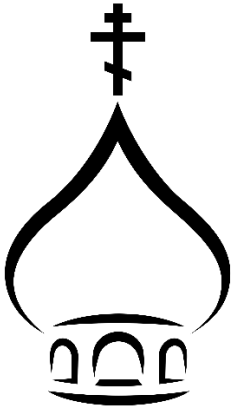


Divine Liturgy
Sunday, March 13, 2022
First Sunday of Great Lent
Sunday of Orthodoxy



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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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

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 March 6, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 5. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Translation of the relics of St. Nikēphóros, Patriarch of Constantinople (846). Martyr Sabinus (Abibus) of Egypt (287). Martyrs Africanus, Publius, and Terence, of Carthage (3rd c.). Martyr Alexander of Macedonia (305-311). Martyr Christina of Persia (4th c.). Ven. Aninas of the Euphrates.

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, March 14th - Fr. Nikolai's day off (call only with emergencies)
Wednesday, March 16th - 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, March 18th - 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee hour hosted by Guliana Holobeny In Honor Of Laura Riley

You're Invited! - TODAY!

Inviting all parishioners and friends to join together for a Lenten meal on Sunday, March 13, after the Liturgy. All offerings will be used to help one of our own, Laurel, with medically related expenses.

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Sunday, March 13

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - St. Mary's Ukrainian

Wednesday, March 16

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 18

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - St. Nicholas

Saturday, March 19

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 20

St. Gregory Palamas

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - at St. Paul, Emmaus

Wednesday, March 23

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 24

Eve of Annunciation

7:00 pm - Vespers

Friday, March 25

Annunciation

9:00 am - Vespersal Liturgy

Saturday, March 26

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 27

Sunday of the Cross

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - at St. Nicholas ROC

Wednesday, March 30

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, April 1

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Lenten Fish Dinner

7:00 pm - Akathist - to our Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 2

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 3

St. John Climacus

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - at St. Nicholas GOA

Wednesday, April 6

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 7

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

Friday, April 8

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - Theotokos

Saturday, April 9

Akathist Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 10

St. Mary of Egypt

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - at Assumption UOC,

Northampton

Wednesday, April 13

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, April 15

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Lenten Fish Dinner

7:00 pm - Compline (Lazarus)

Saturday, April 16

Lazarus Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 17

Palm Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Week

Monday, April 18

Holy Monday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 19

Holy Tuesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 20

Holy Wednesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Holy Unction

Thursday, April 21

Holy Thursday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

7:00 pm - Matins of Holy Friday with the 12 Passion Gospels

Friday, April 22

Holy Friday

9:00 am - Royal Hours

4:00 pm - Burial Vespers

7:00 pm - Matins Lamentations

All Night Watch

Saturday, April 23

Holy Saturday

9:00 am - Vespertal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

11:30 pm - Paschal Vigil and Paschal Divine Liturgy

Followed by the blessing of baskets & Agape meal

11:00 am - Agape Vespers

Sunday, April 24

Monday, April 25

Bright Monday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Saturday, April 30

Sunday, May 1

St. Thomas Sunday

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

2:00 pm - Blessing of the Graves

Pussy Willow Branches



Reminder: It will soon be time for pussy willows to start blooming. Please cut the branches of willows and bring them to the church as soon as they bloom. Since Pascha is April 24th we will need to store the willows until Saturday, April 16th for Palm Sunday, April 17th. Please wrap the willows loosely in newspaper so we can save them for Palm Sunday. Thank you for your help in gathering the willows.



Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 13, 2022

First Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Tone 5 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 2 Troparion *(Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: "Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world."

Tone 8 Kontakion *(Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty. We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Song of the 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 Reader Matthew Lezinsky

(Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-12:2) By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 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. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps. 98:6)

They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps. 98:7a)

Gospel

(John 1:43-51) The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

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!

SYNODIKON

of the Sunday of Orthodoxy

As the prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught,
As the Church has received,
As the teachers have dogmatized,
As the universe has agreed, as grace has shown forth,
As falsehood has been dissolved,
As wisdom has presented,
As Christ awarded,
Thus we declare,
Thus we assert,
Thus we preach Christ our true God,
And honor His saints in words, in writings,
In thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in Holy Icons;
On the one hand worshipping and reverencing
Christ as God and Lord;
And on the other hand,
Honoring as true servants of the same
Lord of all and accordingly offering them veneration.

