

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent
St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)



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
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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)

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stnicholasoca.org

Schedule for the Week of April 11, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 3. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder).

Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum, disciple of St. John the Theologian (92). Ven. Jacob (James), Abbot of Zheleznobórovsk (1442), and his fellow ascetic, James. St. Varsonúfii (Barsanuphius), Bishop of Tver' (1576). Martyrs Processus and Martinian of Rome (1st c.). Ven. Pharmuthius, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. John, disciple of Ven. Gregory of Decapolis (9th c.). St. Callinicus of Cernica, Bishop of Rimnicului in Romania (1868). The Appearance of the "FOOTPRINT" Icon of the Mother of God at Pochayev.

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.

Invitations for services during the Lenten and Paschal season will be emailed twice a week. For services on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, please plan to RSVP by noon on the prior Thursday. For services on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, please plan to RSVP by noon on the prior Monday. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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

****Live Stream will also be available for all services.****

Monday, April 12, 2021

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for services on the upcoming Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 15, 2021

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for services on the upcoming Saturday, Sunday & Monday
7:00 pm - Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt

Friday, April 16, 2021

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Most Holy Theotokos
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
10:00 am - Communion for Parish Children (RSVP Required)
6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 18, 2021

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

Monday, April 19, 2021

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for services on the upcoming Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 22, 2021

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for services on the upcoming Saturday, Sunday & Monday

Friday, April 23, 2021

7:00 pm - Matins for Lazarus Saturday

Saturday, April 24, 2021

Lazarus Saturday
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
10:00 am - Communion for Parish Children (RSVP Required)
6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Palm Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

10:30 am - Communion for Parish Children
(RSVP Required)

4:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 26, 2021

Holy Monday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for services on
the upcoming Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday & Friday

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Holy Tuesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Holy Wednesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Holy Unction

Thursday, April 29, 2021

Holy Thursday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

10:00 am - Communion for Parish Children
(RSVP Required)

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for services on
the upcoming Saturday, Sunday & Monday

7:00 pm - The 12 Passion Gospels

Friday, April 30, 2021

Holy Friday

9:00 am - Royal Hours

4:00 pm - Burial Vespers

6:30 pm - Matins Lamentations

All Night Watch

Saturday, May 1, 2021

Holy Saturday
9:00 am - Vespers Divine Liturgy
11:30 pm - Paschal Vigil and Divine Liturgy
Followed by the blessing of baskets and the
Agape meal

Sunday, May 2, 2021

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

11:00 am - Agape Vespers

Monday, May 3, 2021

Bright Monday
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
10:00 am - Communion for Parish Children
(RSVP Required)

Thursday, May 6, 2021

12:00 pm - Deadline to RSVP for services on
the upcoming Saturday, Sunday & Monday

Saturday, May 8, 2021

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, May 9, 2021

St. Thomas Sunday
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
10:00 am - Communion for Parish Children
(RSVP Required)
Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt after Liturgy
(rain date May 16)
2:00 pm - Blessing of the Graves

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Tone 3 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Tone 1 **Troparion** *(St. John Climacus)*

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 3 **Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Tone 4 **Kontakion** *(St. John Climacus)*

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our father and teacher John.

Tone 3 **Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
(Ps. 46:6)

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! (Ps. 46:1)

Tone 7 **Prokeimenon** *(St. John Climacus)*

Let the saints exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches! *(Ps. 149:5)*

Epistle

(Hebrews 6:13-20) For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

(Ephesians 5:9-19 *(St. John Climacus)*) (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Tone 3

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! (Ps. 30:1a)

Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me! (Ps. 30:2b)

Tone 4

They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Ps. 91:12)

Gospel

(Mark 9:17-31) Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

(Matthew 4:25-5:12 *(St. John Climacus)*) Great multitudes followed Him - from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And

seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing the following)

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

Communion Hymn

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

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

March 26, 2021
Leave-taking of the Annunciation
Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

**TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT, PUBLISHED IN THE BULLETIN AND
POSTED ON PARISH WEBSITES**

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! Greetings as we begin the third week of Great Lent. I pray your Lenten Journey is proving fruitful.

The past year has truly been a rollercoaster ride for all of us and we need to be mindful and considerate of those suffering from isolation, fear, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and loneliness, as well as those who have lost loved ones. Additionally, divisions occurred as people lost the ability to discuss differing opinions on a variety of matters. Hopefully, we are encouraged by the drastic decrease in the number of hospitalizations and deaths attributed to COVID 19 since mid-January, even before significant numbers were administered the experimental COVID 19.

