing today to provide some common sense suggestions for our clergy and faithful. While only two people have been identified in as infected with the virus in the state of Pennsylvania (Delaware and Wayne Counties, respectively), it does not mean we should be negligent of basic hygiene issues. Please observe the following, in part from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese <https://www.goarch.org/-/directives-covid-19> :

1. Provide hand sanitizer in the Narthex for the faithful before they enter the Nave. Keep the doors open between the Narthex and Nave so they will not have to touch the doors with the hands. Do not leave hand sanitizer unattended in the presence of children!
2. Simply remind people that anything commonly touched in a public place such as pews, service books, door knobs, faucets, railings, cloth towels, etc. are not necessarily free of bacteria. *Restaurant menus are also possible source of contamination.*
3. Post signs asking anyone who is ill not to attend services, but participate via television and a streaming feed.
4. Encourage the faithful to simply bow before the icons and cross, but temporarily refrain from kissing one another and other objects.
5. Disposable cups should be provided for zapivka.
6. All the faithful should be encouraged to sanitize their hands before coffee hour once again and refrain from touching anything which could contaminate them again, i.e., the faucet or door handles, etc.. Keep the doors open to the fellowship hall.

7. All food should be served by a few of the faithful wearing plastic gloves so utensils will remain clean. Hands should be thoroughly washed first and dried with paper towels. Do not share cloth towels in the church kitchen until after your hands are sanitized.
8. If you reach in your pocket or purse to retrieve your own hand sanitizer, the outside of the sanitizer may become contaminated and defeat its use.

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania



325 N. Walnut Street * Bath, Pennsylvania 18014-1201
Telephone: 484.281.3406 * <http://www.doepa.org> * Email: dioceseoepa@gmail.com
Chancellor: V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne * Mobile: 570.906.1388
Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linnehan* treasurer@doepa.org

“Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee.” August

Announcements

Claim Your Dishes!

If you have brought baked goods or other foods to the church in your dishes from home, please check the table at the front of the hall and collect those that belong to you. Thank you!

Choir CDs for Sale

Enhance your Lenten journey by listening to sacred music at home! See Nick Lezinsky if you are interested in purchasing a CD recording of the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Choir performing Now the Powers: A Journey Through Great Lent.

Media Opt-Out Information

As many of you know, from time to time we (St. Nicholas Church) record, photograph or videotape various events and activities that reflect an active parish. These pieces of communication may be published on our website, in our bulletin, on our social media page, on the OCA website, or used on other printed material. Some people may choose not to have their photos used and if you are among them, we ask that you fill-out the Media Opt-Out Form that can be found at the information table outside the church hall. Please return it to the church administrative assistant so that we may have a copy on file. If you are okay with the use of media, you do not have to do anything. Thank you.

Contact Information Update Reminder

If you have not yet updated your contact information, please see Jennifer Bzik as soon as possible. Your help is greatly appreciated as we update our communications methods!

Announcements

Volunteer Event

Active Service Committee is teaming up with Feed the Children, a nationwide, non-profit organization that distributes food and other essentials to families in need. **We are looking for 6-10 volunteers** to help package food on **Saturday, May 9th from 9am to noon.** Volunteers will be organizing food into boxes on a conveyor belt. It's easy work, and in one morning you will help to provide meals for hundreds of families! Please see the sign-up sheet at the candle desk for details.

Pussy Willow Branches



Reminder: It will soon be time for pussy willows to start blooming. Please cut the branches of willows and bring them to the church as soon as they bloom. Since Pascha is April 19th we will need to store the willows until Saturday, April 11th for Palm Sunday, April 12th. Please wrap the willows loosely in newspaper so we can save them for Palm Sunday. Thank you for your help in gathering the willows.



Safety Class

On March 16th Bob Novatnack will be conducting a safety class for council members and any others who are interested in attending. This information will help to prepare us to conduct a fire drill at some point in the future. The class will begin at 6:30 pm and is expected to finish around 7:10 pm, at which time the regular Church Council Meeting will begin. All are welcome to attend.

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.

Announcements

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.)

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

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!

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, Leona Roberts & their unborn children

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

✠ CLEANSING OUR SOUL AND BODY ✠

Once again, the time of Great Lent is upon us, when every Orthodox Christian will enter an intense period of spiritual discipline. During these 40 days, the Church implores us to do certain things:

FASTING: At this time, we will be called upon to Fast. It must be understood, however, that fasting means more than merely abstaining from meat and dairy products. Fasting also means a strict curtailing of our social activities. We are reminded “earthly pleasures” can easily interfere with our concentration on the Passion of our Lord. The term “fasting” applies as well to having a stricter control over our thoughts, words and deeds.

PRAYING: During Lent, a great emphasis is placed upon Prayer. Special services, such as the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and the Akathist to the Mother of God provide us with the liturgical means of becoming closer to our Saviour as we approach Pascha.

REPENTING: Above all, we will be asked to Repent during the Lenten Season, and to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist as we prepare to proclaim His Resurrection at the conclusion of our 40-day journey. We must all obey Christ’s command given to His Apostles at the Mystical Supper: Do this in remembrance of Me.

While Great Lent is often characterized by its dark liturgical colors and mournful hymns, we must remember the words of one of the sticheras from Forgiveness Vespers: “Let us enter the season of Lent in the spirit of joy, giving ourselves to spiritual strife, cleansing our soul and body as we limit our food, living on the virtues of the spirit, rejoicing all the while with spiritual joy.”

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

Daily Scripture Readings

Week of March 16, 2020

Monday	Isaiah 8:13-9:7, Genesis 6:9-22	Proverbs 8:1-21
Tuesday	Isaiah 9:9-10:4, Genesis 7:1-15	Proverbs 8:32-9:11
Wednesday	Isaiah 10:12-20, Genesis 7:6-9	Proverbs 9:12-18
Thursday	Isaiah 11:10-12:2, Genesis 7:11-8:3	Proverbs 10:1-22
Friday	Isaiah 13:2-13, Genesis 8:4-21	Proverbs 10:31-11:12
Saturday	Hebrews 10:32-38	Mark 2:14-17
Sunday	Hebrews 4:14-5:6	Mark 8:34-9:1