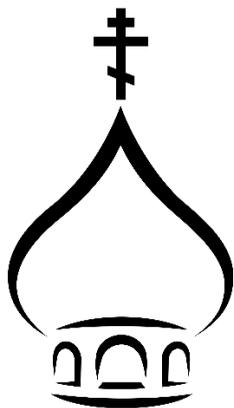


# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, December 13, 2020

**Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

**Repose of Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America**



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reverend Matthew Joyner, Rector  
Cell: 570-468-2261  
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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

# Schedule for the Week of December 13, 2020

## **27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Repose of Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1837). Sunday of the Forefathers.**

Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes, at Sebaste (4th c.). Virgin Martyr Lucia (Lucy) of Syracuse (304). Ven. Arkády (Arcadius) of Novotorsk (11th c.). Ven. Mardárii (Mardarius), Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves–13th c.). Ven. Arsenius of Latros (8th-9th c.). Ven. Nikodemos (Romanian).

## **Weekly Calendar**

*(All Parishioners must review and follow the St. Nicholas Church Reopening Guidance when attending services in person.)*

### **Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

7:00 pm – Readers Vespers (Live Stream only)

### **Thursday, December 17, 2020**

12:00 pm – Deadline for RSVP for Saturday Vespers and/or Sunday Liturgy

### **Saturday, December 19, 2020**

6:00 pm – Great Vespers (Live Stream will also be available)

### **Sunday, December 20, 2020**

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

9:10 am – Reading of the Hours (Live Stream will also be available)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy (Live Stream will also be available)

10:45 am – Communion for Parish Children

# 2020 Nativity Season Schedule

Please note that due to Covid-19 precautions, all confessions will be heard by appointment only. Please contact Fr. Matthew by phone or text to schedule.

## **Wednesday, December 23, 2020**

7:00 pm - Reading of the Royal Hours of Nativity - (Live Stream will also be available)

## **Thursday, December 24, 2020**

Eve of The Nativity of Christ  
7:00 pm - Vigil of the Nativity (Live Stream will also be available)

## **Friday, December 25, 2020**

Nativity of Our Lord  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours (Live Stream will also be available)  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy - (Live Stream will also be available)  
10:45 am - Communion for Parish Children

## **Saturday, December 26, 2020**

Synaxis of the Theotokos  
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours (Live Stream will also be available)  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy (Live Stream will also be available)  
10:15 am - Communion for Parish Children (Wait outside the main Church Doors)  
6:00 pm - Great Vespers (Live Stream will also be available)

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ -  
Feast of St. Stephen

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours (Live  
Stream will also be available)

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy (Live Stream  
will also be available)

10:45 am - Communion for Parish  
Children

**Wednesday, December 30, 2020**

7:00 pm - Readers Vespers (Live  
Stream only)

**Friday, January 1, 2021**

The Circumcision of our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ; St. Basil the Great

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours (Live  
Stream will also be available)

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy (Live Stream  
will also be available)

10:15 am - Communion for Parish  
Children

**Saturday, January 2, 2020**

5:15 pm - Monthly Panikhida (Live  
Stream will also be available)

6:00 pm - Great Vespers (Live Stream  
will also be available)

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

Forefeast of the Theophany

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours (Live  
Stream will also be available)

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy (Live Stream  
will also be available)

10:45 am - Communion for Parish  
Children

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

Theophany Eve

9:00 AM - Reading of the Royal Hours  
(Live Stream will also be available)

6:00 PM - Great Compline with Great  
Blessing of Water

**Wednesday, January 6, 2020**

Holy Theophany

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours (Live  
Stream will also be available)

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy (Live Stream  
will also be available)

10:15 am - Communion for Parish  
Children

7:00 pm - Readers Vespers (Live  
Stream only)

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 13, 2020

## Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

### Rest of Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America

#### **Tone 2**      **Troparion**    *(Resurrection)*

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

#### **Tone 2**      **Troparion**    *(Forefathers)*

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

#### **Tone 7**      **Troparion**    *(St. Herman)*

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom, teacher and apostle of the True Faith, intercessor and defender of the oppressed, adornment of the Orthodox Church in America: Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, pray to our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our souls!

