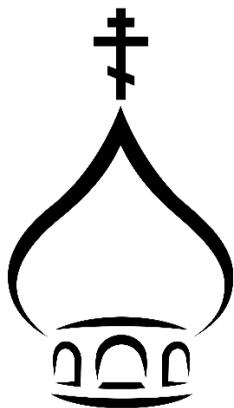


# **Divine Liturgy**

March 25, 2023

**The Annunciation of our  
Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**



**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

# Divine Liturgy

March 25, 2023

## The Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

### **Tone 4**      **Troparion**

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!"

### **Tone 8**      **Kontakion**

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! We, thy servants delivered from evil sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos. As thou dost possess invincible might set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: "Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!"

### **Tone 4**      **Prokeimenon**(*Annunciation*)

From day to day proclaim the salvation of our God! (*Ps. 95:2a*)

*Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! (Ps. 95:1)*

### **Epistle**

Read by Patricia Grammes

**(Hebrews 2:11-18 (Annunciation))** For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

## **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the earth. (Ps. 71:6)  
May His Name be blessed forever; may His Name continue as long as the sun! (Ps. 71:17)*

## **Gospel**

**(Luke 1:24-38 (Annunciation))** Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people." Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)

## **The Hymn to the Theotokos**

O earth, announce good tidings of great joy: O heavens, praise the glory of God!

Since she is a living Ark of God let no profane hand touch the Theotokos. But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, praising her in joy with the angel's song: "Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!"

## **Communion Hymn**

The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. (Ps. 131:14)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!