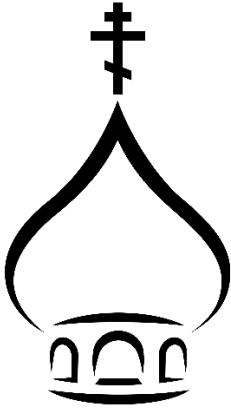


# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, May 9, 2021

**St. Thomas Sunday**



**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 May 9, 2021

## **ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 1. St. Thomas Sunday.**

Prophet Isaiah (8th c. B.C.). Martyr Christopher of Lycia, and with him Martyrs Callinika and Aquilina (ca. 250). Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker from Myra to Bari (1087). Ven. Shio of Georgia (6th 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.)*

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

### **Saturday, May 15, 2021**

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

### **Sunday, May 16, 2021**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

10:30 am - Communion for Parish Children

## **Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt - TODAY!**

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.

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 9, 2021

**St. Thomas Sunday**

*Priest: "Blessed is the Kingdom..."*

*Choir: "Amen."*

*Priest: "Christ is risen..." (2 ½ times)*

*Choir: "and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!"*

*(The Divine Liturgy is begun in this manner until the Leavetaking of Pascha.)*

**Tone 7      Troparion      (Pentecostarion)**

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God. Renew in us through them an upright spirit, by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

**Tone 8      Kontakion      (Pentecostarion)**

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when Thou camest to Thine Apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: "Thou art my Lord and my God!"

*(The Trisagion is sung)*

**Tone 3      Prokeimenon      (from the Pentecostarion)**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure. (Ps. 146:5)

*Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps. 146:1)*

## **Epistle**

**(Acts 5:12-20)** And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them

highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

### **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)*

*For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth. (Ps. 94:3)*

### **Gospel**

**(John 20:19-31)** Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands;

and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice, thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead." Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on thee. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of thy Son!

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise thy God, O Zion! (Ps. 147:1)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Priest: "In the fear of God..."*

*Choir: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord..."*

*Priest: "O God, save Thy people..."*

*Choir: "Christ is risen from the dead..." (sung once, instead of "We have seen the True Light...")*

*Priest: "Always, now and ever..."*

*Choir: "Let our mouths be filled..."*

*At the Dismissal, the Priest says: "Glory to Thee, O Christ..." and the choir sings "Christ is risen from the dead..." (thrice).*

And unto us He has given eternal life.  
Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!

# **Candle Offerings for Sunday, May 9, 2021**

## **Vigils in Altar**

Happy Anniversary Scott & Jen, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

## **Vigils in Altar**

In Memory Of Anna Wallitsch, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

## **Vigils in Altar**

Happy Birthday Wash Telepchak, Love Pat and Bill

## **Votives in Altar**

Happy Birthday 102! Mary Radio, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

## **Votives in Iconostas**

Happy Mother's Day, Offered by  
Gordon, Matt, Jess, Alex, Megan, Nick, Tosha & Girls

## **Vigil in Side Candle Holders**

In Memory Of Pauline Radchuk, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

## **Vigil in Side Candle Holders**

In Memory Of Mary Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

## **Crosses**

Happy Anniversary Scott & Jen  
Offered by Kody, Austin, Devon, Ethan & Owen

### **Vigils on the Tetrapod**

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

### **Vigils on Icon Table**

Happy Birthday Wash Telepchak, Love Pat and Bill

### **Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary**

In Memory Of Helen Lackatos and Mary Monarek

Offered by Barb, Kyra and Gregory

### **Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary**

In Memory Of Helen Lackatos and Mary Monarek

Offered by Barb, Kyra and Gregory

### **Vigils - Icon of St. John the Baptist**

In Memory Of Jack Monarek, Offered by Barb, Kyra and Gregory

### **Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist**

In Memory Of Jack Monarek, Offered by Barb, Kyra and Gregory

### **Vigils on South Wall Window Sills**

In Honor Of Judy Lezinsky's Birthday, Love Lezinsky & Florenz Families

### **Vigils on North Wall Window Sills**

Happy Birthday Wash Telepchak, Love Pat and Bill

### **Vigil of St. Andrew**

Happy Birthday Baba!

