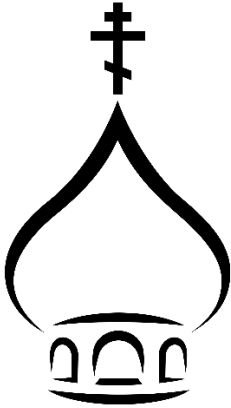


Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Schedule for the Week of January 24, 2021

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia. Ven. Xenia of Rome and her two female servants (5th c.). St. Gerásim, Bishop of Perm (1441). Martyr John of Kazan' (1529). Martyrs Babylas (Vavíla) of Sicily, and his two disciples: Timothy and Agapius (3rd c.). St. Macedonius, Hermit, of Syria (ca. 420). Uncovering of the relics of Saint Anastasios the Persian (7th c.). Ven. Dionysius of Olympus (16th c.). Ven. Philotheus, founder of Philotheou Monastery (Mt. Athos–10th c.). Bl. Xenia of St. Petersburg (19th c.).

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, January 27, 2021

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for Friday Great Vespers and/or Saturday Divine Liturgy
7:00 pm - Church History 101 with Fr. Matthew (via Zoom, RSVP by Tuesday)

Thursday, January 28, 2021

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for Saturday Great Vespers and/or Sunday Divine Liturgy

Friday, January 29, 2021

7:00 pm - Great Vespers

Saturday, January 30, 2021

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, January 31, 2021

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
10:30 am - Communion for Parish Children (RSVP Required)

Live Stream will also be available for all services.

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

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 4 Troparion *(New Martyrs)*

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

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 3 Kontakion *(New Martyrs)* *(Today the Virgin)*

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God unto the ages of ages. Amen."

Tone 8 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! *(Ps. 75:10a)*

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

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (New Martyrs)

God is our refuge and strength, / a help in afflictions that severely befall us.
(Ps. 45:1)

Epistle

(Colossians 3:4-11) 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.

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

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

Tone 4

The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps. 33:17)

Gospel

(Luke 18:35-43) Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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!

2020 Donation Receipts Available

The 2020 donation receipt letters are available at the candle desk. Please be sure to stop by and pick yours up so that we can minimize the cost of mailing. Any letters not picked up by Sunday, January 24, 2021 will be mailed on Monday, January 25, 2021. Thank you!

Annual Parish Meeting Notice

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2021. The meeting will be held in the church hall immediately following the Sunday, Divine Liturgy. Due to the pandemic, all attendees must follow the current safety protocols to attending church in-person. Appropriate social distancing will be followed and face mask must be worn at all time. Food and drink will not be available. All are encouraged to completely read the agenda and reports, and prepare their questions to ensure an expedited parish meeting.

According to the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the required quorum for a parish meeting is the attendance of at least 25% of voting members in good standing. A quorum must be maintained throughout the meeting. If a quorum is not present, the meeting shall then be rescheduled by the Parish Council in consultation with the Rector, at which time the members present will constitute a quorum.

Due to the unique circumstances created by the current pandemic, the St. Nicholas Parish Council proposed and voted to pass a resolution that states if a quorum is not met for the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting on the set date and time, the rescheduled meeting will occur on the same date, however at 2:00 pm to allow parishioners to return home to break their fast and return. The members present at this meeting will constitute a quorum.

Annual Parish Meeting Reports Available Soon

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2021. Please be advised that printed copies of the agenda and reports will be available at the candle desk on Sunday, February 7, 2021 and Sunday, February 14, 2021, as well as prior to the meeting on Sunday, February 21, 2021. Please stop by to pick up a copy at your convenience. If you would like a copy emailed to you or mailed to you, please contact the Administrative Assistant at Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com. Please note that due to postal delays, we cannot guarantee that mailed copies will arrive prior to the meeting.

Parish Member in Good Standing

A member of the Parish is "in good standing" if he/she is no less than eighteen years of age; partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion at least once a year in his/her home parish; and regularly fulfills his/her financial obligations as established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies and Parish Annual Meeting.

The required minimum financial obligation to remain "in good standing" is \$520.00 per member and is due by December 31st of each year. Parishioners who are unable to meet this obligation are encouraged to speak with the pastor about other ways to support the work of the Church. Parishioners who have not met this obligation for two years will be deleted from the Parish, Diocesan, and national membership lists.