On January 22, 2021 the Assembly of Bishops issued a **Statement Regarding Developments in Medicine: COVID-19 Vaccines & Immunizations.*** The fourth paragraph explicitly states, *“We therefore encourage all of you – the clergy and the lay faithful of our Church – to consult your physicians in order to determine the appropriate course of action for you, just as you do for surgeries, medications, and vaccinations, in cancer treatments and other ailments.”*

Each person must prayerfully consider what the correct course of action is. As your Bishop, I insist each of you respect the **conscience** and privacy of your brothers and sisters in Christ. No one is to be asked if he or she has or has not received the injections. No one is to be denied full

participation in the Divine Services or parish life regardless of his or her decision. No one should be judged or criticized one way or the other.

Let us continue the Fast focusing on drawing nearer to Christ the Source of Life and to one another.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

* The text of which may be found at the following link,
<https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/assets/files/messages/AoB%20Exec%20Co%20Medicine%20Statement.pdf>



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“Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee.” Augustine

Candle Offerings for Sunday, April 11, 2021

Votives in Altar

Happy Birthday Aurora Mascari, Offered by Joe Kavchok

Votives in Iconostas

Happy Birthday Margie Kavchok, Offered by Joe Kavchok

Crosses

In Honor Of Nicholas Paul Florenz's Baptism, Offered by The Lezinsky's

Vigils on the Tetrapod

In Honor Of Nicholas Paul Florenz's Baptism, Offered by The Lezinsky's

Vigils - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of Peter L Slivka, Offered by Son - Michael & Francine Slivka

A Note Of Thanks

Parish faithful,

We wanted to take a moment to express our thanks for the generosity expressed to us at the parish assembly in offering to us a bonus for this year. Our appreciation for you is great, and we give thanks to God for the blessing to serve here among you! May God grant you all many blessed years!

In Christ, our Lord,
Fr. Matthew, Mat. Ashley, Liam & Declan

Parish Council Meeting Minutes and Financial Secretary Report

The Parish Council conducted the first 2021 council meeting on Monday, March 29th. During the meeting, the Parish Council approved the January Parish Council meeting minutes and the February Financial Secretary report. The Parish Council Meeting Minutes will be posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway. To request a copy of the January Meeting Minutes and / or the February Financial Secretary report, send your request via email to Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com.

Pussy Willow Branches



Reminder: It will soon be time for pussy willows to start blooming. Please cut the branches of willows and bring them to the church as soon as they bloom. Since Pascha is May 2nd, we will need to store the willows until they are prepared for Palm Sunday on April 25th. Please wrap the willows loosely in newspaper so we can save them for Palm Sunday. Thank you for your help in gathering the willows.



Red Egg Donations

Please note that due to Covid precautions, we will not be accepting donations of red eggs to be handed out at Pascha. Instead, we are organizing a limited group of parishioners to cook and dye the eggs at the church using appropriate social distancing, etc. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lori Lezinsky. If you would like to make a monetary donation to offset the costs, you may do so by making a notation on your donation envelope.

Gardening Volunteers

If you like to garden, and want to help beautify the grounds of St. Nicholas Parish, please consider volunteering. We are looking to expand the number of volunteers for this service. Please contact Jennifer Bzik or Denise Distefano.

Pascha Flowers Update

Please be advised that our potted flower supplier has informed us that the flowers traditionally used to adorn the tomb of Our Lord will not be available due to the later date of Pascha. We are working to find alternatives and will update you as soon as we have more information. At this time you will not be able to sign up to sponsor the potted flowers for Pascha. The sign up sheets for cut flower arrangements are still available in the book at the candle desk. Cut flowers have not be impacted by this change. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Pascha Processions Sign Up Sheets

Sign up sheets for the processions and grave watch during Holy Week are available at the candle desk. Please see a staff member for assistance signing up to participate in the processions, etc. during Holy Week.

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

The Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt will be held immediately following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 9, 2021 (rain date May 16, 2021). All children are welcome. Please contact Karen Gowarty for more information.

Church Scholarship

Scholarships are available for the 2021-2022 academic year for church members entering their second, third, or fourth year of full-time study at an accredited college, university or Orthodox seminary. Please contact Nancy Kohudic at 610-391-1257 or ndk175@ptd.net. Thank you for your consideration.

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

Subdeacons: Michael (Frank) Guydan

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, Judi Diaz, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, 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 Pheiffer, Gordon Roberts, Clara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Robert Schainfeld, Cate Shea, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Dorothy Stafiniak, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, Irene Witaneck

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.