

Divine Liturgy

December 11, 2022

26th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)

Sunday of the Forefathers



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

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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.

(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.***

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stnicholasoca.org

Schedule for the Week of December 11, 2022

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. Sunday of the Forefathers. Ven. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople (489-490). Ven. Nikon the Dry of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves–12th c.). Martyrs Mirax, Acepisus and Aithalas, of Egypt (7th c.). Ven. Luke the New Stylite of Chalcedon (ca. 970-980).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Wednesday, December 14th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Thursday, December 15th - Fr. Nikolai's day off
Friday, December 10th - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

A small coffee hour will be held after the Divine Liturgy

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Monday, December 12

Eve of St. Herman of Alaska
6:00 pm - Great Vespers with Litia
7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting

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, God and Savior, Jesus Christ

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Festal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

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

Sunday, January 1

St. Basil the Great/Circumcision of the Lord

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 - Theophany Compline with Blessing of Waters

Friday, January 6

Theophany

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Festal Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 7

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

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Sunday of the Forefathers

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Tone 2 Troparion *(Forefathers)*

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Forefathers)*

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 David Metz

(Colossians 3:4-11 (Forefathers)) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

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. 98:6)

Gospel

(Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers)) Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways

and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

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!

Candle Offerings for Sunday, December 11, 2022

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Memory Of Steve & Anna Sherbechuk, Offered by Daughter, Sonya

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Mary & John (Jay) Radio, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Mary & Jay Radio, Offered by Radio & Tomsic Families

Votives in Iconostas

In Memory Of Steve & Anna Sherbechuk, Offered by Daughter, Sonya

Crosses

For Health Of Radio & Tomsic Families, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of James & Marianne Blachinski, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

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

In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)

In Memory Of Steve & Anna Sherbechuk, Offered by Daughter, Sonya

A Note Of Thanks from the Gettysburg Mission Church

Dear Father Nikolai,

Christ is in our midst!

In my eleven years of priesthood, I've been blessed to witness some incredible acts of generosity. One parishioner almost single-handedly replaced the income from a bingo hall. Another donated a chair lift that transformed the life of a community, bringing together young converts with cradle Orthodox. Yet others helped renovate an entire sanctuary, replacing old tile floors with beautiful hardwood, and old, battered pews with carved chairs from Greece.

I remember these and more, and I hope to go on remembering them. They each have their own story and impact on parish life.

But the gift from St Nicholas to our little mission in Gettysburg—what can I say? Over \$4,000? No gift has ever surprised me as much as this one. I'm sure your lenten taco bar was legendary, but I think something more was at work here.

We Orthodox used to find ways to compete with each other. Few understood how this undermined our parishes and compromised the Gospel. Though a small mission three hours away doesn't present competition to your or any other parish—by design!—our efforts here don't necessarily warrant your attention or concern there. But you showered us with generosity anyway.

Thank you for investing in our future and for your confidence in the mission of the Church. Other jurisdictions would look at Gettysburg and see no reason to start a church here. We don't have a large contingent of Greeks, Russians, Serbs, Romanians, or other old-country groups.

We do have a small, dedicated core group of members. And one of the few places left in our country that most would agree is sacred. Can an Orthodox Christian mission flourish here? We believe in God's providence and mercy. We also know that we have to show this providence and mercy to the world around us. You've done that for us, and for that, we will remember you and your parish in our prayers at each Liturgy.

With love in Christ,
Archpriest Leonid Schmidt

Christmas Day Luncheon

Please join us for light lunch on Christmas Day after the Divine Liturgy. We invite you to break the fast with Borsht (meat version), deviled eggs stuffed with caviar, salad with shrimp, chopped salad, roasted potatoes with grilled sausage and dessert.

Please make time to spend Christmas Day with your church family.

Offering Envelopes

Parish Donation Envelopes are now available. Starting this year, we are returning to our former practice of giving a box of envelopes that cover the entire year. This saves us money, and allows people to more easily plan their entire year of giving well in advance, if they so choose.

Please pick your box up at the candle desk!

Upcoming Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, December 12, at 7:00 pm (following Great Vespers)

Some may not know, but Council Meetings are open to all Parishioners to observe. If you wish to attend, please let Fr. Nikolai or Jen know, so we know to expect you.

ATTENTION!!

We have frozen 4-packs of halupki for sale! They are \$15. Please see Val Roberts or Maxine Marsh.

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. Packets will be distributed to parishioners from the candle desk beginning on January 29, 2022 for their review prior to the meeting on February 19, 2022.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to the parishioners and organizations of St. Nicholas Parish. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity for the Gettysburg Mission. I am overwhelmed by your donations. I am able to give the Gettysburg Mission over \$4000.00 in donations. This will help our parish grow. May God bless each and everyone of you. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Mnohya Leyta
Yours In Christ,
Peter Lezinsky

Remember Our Homebound

As of 12/01/2022

Kathleen Berge - 2 Gracedale Ave, Tower #6, Nazareth, PA 18064

Fr. Thomas & Mat. Evelyn Edwards - 4052 Lehigh Drive, Northampton, PA 18067

Mrs. Elizabeth Fedora - Atria Bethlehem, 1745 W. Macada Rd, Room 319, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Mrs. Olga Frimenko - 2205 Jennings Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Mr. Walter Grigoruk - Sacred Heart Senior Living by Saucon Creek, 4851 Saucon Creek Rd, Center Valley, PA 18034, Attn: Walter Grigoruk, Room 330

Subdeacon Michael (Frank) & Michele Guydan - 3045 Oak Hills Drive, Northampton, PA 18067-9583

Mr. Andrew Hasenecz - 315 Balleck Road, Riegelsville, PA 18077-9606

Mr. Michael Isbansky - 2022 Arlington Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017-4879

Ms. Mary Koretski - 3060 West Blvd, Apt. A, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Mrs. Antoinette Lebeduik - 832 Wellington Road, Manchester, NH 03104

Mrs. Michele Lovell - PO Box 20031, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0031

Ms. Nancy Sabol - 2443 Black River Road #4, Bethlehem, PA 18015

Mrs. Julia Smolenski - Easton Manor Care, 2600 Northampton St. Room 201A, Easton, PA 18045

Ms. Joan Stetz - 4405 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017-9144

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:

Archbishop Mechisedek Pleska

Igumen: Patric Carpenter, David Lewis

Archpriests: Thomas Edwards, John Perich, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, Dimitri Oselinsky, David Shewczyk, Ian Shipley, Dennis Swenki, James Weremedic, John Onofrey

Priests: Nikolai Breckenridge, 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, Stephanie Onofrey

Servants: Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Helen Cotirgasanu, David G. Cudlic, Roberta Cusick, Val Danchenko, Betty Fedora, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, Linda Gardner, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Don Holobeny, Jonathan Hontz, Sherry Hromiak, Michael H. Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Alexandra Keysock, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, Bernard Kusior, Jean Kusior, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Victoria Lustig, Olga Maksimova, Amber Metz, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Nicolae & Doina Marian, Kylie Pinho, Kiera Pheiffer, Laurel Riley, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Connor Samuels, Robert Schainfeld, Catherine Shea, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Julia G. Smolenski, Dorothy Stafiniak, Joan Stetz, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, Irene Witaneck

Handmaidens of God: Amanda Riley, Kaylee Rile, Alyssa Weaver and their unborn children, Lisa Metz, Molly Polacco, Tosha Roberts and their newborn children.

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