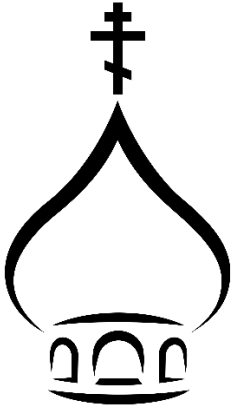


**Divine Liturgy**  
Sunday, May 16, 2021  
**Holy Myrrhbearing Women**



**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 16, 2021

**3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 2. Myrrhbearing Women.** Ven. Theodore the Sanctified, disciple of Ven. Pachomius the Great (368). Translation of the Relics of Ven. Ephraim, Abbot of Perekop (Novgorod, 1545), Ven. Cassian (1537) and Lavrentii (Laurence) (1548), Abbots of Konel' (Vologda). St. Alexander, Archbishop of Jerusalem (213-250). Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia, at Lucania (ca. 303). Bl. Child Musa of Rome (5th c.). St. George, Bishop of Mitylene (9th c.). New Martyr Nicholas of Metsovo (17th c.). Saint Brendan the Navigator (577).

## 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 22, 2021**

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, May 23, 2021**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

10:30 am - Communion for Parish Children

# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, May 16, 2021

## **Holy Myrrhbearing Women**

*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 2      Troparion      (Resurrection)**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

**Tone 2      Troparion      (Pentecostarion)**

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb. But Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord, granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 2      Troparion      (Pentecostarion)**

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said: "Myrrh is fitting for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption! So proclaim: 'The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.'"

**Tone 2      Kontakion      (Pentecostarion)**

Thou didst command the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God. By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, the first mother. Thou didst command them to preach to Thine Apostles: "The Savior is risen from the tomb!"

**Tone 8      Kontakion      (*Pascha*)**

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming, "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing Women, granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon      (*Pentecostarion*)**

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! (*Ps. 27:9a*)

*To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)*

**Epistle**

**(Acts 6:1-7)** Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

## **Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*O Lord, Thou hast been gracious to Thy land; Thou hast turned back the captivity of Jacob. (Ps. 84:1)*

*Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other. (Ps. 84:10)*

## **Gospel**

(Mark 15:43-16:8) Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away - for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He

is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples - and Peter - that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*(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**

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)  
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 16, 2021**

## **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Ray Pasquel, Offered by The Pasquel Family

## **Vigils on the Tetrapod**

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

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

In Memory Of Janice Grifone, Offered by Friend, Barb Monarek

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

In Memory Of Janice Grifone, Offered by Friend, Barb Monarek

## **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.





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

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

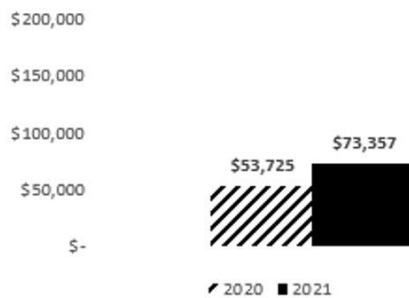
### YTD Income by Major Segment

	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)



## You're Invited!!!

Please join us for a farewell coffee social in honor of Bryan and Denise Distefano. Their administrative and committee leadership contributions toward the health and welfare of our parish community is so appreciated, but more importantly their friendship has meant a lot to so many people and we will miss them. If you plan to attend, please let one of us know so that we may plan accordingly.

**Sunday, June 6**

RSVP - Aliana/Radu Longu, Guiliana Holebeny,  
Karen Gowarty or Victoria Dimonie

## **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.

## **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.

# **St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church**

## **Revitalization Groups**

Communication, Christian Education, and Active Service  
Combined Group Update - June 2021

A combined meeting of all the revitalization groups was held on Zoom, in February 2021. At this meeting, the members were tasked with deciding how we should proceed during 2021, in-light of the continued COVID-19 restrictions. We came to a consensus to address the following 4 projects for this year and to meet on an as needed basis.

Children's Library Books: The Reactivation Committee agreed to re-open the children's library at the beginning of Great Lent. As of May 2021, the entire library was re-opened for all youth and adults. Additional bookshelves have been added to the library and although some reorganization still needs to be completed, books are available for check out. (Completed)

Feed the Children Community Service: In March, Feed the Children was contacted to see if they were open to community volunteers to help stock canned goods for the needy, but they have not yet re-opened due to COVID-19. (Completed)

St Nicholas Welcome Brochure: The new welcome brochure has been completed and is now available. Copies may be found on the shelves in the narthex. Please take one home and give some to your friends and family! (Completed)

On-line Payment for St Nicholas: The group revisited the idea about having an on-line payment system on the St Nicholas website. On-line payments systems are a common practice and are available on many Orthodox websites. (Incomplete)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Distefano

Revitalization Group Members 2021: Fr. Matthew Joyner, Karen Gowarty, Carmen Hodson, Guliana Holobeny, Jeff Markham, Mike Metz, Barb Monarek, Sue Nielsen, Nick Stepanoff



*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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"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.**