

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent
St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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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 April 3, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder).

Ven. Niké́tas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion (824). Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre, and Martyr Irene (307-308). St. Illyricus of Mt. Myrsinon in the Peloponnesus. Martyrs Elpidophorus, Dius, Bithonius, and Galycus. “Unfading Flower” Icon of the Mother of God .

Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Monday, April 4th - Fr. Nikolai’s day off (call only with emergencies)

Wednesday, April 6th - 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Friday, April 8th - 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee hour hosted by The Lungu Family

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

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

Friday, April 15

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
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 - Vespereal 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 - Vesperal 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, April 3, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Tone 8 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 1 Troparion *(St. John Climacus)*

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 8 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Tone 4 Kontakion *(St. John Climacus)*

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our father and teacher John.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! *(Ps. 75:10a)*

In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (St. John Climacus)

Let the saints exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches! (*Ps. 149:5*)

Epistle

Read by Reader Matthew Lezinsky

(Hebrews 6:13-20) For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

(Ephesians 5:9-19 (St. John Climacus)) (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!
(Ps. 94:1)*

*Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him
with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)*

Tone 4

*They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our
God. (Ps. 91:12)*

Gospel

(Mark 9:17-31) Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

(Matthew 4:25-5:12 (St. John Climacus)) Great multitudes followed Him - from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(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)*
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Candle Offerings

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Janet Unser, Offered by Barb Monarek

Crosses

Happy Birthday Stephanie Pasquel, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

Happy Birthday Jean Jubinski, Offered by Dan Jubinski

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

Happy Birthday Jean Jubinski, Offered by Peter & Sarah Jubinski

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Jean Jubinski, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry

Vigils - Icon of St. John the Baptist (2)

In Memory Of Peter L. Slivka, Offered by son Michael & Francine Slivka

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

A Note of Thanks

I want to thank my St. Nicholas parish family for the cards phone calls and prayers. They have been a great comfort to me during this difficult time. I really miss being in church and am so looking forward to get back to attending services. Wishing you all a blessed journey to the Great Feast of Pascha.

With love in Christ,
Matushka Pat

A Note of Thanks

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my St. Nicholas family for their very generous gifts. Your support is deeply appreciated at this challenging time. I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

In Christ,
Laura Riley

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 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 1st or 15th. 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

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

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

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

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

Archbishop Paul Gassos

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 Holobeney, 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 Witanek, 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.