Love Sophia, Jacob, Sasha, Elena, Nicholas, Brooke & Victoria





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

May 6, 2021

Dear Rev. Frs., esteemed members of the parish councils and faithful.

*Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!* By the Grace of God our parishes were able to offer all the prescribed Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal services this year! Seeing our faithful returning to church is truly a blessing. Hopefully, this trend will continue as everyone who wants to get vaccinated is able to do so. We were not created to live in isolation, but to live in communion with one another.

Over the past month or so, both clergy and laity asked for updated guidelines related to mitigation measures in our parishes. Much has changed since the initial letters of May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> of 2020. Three different vaccines are now fully available. The medical field is more knowledgeable on effective treatments and we now know the virus is rarely if ever passed on through contact with surfaces, as it is air borne.<sup>i</sup> Additionally, the Wolf administration announced on May 4<sup>th</sup> that all mitigation orders are being lifted on Memorial Day with the exception of the mask mandate, which will be lifted once 70% of Pennsylvania adults are fully vaccinated.<sup>ii</sup> Finally, we also know one cannot become sick through ingesting the virus.<sup>iii</sup>

We all have been traumatized by the events of the last year in one way or another.<sup>iv</sup> Additionally, we are repeatedly traumatized through the barrage of news reports, directives and reminders, public service announcements, social media, healthcare networks, insurance companies, text messages, emails, as well as the plethora of signage, etc. One cannot escape hearing or seeing something about precautions multiple times a day. As the Church we do not want to be part of the ongoing traumatization, but be a place where we can find peace, healing and hope, resting our eyes and ears from the constant reminders which cause fear and anxiety.

We grieve those we have lost and pray for those mourning a loss of a loved one, as well as those suffering from loneliness, fear, anxiety, depression, isolation, substance abuse and despondency. We are blessed, however, that our faithful were *more than capable of taking adequate*

*precautions* in their daily activities to protect themselves whether at home, the grocery store, restaurants, church or traveling, etc. While our Diocese did have a couple of funerals of the elderly associated with COVID 19, the number of funerals for 2020 was actually less than 2019 and consistent with the numbers over the last 5 years.<sup>v</sup>

Given the availability of the vaccine, availability of effective treatments and our faithful's understanding and practice of proper protocols, as well as the constant reminders in the public sphere, I am making the following Archpastoral changes to our Diocesan Protocols out of love and care for the faithful:

1. Parishioners are no longer to be asked about COVID symptoms or have temperature checks at the parish. (*No parish has sent one parishioner home because of an elevated temperature. Our people understand not to come to church if they are sick.*)
2. All tape or barriers delineating social distancing is to be removed from the floors and pews. (*Our people already know what to do after a year of conditioning and other places have already removed them.*).
3. All barriers blocking pews are to be removed. (*The faithful are already making decisions regarding their comfort level and proximity apart from Church services and are able to do so when attending services. The airlines have people sitting shoulder to shoulder on their flights. People have been dining at restaurants where they sit for an hour or more without masks on.*)
4. No one is required to wear *two masks* in any parish of the Diocese, nor are they to be told to do so. (*Twenty-five states have no masks requirements at all and that number will be increasing. The mandate within Pennsylvania and Delaware will also come to an end at some point.*<sup>vi</sup>)
5. Parishes are to begin using the communion cloth. The mouths should only be wiped if needed. (*If someone's mouth needs to be wiped another cloth should be available with one of those holding the cloth.*)
6. Council members must not be overly zealous in policing the faithful as they have already proven themselves responsible over the last year.
7. Parishes may begin to pass the offering basket if so desired.

8. Parish Halls are to be opened after services for those who would like time for fellowship. (*We can let people decide for themselves when they are ready, but we should not deny them the opportunity.*)

Dear to God, let us, as the Church provide the one place where the faithful are not traumatized through our words or what they see when attending services. Many businesses began this process months ago. May our Lord stretch forth His healing hand and help us to become whole.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

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

<sup>i</sup> The CDC has acknowledged the unnecessary overuse of sanitizers and concern with handling various surfaces. <https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2021/coronavirus-surface-cleaning.html>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Health-Details.aspx?newsid=1437>

<sup>iii</sup> See <https://www.consumerreports.org/food-safety/coronavirus-common-questions-about-the-food-you-eat-food-safety/>

<sup>iv</sup> Understanding the impact of trauma

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK207191/#:~:text=Initial%20reactions%20to%20trauma%20can,effctive%2C%20and%20self%2Dlimited.>

Symptoms of Trauma

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK207191/table/part1\\_ch3.t1/?report=objectonly](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK207191/table/part1_ch3.t1/?report=objectonly)

<sup>v</sup> See the document, “Funerals by Parish in the last 5 Years.”

