

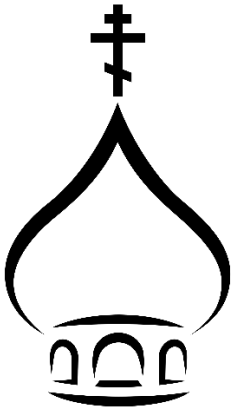
Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 7, 2023

4th Sunday of Pascha

Paralytic

**Repose of St. Alexis Toth, Confessor and Defender of
Orthodoxy in America**



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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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.***

980 Bridle Path Road | Bethlehem, PA 18017-3120 | T: 610-867-0402
stnicholasoca.org

Schedule for the Week of May 7, 2023

4th SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 3. Repose of St. Alexis Toth, Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America (1909). Paralytic. Commemoration of the Appearance of the Sign of the Precious Cross over Jerusalem in 351 AD. Martyr Acacius the Centurion at Byzantium (303). Repose of Ven. Nilus, Abbot of Sora (1508). St. John of Zaden in Georgia, and 12 disciples: Ss. Shio, David, Anthony, Thaddæus, Stephen, Isidore, Michael, Pyrrhus, Zeno, Jesse, Joseph, and Abibus (6th c.). Ven. Nilus the Myrrhusher of Lavra (Mt. Athos–1651). Monastic Martyr Pachomius (Mt. Athos–1730). The “ZHIROVITSKAYA” Icon of the Mother of God (1470).

Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Fr. Nikolai will be away on vacation/pilgrimage from Monday, May 8th through Thursday, May 18th. He will not have office hours during this time.

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour today is hosted by The Mikhalik Family

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Saturday, May 13

Sunday, May 14

4:00 pm - Great Vespers (**Note Early Start!**)

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, May 20

Sunday, May 21

5:00 pm - Great Vespers (**Back to Normal Start**)

Sunday of the Blind Man

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Thursday, May 25

Saturday, May 27

Sunday, May 28

9:00 am - Ascension Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 7, 2023

4th Sunday of Pascha

Paralytic

**Rest of St. Alexis Toth, Confessor and Defender of
Orthodoxy in America**

Priest: "Blessed is the Kingdom..."

Choir: "Amen."

Priest: "Christ is risen... " (2 ½ times)

Choir: "and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!"

(The Divine Liturgy is begun in this manner until the Leavetaking of Pascha.)

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Tone 4 Troparion (St. Alexis)

O righteous Father Alexis, our heavenly intercessor and teacher, divine adornment of the Church of Christ, entreat the Master of All to strengthen the Orthodox Faith in America, to grant peace to the world and to our souls great mercy!

Tone 5 Kontakion (St. Alexis)

Let us, the faithful, praise the Priest Alexis, a bright beacon of Orthodoxy in America, a model of patience and humility, a worthy shepherd of the flock of Christ! He called back sheep who had been led astray and brought them by his preaching to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Tone 3 Kontakion (*Pentecostarion*)

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord, as Thou didst raise up the Paralytic of old, so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; so that being saved I may sing to Thee: "Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!"

Note: The Kontakion of Pascha is not sung on this day.

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (*Pentecostarion*)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee! (*Ps. 32:22*)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (*St. Alexis*)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him. (*Ps. 63:11a*)

Epistle

Read by Reader Michael Metz

(Acts 9:32-42) Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter

put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

(Galatians 1:11-19 (St. Alexis)) But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Tone 5

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. (Ps. 88:1-2)

For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. (Ps. 88:3)

Tone 6

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. (Ps. 111:1)

Gospel

(John 5:1-15) After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

(John 10:1-9 (St. Alexis)) Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me

are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

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

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: "Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice, thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead." Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on thee. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of thy Son!

Communion Hymn

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! (*Ps. 111:6*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Priest: "In the fear of God..."

Choir: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord..."

Priest: "O God, save Thy people..."

Choir: "Christ is risen from the dead..." (sung once, instead of "We have seen the True Light...")

Priest: "Always, now and ever..."

Choir: "Let our mouths be filled..."

At the Dismissal, the Priest says: "Glory to Thee, O Christ..." and the choir sings "Christ is risen from the dead..." (thrice).

And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!

Candle Offerings

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Honor Of Judy Lezinsky on her Birthday, Offered by her Husband

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Honor Of Judy Lezinsky on her Birthday, Offered by her Husband

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Honor Of Judy Lezinsky on her Birthday, Offered by her Husband

Votives in Altar

Happy Birthday Emily, Offered by Guliana Holobeny

Votives in Iconostas

In Honor Of Fr. Christopher Shadid, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan Kon

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

Happy Birthday Baba!!

