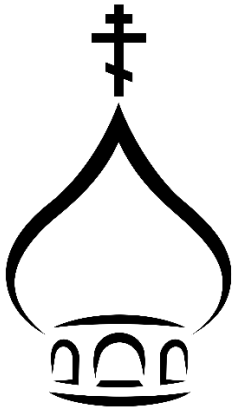


Christ took upon Himself the sins of the World





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 29, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*).

Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the Deacon, of Heliopolis, and others who suffered under Julian the Apostate (ca. 364). Ven. John, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). St. Eustathius the Confessor, Bishop of Bithynia (9th c.). St. Niketas of the Roslavl Forests (Russia–1793).

There will be no coffee hour until further notice

Father Matthew's Office Hours Until Further Notice

By Appointment, By Phone

Please contact Fr. Matthew if you need to speak with him

Weekly Calendar

Pierogi: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Due to present Covid-19 circumstances, Liturgical Services will be live streamed from the church but will be closed to the public. For more information about live streaming, please see our website.

Upcoming Events and Services

*****Due to present Covid-19 circumstances, Liturgical Services will be live streamed from the church but will be closed to the public. For more information about live streaming, please see our website.*****

- Wednesday, April 1, 2020**-----6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy (Live Stream)
- Thursday, April 2, 2020**----- 7:00 pm Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt (TBD - Watch for email with information about this service.)
- Friday, April 3, 2020**-----7:00 pm Akathist (CANCELLED)
- Saturday, April 4, 2020**-----9:00 am Divine Liturgy Most Holy Theotokos (CANCELLED)
11:30 am Baptism of Remington Rose Hashinger (Maxine Marsh's granddaughter) (CANCELLED)
5:15 pm - Monthly Panikhida (CANCELLED)
6:00 pm - Vespers (Live Stream)
- Sunday, April 5, 2020**-----9:30 am Divine Liturgy St. Mary of Egypt (Live Stream)
- Wednesday, April 8, 2020**-----6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy (Live Stream)
- Friday, April 10, 2020**-----7:00 pm Matins for Lazarus Saturday (Live Stream)
- Saturday, April 11, 2020**-----9:00 am Divine Liturgy Lazarus Saturday (Live Stream)
11:00 am to 2:00 pm Paska Bread & Pierogi Sale Pick Up Day (Maxine Marsh will be in contact to discuss arrangements to pick up orders)
5:00 pm - Confessions (CANCELLED)
6:00 pm - Vespers (Live Stream)

Information about Holy Week Services will be updated upon receipt of additional guidance from the Holy Synod

- 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 Vespersal 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 8

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 1 Troparion (for St. John Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Tone 4 Kontakion (for St. John Climacus)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our father and teacher John.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps 75/76:11)

In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps 75/76:1)

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (St. John Climacus)

Let the saints exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches! (Ps 149:5)

Epistle Lesson for Today: Ephesians 5:9-19

(Saint John Climacus)

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Epistle Lesson for Today: Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Alleluia Verses - Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!
(Ps 94/95:1)

Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him
with songs of praise! (Ps 94/95:2)

Tone 4

They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our
God. (Ps 91/92:13)

Gospel Lesson for Today: Matthew 4:25-5:12

(St. John Climacus)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Gospel Lesson for Today: Matthew 4:25-5:12

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

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!



ABRIDGED MOLIEBEN SUNG IN TIME OF PESTILENCE

After the ambo prayer, the Choir sings "Blessed be the Name of the Lord..." two times. The Priest takes his place in the center of the Church, and then immediately begins....

Priest: In the 2nd Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

Choir: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.*

Priest: All nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I withstood them!

Choir: *God is the Lord ...*

Priest: I shall not die but live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Choir: *God is the Lord ...*

Priest: The stone which the builders rejected, has become the head of the corner, this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Choir: *God is the Lord ...*

Then the Troparia

(Tone 2) In Thy wrath, O God, remember Thy compassions,
for we are dust and ashes,
whose breath, when it departs, shall not return,
and rebuke us not in Thine anger that we not be utterly destroyed.//
But spare our souls, as Thou only art merciful. (*twice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Theotokion Tone 4) *O zealous Protectress, Mother of the Lord Most High,
you pray to your Son, Christ our God, for all,
and thou workest salvation for all
who have recourse to your mighty protection.
Protect all of us, O Lady, Queen and Sovereign,
who are in misfortune and sorrows,
burdened with many sins and in afflictions,
and who are standing before you, praying to you tearfully
with compunctionate spirits and contrite hearts
before your most-pure Image.
For, without wavering, we have set our hope on you,
the Deliverer from all evil.
Grant what is profitable to all
and save all of us, O Theotokos Virgin,
for you art the divine Protection of your servants*

