

# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, March 27, 2022

**Third Sunday of Great Lent**

**Veneration of the Cross**



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



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reverend Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector  
Cell: 570-604-4277  
Email: nikolai.breckenridge@gmail.com

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 27, 2022

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 7. Veneration of the Cross.** Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Manuel and Theodosius (304). Ven. John the Clairvoyant, Anchorite, of Egypt (394-395). The “GLYKOPHYLOUSA” and the “AKATHIST” Icons of the Mother of God on Mt. Athos.

## Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> - Fr. Nikolai’s day off (call only with emergencies)

Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> - 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

## Coffee Hour Today

Coffee hour hosted by The Stepanoff Family In Honor of Paul’s 40<sup>th</sup> Day

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

### 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**

**Thursday, April 7**

**Friday, April 8**

**Saturday, April 9**

**Sunday, April 10**

**Wednesday, April 13**

**Friday, April 15**

**Saturday, April 16**

**Sunday, April 17**

**Monday, April 18**

**Tuesday, April 19**

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St.

Andrew of Crete and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - Theotokos

**Akathist Saturday**

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**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

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

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

7:00 pm - Compline (Lazarus)

**Lazarus Saturday**

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Palm Sunday**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

**Great and Holy Week**

**Holy Monday**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

**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 - Vespers 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 - Vespers 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 24<sup>th</sup> we will need to store the willows until Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> for Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 27, 2022

## Third Sunday of Great Lent Veneration of the Cross

**Tone 7      Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 1      Troparion of the Cross**

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation!

**Tone 7      Kontakion**      *(Cross)*

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell: "Enter again into Paradise!"

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon**      *(Cross)*

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 David Metz

**(Hebrews 4:14-5:6)** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

## **Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old! (Ps. 73:2)*

*God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth! (Ps. 73:13)*

## **Gospel**

**(Mark 8:34-9:1)** When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

*(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**

The light of Thy countenance has shone on us, O Lord. *(Ps. 4:7a)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



# **Candle Offerings**

## **Sunday, March 27, 2022**

### **Votives in Altar**

Happy Birthday Taras Guanowsky, Offered by Glenn, Carol & Yuri

### **Crosses**

Happy Birthday Regina Pinkowicz, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry

### **Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)**

Happy Birthday Regina Pinkowicz

Offered by Colleen, Mike, Gemma, Joe, Donna

### **Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary**

In Memory Of Mary Radio, Offered by Greg & Rosalie Radio Family

### **Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)**

Happy Birthday Michael Isbansky, Offered by Cate & Patric Shea

### **Altar Candles for Great Lent**

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



The Orthodox Church in America  
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

March 21, 2022

Rev. Nikolai Breckinridge  
St. Nicholas Church  
980 Bridle Path Road  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Dear Father Nikolai,

Christ is in our midst!

On behalf of His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, I am pleased to inform you that in recognition of your faithfulness to the priestly ministry the Holy Synod of Bishops at its Spring Session has granted you the right to wear the *Gold Cross*. This will take place during my next visit with St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, PA

Be assured of our gratitude to God for your self-sacrificial and loving pastoral labors in the Lord's Vineyard. May the rich blessings of the Lord be upon you, your family, and all those to whom you minister.

With my archpastoral blessings, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Mark

+MARK  
Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

cc: OCA Chancery  
V. Rev. Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean of Philadelphia Deanery  
V. Rev. Martin Browne, Chancellor  
St. Nicholas Church Parish Council

## **Ukrainian Refugee Relief Donation**

On Sunday, March 20th the council approved a donation of \$5000 to the OCA and Orthodox Church of Poland's Ukrainian Refugee Relief Fund. Donations are still being accepted! Please see Father Nikolai or one of our council members if you have questions

## **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](http://oca.org/relief) to assist.

## **Reminder - Fish Dinner Baked Goods**

Reminder to those who have volunteered to bake cakes for our Lenten Fish Dinners to please deliver to the church by 3:00 pm on April 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Grammes.

## **Spring Clean Up**

Volunteers wanted to assist with spring clean up of landscaping and trimming of hedges around the church. Weather permitting, we will meet at church on Saturday, April 9, 2022 immediately following the Divine Liturgy (approximately 10:30 am). If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Pat Grammes.

## **A Note of Thanks**

My Dear Brothers & Sisters,

"Glory Be To Jesus Christ!" Thank you so very much for the most thoughtful, beautiful and delicious fruit presentation. Your love and prayerful support during this personally difficult period is truly appreciated and most welcome. May God always bless you and the faithful of St. Nicholas Church. May this season of Great Lent bring you spiritual growth and joy and may the Risen Lord grant you His love and blessings.

With Love in Jesus Christ,  
Fr. John & Stephanie Onofrey

## **Prayers for a Quick Recovery**

Fr. John Onofrey is the rector at St. Herman's church in Shillington. He recently fell and had surgery on his knee. Fr. John was incredibly good to our church during our time without a priest and because of this St. Nicholas sent him a get well basket from Edible Arrangements. His contact information is below if you'd like to reach out to him.

V. Rev. John Andrew Onofrey, Rector  
122 Church St  
Shillington, PA 19607  
Home: 610-777-3553

## **A Note of Thanks**

Thank you to all of you who have given such generous gifts of love, prayer, clothing and love to Tetiana, Mila's family in Ukraine, and for all the people in Ukraine suffering for the consequences of Russia's war. We cannot express how much we appreciate your love and care. Please continue to pray for peace!

Fr. Nikolai, Matushka Mila, and Tetiana Fedina

## **A Note of Thanks**

Many thanks to all who wholeheartedly responded to our invitation to the Lenten Lunch on March 13th and contributed by generously offering monetary donations, food and help! May God reward you!

## **A Note of Thanks**

Brothers & Sisters of St. Nicholas,

I wanted to send a note of sincere appreciation to all of you for your continued expression of care to me over the past months.

Your kindness, through greeting cards, phone calls, and visitations, means more to me than you could every know. I thank you for taking the time to offer me your attention and making me feel a continued part of our family at St. Nicholas.

These past few years have certainly been filled with life changes and new challenges for me and my family. With God's grace, I am thankful for the opportunity to meet these new days head on with confidence and eagerness. Your efforts to include me in prayer provide me with the strength I need on many levels.

On February 20, 2022, I was blessed with the birth of my great-granddaughter, Freya - a healthy 9lb. 1 oz. little sweetheart. Both she, and my granddaughter, Bronte, are doing well and I look forward to seeing them soon.

As days continue on, so come daily struggles - but so too come moments of joy - as when I see a new picture of my great-granddaughter.

Thank you for also providing moments of joy for me through your thoughtfulness and prayer...

With you in Spirit,  
Walter Grigoruk  
Sacred Heart Senior Living by Saucon Creek  
4850 Saucon Creek Rd.  
Center Valley, PA 18034  
Room #330

## A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank my parish family for all the cards, phone calls, food and prayers during my recovery from knee surgery. It has meant more to me than you will ever know. Recovery is a little slow, but I hope to see all of you soon.

Sandi Keysock

## A Note of Thanks

Thank you to our St. Nicholas Parish Family for your prayers, phone calls and cards while we were and still are recuperating from our surgeries. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

We wish you and your families a blessed Pascha season.

Joe and Regina Pinkowicz

## 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.)

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, 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, Tosha Roberts, Valerie Stepanoff, and their unborn children, Stephanie Sica and her newborn daughter.

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