

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem—Palm Sunday



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

Schedule for the Week of April 25, 2021

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark
(1st c.). **Palm Sunday** . Ven. Sylvester, Abbot of Obnora (1379).

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 26, 2021

Holy Monday
9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy
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)
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 25, 2021

Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem—Palm Sunday

The First Antiphon

I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication. *(Ps. 114:1)*

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.
(Ps. 114:2) (Refrain)

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me. *(Ps. 114:3) (Refrain)*

I suffered distress and anguish, then I called on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 114:4a) (Refrain)*

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. *(Ps. 114:9) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

The Second Antiphon

I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." *(Ps. 115:1)*

Refrain: O Son of God, seated on the colt of an ass, save us who sing to
Thee: Alleluia!

What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me? *(Ps. 115:3)*
(Refrain)

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 115:4)*
(Refrain)

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. (Ps. 115:5)
(Refrain)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

("Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God... ")

The Third Antiphon

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:1)

Tone 1 Troparion

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

Let the house of Israel say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever.
(Ps. 117:2)

Troparion of the Feast

Let the house of Aaron say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever.
(Ps. 117:3)

Troparion of the Feast

Let those who fear the Lord say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever.
(Ps. 117:4)

Troparion of the Feast

Entrance Verse

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. God is the Lord and He has revealed Himself to us. *(Ps. 117:25b-26)*

Tone 1 Troparion

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

Tone 4 Troparion

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection. Now we praise Thee and sing: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Tone 6 Kontakion

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing: "Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

(The Trisagion is sung.)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. *(Ps. 117:26b, 27b)*

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. *(Ps. 117:1)*

Epistle

(Philippians 4:4-9) Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! (Ps. 97:1)

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Ps. 97:5)

Gospel

(John 12:1-18) Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he

cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

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

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Celebrate the feast and come with gladness! Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, singing: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, our Savior!"

Communion Hymn

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. *(Ps. 117:26b, 27b)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Candle Offerings for Sunday, April 25, 2021

Vigils in Altar

Happy 20th Anniversary Keri & Jason Tomsic, Offered by Talia & Jones

Vigils in Altar

Happy 20th Anniversary Keri & Jason Tomsic, Offered by Ethan & Owen

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Ray Pasquel, Offered by The Pasquel Family

Votives in Iconostas

In Memory Of Ray Pasquel, Offered by Barry & Ann Marie Bretz

Crosses

Happy 20th Anniversary Keri & Jason Tomsic, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

Vigils on the Tetrapod

In Memory Of Michael & Mary Stetz, Offered by Pat & Joan

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Ann Marie Carl, Offered by Francine & Michael Slivka

Vigils on North Wall Window Sills

In Memory Of Mary Radick, Offered by Peter & Patricia Metz

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of the Entrance Into Jerusalem - Palm Sunday

In Memory Of Mother Anne Antoniak
Offered by Subdeacon Michael & Michele Guydan

St. Nicholas Reactivation Update 04/22/2021

Dear St. Nicholas Parishioners,

The St. Nicholas Reactivation Team continues to monitor the COVID-19 recommendations of state and federal health advisors in order to adjust guidelines and to eventually return to our customary worship and church activities. As we continue to update and adapt the St. Nicholas Reactivation guidance, it is approached in a thoughtful and deliberate manner in order to protect the safety and wellbeing of our laity and clergy.

Updates to the Reactivation Protocols, as of April 22nd 2021, include:

1. New church seating configuration

Starting Sunday, April 25th, the seating in the pews on the left side (as you face the iconostas) will be **arranged for individual seating**. The new design will allow for additional parishioners to attend Divine Liturgy in the church while maintain sensible social distancing. The pews on the right side of the church will remain as is.

We ask for patience from all parishioners as we continue through this unusual time. As attendance to services continues to increase, parishioners may be asked to occasionally attend services in the church hall.

2. Changes in Health Questionnaire upon entering the church facility

The church health questions will no longer be required as you enter the church. We ask that all members self-check before attending church services to ensure they do not have symptoms or have not been recently exposed to someone who is ill. Temperature checks and recording of attendance will be maintained.

