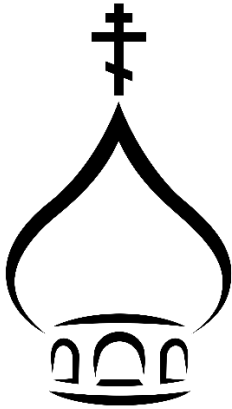


# **Vespertal Divine Liturgy**

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

**The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**



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

Due to corona virus precautions, please take this printed copy of the service book home with you. Please do not leave used printed materials in the 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

# Vesperal Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

## The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

### Lord, I Call

(Tone 4) 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!

*(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.*

In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin; and with his greeting "Hail," he brought good tidings that the Deliverer would come forth from her. And so, accepting his salutation with faith, she conceived Thee, the pre-eternal God, Who wast pleased to become man inexplicably for the salvation of our souls.

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

The Theotokos heard a voice she did not know, when the Archangel brought her glad tidings of the Annunciation; and accepting the salutation with faith, she conceived Thee, the pre-eternal God. Therefore in great rejoicing we also cry unto Thee: O God, Who without change hast been made flesh from her grant peace to the world and mercy to our souls.

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

Lo, our restoration is now made manifest to us: God is inexplicably united to men, at the words of the Archangel, error is laid low, for the Virgin receives joy;

and things of the earth have become heaven. The world is loosened from the ancient curse. Let the creation rejoice exceedingly and raise its voice to sing :  
"O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to Thee!"

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

**Tone 1**      *(Archangel Gabriel)*

Gabriel, the greatest of the spiritual powers, shining with heavenly brightness, who with the hosts on high gazes upon the light of the Threefold Sun, came to the Virgin and announced to her the good news of the divine and awesome mystery, and he intercedes for our souls.

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

The great mystery till then unknown to the angels and hidden from all eternity has been confided to you alone, O Gabriel; and you have come to Nazareth and entrusted it to her who alone is pure. Pray with her that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

*He makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. (Ps. 103:5)*

Gabriel, ever filled with light, who does the will and fulfills the commands of the Ruler of All, Leader of the angels, most excellent, preserve those who honor you with love, pray that our souls be granted peace and 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**

Gabriel the Archangel was sent from heaven, to announce to the Virgin the glad tidings of her conceiving. And coming to Nazareth, he pondered in amazement on this wonder, "O how shall He Who dwelleth in the heights, Whom none can comprehend, be born of a Virgin? How is He, Whose throne is Heaven and Whose footstool is the earth, be held in the womb of a woman? He upon Whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim cannot gaze, has been

pleased at a single word to be made flesh of this His creature. It is the Word of God Who dwells within her. Why then do I stand here, and not say to the Maiden: 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Hail, O pure Virgin. Hail, Bride unwedded. Hail, Mother of Life. Blessed is the Fruit of your womb.'"

#### **Tone 4      Prokeimenon**

Thy mercy, O Lord, is in heaven, and Thy truth reaches to the clouds. (*Ps. 35:5*)

*Thy righteousness is like the mountains of God. (Ps. 35:6a)*

#### **Reading from Genesis (5:1-24)**

This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan. After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died. Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died. Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the

days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

## **Tone 6      Prokeimenon**

Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, and He shall exalt thee to inherit the earth!  
(Ps. 36:35a)

*Fret not thyself because of evildoers; do not be envious of those who do evil!*  
(Ps. 36:1)

## **Reading from Proverbs (6:3-20)**

So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; for you have come into the hand of your friend: go and humble yourself; plead with your friend. Give no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids. Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, and like a bird from the hand of the fowler. Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep - so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man. A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth; he winks with his eyes, he shuffles his feet, he points with his fingers; perversity is in his heart, he devises evil continually, he sows discord. Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; suddenly he shall be broken without remedy. These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false

witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren. My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother.

**And two readings for the Feast:  
Old Testament Readings**

**Exodus 3:1-8** (*Theotokos*)

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father - the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites

**Proverbs 8:22-30** (*Theotokos*)

"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before

the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him,

**Tone 4      Prokeimenon      (*Annunciation*)**

From day to day / proclaim the salvation of our God! (*Ps. 95:2a*)

*Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! (Ps. 95:1)*

**Epistle**

(Hebrews 2:11-18 (*Annunciation*)) 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 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the earth.  
(Ps. 71:6)*

*May His Name be blessed forever; may His Name continue as long as the sun!  
(Ps. 71:17)*

## **Gospel**

(Luke 1:24-38 (Annunciation)) Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people. Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the

maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

### **The Hymn to the Theotokos**

Receive, O earth the glad tidings of great joy, praise O heavens, the glory of God. Since she is a living Ark of God let no impure hand touch the Theotokos. But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, praising her in joy with the angelic salutation, "Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One."

### **Communion Hymn**

The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. *(Ps. 131:14)*  
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 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, 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, Victoria Lustig, Olga Maksimova, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Nicolae & Doina Marian, Mary Orzolek, Kylie Pinho, Ryan Pinkowicz, Kiera Pfeiffer, Gordon Roberts, Clara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Robert Schainfeld, Cate Shea, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, Irene Witanek

**Child of God:** Emily Estrin

**Handmaidens of God:** Corinne Gahles Stuckey, Amanda Riley, Natalie Stepanoff and their unborn children

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