



*The Glorious Resurrection  
of our Lord*



# SAINT NICHOLAS

## RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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### **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.

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Parish Faithful,

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Once again the season of the Great Fast is upon us. It's always hard to believe that it has come when the time actually arrives. Though, due to the reality of Covid-19 and its effects on our lives over the last year, it may seem as though Lent from 2020 never actually ended!

However, while we may joke about such things, in reality, Lent is a glorious gift to the Church. Our Fathers before us gave us this tremendous method of remembering our own need for redemption, as well as the glorious revelation of the coming of salvation!

How should we approach Lent, though? Of course we all consider the prescribed fasting practices, and we try to follow them as we're able. Often we also focus on doing such good works as may be appropriate for this season, things such as almsgiving, prayer, confession of sins, charitable work, etc. But there is so much more to Lent than food and good deeds.

Lent is about love.

Since the first day of Great Lent this year, March 14th, is the Feast of St. Benedict of Nursia (my favorite Saint), I will unashamedly look to him for his input. He says the following:

*“First of all, love the Lord God with your whole heart, your whole soul, and all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself... Renounce yourself in order to follow Christ, discipline your body; do not pamper yourself, but love fasting. You must relieve the lot of the poor, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and bury the dead. Go to help the troubled and console the sorrowing. Your way of acting should be different from the world’s way; the love of Christ must come before all else.” (Rule of St. Benedict, Chap. 4 - The Tools for Good Works)*

Benedict shows us, that if we are going to be preoccupied with good works, then the one we should be focused on is love. If we’re going to fast, it should be out of love for Christ and renunciation of self, and not out of obligation to some tradition.

Therefore, this Lent, my call to all of you is to live in love. To place the love of Christ “before all else.” As St. Paul reminds us,

*“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver*

*up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.” - 1 Corinthians 13.1-3*

Without the love for, and love of Christ, all our Lenten exercises are pointless. Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, use this Lent to deepen your love, devotion, and adoration of Christ our Lord, Who gave Himself for us in the most glorious expression of love that has ever taken place in history. May the truth of the Gospel of His life-giving death and glorious resurrection fill us all with the hope of salvation!

In Christ our Lord,

-Fr. Matthew R. Joyner, Rector  
St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church  
Bethlehem, PA

# Schedule of 2021 Lenten and Paschal Services

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

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.

## **Saturday, March 6, 2021**

Memorial Saturday  
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy  
6:00 pm - Great Vespers

## **Sunday, March 7, 2021**

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

## **Saturday, March 13, 2021**

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

## **Sunday, March 14, 2021**

Cheesefare Sunday,  
Forgiveness Sunday  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy  
6:00 pm - Forgiveness Vespers

## **Monday, March 15, 2021**

7:00 pm - Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

## **Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

7:00 pm - Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

<b>Wednesday, March 17, 2021</b>	6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
<b>Thursday, March 18, 2021</b>	7:00 pm - Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
<b>Friday, March 19, 2021</b>	7:00 pm - Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
<b>Saturday, March 20, 2021</b>	8:50 am - Reading of the Hours 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy St. Theodore the Recruit 6:00 pm - Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, March 21, 2021</b>	The Sunday of Orthodoxy 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
<b>Wednesday, March 24, 2021</b>	Eve of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos 6:00 pm - Vespereal Divine Liturgy
<b>Friday, March 26, 2021</b>	9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy
<b>Saturday, March 27, 2021</b>	Memorial Saturday 8:50 am - Reading of the Hours 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, March 28, 2021**

St. Gregory Palamas  
9:10 am - Reading of the  
Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, March 31, 2021**

6:00 pm - Presanctified  
Liturgy

**Friday, April 2, 2021**

9:00 am - Presanctified  
Liturgy

**Saturday, April 3, 2021**

Memorial Saturday  
8:50 am - Reading of the  
Hours  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy  
6:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, April 4, 2021**

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

**Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

6:00 pm - Presanctified  
Liturgy

**Friday, April 9, 2021**

9:00 am - Presanctified  
Liturgy

**Saturday, April 10, 2021**

Memorial Saturday  
8:50 am - Reading of the  
Hours  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy  
6:00 pm - Great Vespers



**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

St. John Climacus  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

**Thursday, April 15, 2021**

7:00 pm - Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt

**Friday, April 16, 2021**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**

Most Holy Theotokos  
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy  
6:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, April 18, 2021**

St. Mary of Egypt  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, April 23, 2021**

7:00 pm - Matins for Lazarus Saturday

**Saturday, April 24, 2021**

Lazarus Saturday  
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy  
6:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, April 25, 2021**

Palm Sunday  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy  
4:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

**Monday, April 26, 2021**

Holy Monday  
9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

**Tuesday, April 27, 2021**

Holy Tuesday  
9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

Holy Wednesday  
9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 pm - Holy Unction

**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

Holy Thursday  
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil  
7:00 pm - The 12 Passion Gospels

**Friday, April 30, 2021**

Holy Friday  
9:00 am - Royal Hours  
4:00 pm - Burial Vespers  
6:30 pm - Matins  
Lamentations  
All Night Watch

**Saturday, May 1, 2021**

Holy Saturday  
9:00 am - Vespersal Divine  
Liturgy  
11:30 pm - Paschal Vigil  
and Divine Liturgy  
Followed by the blessing  
of baskets and the Agape  
meal

**Sunday, May 2, 2021**

**GREAT AND HOLY  
PASCHA**  
11:00 am - Agape  
Vespers

**Monday, May 3, 2021**

Bright Monday  
8:50 am - Reading of the  
Hours  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, May 8, 2021**

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, May 9, 2021**

St. Thomas Sunday  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy  
2:00 pm - Blessing of the  
Graves