

# **Divine Liturgy**

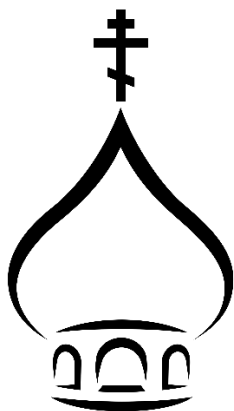
Sunday, September 17, 2023

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Martyr Sophia, and her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love**



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**



# SAINT NICHOLAS

## RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reverend Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector  
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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Patricia Stetz Grammes, Parish Council President

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

Karen Gowarty, Church School Administrator  
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Jennifer Bzik, Administrative Assistant  
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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 September 17, 2023

**15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday after Elevation.** Martyr Sophia, and her three daughters: Faith (Vera), Hope (Nadézhda), and Love (Liubóv', Charity), at Rome (ca. 137). Martyrs Theodota at Nicæa (ca. 230). Martyr Agathocleia (ca. 230). 156 Martyrs of Palestine, including Bishops Peleus and Nilus, the Presbyter Zeno, the Noblemen Patermuthius and Elias, and others (ca. 310).

## Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> - Fr. Nikolai's day off  
Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

## Coffee Hour Benefiting The Shipley Family

TODAY! Sunday September 17th, Guliana Holobeny, Carmen Hudson and Matushka Mila will be hosting Coffee Hour for the sake of the Shipley Family. We ask everyone to be generous to help the Shipley's struggles at this time. May Mat. Priscilla's Memory Be Eternal!

Any cards and well-wishes, can be sent to: V. Rev. Ian Shipley  
66 Cottage Ave.  
Chico, CA 95926

Keep Matushka Priscilla in your prayers, as well as  
Fr. Ian, Jessica, Evan, Lydia, and Adriana.

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

**Thursday, September 21**

6:00 pm - Essentials of the Orthodox Faith #2

**Saturday, September 23**

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, September 24**

**Thursday, September 28**

**Saturday, September 30**

**Sunday, October 1**

**Thursday, October 5**

**Saturday, October 7**

**Sunday, October 8**

**Thursday, October 12**

**Saturday, October 14**

**Sunday, October 15**

**Saturday, October 21**

**Sunday, October 22**

**Thursday, October 26**

**Saturday, October 28**

**Sunday, October 29**

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost /**

**Sts. Juvenaly & Peter the Aleut**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

6:00 pm - Essentials of the Orthodox Faith #3

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Pokrov**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

9:00 am - Akathist to the Mother of God,  
Nurturer of Children

6:00 pm - Essentials of the Orthodox Faith #4

4:30 pm - General Panikhida

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

6:00 pm - Essentials of the Orthodox Faith #5

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

6:00 pm - Essentials of the Orthodox Faith #6

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 17, 2023

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Martyr Sophia, and her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love**

**Tone 6      Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

**Tone 1      Troparion**      *(Cross)*

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation!

**Tone 5      Troparion**      *(Martyrs)*

Thou didst blossom in the courts of the Lord as a fruitful olive tree, O holy martyr Sophia; in thy contest thou didst offer to Christ the sweet fruit of thy womb, thy daughters Faith, Hope, and Love. Together with them intercede for us all!

**Tone 6      Kontakion**      *(Resurrection)*

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

**Tone 1      Kontakion**      *(Martyrs)*

The holy branches of noble Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love, confounded Greek sophistry through Grace. They struggled and won the victory and have been granted an incorruptible crown by Christ the Master of all.

**Tone 4      Kontakion      (Cross)**

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon      (Sunday After)**

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy! (Ps. 98:5)

*The Lord reigns, let the people tremble! (Ps. 98:1a)*

**Epistle**

Read by David Metz

**(Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday After))** knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**(2 Corinthians 4:6-15)** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always

carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

### **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old! (Ps. 73:2)*

*God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth! (Ps. 73:13)*

### **Gospel**

**(Mark 8:34-9:1 (Sunday After))** When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

**(Matthew 22:35-46)** Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

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

## **Tone 8**

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord!

Thou art a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos, who, though untitled, hast brought forth Christ; through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth.

Now at its Exaltation,  
as we bow in worship before it, we magnify thee.