#### **Tone 2**      **Kontakion**    *(Resurrection)*

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

#### **Tone 3**      **Kontakion**    *(St. Herman)*

The eternal light of Christ our Savior guided thee, O blessed father Herman, on thine evangelical journey to America to proclaim the Gospel of peace. Now thou

standest before the throne of glory: intercede for thy land and its people, asking peace for the world and salvation for our souls.

**Tone 6      Kontakion**    *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

**Tone 4      Prokeimenon**    *(Forefathers)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

*For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)*

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon**    *(St. Herman)*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. *(Ps. 115:6)*

**Epistle**

*(Colossians 3:4-11 (Forefathers))* When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who

created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

(Galatians 5:22-6:2 (*St. Herman*)) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

#### **Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps. 98:6)*

*They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps. 98:6)*

#### **Tone 6**

*Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)*

#### **Gospel**

(Luke 14:16-24 (*Forefathers*)) Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground,

and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

(Luke 6:17-23 (*St. Herman*)) And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings.  
*(Ps. 111:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **Candle Offerings for Sunday, December 13, 2020**

### **Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary**

Happy Birthday Patty Felix, Offered by Damian Drasher

# Fifth Sunday of Advent

The purple candle expresses repentance.

**Priest:** The fifth candle reminds us of our need to repent before we can meet the coming Christ. "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

## **Scripture: Mark 1:1-8, 15&16**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

**Priest:** Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And apart from Thy grace there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare Thou them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore Thou them that are penitent; According to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of Thy holy Name.

**Choir:** Amen.

# O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Em Am D G D

O come, O come Em - man - u - el, And  
 O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free, Thine  
 O come, Thou Day-Spring, come \_\_\_\_\_ and cheer, Our

4 G C D<sup>7</sup> Bm Em

ran - som cap - tive Is - - ra - el, That  
 own from Sa - tan's ty - - ran - ny, From  
 spi - rits by Thine a - - dvent here, Dis -

7 Am Em A<sup>7</sup> D Em

mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile here, Un -  
 depths of Hell Thy peo - - ple save, And  
 perse the gloo - my clouds \_\_\_\_\_ of night, And

10 D Bm Am D G

til the Son of God \_\_\_\_\_ ap - pear. Re -  
 give them vic - t'ry o - - 'er the grace.  
 death's dark sha - dows put \_\_\_\_\_ to flight.

13 D Em Bm G Am D Em D

joice, re - joice! Em - man - u - el, shall

17 G C Am Bm Em

come to Thee, O Is - - ra - el!

## **Entering the Church for Services**

As we enter the winter season, starting Sunday, December 6th, all attendees must use the doorway located at the center of the church hallway. Using this entrance will eliminate the need to climb stairs to enter the church. A Parish Staff member will be available to conduct the health check and survey at this entrance. Please continue to wear a mask and to follow appropriate social distancing.

Children, not attending the Divine Liturgy, can still receive Holy Communion after parishioners have completed receiving the sacrament. The children and their guardian should enter through the doorway at the center of the church and follow the guidance of the Parish Council member staffing the Narthex. Before entering the church hallway, the guardians must be wearing a mask.

## **House Blessing Schedule**

If you are interested in having Fr. Matthew bless your home this year, please sign up on the sheet at the candle desk. Thank you!

Parishioners of all ages should take preventive health measures during the house blessing. These include social distancing, wearing a mask and frequent hand washing. If someone has symptoms or becomes ill, please contact Fr. Matthew to reschedule the house blessing.

## **2021 Calendars Available**

The St. Tikhon's Monastery 2021 Lectionary Wall Calendar is now available at the candle desk. Please see a staff member to receive a copy.

# **Prayer Offering Candles**

Candles will be available for purchase in the Narthex before the Divine Liturgy service. A Parish Council Staff member will be available at the candle stand to assist you. To ensure the safety of all parishioners please use the following guidance:

- Bring the exact dollar total and place in the provided candle basket. No change will be available.
- Allow the Parish Council member to hand you the candles.
- To ensure appropriate social distancing, check to make sure no other parishioner is near the candle stand before proceeding to light your candle.

## **A Note of Thanks**

"We are thankful for all the prayers and good thoughts for my parents, Nicolae and Doina Marian, during their recent hospitalization in Romania. By God's grace, their health improved enough to be released from the hospital and are now continuing to recover at home.

