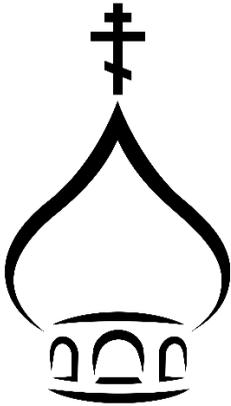


Divine Liturgy

January 22, 2023

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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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

Karen Gowarty, Church School Administrator
Phone: 610-810-6290
Email: kareng18020@gmail.com

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 January 22, 2023

32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia. Apostle Timothy of the Seventy (96). Monastic Martyr Anastasius the Persian (628). Monastic Martyr Anastásii, Deacon, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves–12th c.). Ven. Makáry of Zhabynsk, Wonderworker (1623). 377 Martyred Companions in Bulgaria (ca. 817).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Regular Office Hours will resume after the House Blessing Season.

Coffee Hour Today

Today's coffee hour is hosted by Victoria Dimonie

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Monday, January 23	7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting
Saturday, January 28	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, January 29	Sunday of Zacchaeus 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, February 1	6:00 pm - Great Vespers with Litia
Thursday, February 2	Meeting of the Lord in the Temple 8:50 am - Reading of the Hours 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
Saturday, February 4	4:30 pm - General Panikhida 5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, February 5	Publican & Pharisee 9:10 - Reading of the Hours 9:30 - Divine Liturgy
Saturday, February 11	5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, February 12

Prodigal Son

9:10 - Reading of the Hours

9:30 - Divine Liturgy

Thursday, February 16

St. Nicholas of Japan

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

Upcoming Scouting Sunday - February 5, 2023

Parish Faithful,

I would like to refresh our list of St. Nicholas Scouts, so please take a moment to let me know of anyone who should be listed in the bulletin for Scouting Sunday on February 5th. Please include the scouts' rank with their names. Kindly submit all names no later than Wednesday, February 1st.

Thank you!

Jennifer N. Bzik

Upcoming Coffee Hours

On January 29th and March 26th, Guliana Holobeny and Aliana Lungu will be hosting coffee hours to help defray the cost of providing for a traditional Orthodox burial for Julia Smolenski. At the time of Julia's passing, the Parish Council authorized that \$5,000 be contributed towards this effort, as her estate was not sufficient to cover the entire cost. The Parish Council has faith that the generosity of the St. Nicholas parishioners will ultimately come through to provide for this important effort for a valued member of our parish family.

Upcoming Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, January 23, 2023, at 7:00 pm. 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.

Pierogi Updates

We are currently on our Holiday Break. We will resume regular weekly pickup orders on January 25th. We also have frozen 4 packs of Halupki for sale for \$15. Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Divine Liturgy

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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 4 Troparion *(New Martyrs)*

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

Tone 7 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Tone 3 Kontakion *(New Martyrs)* *(Today the Virgin)*

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God unto the ages of ages. Amen."

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (*Ps. 28:11*)

*Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (*Ps. 28:1a*)*

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (*New Martyrs*)

God is our refuge and strength, a help in afflictions that severely befall us. (*Ps. 45:1*)

Epistle

Read by David Metz

(1 Timothy 1:15-17) This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

(Romans 8:28-39 (*New Martyrs*)) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than

conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Tone 7

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High.
(Ps. 91:1)*

To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. (Ps. 91:2a)

Tone 4

The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps. 33:17)

Gospel

(Luke 18:35-43) Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

(Luke 21:8-19 (New Martyrs)) And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately." Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in

various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls.

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, January 22, 2023

Crosses

Happy Birthday Greg Brusko

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of William Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

Happy Birthday Pat Grammes, Offered by Tom Grammes

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Pat Grammes, Offered by Tom Grammes

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

Safe Travels Mom and Mark, Offered by Amber & Michael Metz

Vigils of St. Gregory (1)

Happy Birthday Greg Brusko

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)

Happy Birthday Pat Shea, Offered by Shirley & Mike Isbansky



The Lehigh Valley
Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood

INVITES YOU TO

*The Blessing of
the Jordan Creek*

1169 N 6TH STREET | FULLERTON, PA 18102

Sunday, January 22nd

3:00 pm

Sanctity of Life Sunday 2023

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Sunday, January 22, 2023

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

From the earliest times, Christians have been at variance with the world because of their reverence toward sexuality, marriage, and human life at all its stages. In the post-apostolic Epistle to Diognetus, very possibly from the pen of St. Polycarp, the disciple of St. John the Theologian, we read that Christians 'marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh' (ch. 5).

