

Divine Liturgy

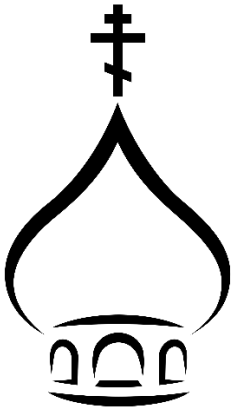
Sunday, December 26, 2021

27th Sunday after Pentecost (14th of Luke)

Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity

Sunday After the Nativity

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King,
and James the Brother of the Lord



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

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

Schedule for the Week of December 26, 2021

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity . Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos . Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord. Hieromartyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis (ca. 840). Ven. Constantine of Synnada (8th c.). Ven. Evaristus of the Studion Monastery (9th c.). Saint Nikó dēmos the Sanctified of Tismana, Romania (Macedonia–1406). Hieromartyr Constantine the Russian of Lavra on Mt. Athos (Mt. Athos–1743).

Serving the Divine Liturgy This Morning

Fr. Daniel Meyer

Coffee Hour Today

Hosted by Guliana Holobeny, Victoria Lustig, Valentina Zyranova

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Friday December 31, 2021

4:00 pm - Great Vespers

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Circumcision of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ

9:30 am - Moleben for the New Year

4:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, January 2, 2022

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).

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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 4 **Troparion** *(Feast)*

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Tone 2 **Troparion** *(Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God; thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; and thou didst give glory with the shepherds; thou didst worship with the Magi, and didst receive the news from the Angel. Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 3 **Kontakion** *(Righteous Ones)*

Today godly David is filled with joy; Joseph and James offer praise. The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!"

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Feast)*

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! Angels with shepherds glorify Him! The wise men journey with the star, since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Tone 2 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. *(Ps. 117:14)*

*The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.
(Ps. 117:18)*

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Righteous Ones)*

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. *(Ps. 67:35a)*

Epistle

Read by Reader Matthew Lezinsky

(Galatians 1:11-19 *(Sunday After)*) But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

(Ephesians 6:10-17) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Tone 2

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! (Ps. 19:1)

Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)

Tone 4

Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness! (Ps. 131:1)

Gospel

(Matthew 2:13-23 (Sunday After)) Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when

he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

(Luke 18:18-27) Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

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

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: heaven—the cave; the cherubic throne—the Virgin; the manger—the place where Christ lay: the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

(or, the ninth heirmos of the second canon)

Out of fear, we should choose to love silence, for that is a safer course; so difficult it is lovingly to compose intricately woven songs to thee, O Virgin. But grant us strength, O Mother, equal to our natural calling.

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 26, 2021

Vigils in Altar

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

Vigils in Altar

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

Vigils in Altar

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

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Rosemary Barhight
Offered by Brother Michael & Francine Slivka

Vigils - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of John Junda, Offered by Barb, Kyra, and Gregory

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of John Junda, Offered by Barb, Kyra, and Gregory

Vigils on South Wall Window Sills

In Memory Of John E. Junda RIP 23 Dec 14
Offered by Paddy Shea & Mike Isbansky

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of Nativity

For Health Of Family, Offered by The Mason Family

Coffee Hour January 9, 2022 To Fund Tornado Relief

Dear Parishioners,

The devastation that recently occurred throughout Kentucky and other states is beyond imagining. There are two Orthodox Christian charities that offer assistance to those in need: IOCC and FOCUS. We will host a light luncheon Coffee Hour in the hope that you will be generous and give from your heart for those who have lost everything. Whatever we receive will be split between these two charities.

With love in Christ,
St. Nicholas Pierogi Workers

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.

Candle Desk Books Updated for 2022

All of the sign up sheets and books have been updated for 2022. Please stop by to sign up to sponsor a coffee hour, be a greeter, or read the Epistle during services in the new year. You may also sign up to sponsor icon flowers or altar candles for the feast days in 2022, as well as our weekly candles.

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!

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!

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.

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.)

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

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 26th – 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. 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, Robert, Alaina

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.