Offered by Sophia, Jacob, Sasha, Elena, Brooke, Victoria, Nicholas

Crosses

In Memory Of William Redline, Offered by Gordon & Valerie Roberts

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

Happy Anniversary Scott & Jen Radio, Offered by Mom & Dad

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

Happy Anniversary Scott & Jen Radio

Offered by Ethan, Owen, Kody, Austin & Devon

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Riley Slivka, Offered by Francine & Michael Slivka

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Anna Wallitsch, Offered by Greg & Rosalie Radio

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

For Health Of Gregory Monarek on his Birthday, Offered by Barb & Kyra

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

For Health Of Gregory Monarek on his Birthday, Offered by Barb & Kyra

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

In Honor Of Leah Roberts' Baptism, Offered by Baba & Papa

Vigils of St. Gregory (1)

In Honor Of Leah Roberts' Baptism

Offered by Godparents, Matthew & Jessica Roberts, and Evie & Hannah

Vigils of St. Paul (1)

In Honor Of Leah Roberts' Baptism, Offered by Mommy, Daddy and Lili

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)

In Honor Of Leah Roberts' Baptism

Offered by Uncle Alex, Aunt Megan and Emily

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

In Memory Of Mary Stetz, Offered by Pat & Joan

Vigil of St. Andrew (1)

In Memory Of Mary Stetz, Offered by Pat & Joan

*Akathist to the Mother of God
Nurturer of Children*



**ALL ORTHODOX MOTHERS
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED**

*The First Thursday
of Every Month*

**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH (OCA)
980 BRIDLE PATH RD. | BETHLEHEM, PA 18017**

Akathist - 8:45 am

Beginning Thursday, May 4th

**Tickets go on sale May 2nd
DON'T MISS IT!**

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

YOUTH EDITION

May 19, 2023
Friday, 6:30pm

May 20, 2023
Saturday, 11:00am

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Hope Rescue Mission needs your HELP!



St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church is collecting coats, hats, boots, belts, men's clothing for the men at Hope Rescue Mission and for the women's and children's shelter (Lighthouse). We will take all seasons of clothing for men, women, and children. We have a need for new men's underwear, undershirts, and sweatpants all in sizes medium to xxxl.

You can drop items off in the designated containers in the Chernay Fellowship Hall. Please make all donations by **Sunday, June 4, 2023.**

This clothing helps provide food, clothing, and shelter for the men at Hope Rescue and the women and children at Lighthouse.

Thank you in advance for your donations!

Help Wanted - Fundraising Committee

The St. Nicholas Parish Council is seeking volunteers to form a Fundraising Committee to help guide and coordinate our fundraising efforts. If you are interested in participating, please sign up at the Candle Desk or contact Fr. Nikolai or Jennifer Bzik.

A Note Of Thanks

Special thanks to Tricia Metz for directing the choir this week!

Choir Directory Nick Lezinsky

A Note Of Thanks

Greetings, fellow parishioners,

Christ Is Risen!

Thank you for your sponsorship this weekend for the Walk for Life support of the Lehigh Valley BrightHope Pregnancy Support Centers (Allentown and Easton), and their new Medical Mobile Unit which will bring life-affirming services to those most vulnerable. All of BrightHope's services are donor funding, so, thanks be to God, our parish's donations helped us meet their \$50,000 goal!

With deep appreciation for your generous participation,

Fr. Michael and Mat. Susan Kon

Special Parish Meeting Notice - May 21, 2023

A Special Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The meeting will be held in the church hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The meeting will be for the purpose of presenting the Parish Council's recommended Proposal for the Church HVAC replacement project. The recommended proposal will be available for review by the parish at large in the very near future. Paper copies of any of the non-recommended bids we received will be available only upon request so as to save printing resources.

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.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

There are several open coffee hour days in the upcoming months. Please consider signing up if you haven't hosted in the past! There are copies of the guidelines for hosting coffee hour available in the signup book at the candle desk if you are not familiar with what to do. Contact Jennifer Bzik if you need help or have questions. Thank you!

A Note Of Thanks

Thank you to all who supported the recent Pierogi fundraiser to benefit the HVAC system. Pierogi workers donated a check for \$1,274 and NSS gave a check for \$500, for a total of \$1,774 donated towards the HVAC project.

A Note of Thanks

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Fundraiser Kielbasi Platter from Kowalonek's. I heard many positive comments about them, and have to agree, they were delicious! 44 platters were sold with \$6.50 on each going back to the church. So a total of \$286 will be given to the church. Blessings to all.

Val Roberts

A Note Of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Lenten Soup Sale! We made \$2,000. What a great success! Thank you to everyone who bought soup, made soup, and helped in any way to make this soup sale a huge success.

So grateful,
Judy & Lori

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.)

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 Melchisedek 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, Julia Romanchak

Servants: Bethany Bruder, Mary Brzuchalski, Helen Cotirgasanu, David G. Cudlic, Val Danchenko, Christopher Felix, Patricia Felix, Olga Frimenko, Patricia G. Fu, 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, Patricia Telepchak, Irene Witaneck

Handmaidens of God: Lydia Hashinger, Julianna Kahl, Amanda Riley, and their unborn children, Kaylee Riley and Alyssa Weaver and their newborn children.

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