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*  
The light of Thy countenance has been signed upon us, O Lord. *(Ps. 4:7)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



# **Candle Offerings**

## **Sunday, September 17, 2023**

### **Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by B. Stefanov & M. Peytcheva

### **Votives in Altar**

For Health Of Ann Marie & Barry Bretz on their Anniversary  
Offered by Stephanie Pasquel

### **Votives in Iconostas**

In Honor Of Amber Metz on her Saint's Day, Offered by Michael Metz

### **Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)**

Safe Travels Gordon & Valerie Roberts, John & Ruth Fink

### **Crosses**

In Memory Of Paul Hutz, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry Bretz

### **Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by B. Stefanov & M. Peytcheva

### **Vigils on Icon Table (2)**

Happy Birthday Joe Mascari III, Offered by Margie & Joe Kavchok

### **Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)**

In Honor Of (Mom) Donna & Mark Neely on their Wedding Anniversary  
Offered by Amber & Michael Metz

### **Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary**

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

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

Safe Travels Gordon & Valerie Roberts, John & Ruth Fink

### **Vigil of St. Michael (1)**

For Health Of Patricia Owens & Family, Offered by Patricia Owens



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

September 6, 2023  
Hieromartyr Priest Maxim Sandovich

## October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! October is clergy appreciation month and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, October 08 is nationally recognized as Pastor Appreciation Day. Our clergy are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Clergy often have family events interrupted, including vacation time to minister to one of their flock.

Sadly, clergy are more likely to hear when someone is unhappy, but like the Ten Lepers in the Gospel, those who are pleased with their pastor often say nothing. The rate of clergy burnout is astounding (<https://www.pastoralcareinc.com/statistics/>), with around 1500 clergy a month leaving active ministry. There is a disturbing article in 'Leaders & Pastors' reporting that as of November 2021 38% of pastors gave serious consideration to resigning. In January of 2021 it was 29%. In a few short months the percentage increased significantly (<https://www.barna.com/research/pastors-well-being/>).

Unfortunately, some people believe the role of the clergy is to make them happy! Yet, the role of the priest is not to make people happy, it is to make them Holy! When I went to my second parish the council chairman greeted me and said, Fr. Mark your only role here is to make people happy. Without skipping a beat, I responded, "Our Lord, took on our Humanity, opened the eyes of the blind, the ears of the deaf, healed the withered hand, cleansed the lepers, raised up the lame and raised the dead, and they nailed Him to a tree! Why would I expect to be treated differently?" As far as pleasing the faithful, there are always a few who will never be happy with any priest. Anyone in a leadership position who talks behind their spiritual leader's priest back should resign immediately for the good of the parish and his or her own salvation. A house divided cannot stand.

Our clergy are entrusted with a stewardship by the Lord for which they will answer. Let us pray that our clergy will always rise above seeking the praise of men, and seek to be faithful to their high calling through faithful service, preaching and teaching and seek to be pleasing to the Lord in all things.

For Clergy Appreciation Month, I would ask our Parish Councils to request the faithful of their parish to consider showing their appreciation to their priest and his family in a few ways:

1. Attend the services regularly and all classes intended to enrich our faith.
2. Send a card and state five things you sincerely appreciate about your priest, as well as his matushka and family.
3. Consider either jointly or personally giving gift card(s) for the clergy's favorite coffee shop or restaurant.
4. Consider some form of recognition for clergy wives and families for their sacrifices as well.

Finally, telling your pastor and his family you appreciate them should not just be limited to the month of October. Years ago, I remember hearing from a priest, *'for every negative comment, we need to offer a hundred 'atta boys.'* Let us always seek to build one another up.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania



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Chancellor: V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne \* Mobile: 570.906.1388  
Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linnehan \* [treasurer@doepa.org](mailto:treasurer@doepa.org)

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

# Christmas Bazaar Baking & Pierogi Making Schedule for August through October 2023

**PLEASE NOTE: THE START TIME FOR PIEROGI PREP ON MONDAYS HAS  
CHANGED TO 7:30 AM GOING FORWARD!**

Monday, September 18 - pierogi prep 7:30 AM

Tuesday, September 19 - pierogi prep 6:30 AM

Wednesday, September 20 - pierogi making 6:30-11:00 AM

Thursday, September 21 - baking rolls 9:00AM-3:00 PM; packing rolls 5:00 PM

Saturday, September 23 - kiffle prep 8:30 AM-Noon

Monday, September 25 - pierogi prep 7:30 AM

Tuesday, September 26 - pierogi prep 6:30 AM

Wednesday, September 27 - pierogi making 6:30-11:00 AM & kiffle baking  
11:00 AM-3:00PM; packing kiffles at 5:00 PM

Thursday, September 28 - baking rolls 9:00 AM-3:00PM; packing rolls 5:00 PM

Monday, October 2 - pierogi prep 7:30 AM

Tuesday, October 3 - pierogi prep 6:30 AM

Wednesday, October 4 - pierogi making 6:30 - 11:00 AM

Thursday, October 5 - baking rolls 9:00 AM-3:00 PM; packing at 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 7 - kiffle prep 8:30-Noon