Rather than viewing pleasure and fleeting happiness as the supreme good, Christians know that virtue, a rightly-ordered relationship with God and the world which he created, is what leads up toward true goodness, which is God himself. Another word for this right relationship with the Creator is life.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and incarnate Word came to tear down the dividing wall of hostility between God and man and restore us to our friendship with the Divinity, which friendship had eroded because of sin (Eph. 2:14). Thus he is revealed to be the Life and Light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 11:25, 14:6), the one in whom and through whom we enter into a rightly-ordered relationship with existence and the Source of existence, and who shows us what that relationship—virtue—is, and where it leads—eternal life, eternal relationship with the Lord and his saints.

Life, for Christians, means far more than biological life. And yet this deeper and broader conception of life should only increase our reverence for biological life. For, in Christ, we understand that every human being is created in the image of God, and that every human life is a free gift of the Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift (Gen. 1:27, Jam. 1:17).

Thus, we understand that there is no opposition between reverence for life and true human flourishing. Or, to cast the matter more bluntly, we can never accept abortion and infanticide as a solution for other human ills. Rather, we must see the sins of abortion and infanticide as manifestations of the same evils that underlie other social injustices.

This year, Sanctity of Life Sunday has taken on a new meaning. The Supreme Court has undone, as far as lies in its power, the injustice wrought by its decision in the case of *Roe v. Wade*. But this means that our work in defense and promotion of life is only just beginning.

We know that, as soon as Christians gained a voice in the Roman Empire, that used that voice to speak against the enormities that the Empire committed against human dignity: slavery, gladiator and beast fights, and, yes, abortion and infanticide. As long as we Orthodox Christians have some voice in this pluralistic, democratic society, it is right that we use this voice to defend the weakest among us, including especially the unborn children who still lie under threat of legalized abortion in many jurisdictions.

But we must never, ever allow ourselves to become focused solely on political, and much less partisan and ideological, pursuits. Instead, the defense and promotion of life must start and end with our personal commitment: in our hearts, in our families, in our parishes, in our communities, with alms of time and treasure and talent and effort. With whatever resources God may give us, we must promote true human flourishing, starting with the right to life for all people, at all stages of life. And we must do what we can to orient our life toward God through virtuous living, encouraging the same in our brethren and neighbors wherever and however it is possible. In so doing, we might hope to attain to the everlasting life and bountifulness of the heavenly kingdom, where Christ the Lord reigns with his Father and his All-holy and life-giving Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

+TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Annual Parish Meeting Notice

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2023. The meeting will be held in the church hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A light luncheon will be served. All are encouraged to read the agenda and reports thoroughly and prepare their questions to ensure an expedited parish meeting. Please note that there will be no means of virtual participation in the meeting.

According to the bylaws of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the required quorum for a parish meeting is the attendance of at least 25% of voting members in good standing. A quorum must be maintained throughout the meeting. If a quorum is not present, the meeting shall then be rescheduled by the Parish Council in consultation with the Rector, at which time the members present will constitute a quorum.

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 Parish Meeting Reports Available

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2023. Please be advised that printed copies of the agenda and reports will be available at the candle desk beginning on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Please stop by to pick up a copy at your convenience. If you would like a copy emailed to you or mailed to you, please contact the Administrative Assistant at Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com. Please note that due to postal delays, we cannot guarantee that mailed copies will arrive prior to the meeting.

Annual Church Office Elections

What you need to know to vote in the Annual Parish Meeting being held on February 19, 2023 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 Fr. Nikolai or 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

Parish Council Positions

Two (2) three year terms

Cemetery Committee Chair

One (1) one year term

Diocesan Assembly Positions

Diocesan Assembly Delegate
Diocesan Assembly Alternate

Diocesan Assembly

On Thursday, January 26th, and Friday, January 27th, our parish will be hosting the Annual Diocesan Assembly for the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania. We have been host to this event multiple times over the years, and every time, we've been known to be excellent hosts. Let's have this year be no exception. We need people on hand to help serve food and drinks for the meals on Thursday evening and Friday morning, as well as to help with setup and cleanup leading up to and after the event. If you are able to assist, please let Fr. Nikolai or Jen Bzik know!

A Note of Thanks

Dear St. Nicholas Family,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, students, and administration of Chrysostom Academy, THANK YOU for your great generosity during the coffee hour on December 4th. In total, more than \$860.00 was raised for our Academy! I am at once humbled and honored to have your support.

Please know that our students pray daily for you and your intentions. If you are ever in the area, please stop in to see us. We would love to show you around.

In Christ,

John W. Heitzenrater II, Headmaster

and The Faculty, Staff, Students, and Board of St. John Chrysostom Academy

A Note of Thanks

The Sunday school wishes to express a big "Thank You" to our parish brothers and sisters in Christ for the generous donations offered for our almsgiving project during our St. Nicholas Day Yolka Coffee Hour. We collected \$900 in total for the benefit of St. John Chrysostom Academy. Thank you again, and God Bless you.

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, Dorothy Stafiniak, Joan Stetz, Mary Strohecker, Ola Tatusko, Irene Witanek

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

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