Annual Church Office Elections

What you need to know to vote in the Annual Parish Meeting being held on February 21, 2021 and to run for Church Office: According to our Bylaws in order to vote and participate in the discussions you must be a member at least 18 years of age and in good standing (both financially and sacramentally) for one (1) year. In order to run for Church Office you must be a member in good standing for two (2) years, same as above.

If you have inquiries about Parish Council positions, please contact Father Matthew Joyner or any one of the Nominating Committee members who are Bryan Distefano, Moses Hodson and Lori Lezinsky.

Please note the Parish Council Vice President and Secretary are chosen by and from the newly elected Parish Council to serve for one (1) year terms.

Parish Council Officer Positions

Parish Council President (one year)
Treasurer (one year)
Financial Secretary (one year)

Auditor Positions

Four (4) one year terms

Parish Council Positions

Three (3) three year terms
One (2) two year term

Diocesan Assembly Positions

Diocesan Assembly Delegate
Diocesan Assembly Alternate

Candle Offerings for Sunday, January 24, 2021

Votives in Altar

Happy Birthday John McGarrity, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry Bretz

Crosses

In Memory of Theresa Lopata, Offered by Dan Jubinski

Vigils - Icon of St. John the Baptist

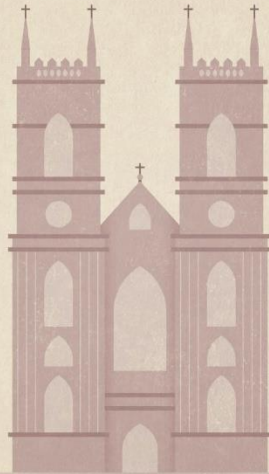
In Memory of Eleanor Philips, Offered by Dan Jubinski

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory of Eleanor Philips, Offered by Dan Jubinski

Church History 101

with Fr. Matthew



Wednesday Evenings at 7pm
via Zoom
beginning February 3rd

Sign up by email at
Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com
by Tuesday evening

Sanctity of Life Sunday 2021

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

Sunday, January 24, 2021

To the Esteemed Clergy, Reverend Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Over the past year, Orthodox Christians have become urgently aware of the need to protect the most vulnerable members of our society. In the face of a global pandemic, it became necessary for the world and even our Church to take a series of extraordinary measures in order to safeguard the life and the health of the elderly, the infirm, the defenseless, and the weak. In doing so, we pray that we were given the grace to fulfill the prophetic word, the evangelical command, and the apostolic exhortation not only to show mercy to one another, but also to defend the well-being of all members of the Church and of the world.



In exactly the same spirit, as the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, I take this Sunday - the Sunday that we as a Church dedicate to the proclamation of the Sanctity of Life - as an opportunity to reiterate unequivocally our commitment to the defense of the defenseless, and the protection of the most vulnerable, and thus our opposition to abortion. As Christians it cannot be any other way. Our Lord has taught us throughout the Holy Scriptures to be merciful as He is merciful, to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill His law, to defend the widow and the orphan, to welcome the stranger and the sojourner, and to love one another even as He has loved us. This essential message found throughout Scripture must be all-encompassing and extend to the precious lives

carried in the womb. If we are to love even our enemies, as He has commanded us, surely we must also love, defend, and seek to protect precious lives being formed within their mothers' wombs.

Beloved children in the Lord, following the example of our response to the pandemic, we can look to concrete ways in order to fulfill what our Lord has commanded us to do. In other words, the teaching of the Lord should inspire us to seek out ways to provide necessary support for mothers or families who might otherwise consider having an abortion. I, together with the members of the Holy Synod, exhort our clergy and faithful to consider different ways that we might be able to serve and assist pregnant mothers, especially within our own local communities. To this end, we should extend the right hand of fellowship to these mothers and their families, provide material support when needed, and assist them in caring for the children who will be born of them. Above all, I believe, we should affirm to the world - to anyone considering an abortion, to anyone counseling someone to have an abortion, or to anyone who supports this practice - the lessons we have been taught by our Master: the ways of mercy, compassion, and love. In so doing, I pray that we will enkindle in their hearts and minds a change, so that they too will learn to walk in these same ways, and will be moved to protect and defend the most vulnerable among us.

May our Lord Jesus Christ inspire us to remain faithful to the vision of human life as a sacred gift, as we recommit ourselves to defending the lives of the unborn, to offering acts of mercy and kindness to struggling single mothers and families facing hardship, and to praying for the salvation of all of mankind.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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.