With gratitude, Aliana and Radu"

## Grocery Card Collection

To benefit Northampton County needy Adults, Children, Youth and Families

Make a donation to Stephanie Pasquel or purchase a Grocery Card to donate. The Grocery Gift card will then be distributed to the citizens of Northampton County in greatest need. These cards are given to Children, Youth and Families, Aging Citizens and those in Mental Health Crisis in Northampton County. A gift of a grocery store card allows the recipient to purchase food items until other services become available. The County prefers cards of \$10, \$20 or \$25 dollars. Your contribution of any amount is greatly appreciated. Over the years our Parish has been very generous in this endeavor and has helped many in their time of need. **Please make donations by 12/21/20.**

## Giving Tree

The Annual Giving Tree Project is underway! The gift tags are on the Christmas Tree in the narthex. Your donation will benefit many children, young adults, mental/physical health consumers and aging citizens receiving support from the Northampton County Department of Human Services.

- Choose a tag from the tree and tear off the perforated tab with gift the items.
- Please do not wrap the gifts, but you may place them in a gift bag or bag. Place your items in the large box next to the Christmas tree in the narthex and secure the tag to the gift or bag.
- Please do not include religious information with the gifts.
- This year, if you would like to make a general item donation, many children, young adults, mental health consumers and aging citizens in Northampton County need the following items: Face masks in a new/sealed package (cloth or disposable), hand soap, hand sanitizer, laundry detergent (liquid) or shampoo.
- Gifts must be received by **Sunday December 20th.**

## Poinsettias for Christmas

If you wish to sponsor the Poinsettias that will decorate the church during the Nativity season, please sign up in the book at the candle desk. Red and White Poinsettias are available for a \$12.00 donation and may be taken home at the end of the Nativity Season.

# Throughout the year, please remember those in our parish family who are homebound.

**Mrs. Ruth Anderson** - 615 Chestnut Avenue, Apt. 306, Towson, MD 211204

**Kathleen Berge** - 2 Gracedale Ave, Tower #6, Nazareth, PA 18064

**Mrs. Vincentine Grace Brusko** - Whitehall Manor (Room B26), 1177 6<sup>th</sup> St., Whitehall, PA 18052

**Very Rev. & Mat. Thomas Edwards** - 4052 Lehigh Drive, Northampton, PA 18067

**Mr. Walter Grigoruk** - Sacred Heart Senior Living by Saucon Creek, 4851 Saucon Creek Rd, Center Valley, PA 18034, Attn: Walter Grigoruk, Room 330.

**Mr. Andrew Hasenech** - 315 Balleck Road, Riegelsville, PA 18077-9606

**Mrs. Helen Karel** - c/o Thomas Karel, 1838 Larchmont Ln, Lancaster, PA 17601

**Mrs. Pauline Kasick** - Devon House, 1930 Bevin Drive, Allentown, PA 18103

**Miss Mary K. Koretski** - c/o Stephanie Koretski, 2132 Pennsylvania Ave, Apt J-2, Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Mrs. Antoinette Lebeduik** - 3514 Nicholas Street, Easton, PA 18045-5252

**Mrs. Michele Lovell** - PO Box 20031, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0031

**Ms. Nancy Sabol** - 801 N. Wahneta St, Apt 45, Allentown, PA 18109

**Mrs. Nadya Seifert** - 417 Lake Drive, Nesquehoning, PA 18240-2418

**Mrs. Pauline Senick** - 1553 Lindberg Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020-6440

**Mrs. Julia Smolenski** - Sterling Heights, 3500 Fairview St, Bethlehem, PA 18017

## Announcements are back!!!

If you have something that you would like to have included in the bulletin for next Sunday, please provide the information to Jennifer Bzik by noon on Thursday. Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we figure out new ways to do things during this challenging time.



### 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.)

**Grocery Gift Cards are still available during social distancing. Please contact Stephanie Pasquel for details.**

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:**

**Metropolitan Herman**

**Igumen David Lewis**

**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, David Distefano, 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, Nicolae & Doina Marian, 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 Witanek

**Child of God:** Emily Estrin

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