

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 27, 2020

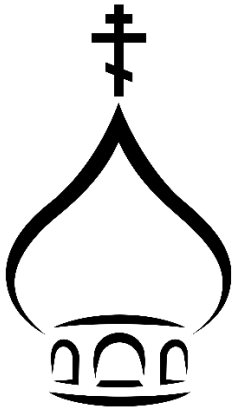
Third Day of the Feast of the Nativity

Sunday after the Nativity

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and

James the Brother of the Lord

Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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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)

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stnicholasoca.org

Schedule for the Week of December 27, 2020

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4. Third Day of the Feast of the Nativity. Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen (34). Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Ven. Theodore Graptus (“the Branded”), Confessor and brother of St. Theophanes the Hymnographer (ca. 840). St. Theodore, Archbishop of Constantinople (ca. 686).

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.)

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for ALL services this week
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 - Diving 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
12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for ALL services this week

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)

Saturday, January 9, 2021

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

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Sunday after 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

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Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and

James the Brother of the Lord

Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen

Tone 4 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Tone 4 Troparion *(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 2 Troparion *(Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God; thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; and thou didst give glory with the shepherds; thou didst worship with the Magi, and didst receive the news from the Angel. Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Righteous Ones)*

Today godly David is filled with joy; Joseph and James offer praise. The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!"

Tone 3 Kontakion

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels with shepherds glorify Him! The wise men journey with the star, since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (*Ps. 103:26*)

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great! (Ps. 103:1)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Righteous Ones*)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (*Ps. 67:35a*)

Epistle

(Galatians 1:11-19 (*Sunday After*)) But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to

see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!
(Ps. 44:3b)*

For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity. (Ps. 44:6)

Tone 4

Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps. 131:1)

Gospel

(Matthew 2:13-23 (*Sunday After*)) 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 uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

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*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Candle Offerings for Sunday, December 27, 2020

Vigils in Altar

In Memory of Rosemary Ziegenfuss & Delpina Paciluyko
Offered by Laurel Riley & Diana Buskirk

Votives in Altar

Happy Birthday Moses Hodson
Offered by Carmen, Alex and Christopher Hodson

Votives in Iconostas

In Memory of Rosemary Ziegenfuss
Offered by Her Children

Vigils on the Tetrapod

In Memory Of Rosemary Ziegenfuss & Delphina Paciluyko
Offered by Laurel Riley & Diana Buskirk

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Nicholas Papaharalambos
Offered by Damian Drasher

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Rosalia, John, Joseph and George Felix
Offered by Patty Felix

Vigils - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory of John Junda
Offered by Barb, Kyra and Gregory Monarek

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory of John Junda
Offered by Barb, Kyra and Gregory Monarek

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.

Request for Annual Church Organization Reports

Please note that all Church Organization Reports must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant by January 15, 2021 in order to prepare the packets for the Annual Parish Assembly. Kindly submit all reports formatted as Microsoft Word documents or in text in the body of an email to the Administrative Assistant. Packets will be distributed to parishioners prior to the meeting scheduled for February 21, 2021.

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.

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

Revitalization Ministry - December 2020 Report

The Communication, Christian Education and Active Service groups were impacted by the 2020 COVID-19 virus as were many ministries and activities at St. Nicholas parish. The revitalization groups worked primarily during January, February, and March and many of the initiatives were not completed the way they were intended. The report reflects the work that was able to be done this year.

Communication Group - Goals & Objectives 2020

Goal 1: The Communication Group will complete the St. Nicholas Welcome Packet in 2020. (Incomplete)

- Objective 1.1 A rough draft of the entire Welcome Packet will be completed by June 2020. (Incomplete)
- Objective 1. 2 Welcome Packets will be printed and available by November 2020. (Incomplete)

Other Projects

- At the end of 2019, a new St. Nicholas logo was created for parish internal and external communications. The logo was implemented throughout 2020 and can be found on church stationary, the website, general communications, and advertisement of events.
- To increase communication during COVID-19, the Communication Group initiated a monthly email that began in May 2020. The information is emailed to parishioners at the beginning of each month. The emails provide light content, general information, and reminders.