This is the Faith of the Apostles!
This is the faith of the Fathers!
This is the faith of the Orthodox!
This is the faith which has established the Universe!

Candle Offerings

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Altar Candles for Great Lent

For the Health of Stetz and Grammes Families, Offered by Pat & Joan

A Note of Thanks

To My Wonderful Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the prayers, cards and food. They are all so very much appreciated. I hope to be able to see everyone by Pascha!

With Love to All,
Laura Riley

St. Nicholas Hosting Clergy Brotherhood Vespers

On Sunday, March 27 (Sunday of the Cross) at 4:00 pm our parish will be hosting Clergy Brotherhood Vespers. We will be inviting our parishioners and guests to stay to enjoy a Lenten meal after the service. If you would like to prepare a Lenten dish to share, please sign up at the candle desk.

Ukrainian Refugee Relief

No doubt we have all seen the reports of devastation in cities being bombed all over Ukraine by Russian military forces. Through a joint effort of the Orthodox Church in America and the Orthodox Church of Poland, a financial collection is being taken to ease the suffering of those impacted, and to assist in relief efforts for refugees in Poland (where there are already nearly half a million refugees). Please consider donating to help this cause. Please go to oca.org/relief to assist.

Thank You Notes Received for Tornado Support

Thank you again to the faithful of St. Nicholas for your many generous donations during the coffee hour on January 16th in support of tornado relief efforts. Those funds were sent to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) and FOCUS North America (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve). Both organizations have sent lovely letters of acknowledgement and thanks, which are posted in the church kitchen. Thanks to your generosity we were able to send donations of \$1,750 to each organization!

Pascha Flower Donations

Signup sheets to sponsor the beautiful flowers used to adorn the tomb of Our Lord are now available at the candle desk. There are many lovely potted plants and cut flower arrangements available. Thank you for your support.

Pascha Processions Sign Up Sheets

Signup sheets for the processions and grave watch during Holy Week are available at the candle desk. Please see a staff member if you need assistance signing up to participate in the processions, etc. during Holy Week.

Upcoming Events Information Request

If your church ministry or group will be having any event or using the church facilities in any way, please notify Jennifer Bzik so that she may reflect the information on our internal calendar. You may also indicate if the event should be posted on the church website for the public. Thank you!

Basket Raffle Donations Wanted

We will once again be hosting a Basket Raffle this year during the Lenten Fish Dinners on April 1st and 15th, and we are looking for volunteers to donate baskets. We have a track record of offering beautiful baskets at our events and our recent Christmas Bazaar was no exception. We would like that tradition to continue. If you are able to make a basket, please contact Jennifer Bzik to let her know.

Don't be shy if you have never made a basket for the raffle before! Jennifer will be happy to help you out. If you are interested in supporting the Basket Raffle but are not able to make a basket, please consider making a cash donation. Jennifer will be happy to do the shopping and prepare a basket on your behalf!

If you are planning to make a cash donation, please do so as soon as possible (no later than Sunday, March 19, 2022) so that we have an opportunity to shop and prepare a basket using those funds. All donated baskets must be brought to the church by noon on Sunday, March 27, 2022. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Jennifer Bzik. Thank you so much for your support!

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 (10% on Valley Farm/Gerrity Market).

Current participating stores are **Redners, Giant, Weis Markets** and **Valley Farm Market**. 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.)

Now The Powers

A Journey Through Great Lent

With

St. Nicolas Russian Orthodox Church Choir

Bethlehem, PA

Nicholas Lezinsky, Director

Now The Powers Of Heaven...

For the Orthodox Christian, the liturgical year revolves around the celebration of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The entire worship of the Orthodox Church is centered around Pascha, which is the greatest and most exalted Feast giving it the honor of being the **"Feast of all Feasts"** in the Orthodox Church. Orthodox Christians live from Pascha to Pascha and as such, make an annual pilgrimage, a journey towards Pascha, experiencing the transformation of the tragedy of tragedies into the ultimate victory, giving us the foretaste of the eternal joy that awaits us, the glory of the victory where **"death is no more!"**

Long before the actual beginning of Great Lent, the Church announces its approach and invites us to meditate on its significance. Knowing our own human nature, the Church calls our attention to its seriousness and prepares us for what lies before us with the themes of desire, humility, returning to God, judgment and forgiveness. We are ready to begin the 40 day journey of Great Lent in an atmosphere and state of mind which for the duration of Great Lent will permeate our entire life.