Monday, October 9 - pierogi prep 7:30 AM

Tuesday, October 10 - pierogi prep 6:30 AM

Wednesday, October 11 - pierogi making 6:30-11:00 AM & kiffle baking 11:00  
AM-3:00PM; packing kiffles at 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 14 - kiffle prep 8:30-Noon

Monday, October 16 - pierogi prep 7:30 AM

Tuesday, October 17 - pierogi prep 6:30 AM

Wednesday, October 18 - pierogi making 6:30-11:00 AM & kiffle baking 11:00  
AM-3:00 PM; packing kiffles at 5:00 PM

Friday, October 20 - kiffle prep 8:30-Noon

Monday, October 23 - pierogi prep 7:30 AM

Tuesday, October 24 - pierogi prep 6:30 AM

Wednesday, October 25 - pierogi making 6:30-11:00 AM & kiffle baking 11:00  
AM-3:00 PM; packing kiffles at 5:00 PM

# Help Wanted!

Roll baking - Help will be needed packing rolls at 5:00 pm on the following days:  
Thursday, September 21, 2023  
Thursday, September 28, 2023  
Please contact Maxine Marsh if you can help.

## A Note Of Thanks

To: Fr. Nikolai and my Church family and friends -

I would like to give you my heartfelt thank you for your get well wishes, prayers and thoughtful acts during my recent illness. It all meant so much to me. May our wonderous Lord bless you all. I appreciate all of you.

Sincerely,  
Terry Butler

## Hope Rescue Mission needs your HELP!



St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church is collecting all types of gently used clothing including 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, November 12, 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!**

# ESSENTIALS OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH

## FALL SESSIONS - 1 THROUGH 8

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

6:00 PM - SESSION #1  
CREATION AND THE FALL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

6:00 PM - SESSION #2  
THE KINGDOM OF GOD  
AND THE WORLD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

6:00 PM - SESSION #3  
GOD, JESUS, AND THE  
CHRISTIAN LIFE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

6:00 PM - SESSION #4  
WORSHIP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

6:00 PM - SESSION #5  
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS IN  
THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

6:00 PM - SESSION #6  
THE HOLY TRINITY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

6:00 PM - SESSION #7  
THE SCRIPTURES IN THE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

6:00 PM - SESSION #8  
MEETING CHRIST,  
UNDERSTANDING, AND  
BEING TRANSFORMED

**COMING THURSDAYS, STARTING  
SEPTEMBER 14TH - AT 6:00 PM**

**ST. NICHOLAS RUSSIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH (OCA)**

980 BRIDLE PATH ROAD | BETHLEHEM, PA 18017

As many are already aware, beginning on Thursday, September 14th, at 6:00 pm, we will begin the first 8 sessions of what I anticipate will be a yearly set of Adult education/Catechism classes based on the OCA's newly-released text, "Essential Orthodox Christian Beliefs" Due to the nature of this material being for the building up of our knowledge at St. Nicholas specifically, I do not plan to stream these sessions, but they may possibly be recorded for the sake of St. Nicholas Parishioners who cannot attend in person. The book we will be using can be found at [stnicholasoca.org/essentials](http://stnicholasoca.org/essentials), and each week will focus on a single chapter of the text. We will have hard copies available if anyone needs one. There is no need to RSVP, but it would be good to know how many might be interested in attending, in order to know what room in the complex would best serve our purposes. The second series of 8 sessions will take place beginning in mid-February.



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\*25% and 10% off certain items. Excludes our New! on the 'Friends Helping Friends' shopping pass. If you do not have a shopping pass, you will be able to purchase one on the day of the event from a participating non-profit organization.

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If you are interested in purchasing a shopping pass for \$5.00, please contact Jennifer Bzik. Passes will also be available for sale at the candle desk, during weekly Pierogi sales, and at the Texas Barbecue on September 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to get an early start on your holiday shopping. All proceeds go directly to St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church. Thank you for your support!

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

**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, Walter Grigoruk, Rachel Hardesty, Nicholas Hazzard, Don Holobeney, Jonathan Hontz, Sherry Hromiak, Krista Irwin 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, Joseph Pinkowicz, 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, Maeve Stuckey, Ola Tatusko, Patricia Telepchak, Irene Witaneck

**Handmaidens of God:** Julianna Kahl, Tosha Roberts and their unborn children, Lydia Hashinger, Amanda Riley, Kaylee Riley, and their newborn children.

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