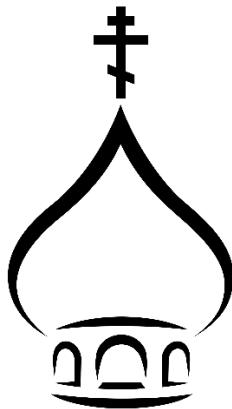


# **Divine Liturgy**

Saturday, December 26, 2020

**Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos**



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



Reverend Matthew Joyner, Rector

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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

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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 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  
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# **Saturday, December 26, 2020**

**Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity . Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos . Saturday after the Nativity.** Hieromartyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis (ca. 840). Ven. Constantine of Synnada (8th c.). Ven. Evaristus of the Studion Monastery (9th c.). Saint Nikódēmos the Sanctified of Tismana, Romania (Macedonia–1406). Hieromartyr Constantine the Russian of Lavra on Mt. Athos (Mt. Athos–1743).

## **Weekly & Upcoming Calendar**

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.

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

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

Synaxis of the Theotokos  
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, 2021**

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, 2021**

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

Saturday, December 26, 2020

## Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

### (After the Entrance)

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: "Alleluia!"

#### Tone 4      Troparion      (*for the Feast*)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom. For by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to thee!

#### Tone 6      Kontakion      (*for the Synaxis of the Theotokos*)

He Who was begotten before the Morning Star of the Father without a mother, today is made flesh of thee upon the earth without a father. A star announces the good tidings to the Wise Men, while Angels and shepherds sing the praises of thy most pure childbearing, O full of grace!

#### Tone 4      Prokeimenon      (*Saturday After*)

I shall make thy name to be remembered / in all generations. (*Ps. 44:16*)

*Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps. 44:9a)*

### Epistle

(Hebrews 2:11-18) For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the

same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

## **Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Arise, O Lord, and go to Thy resting place: Thou and the Ark of Thy holiness! (Ps 131/132:8)

The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back. (Ps 131/132:11) .Page Break

## **Gospel**

(Matthew 2:13-23) Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts,

from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**Instead of "It is truly meet...," we sing:**

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts. I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: heaven—the cave; the cherubic throne—the Virgin; the manger—the place where Christ lay: the uncontrollable God, Whom we magnify in song.

Page Break

**Communion Hymns**

The Lord has sent redemption to His people. (Ps 110/111:9)

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

**Deacons:** Geoffrey LoBalbo

**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, Sherry Hromiak, 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, Alex Roberts, 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.**