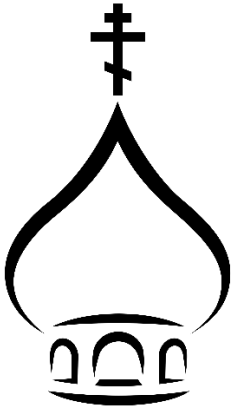


# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, January 2, 2022

**Sunday Before the Theophany**

**Forefeast of the Theophany**



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



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
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 January 2, 2022

**28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Forefeast of the Theophany. Repose of Ven. Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov (1833). Sunday before Theophany.** St. Sylvester, Pope of Rome (335). Ven. Sylvester of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves–12th c.). Righteous Juliana of Lazarévsk (Múrom–1604). Hieromartyr Theogenes, Bishop of Parium on the Hellespont (ca. 320).

## Serving the Divine Liturgy This Morning

Fr. Witalis Suszczenia

### Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

#### **Wednesday, January 5, 2022**

Theophany Eve

9:00 am - Reading of the Royal Hours

5:00 pm - Theophany Eve Strict Lenten Supper **(Please note the time change)**

7:00 pm - Great Compline with Great Blessing of Water

#### **Thursday, January 6, 2022**

Holy Theophany

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

#### **Saturday, January 8, 2022**

4:00 pm - Great Vespers

#### **Sunday, January 9, 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).

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 2, 2022

## Sunday Before the Theophany Forefeast of the Theophany

**Tone 3      Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

**Tone 4      Troparion**      *(Forefeast)*

Prepare, O Zebulon, and adorn thyself, O Naphtali! River Jordan, cease flowing, and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! Adam, rejoice with our first Mother, and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise; for having seen you naked, He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

**Tone 3      Kontakion**      *(Resurrection)*

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

**Tone 4      Kontakion**      *(Forefeast)*

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: "Do not be afraid to baptize Me. For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon**      *(Sunday Before)*

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! *(Ps. 27:9a)*

*To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)*

## **Epistle**

Read by Reader Nicholas Lezinsky

**(2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday Before))** But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## **Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us. (Ps. 66:1)*

*That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all the nations. (Ps. 66:2)*

## **Tone 6**

*Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)*

## **Gospel**

**(Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday Before))** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.'" John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the

remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings.  
*(Ps. 111:6)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **Candle Offerings Sunday, January 2, 2022**

### **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Ivan Wechaev, Offered by The Lustig Family

### **Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)**

Happy Birthday Michael Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

### **Flowers to Adorn the Icon of The Theophany of Our Lord**

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

## **A Note of Thanks from St. Michael's Cathedral in Sitka, Alaska**

Dear Parishioners of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church:

Thank you for your generous donation to St. Michael's Cathedral in Sitka, Alaska. Your kindness will help our parish and cathedral through this winter.

Bless you and Thank you,

Ana Dittmar, Parish Council, St. Michael's

## **A Note of Thanks from St. Tikhon's Monastery**

Beloved of God:

The Brotherhood of St. Tikhon's Monastery wants to offer its sincere thanks to you for your donation and gratefully accepts your offering to God and His Church.

Be assured of our prayers for you and your intentions and may the blessing of Almighty God be upon you always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery

## **A Note of Thanks from St. Herman Theological Seminary**

Dear friend of Saint Herman's Seminary,

I am writing you to thank you for your generosity that is so necessary for the work at our beloved seminary. Through your gifts, the seminary is able to continue the great labors of Saint Innocent and Saint Herman training future priests so that they might go forth with the true light of the Gospel of Christ. The light by which the seminarians read, the food blessed at the meals, the prayers offered up in the chapel, and the work they will one day do in the villages. You are part of all this. On behalf of the dean, the faculty, the staff, the seminarians, and their families, I thank you and pray that God bless you one-hundred fold.

With God's blessings through the prayers of St. Herman,  
+Bishop Alexis

# **A Note of Thanks from St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary**

Dear parish council and faithful members:

You sustain us! We love you! You make St Tikhon's possible. Your gift helps make St Tikhon's, St Tikhon's. Our aim is to form the next generation of Orthodox Clergy and Lay Leaders for the Orthodox Church in America, and the wider Orthodox Christian Family. Just this summer - since graduation!- we have witnessed the making of three new priests from among our recent graduates: Fr Sergay Kakorin-who is heading to the Diocese of the West; Fr Jacob Ramsey-who is heading to the Diocese of New York and New Jersey; and Fr Jeremiah McKemy, who is heading to the Diocese of the South. These, our graduates, are being sent out in all directions to share the love of Christ with all who will listen.

Your generosity has helped to form these three, as well as their classmates, and will help accomplish the same in our incoming class-our largest in recent memory. With applications still coming in we expect 18 or more in the class of 2024.

St John Chrysostom said that the ministry of the priest is even greater than that of the angels. Who else, he asks, can take bread and wine of the earth, and call down the grace of the Holy Spirit, to affect their change in the very Body and Blood of the Lord? Thank you-even since May!-for helping to make this miracle possible in three new men.

St Tikhon's is *\*your\** seminary. While we are here, by your gifts, to train the seminarians, we are also here to serve you. If we can help in any way, even as a token of our love and gratitude please write me at [dean@stots.edu](mailto:dean@stots.edu) to say how.

Our doors are open. Come and see!

With abundant thanks, I remain,

Fr. John Parker, Dean

## **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.



# **A Note of Thanks from The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration**

Dear Father and Faithful at St. Nicholas,

Thank you for your generosity to our monastery during this holy season, and for so many times in the past. We are really touched by your love.

May our Lord guide you in your ways and bless you with a joyous and healthy Nativity season.

In Christ,

Mother Christophora and all the Sisters

A Note of Thanks from

St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary

## **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.

# Theophany Eve Holy Supper

A Strict Lenten Holy Supper will be served at 5:00 pm (***Please note the time change***) 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)

### **Auditor Positions**

Four (4) one year terms

### **All American Council Delegate**

### **Parish Council Positions**

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

### **Diocesan Assembly Positions**

Diocesan Assembly Delegate  
Diocesan Assembly Alternate

### **All American Council Alternate**

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 Witanek, 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.**