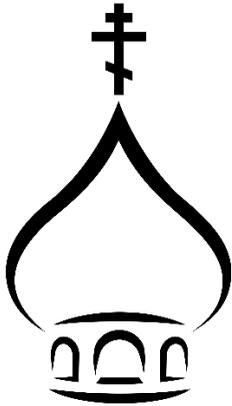


Great Vespers

Friday, November 20, 2020

The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Reverend Matthew Joyner, Rector

Cell: 570-468-2261

Email: nkyorthodox@gmail.com

Very Reverend James Mason, Attached

Reverend Timothy Hasenecz, 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 Sunday'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

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The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

Lord, I Call

(Tone 1) Lord I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee, hear me O Lord! Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands, be an evening sacrifice, hear me O Lord!

(8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Tone 1 *(Oh, the Marvelous Wonder)*

Today, let us dance, O faithful, singing to the Lord in psalms and hymns and honoring His sanctified Tabernacle, the living Ark, that contained the Word Who cannot be contained; for in wondrous fashion she is offered to the Lord as a young child in the flesh, and Zachariah, the great High Priest, joyfully receives her as the dwelling place of God.

(7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

(Repeat: "Today, let us dance, O faithful...")

(6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Today the living Temple of the holy glory of Christ our God, the pure Maiden who alone is blessed among women, is offered in the Temple of the Law that she may make her dwelling in the Holy Place. Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in spirit, and choirs of virgins sing to the Lord, chanting psalms, and honoring His Mother.

(5) For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Thou art the preaching of the prophets, O Virgin Mother of God; the glory of the Apostles and the boast of Martyrs, and the renewal of all the earth-born, for through thee, we are reconciled to God. Therefore, being saved by thine intercessions, we honor thy coming into the Temple of the Lord; and with the Angel we all cry out to thee in song: "Rejoice, O all-revered Lady!"

(4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Tone 4 *(As one valiant among martyrs)*

Led by the Holy Spirit, the holy Maiden without blemish is brought to dwell in the Holy of Holies, where she is fed by an angel. She is truly the most holy Temple of our holy God, Who has made all things holy by dwelling in her, and has made God-like the fallen nature of mortals.

(3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

(Repeat: "Led by the Holy Spirit...")

(2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

The young girls rejoice today, and with lamps in hand they go before the spiritual Lamp, as she is led with reverence into the Holy of Holies. They foreshadow the Brightness past telling Who is to shine forth from her and enlighten by the Spirit those who sat in the darkness of ignorance.

(1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Anna the all-praised cried out rejoicing: "Receive, O Zachariah, her whom God's Prophets proclaimed in the Spirit, and bring her into the holy Temple, there to be brought up in reverence, that she may become the divine throne of the Master of all, His palace and resting place and dwelling filled with light!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8

After thy birth, O Lady and Bride of God, thou camest to the Temple of the Lord to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, since thou thyself art holy. And Gabriel then was sent to thee, all-blameless Maiden, to bring thee food. All in heaven were amazed to see how the Holy Spirit had made His abode in thee. Therefore, O spotless and undefiled Mother of God, glorified in heaven and on earth, save the human race!

Aposticha

Tone 5 *(Rejoice, O Life-giving Cross)*

Heaven and earth rejoice, beholding the spiritual Heaven, the only Virgin without blemish, as she enters the house of God, there to be reared in reverence. Zachariah cried to her in amazement: "O Gate of the Lord, to thee I open the gates of the Temple; rejoice and go around it dancing. For I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel will now come to dwell openly in our midst, and that from thee shall be born God the Word, Who grants the world His great mercy!"

Virgins shall be brought to the King after her; her companions shall be brought to Thee. (Ps. 44:13)

Anna, the namesake of grace, joyfully brings into the Temple of God the pure and ever-Virgin who is full of grace, and calls young girls to go before her with lamps in hand. She says: "Go, child, to Him Who gave thee to me; to be an offering and a sweet-smelling incense. Go into the inner sanctuary that none may enter: learn its mysteries, and prepare thyself to become the pleasing and fair dwelling-place of Jesus, Who grants the world His great mercy!"

They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing; they shall be led into the Temple of the King. (Ps. 44:14)

The most holy Virgin, the Temple that is to contain God, is dedicated within the Temple of God; and young girls, bearing lamps, now go before her. Her noble parents, Joachim and Anna, leap for joy and dance, for they have borne her who is to bear the Creator. And she who is all-pure dances around the divine habitations and is fed by the hand of an angel. She has been revealed as the Mother of Christ, Who grants the world His great mercy.

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

Tone 6 *(by Sergius of Jerusalem)*

Today let us, the crowds of the assembled faithful, celebrate a spiritual feast: let us reverently praise the Virgin Theotokos and child of God, as she is brought into the Temple of the Lord! She was forechosen from all generations to be the dwelling-place of Christ, the Lord and God of all. O Virgins, bearing lamps, go before her, honoring the majestic advance of the ever-Virgin! Mothers, lay aside every sorrow and accompany them with joy, singing the praises of her who became the Mother of God, the cause of joy for the world! Therefore, let us all join with the angel, and joyfully cry out: "Rejoice!" to her who is full of grace, and who ever intercedes for our souls.

Troparia

Tone 4 **Troparion**

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the Temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: "Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation!"

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:

Metropolitan Herman

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, Maryann Oselinsky, Priscilla Shipley, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic

Servants: Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Helen Cotirgasanu, Roberta Cusick, Val Danchenko, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, David Gowarty, Patricia Grammes, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Jonathan Hontz, Michael H. Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Pauline Kasick, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Olga Maksimova, Peter Marsh, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Mary Orzolek, Kylie Pinho, 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, Irene Witaneck

Child of God: Emily Estrin

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