

# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, December 19, 2021

**26th Sunday after Pentecost (13th of Luke)**

**Sunday of the Holy Fathers**

**Sunday before the Nativity**



**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 19, 2021

## **26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. Sunday before the Nativity.**

Martyr Boniface at Tarsus in Cilicia, and Righteous Aglæ (Aglaída) of Rome (290). Ven. Ilya (Elias) of Murom, Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves–1188). Martyrs Elias, Probus, and Ares in Cilicia (308). St. Boniface the Merciful, Bishop of Ferentino (6th c.). St. Gregory, Archbishop of Omirits (ca. 552).

## **Serving the Divine Liturgy This Morning**

Fr. John Parker

## **Coffee Hour Today**

Hosted by Michael & Mary Dorosh

## **Weekly & Upcoming Calendar**

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

<b>Saturday, December 18, 2021</b>	4:00 pm – Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, December 19, 2021</b>	9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
<b>Friday, December 24, 2021</b>	Eve of the Nativity 9:00 am – Royal Hours 7:00 pm – Compline and Matins
<b>Saturday, December 25, 2021</b>	Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm – Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, December 26, 2021</b>	Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos 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

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**Tone 1      Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

**Tone 2      Troparion**      *(Holy Fathers)*

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

**Tone 6      Kontakion**      *(Holy Fathers)*

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**      *(Holy Fathers)*

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 Tricia Metz

**(Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Sunday Before))** By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins,

being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

#### **Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps. 43:1a)*

*For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. (Ps. 43:8)*

#### **Gospel**

**(Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before))** The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and

Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

## **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 19, 2021**

### **Vigils in Altar**

In Memory Of Nick Papaharalambos, Offered by Mat. Fran

### **Votives in Altar**

In Honor Of Marina Murgia's Birthday, Offered by The Dorosh Family

### **Votives in Iconostas**

In Honor Of Marina's Birthday, Offered by Michael & Toni

### **Vigil in Side Candle Holders**

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

### **Crosses**

In Memory Of Bretz & Hutz Families, Offered by Barry & Ann Marie

### **Vigils on the Tetrapod**

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

### **Vigils on Icon Table**

Happy Birthday Aunt Marina, Offered by Sophia & Jacob

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

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

## **Request for Annual Church Organization Reports**

Please note that all Church Organization Reports must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant by January 15, 2022 in order to prepare the packets for the Annual Parish Assembly. Kindly submit all reports formatted as Microsoft Word documents or in text in the body of an email to the Administrative Assistant. Packets will be distributed to parishioners prior to the meeting scheduled for February 20, 2022.

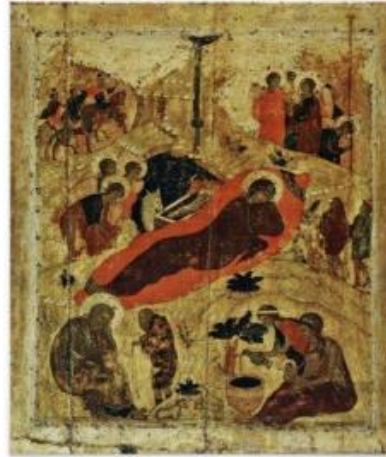




December 25, 2021

*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*

## **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)

### **Parish Council Positions**

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

### **Auditor Positions**

Four (4) one year terms

### **Diocesan Assembly Positions**

Diocesan Assembly Delegate  
Diocesan Assembly Alternate

### **All American Council Delegate**

### **All American Council Alternate**

## 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.)

## 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.

# Christ is born! Glorify Him!



Join us for an evening of song and celebration  
as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ with a "Virtual" Christmas Concert

**Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm EST**

*Featuring*

Nativity Greetings, Hymns & Carols sung by choirs from  
across the United States

*And*

A special Nativity greeting from  
His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

*Sponsored by*

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

Join us on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/t70ozTyk6Ow>



**Our St. Nicholas Choir (Directed by Nick Lezinsky) is participating in this!**

<https://youtu.be/t70ozTyk6Ow>

# 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, Betty Fedora, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Emily Holobeny, 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 Witaneck

**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.**