3. Use of Narthex during services for parents with young children

Parents with small children can temporarily exit the church and enter the narthex as needed to ensure the comfort and care of the child. Social distancing and

safety protocols must be followed. Please see a staff member if assistance is needed.

4. St. Nicholas Church Choir return to choir loft. (limited to 10 choir members)

The St. Nicholas Church Choir will return to the choir loft in a limited fashion. 10 members of the choir will be allowed into the choir loft during church services. The choir members will stand in the back half of the choir loft, away from the loft railing, and will remain socially distanced. Microphones will be set up in the loft to ensure those attending the services remotely will hear the choir.

5. Changes post service cleaning protocol and church facility staffing.

Based upon the latest information from the CDC, social distancing, wearing mask and proper ventilation are the most important ways to reduce the exposure to the respiratory droplets that carry the COVID 19 virus. Disinfecting surfaces may not be necessary and the use of soaps and detergent is enough to reduce risk. Therefore the cleaning protocol will be modified to less stringent guidance.

Church signage will also be modified to focus primarily on reinforcing safety recommendations such as wearing a mask and effective hand washing.

6. Church Library open for all Parishioner

All Parishioners are welcome to check out books from the St. Nicholas library to take home and read. The following information will need to be recorded; name, book title, and date of check-out. When the books are returned, they will be placed in a box marked for library returns. Once the book is returned, record the date of return in the library check-out log. Please maintain proper social distancing and wear a mask while using the library.

Church Attendance Precautions

Due to the continued need for social distancing, the hall will continue to have seating available and the service will be remotely projected.

The church Administrative Assistant will continue to send an email for you to continue to sign up for church services the Monday before the weekend services. You must RSVP to indicate if you will attend Vespers on Saturday and / or Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Provide your name and the names of all family members that will attend by noon, on Thursday, of that week. All RSVP's will receive a confirmation to attend services by Friday or Saturday.

Having the opportunity to gather for worship again has been a truly wonderful experience, and it is truly something to give thanks to God for.

To help mitigate community exposure to COVID-19, continue these best practice measures when attending church:

1. Before attending services, all parishioners must self-check to ensure they do not have symptoms or have not been recently exposed to someone who is ill.
2. Please arrive at the church before the start of services to check in.
3. Wear a mask.
4. Practice social distancing before, during and after services.
5. Follow the guidance of the Parish Council members staffing the church service.

As an additional precaution, if you have attended a church service and later require a COVID test, we ask that you inform the Parish Council President so that proper safety steps may be taken.

While we follow these temporary guidelines, our continued hope and prayer is to return to normal participation in liturgical worship and parish life.

You will receive updated communications as protocols change. Please direct questions to the Administrative Assistant at Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com.

Yours in Christ,

**St. Nicholas Parish Council
Reactivation Committee**

A Reminder from the Parish Council

It has been brought to our attention there has been a notable amount of talking in the narthex prior to and following the Divine Liturgy and other services. Please be mindful that services have not ended until all people have exited the church and the prayers and choir have concluded. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Special Invitation to Services for Holy Week

The deadline to RSVP for services from Holy Tuesday, April 27 through Bright Monday, May 3 was on Lazarus Saturday, April 24, 2021. **If you are planning to attend services but have not yet RSVP'd, please do so TODAY!** If you have any questions, please contact the Administrative Assistant.

PASCHA Blessing of Baskets & Agape Meal

The deadline to RSVP for the blessing of baskets and Agape Meal was on Lazarus Saturday, April 24, 2021. **If you are planning to participate but have not yet RSVP'd, please do so TODAY!** If you have any questions, please contact the Administrative Assistant.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Raisin and Plain Paska Breads Available

We still have some raisin and plain paska breads available. These breads were baked last year and have been frozen since that time. Please contact Maxine Marsh at 610-837-8063 if you are interested in the breads. Donations accepted.

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.

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, Betty Fedora, 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.