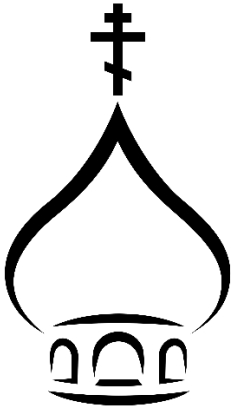


Divine Liturgy

March 5, 2023

First Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday of Orthodoxy



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

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 March 5, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 5. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Martyr Conon of Isauria (1st c.). Finding of the Relics of Rt. Blv. Theodore, Prince of Smolensk and Yaroslavl', and his children Ss. David and Constantine, Wonderworkers of Yaroslavl' (1463). Monastic Martyr Adrian of Poshekhónsk (Yaroslavl'–1550). Martyr Onesimus of Isauria (1st c.). Martyr Conon the Gardener, of Pamphylia (3rd c.). Virgin Martyr Irais (Raïssa) of Antinoë in Egypt (ca. 308). Martyr Eulogius, of Palestine. Martyr Eulampius, of Palestine. St. Mark the Faster, of Egypt (5th c.). St. Hesychius the Faster, of Bithynia (ca. 790).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, March 6th - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, March 8th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, March 10th - 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

Today's coffee hour is hosted by The Heitzenrater Family
To benefit the Chrysostom Academy Conservatory

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Wednesday, March 8

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 10

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - St. Nicholas

Saturday, March 11

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 12

St. Gregory Palamas

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 15

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 17

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

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

Saturday, March 18

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 19

Sunday of the Cross

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 22

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 24

Eve of Annunciation

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

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

7:00 pm - Vigil for Annunciation

Saturday, March 25

Annunciation

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Festal Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 26

St. John Climacus

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 27

7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 29

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 30

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

Friday, March 31

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - Theotokos

Saturday, April 1

Akathist Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm - General Panikhida

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 2

St. Mary of Egypt

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 5

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, April 7

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

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

7:00 pm - Compline (Lazarus)

Saturday, April 8

Lazarus Saturday

8:00 am - Baptism of Andrew Goth

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 9

Palm Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 10

Holy Monday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 11

Holy Tuesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 12

Holy Wednesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Holy Unction

Thursday, April 13

Holy Thursday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

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

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

Friday, April 14

Holy Friday

9:00 am - Royal Hours

4:00 pm - Burial Vespers

7:00 pm - Matins Lamentations

All Night Watch

Saturday, April 15

Holy Saturday

9:00 am - Vespers 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 16

Monday, April 17

Bright Monday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Saturday, April 22

Sunday, April 23

St. Thomas Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

2:00 pm - Blessing of the Graves - Union Cemetery

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Saturday, April 29

Sunday, April 30

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

2:00 pm - Blessing of the Graves - Catasauqua

Divine Liturgy

March 5, 2023

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 John Heitzenrater

(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!

Candle Offerings for Sunday, March 5, 2023

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Rosemarie Tokar, Offered by Karen Tokar

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Memory Of Mark Tokar, Offered by Karen Tokar

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Reade Roberts

Offered by Gordon, Val, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren

Votives in Iconostas

In Honor Of Rosalie, Offered by Greg

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

In Memory Of John Tokar, Offered by Karen Tokar

Crosses

In Honor Of Rosalie & Scott's Birthdays

Offered by Greg, Jen, Ethan & Owen

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of Luceille Lezinsky, Offered by The Lezinsky Family

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

Happy Birthday Lydia Bzik

Offered by Godparents Moses & Carmen Hodson, Alex & Chris

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Ophelia, Offered by Godparents Amber & Michael Metz

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

Happy Birthday Kimberly Metz, Offered by Amber & Michael Metz

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

In Memory Of JoAnn Konsevitch, Offered by Gordon & Valerie Roberts

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of JoAnn Konsevitch

Offered by Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

In Honor Of Scott Radio's Birthday

Offered by Jen, Ethan, Owen, Kody, Austin & Devon

Vigils of St. Gregory (1)

In Honor Of Scott Radio's Birthday, Offered by Mom & Dad

Vigils of St. Paul (1)

In Honor of Rosalie, Offered by Keri, Jason, Talia & Jones

Altar Candles for Great Lent

In Memory Of Michael & Mary Stetz, Offered by Pat & Joan

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!