<sup>vi</sup> Governor Wolf is lifting all Covid restrictions except masks on Memorial Day.

[https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/pennsylvania/pa-to-lift-all-covid-restrictions-except-mask-mandate-on-memorial-day/article\\_2f35a328-acf9-11eb-ad9f-43199baaa4ee.html](https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/pennsylvania/pa-to-lift-all-covid-restrictions-except-mask-mandate-on-memorial-day/article_2f35a328-acf9-11eb-ad9f-43199baaa4ee.html)



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Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linnehan \* [treasurer@doepa.org](mailto:treasurer@doepa.org)

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



# SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

## March Financial Secretary Report

Prepared for the April 19, 2021 Parish Council Meeting

	March	YTD
Revenue	\$ 24,577.55	\$ 73,357.08
Expenses	\$ 30,518.38	\$ 70,683.01
Net Operating Rev	\$ 5,940.83	+2,674.07

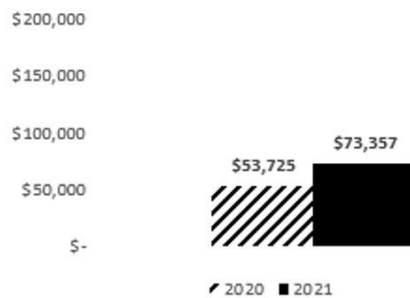
### YTD Income by Major Segment

	2020	2021	\$ Diff.	% Diff
Steward.	\$40,464	\$58,346	\$ 17,882	44%
Cap Imp.	\$2,466	\$2,956	\$ 490	20%
Rec. Imp.	\$2,403	\$1,989	\$ (414)	-17%

2020 vs. 2021 YTD Expenses (+9% YOY)



2020 vs. 2021 YTD Income (+37% YOY)



## 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.

## **A Note of Thanks**

To my St. Nicholas Parish Family!!!

Christ is Risen!! Indeed He is Risen!!

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, get well cards, phone calls and concerns about my recent hospitalization and surgery!! The power of prayer is strong, along with my Faith in GOD, has helped me on the road to a speedy recovery!!

David G Cudlic

## **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.

## **A Note of Thanks**

Dear Fr. Matthew & Friends,

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

I want to thank you for your prayers and other kindnesses during my recent surgery/recovery. I sincerely appreciate them! May Our Risen Lord Bless you for your care!

In Christ,  
Subdeacon Michael (Frank) Guydan



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

May 5, 2021

Dear to God,

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! By the grace of God, we have a seminarian family, Dn. John Black and Matushka Alexandra attending St Vladimir's Seminary in NY. Dn. John served Holy Trinity in Pottstown and his parents worked with St. Tikhon's Summer Camp for years. Dn. John and Matushka Alexandra have four children, Evyn, 22; Lydia, 18; Joshua, 11 and Noah, 9.

Seminarians are responsible for raising half their tuition money each semester, approximately \$3,000, as well as cover costs of books, supplies, rent, utilities, groceries, etc. As Evyn is in college, Dn. John also has that expense as well.

Our parishes and faithful have been very generous in supporting our seminarians and I pray you will continue to do so. A one time gift or monthly support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to assist Dn. John and Matushka Alexandra and their family as they prepare for parish ministry, you may send a check directly to them at:

Dn. John M. Black  
St Vladimir's Seminary  
575 Scarsdale Rd  
Yonkers, NY 10707-1699

Once again thank you for your generosity and support of our seminarians.

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

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



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Chancellor: V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne \* Mobile: 570.906.1388  
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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

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, David G. Cudlic, 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, 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, Natalie Stepanoff, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, Irene Witanek

**Child of God:** Emily Estrin

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

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