

# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, December 12, 2021

**25th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)**

**Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**



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



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RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Lori Lezinsky, Parish Council President

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

Jennifer Bzik, Administrative Assistant

Email: [assistant4stnicholas@outlook.com](mailto: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)*

***Please turn off or silence your electronic devices  
before entering the church. Thank you.***

980 Bridle Path Road | Bethlehem, PA 18017-3120 | T: 610-867-0402  
[stnicholasoca.org](http://stnicholasoca.org)

# Schedule for the Week of December 12, 2021

**25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. Sunday of the Forefathers.** St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus (ca. 348). Ven. Ferapónt (Therapont), Abbot of Monza (16th c.). Hieromartyr Alexander, Bishop of Jerusalem (251). Martyr Syndesis (Razumnik) of Rome (270-275).

## Serving the Divine Liturgy This Morning

Fr. Thomas Underwood

## Coffee Hour Today

Hosted by Donna Haney, Patty Felix & Lorraine Chromiak

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

**~~~ Please note that the Christmas Choir Concert scheduled for today, Sunday, December 12, 2021, has been canceled. ~~~**

**Saturday, December 18, 2021**

4:00 pm - Vespers (Note - earlier time until further notice)

**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

In the event of a Pastoral Emergency,  
please contact Lori Lezinsky (484-375-3874) or Jennifer Bzik (908-451-1622).

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 12, 2021

**25th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)**

**Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

**Tone 8      Troparion      *(Resurrection)***

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

**Tone 2      Troparion      *(Forefathers)***

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

**Tone 6      Kontakion      *(Forefathers)***

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

**Tone 4      Prokeimenon      *(Forefathers)***

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

*For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)*

## **Epistle**

Read by David Metz

**(Colossians 3:4-11 (Forefathers))** When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

## **Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps. 98:6)*

*They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps. 98:6)*

## **Gospel**

**(Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers))** Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece

of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# **Candle Offerings**

## **Sunday, December 12, 2021**

### **Vigils in Altar**

For Health Of Patty Felix on her Birthday, Offered by A Friend

### **Vigils in Altar**

In Memory Of Valentin, Nicholay, Ivan, Vira, Natasha, Maria, Helen, Nina  
Offered by Valentina Zyranova

### **Vigils in Altar**

For Health Of Elena, Valentina, Wayne, Katya, Victor, Anatoliy, Marina  
Offered by Valentina Zyranova

### **Vigils on the Tetrapod**

In Memory Of James & Marianne Blachinski, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

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

Happy Birthday Patty Felix, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

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

In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra and Gregory

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

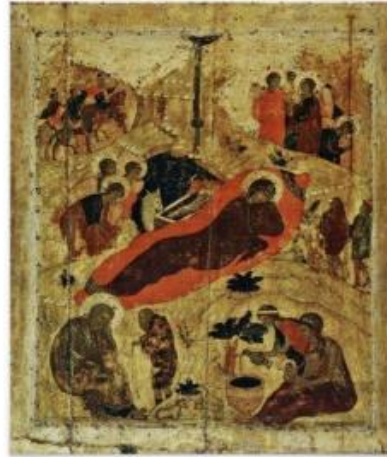
In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra and Gregory



December 25, 2021

*Christ is Born! Glorify Him!*

*Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, proclaiming the present mystery; for He hath broken the middle wall of partition, and the flaming spear shall turn about, and the cherubim shall admit all to the tree of life. As for me, I shall return to enjoy the bliss of paradise from which I was driven away before, by reason of iniquity; for the likeness of the Father, and the Person of His*



*eternity, which it is impossible to change hath taken the likeness of a Servant, coming from a Mother who has not known wedlock; free from transubstantiation, since He remained as He was, true God, and took what had not been, having become Man for His love of mankind. Wherefore, let us lift our voices unto Him crying, O Thou Who wast born of the Virgin, O God, have mercy upon us.*

*Have a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a Joyous New Year! May our Lord bless you with good health, length of days and a happy and peaceful new year! Thank you for your faithful and tireless service to Christ's Holy Church.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*+ Mark*

*+ Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania*

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Chancellor: The Very Reverend Raymond Martin Browne \* Telephone: 570.906.1388

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



## **A Note Of Thanks**

Parish Family,

Thank you so much for your many lovely cards, well wishes and prayers. They are truly appreciated.