This atmosphere is brought about by the physical changes the church experiences: the dark color purple vestments and altar cloths, the length of the services, the penitential prayers with prostration, and the singing of melodies in the minor key. The meaning and the spirit of this penitential season find their first and most important expression in worship. The entire Church and not only individuals acquires a penitential spirit and the beautiful Lenten services, more than anything else, help us to deepen our spiritual vision. The spirit of Great Lent is most beautifully expressed in the liturgical music of the Orthodox Church. The music on this recording takes you on a moving, spiritual journey to Pascha, beginning with the Pre-Lenten season and ending with the triumphant Paschal proclamation that **"Christ is Risen...!"**

The journey begins with a pious hymn to the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, "whose humility made her the joy of all creation and the greatest revelation of beauty on earth", and continues with...

...themes from the Pre-Lenten season;

...the Great Vespers on Forgiveness Sunday evening, when the Vespereal hymns announce the coming of Great Lent and, beyond Lent, the approach of Pascha; the day's Great Prokeimenon announcing with a unique melody the beginning of Lent;

...the Great Penitential Canon of St Andrew of Crete. Written in the 7th century by one of the greatest hymn-writers of the Orthodox Church, this Canon is the purest expression of repentance as its content sets the tone and spirit the true dimension of repentance.

...the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, a special evening service of the Communion prescribed on Wednesdays and Fridays of Great Lent;

...The Bridegroom Matins of the first three days of Great and Holy Week. The special hymns on these days remind us of the eschatological meaning of Pascha challenging us with this ultimate meaning of Pascha and to prepare us to the understanding and acceptance of it;

...The service of Holy Thursday evening emphasizing the Passion of Christ as "the sin of all sins, the crime of all crimes." The two events of this day, the Last Supper of Christ with His disciples and the betrayal of Judas reveal the mystery of this unique day and its services, where light and darkness, joy and sorrow are mixed, challenging us with the choice on which depends the eternal destiny of each one of us.

...The sorrow and darkness of Holy Friday, the day of Christ's Passion, Death and Burial. The services of Holy Friday reveal the mystery of this day and make us participate in it. When the image of Christ is placed in the tomb and we stand at the grave of our Lord singing the moving Troparion, we contemplate His death. This prepares us for the ultimate victory and certitude that "death will trample down death..."

...The Vespers and Liturgy of Holy Saturday connects Great and Holy Friday with Pascha. The commemoration of the cross with the day of His Resurrection, provides us with rich hymnography contemplating the mystery of Christ's life-giving death. There is a day of sorrow and then, there is the day of joy. Truly Great and Holy Saturday is a day of transformation. The long day of Great and Holy Saturday is spent in quiet meditation as we wait for the Pascha night and the fullness of the Paschal joy when we hear at midnight: "Christ is Risen!" before we enter into the celebration of His Holy Resurrection.

In this recording we share with you the rich and powerful message of the Church's teaching about Great Lent and Pascha as conveyed through her liturgical worship. As we rediscover the meaning of Great Lent and Pascha, may we also rediscover God Himself as we return to Him all that which He gave us in His infinite love and mercy.

Now The Powers is available on CD for \$15. Please contact Nicholas Lezinsky if you would like to purchase a copy.

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: Nikolai Breckenridge, Ian Shipley, John Nightingale

Deacons: Geoffrey LoBalbo

Subdeacons: Michael (Frank) Guydan

Matushki: Liudmyla Breckenridge, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Maryann Oselinsky, Priscilla Shipley, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic

Servants: Ann Marie Bretz, 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, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Victoria Lustig, Olga Maksimova, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Nicolae & Doina Marian, Kylie Pinho, Joseph Pinkowicz, Regina Pinkowicz, 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, Tosha Roberts, Stephanie Sica, Valerie Stepanoff, and their unborn children

Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.