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

March 1, 2023

Great Lent 2023

Dear Rev Frs. And faithful,

Christ is in our midst! Great Lent is here and the Lord gives us wonderful opportunities to redirect our lives and hearts to Him. Hopefully, we will take full advantage of this time to renew our relationship with the Lord through repentance, confession, increased prayer, reading of the Holy Scripture, fasting and almsgiving. As Fr. Alexander Schmemmann comments in his book on *Great Lent*, 'let us abstain from frivolous conversation and various forms of entertainment.' The fast is not simply from certain foods, but from feeding the passions. Remember the hymnography of Lent, the demons do not eat either. Minimize time spent on the internet or watching television. Let us seek to be at peace with one another, forgiving and offering forgiveness. Read through Genesis, Isaiah, Psalms and Proverbs during this Holy season.

Let make use of this time to rid our lives of the distractions that clutter our minds. As we ponder the prayer of St Ephraim the Syrian, let us abstain from the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power and idle talk and open our hearts to chastity, humility, patience and love. May the Lord help us to see our own sins and not to judge our brother.

Sadly, some of our faithful never embraced the Lenten school of repentance and its discipline. We will try everything the world offers to seek mental and physical health, but never embrace the tried and proven gift of Great Lent. If you never engaged the Lenten prescription above, try it this year. By the time we reach Holy Week things we once considered unchangeable in our lives suddenly begin to be addressed or resolved through the lengthy and determined effort. Many talk about what they are "giving up" for Lent, and do not consider what they have the opportunity to get rid of, i.e., a lot of bad habits that ultimately separate us from communion with the Lord. As we embrace the discipline of the Church we are giving up nothing, but gain eternal life. Doing things our own way is what landed us in this mess, let us seek to embrace the discipline of the Church so that might experience the authentic freedom and joy Christ gracious bestows on those beloved of Him.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese of the Orthodox Church in America



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Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linnahan * treasurer@doepa.org

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine



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RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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2023 LENTEN FISH DINNERS



Menu

Baked or Fried Haddock
Oven Roasted Potatoes
Vegetable Roll
Beverage
Choice of Home Baked Desserts

Basket Raffle

Drawing on Friday
April 7 at 6:00pm

You don't need to be
present to win.

Vendors

Treasures of Russia
boutique for authentic gift
items imported from Russia

Mom's Candy Kitchen for deli
cious sweets!

Frozen potato/cheese pierogies & paska breads for sale.

Parish Fund Raiser Meeting TODAY

On Sunday, March 5, 2023 after the Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour, we will be hosting an open meeting to discuss Fund Raiser ideas for St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church. If you would like to participate in this discussion, please plan to stay after the Coffee Hour.

Fund Raiser for New HVAC System

On Wednesday, March 15, all the money collected from the sale of pierogi will be put towards a grant from ROCMAS. They will match up to \$500.00. For example, if we collect \$600 from pierogi sales (and we should), ROCMAS will match \$500.00 and the new HVAC system gets \$1,100. Please order pierogi for Wednesday, March 15 so we can take advantage of this generous offer from ROCMAS. Questions, please see Sandi Keysock.

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.



Basket Raffle Donations Wanted

We will once again be hosting a Basket Raffle this year during our Lenten Fish Dinners, and we are looking for volunteers to donate baskets. We have a track record of offering beautiful baskets and we are hoping to uphold tradition. If you are able to make a basket, please contact Jennifer Bzik to let her know in advance. 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 12, 2023) 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 19, 2023. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Jennifer Bzik. Thank you so much for your support!

Lenten Pierogi

Lenten Pierogi will be made Wednesday March 8. To order sign your name with the number of dozen you want on the sheet in the kitchen by the telephone. Please order by Sunday, March 5 or sooner.

Upcoming Coffee Hour

On March 26th, Guliana Holobeny will be hosting a coffee hour 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.

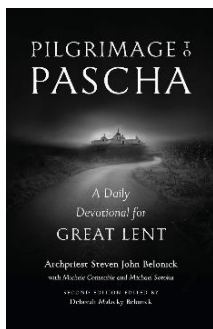
All Grocery Gift Cards Available

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.

We have cards available from all participating stores: Redner's, 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.)

Pilgrimage to Pascha Books Available



Copies of Pilgrimage to Pascha: A Daily Devotional for Great Lent by Archpriest Steven John Belonick with Michele Constable and Michael Soroka have sold out at the candle desk, but we can place another order if there are other people who are interested in purchasing them. If you would like a copy, please leave your name at the candle desk so that we can order the appropriate number of additional copies. They are \$15 each. All proceeds go to St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church.

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, 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, Michael 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, and their unborn children, Lisa Metz, Molly Polacco, Alyssa Weaver and their newborn children.

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