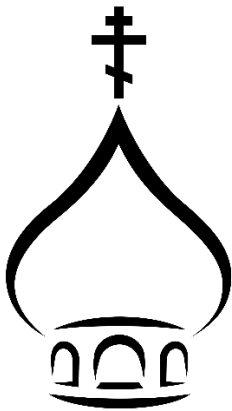


**2022-2023**

**Advent, Nativity, and Theophany Season**



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

# 2022-2023

## Advent, Nativity, and Theophany Season



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reverend Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector  
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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Lori Lezinsky, Parish Council President

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

Karen Gowarty, Church School Administrator  
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Jennifer Bzik, Administrative Assistant  
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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.

980 Bridle Path Road | Bethlehem, PA 18017-3120 | T: 610-867-0402  
stnicholasoca.org

Parish Faithful,

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

We now find ourselves approaching the period of the Nativity fast, in preparation for the birth of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. In this season we are called to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. We hear in pre-festal hymns, the call, "Prepare yourself, O Bethlehem, for Eden is opened unto all." In this we are made aware of the precise reason for which we are preparing ourselves - our salvation.

In Christ's Nativity as the incarnate Word of God, we prepare ourselves for something that no other religious group has ever seen; God in the flesh, becoming a human being, not because He has to, but out of His choice, and out of love for His creation. Paradoxically to our fallen conceptions of the Divine, God chose to come, not as a great ruler, warrior, or hero, but in humility, as a baby born in a cave. He does not leave us with the condemnation of death, but returns us to the path to life.

What a wonderful God we have, who willingly condescends for the salvation of people who so very often disobey? What a wonderful God we have who endured the incarnation and was subject to the pains and trials of this world? What a wonderful God we have, who in His abundant mercy and compassion wills that we might no longer be subject unto death, but have life with Him in His everlasting Kingdom.

Thus, we are called to make ourselves ready to welcome our God, our King, and our Savior from death. We are called to prepare for Him so that in seeing his self-sacrificial love, we may use the freedom He gave us to do the same for our neighbor. Let us prepare ourselves through increased prayer, fasting, and our presence in the divine services of the Church. We should never lack in preparations in order to greet our Savior who is the savior of our souls and bodies. Instead, let us greet Him who offers us His love, His freedom, and His salvation

In Christ,  
Priest Nikolai Breckenridge - Rector

# 2022-2023 Advent, Nativity, Theophany Season

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

## NOVEMBER

- Tuesday, November 1** 6:00 pm - November Lecture Series  
**The Nature of the Fall & Death**
- Saturday, November 5** 4:30 pm - General Panikhida  
5:00 pm - Great Vespers
- Sunday, November 6** **21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Holy Unmercenaries**  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, November 8** 6:00 pm - November Lecture Series  
**The Death of Christ & Our Death in Him**
- Saturday, November 12** 5:00 pm - Great Vespers
- Sunday, November 13** **22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/St. John Chrysostom**  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, November 15** **BEGINNING OF THE NATIVITY FAST**  
6:00 pm - November Lecture Series  
**The Prayers at Death & the Funeral Service**
- Saturday, November 19** 5:00 pm - Great Vespers
- Sunday, November 20** **23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Forefeast of Entry**  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy  
5:00 pm - Great Vespers w/ Lita

- Monday, November 21**    **Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple**  
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, November 22**    6:00 pm - November Lecture Series  
**Why We Pray for the Dead & Toll-houses**
- Saturday, November 26**    5:00 pm - Great Vespers
- Sunday, November 27**    **24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, November 29**    6:00 pm - November Lecture Series  
**Practical Considerations about Death**

## **DECEMBER**

- Saturday, December 3**    4:30 pm - General Panikhida  
5:00 pm - Great Vespers
- Sunday, December 4**    **25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy  
12:00 pm - Parish Yolka
- Monday, December 5**    6:00 pm - Great Vespers w/ Litia
- Tuesday, December 6**    **St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**  
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, December 10**    **Christmas Bazaar**  
**10:00 am - 6:00 pm - Bazaar**  
6:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, December 11**

**Sunday of the Forefathers**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**3:30 pm - Christmas Choir Concert**

**Monday, December 12**

6:00 pm - Great Vespers w/ Litia

**Tuesday, December 13**

**St. Herman of Alaska**

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 17**

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, December 18**

**Sunday before Nativity**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Friday, December 23**

9:00 am - Royal Hours



**Saturday, December 24 Eve of Nativity**

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

6:00 pm - Compline and Matins

**Sunday, December 25 Nativity of our Lord**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Monday, December 26 Synaxis of the Mother of God**

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, December 31**

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

# JANUARY

**Sunday, January 1**

**Sunday before Theophany**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Thursday, January 5**

**Eve of Theophany**

9:00 am - Royal Hours

6:00 pm - Compline w/  
Blessing of Waters

**Friday, January 6**

**Theophany / Epiphany**

8:50 am - Reading of the  
Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, January 7**

**Synaxis of St. John the  
Baptist**

4:30 pm - General  
Panikhida

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, January 8**

**Sunday after Theophany**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