Christian Education Group - Goals & Objectives 2020

Goal 1: Provide opportunities to continue life-long learning and Christian spiritual growth through parish educational activities for 2020 (Incomplete)

- Objective 1.1 St. Nicholas parish will connect with a minimum of 1 local charity for community outreach by June 2020. (Completed: Bright Hope

Pregnancy Support Centers was invited to speak during coffee hour on January 19th (Sanctity of Life Sunday) about their local community services. Communications were sent to parishioners to provide awareness about how St. Nicholas parish can connect with local charities.)

- Objective 1.2 Incorporate a minimum of 3 opportunities for parishioners to enhance their understanding and experience of Orthodox Christian values by November 2020. (Incomplete)

Other Projects

- During COVID-19, Fr. Matthew offered live stream educational presentations titled, Ask The Priest, on April 26th, June 7th, May 19th, and July 26th. Three sessions were available for adult and teen parishioners and 1 for young Church School children. Parishioners submitted questions a few days prior to the presentations and Fr. Matthew provide answers during the sessions.
- From May - July 2020, Fr. Matthew hosted virtual Zoom Coffee Hour sessions after Sunday Liturgy. During this time, many parishioners stayed home and had limited access to other people. Zoom sessions lasted from 1 - 1 ½ hours and provided an opportunity for parishioners to interact with each other face to face. When in-person Sunday Liturgy's resumed, coffee hour was held outdoors on the property grounds, weather permitting.
- At the end of 2019, new library shelves and books were purchased for adults and children and placed in the multipurpose room in January 2020. After March 2020, the library books were not available for check out due to COVID-19.

Active Service Group - Goals & Objectives 2020

Goal 1: Provide a minimum of 3 local community OUT-Reach opportunities to St. Nicholas parish by December 2020. (Completed. St. Nicholas parishioners were made aware of how our parish can connect with local charities. Three Bright Hope Pregnancy Centers functions involved: Lehigh Valley Walk for Life, the Annual Gala, & the Divine Resale Boutique shop. Feed the Children International Charity program was also chosen as an OUT-Reach opportunity.

- Objective 1.1 St. Nicholas parish will contribute to a minimum of 1 local charity through community service, fundraising or providing material needs by May 2020. (Incomplete)

- Objective 1.2 St. Nicholas parish will contribute to a minimum of 1 local charity through community service, fundraising or providing material needs by August 2020. (Incomplete)
- Objective 1.3 St. Nicholas parish will contribute to a minimum of 1 local charity through community service, fundraising or providing material needs by November 2020. (Incomplete)

Note

- Lehigh Valley Walk for Life, a Bright Hope charity, modified their walking fundraiser this year and encouraged people to participate in their back yard or neighborhoods. Sign-ups to participate were sent to the parish in April 2020.
- The Bright Hope Annual Gala went virtual in September and donations could be made on-line.
- The Bright Hope Divine Resale Boutique shop in Allentown, PA opened for operation during COVID-19.
- Sign-ups to volunteer for the Feed the Children program (Bethlehem) were provided to the parish in March 2020. The event was cancelled in April.
- Partnering with Backpack Pals (Bethlehem School District food program) was initiated in March but has not been finalized.
- Orthodoxy on Tap was scheduled for April 28th with Pastor Mike Landsman from Zion Stone UCC and was cancelled.

Parish Self-Care Ministry

The Parish Self-Care Team remained active during COVID-19 with approximately 20 volunteers who served parishioners by, 1) Sending cards, 2) Offering Prayers, 3) Offering Visitation, and 4) Providing meals. This is an established ministry and new volunteers can join throughout the year. Parishioners may request parish self-care assistance any time.

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“Revitalization” offers parish ministries an opportunity to continually assess where they are and keep moving in a spiritually healthy direction. New volunteers are welcome to join throughout the year. Contact Fr. Matthew Joyner or any member for information.

Denise Distefano, Karen Gowarty, Carmen Hodson,
 Guliana Holobeny, Sarah Jubinski, Jeff Markham,
 Mike Metz, Barb Monarek, Sue Neilson, & Nick Stepanoff.

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 6th 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 Haseneck - 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

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.