Julia Smolenski

## **Address Change**

Fr. James & Matushka Patricia Mason  
788 Hunter Rd, Easton, PA 18040  
(610) 258-0974

## **Theophany Eve Holy Supper**

A Strict Lenten Holy Supper will be served at 4:30 pm on Theophany Eve, Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Please sign up at the candle desk if you are interested in attending. Thank you to Kyra Monarek for hosting!

## **Christmas with the Saint Tikhon Choir**

Come and hear members of the GRAMMY®-Nominated Saint Tikhon Choir sing music of the Christmas season! Featuring selections from the Russian Orthodox tradition together with new arrangements of holiday favorites by acclaimed composer Benedict Sheehan, The Saint Tikhon Choir will be joined by ensembles from the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts. These groups will present a captivating program on Sunday, December 19, at 4:00 p.m. that will highlight the beauty and profundity of the season.

It's an event not to be missed!

For more information, please feel free to reach out to Lydia Given at [info@sainttikhonchoir.org](mailto:info@sainttikhonchoir.org) or check out our Facebook event.

# Parish Member in Good Standing

A member of the Parish is "in good standing" if he/she is no less than eighteen years of age; partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion at least once a year in his/her home parish; and regularly fulfills his/her financial obligations as established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies and Parish Annual Meeting.

The required minimum financial obligation to remain "in good standing" is \$520.00 per member and is due by December 31st of each year. Parishioners who are unable to meet this obligation are encouraged to speak with the pastor about other ways to support the work of the Church. Parishioners who have not met this obligation for two years will be deleted from the Parish, Diocesan, and national membership lists.

## Annual Church Office Elections

What you need to know to vote in the Annual Parish Meeting being held on February 20, 2022 and to run for Church Office: According to our Bylaws in order to vote and participate in the discussions you must be a member at least 18 years of age and in good standing (both financially and sacramentally) for one (1) year. In order to run for Church Office you must be a member in good standing for two (2) years, same as above.

**If you are interested in serving on the Parish Council, please see any current member of the Parish Council.**

Please note the Parish Council Vice President and Secretary are chosen by and from the newly elected Parish Council to serve for one (1) year terms.

### **Parish Council Officer Positions**

Parish Council President (one year)  
Treasurer (one year)  
Financial Secretary (one year)

### **Auditor Positions**

Four (4) one year terms

### **Parish Council Positions**

Three (3) three year terms  
One (1) one year term

### **Diocesan Assembly Positions**

Diocesan Assembly Delegate  
Diocesan Assembly Alternate

# **A Message From Fr. Nikolai Breckenridge**

Faithful parishioners of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church,  
and beloved in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I want to wish a blessed Feast on the celebration of your Patronal Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. I pray that the Christmas Bazaar this week, and the Christmas concert next week will both be great successes!

Matushka Mila and I are excited to be moving to Bethlehem in the beginning of January, when I will take up the position of acting rector. I look forward to meeting as many parishioners as possible during the house blessing season, so please sign up!

May God continue to bless you, preserve you, and keep you. May our new beginning together be one that produces much fruit for the building up of the Kingdom, our own growing in the Holy Orthodox Faith, our own personal holiness, and in being beacons of the Gospel of Christ for the larger community. Many Years to you all!

In Christ,  
Priest Nikolai Breckenridge

## **House Blessing Schedule**

If you are interested in having Fr. Nikolai Breckenridge bless your home this year, please sign up on the sheet at the candle desk. Thank you!

# Grocery Gift Cards Are Back!!!

Grocery gift cards are the ideal gift that everyone can use. When you purchase a gift card from our parish, you are helping our parish earn 5% income every time on each card.

Current participating stores are **Redners, Giant** and **Weis Markets** (Coming soon - Valley Farms), but others may be added soon. Cards are available in a variety of denominations. Cards do not expire, so please consider purchasing a Grocery Gift Card the next time you need to buy a gift for someone. Better yet, why not get yourself a grocery gift card to use for your weekly shopping purchases and help earn some money for our parish!

Please see Judy Lezinsky for Grocery Gift Cards, or call for any special orders. 610-868-9468 (Cash or checks please.)