Prokeimenon & Gospel

- Priest:** Wisdom! Let us attend! The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone. O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, neither chasten me in Thy wrath!
- Choir:** *O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, neither chasten me in Thy wrath.*
- Priest:** For Thine arrows have pierced me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me.
- Choir:** *O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, neither chasten me in Thy wrath.*
- Priest:** O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger,
- Choir:** *...neither chasten me in Thy wrath.*
- Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord!
- Choir:** *Lord have mercy!*
- Priest:** For Holy art Thou, O our God, who rests in the sanctuary, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
- Choir:** *Amen.*

Priest: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Choir: *Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!*

Priest: Praise God in His sanctuary! Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Choir: *Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!*

Priest: Let everything that breathes...

Choir: *...praise the Lord!*

Priest: And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God!

Choir: *Lord, have mercy. (3 times)*

Priest: Wisdom, stand aright, let us listen to the Holy Gospel, peace be unto all!

Choir: *And to your spirit.*

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Choir: *Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.*

Priest: Let us attend! (St. Luke 4: 38-44): At that time, Jesus entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever, and they entreated Him for her. And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately having arisen, she ministered unto them. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any sick with diverse diseases brought them unto Him, and He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "Thou art Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking them, suffered them not to speak; for they knew that He was Christ. And when it was day, He departed and went into a desert place. And the people sought Him and came unto Him and would have held Him, that He should not depart from them. But He said unto them, "I must preach the Kingdom of God to other cities also, for therefore am I sent." And He preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

Choir: *Glory to Thee, O our God, glory to Thee.*

Priest: Again and again with compunction, let us pray to the Lord, God!

Choir: *Lord, have mercy. (3 times)*

Priest: O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in thine ineffable goodness, look down upon us, Thy people gathered in Thy Holy Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. Thou knowest our weakness. Thou hearest our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who lovest mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the Corona Virus. Send Thine angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace that together we may glorify Thy most honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: *Amen. Blessed be the Name...*

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: Jamee Bresee-Slivka, Leona Roberts & their unborn children

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

THE GARDEN BECAME A BATTLEGROUND

GETHSEMANE! The very word brings an awesome image into our minds. The icon on today's bulletin captures the vivid account of Christ in the Garden. Let us recount the biblical record of this event.

It was after the Mystical Supper that the Lord took His apostles to the place which He often frequented to pray. Now Jesus came there to prepare Himself to die. He took three of the Apostles, Peter, James and John, further into the garden. These were the three who saw Him once transfigured in all His glory; now they were to see Him suffer and weep.

Christ bid His friends to *"watch and pray,"* while He went on, falling to His knees and pouring out His heart and soul in agonized prayer. Sweat, like beads of blood, form on His brow as He contemplates the suffering to follow. Finally, Jesus prays: *"Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Let not My will but Thine be done!"* And the Father sent an Angel to strengthen Him for the agony to come.

There Jesus lies, exhausted, and we begin to realize what a price He had to pay for our salvation. As for the apostles, they were tired and asleep, unable to cope with the situation. The words of the Lord ring out: *"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak . . ."*

What a picture we see of our Lord! His agony would end in complete submission to the will of the Heavenly Father. It is not to be interpreted as an act of weakness, but the fulfillment of a higher purpose. Jesus **CHOSE** to go to the crucifixion on Golgotha, in order to save mankind.

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

Daily Scripture Readings

Week of March 30, 2020

Monday	Isaiah 37:33-38:6, Genesis 13:12-18	Proverbs 14:27-15:4
Tuesday	Isaiah 40:18-31, Genesis 15:1-15	Proverbs 15:7-19
Wednesday	Isaiah 41:4-14, Genesis 17:1-9	Proverbs 15:20-16:9
Thursday	Isaiah 42:5-16, Genesis 18:20-33	Proverbs 16:17-17:17
Friday	Isaiah 45:11-17, Genesis 22:1-18	Proverbs 17:17-18:5
Saturday	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 8:27-317
Sunday	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 10:32-45