## Giving Tree

On the Holiday tree in the vestibule, you will find tags for residents of Northampton County (children, youth, elderly adults and persons with mental health diagnosis). **Please select a tag and remove only the bottom portion of the tag.** The tag will indicate the gender, age, and suggestion for a Christmas Gift. These suggestions come from County Caseworkers or from a wish shared by the individual to the caseworker. Please bring your gift unwrapped in a gift bag or a bag to contain/separate your item from the others when placed in the large collection box in the vestibule. Please ensure that the bottom half of the tag is firmly attached to the gift(s). (If wrapped IT WILL BE OPENED!) **Gifts are due in by 12/19/2021 -no exception, as the gifts will be distributed 12/20 and 12/21.**

**Some general guidelines:** Do not wrap your gift. (Gift bags are welcomed) Please do not include any weapons or sharp items in your gift. Please note that because Northampton County is ultimately responsible for distributing gifts they cannot distribute religious materials; please refrain from including such items as they will be removed. Your participation is truly appreciated by the County staff. Often the County staff reports that this project can make a difficult situation for child, elderly person, or person with a disability more tolerable by the GIFT OF KINDNESS. **Thank you in advance.**

## **Grocery Card Donation**

Please consider purchasing a Grocery Store card from Judy Lezinsky to benefit a child, family, or elderly person in emergency need of food in Northampton County. During the holiday season and throughout the upcoming new year, these cards are given to those Northampton County residents in urgent need of food. These cards are equally distributed to **Northampton County Area on Aging, Children, Youth, and Families, and Emergency Services Caseworkers** for emergency use when food pantries are not open. Any contribution is GREATLY appreciated as this purchase goes entirely to someone in need! Thank you in advance. (Due by 12/19/2021)

## **Poinsettias for Christmas**

If you wish to sponsor the Poinsettias that will decorate the church during the Nativity season, please sign up in the book at the candle desk. Red and White Poinsettias are available for a \$12.00 donation and may be taken home at the end of the Nativity Season.

## **2022 Calendars Are Available**

The St. Tikhon's Monastery 2022 Lectionary Wall Calendars are now available to pick up in the Narthex. Thank you to Connell Funeral Home for their generous sponsorship of these calendars.

# Throughout the year, please remember those in our parish family who are homebound.

**Kathleen Berge** - 2 Gracedale Ave, Tower #6, Nazareth, PA 18064

**Mrs. Vincentine Grace Brusko** - Bethlehem Manor II, 316 E Market St,  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Mrs. Olga Frimenko** - 2205 Jennings Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017

**Mr. Walter Grigoruk** - Sacred Heart Senior Living by Saucon Creek, 4851  
Saucon Creek Rd, Center Valley, PA 18034, Attn: Walter Grigoruk, Room 330.

**Mr. Andrew Hasenecz** - 315 Balleck Road, Riegelsville, PA 18077-9606

**Mrs. Helen Karel** - c/o Thomas Karel, 1838 Larchmont Ln, Lancaster, PA 17601

**Mrs. Pauline Kasick** - Phoebe Allentown, 1925 W Turner St Allentown, PA  
18104

**Mrs. Mary Koretski** - Riverton Rehabilitation, 803 N. Wahneta St, Room 202A,  
Allentown, PA 18109

**Mrs. Antoinette Lebeduik** - 3514 Nicholas Street, Easton, PA 18045-5252

**Mrs. Michele Lovell** - PO Box 20031, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0031

**Laura Riley** - Kirkland Village, 1 Kirkland Village Circle, Room 132, Bethlehem,  
PA 18017 (Cell phone: 610-393-5470)

**Ms. Nancy Sabol** - 2443 Black River Road #4, Bethlehem, PA 18015

**Mrs. Pauline Senick** - 1553 Lindberg Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020-6440

**Mrs. Julia Smolenski** - Easton Manor Care, 2600 Northampton St, Room  
201A, Easton, PA 18045

**Mrs. Dorothy Stafiniak** - 735 Gottwald Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015-4209

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, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, Dimitri Oselinsky, David Shewczyk, Dennis Swenki, James Weremedic

**Priests:** Ian Shipley, John Nightingale

**Deacons:** Geoffrey LoBalbo

**Subdeacons:** Michael (Frank) Guydan

**Matushki:** Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Maryann Oselinsky, Priscilla Shipley, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic

**Servants:** Ann Marie, Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Michael Bzik, Helen Cotirgasanu, David G. Cudlic, Roberta Cusick, Val Danchenko, Damian Drasher, 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, Kathleen Keimer, 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, Laurel Riley, Gordon Roberts, Clara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Connor Samuels, Robert Schainfeld, Catherine Shea, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Dorothy Stafiniak, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, Irene Witanek

**Handmaidens of God:** Lara Bessman, Stephanie Sica, Valerie Stepanoff, and their unborn children

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