

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, October, 2023

17th Sunday after Pentecost (2nd of Luke)

**The Protection of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
[Ven. Romanus the Melodist]**



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Patricia Stetz Grammes, Parish Council President

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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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Schedule for the Week of October 4, 2023

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. The Protection (Pokrov) of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary . Apostle of the Seventy Ananias (1st c.). Ven. Romanus the Melodist (“Sweet-singer”–5th c.). Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Vishera (Novgorod–1461). Martyr Dominus of Thessalonica (4th c.). Martyr Michael, Abbot in Armenia, and 36 Fathers with him (780-790). Ven. John (Koukouzelis) the Hymnographer of Mt. Athos (Albanian–12th c.). Ven. Gregory of Lavra (Mt. Athos–12th c.). “Pskov-Protection” Icon of the Mother of God.

Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Monday, October 2nd - Fr. Nikolai’s day off
Wednesday, October 4th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, October 6th - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

At the time of printing there was no one signed up to host coffee hour.

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Thursday, October 5

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

Saturday, October 7

6:00 pm - Essentials of the Orthodox Faith #4
4:30 pm - Monthly General Panikhida
5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, October 8

Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Thursday, October 12

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

Saturday, October 14

Sunday, October 15

Saturday, October 21

Sunday, October 22

Monday, October 23

Thursday, October 26

Saturday, October 28

Sunday, October 29

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

19th Sunday after Pentecost

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

20th Sunday after Pentecost

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting

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

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

21st Sunday after Pentecost

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

There are several open coffee hour days in the upcoming months, **including several weeks in October**. 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!

Help Needed

On October 7, 2023 we will be having an outside work day at the church. We need help and trucks to help remove trees, branches and cuttings. Please contact Pat Grammes if you can help out.

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**The Protection of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
[Ven. Romanus the Melodist]**

Tone 8 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 4 Troparion *(Protection)*

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy, illumined by thy coming, O Mother of God. Beholding thy pure image, we fervently cry to thee: "Encompass us beneath the precious veil of thy protection; deliver us from every form of evil by entreating Christ, thy Son and our God, that He may save our souls."

Tone 4 Troparion *(St. Romanus)*

Thou didst gladden Christ's Church by thy melodies like an inspired heavenly trumpet. Thou wast enlightened by the Mother of God and didst shine on the world as God's poet. We lovingly honor thee, O righteous Romanus.

Tone 8 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Tone 8 Kontakion *(St. Romanus)*

Thou wast adorned from childhood with the godly virtues of the Spirit; thou wast a precious adornment of the Church of Christ, all-wise Romanus, for thou didst make it lovely with beautiful hymnody. Therefore we entreat thee, grant thy divine gift to those who desire it, that we may cry out to thee: "Rejoice, all-blessed Father, beauty of the Church!"

Tone 3 Kontakion (*Protection*)

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels and bishops worship, Apostles and Prophets rejoice together, since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! (*Ps. 75:10a*)

In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (*Song of the Theotokos*)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. (*Lk. 1:46-47*)

Epistle

Read by Reader Michael Metz

(2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

(Hebrews 9:1-7 (*Protection*)) Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was

prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps. 94:1)

Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)

Tone 8

Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps. 44:9a)

Gospel

(Luke 6:31-36) And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to

you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

(Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Protection)) Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 115:4)*
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

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Rossitza Peytcheva

Votives in Iconostas

Happy Birthday Ash, Offered by Michael & Amber Metz

Crosses

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

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

Happy Anniversary Pat & Tom Grammes

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

Happy Anniversary Pat & Tom Grammes

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

In Memory Of Josphe Slivka, Offered by Brother Michael & Francine Slivka

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Honor Of Kevin & Sarah on their Wedding Anniversary
Offered by Michael & Amber Metz

Covered Dish Coffee Hour November 12, 2023

We're celebrating and we need your help! On Sunday, November 12, 2023 we will be celebrating two big events at St. Nicholas - Fr. James Mason's 90th Birthday and the first round of awards for our children's Heavenly Host program. Please help us honor these events by bringing a covered dish to share for Coffee Hour. There is a sign up sheet at the candle desk to let us know what you'll be bringing.

A Note Of Thanks

To: Father Nikolai, St, Nicholas Family and Friends,

With sincere appreciation and love, I send my own prayers and thanks to everyone for your prayers, flowers, calls to see how I was doing, gifts and cards during and after my recent cardiac event and hospitalization. While my surgeon will not allow me to return to full activity, I feel stronger every day, and I try to do more with and for you. You are all forever in my prayers. May God grant you all many years!

With love,
Rosalie Radio

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, 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



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 2nd 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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"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine

Basket Raffle Donations Wanted

We will once again be hosting a Basket Raffle this year during the holiday season 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 (and her daughter Lydia 😊) will be happy to do the shopping and prepare a basket on your behalf!

This year the Basket Raffle will be open on three weekends to allow for the most time to check out all those wonderful goodies. The Basket Raffle will open during Coffee Hour after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 3rd, and will be open on Saturday, December 9th during the Christmas Bazaar and Sunday, December 10th for Coffee Hour and for the Christmas Choir Concert at 3:30 pm. Last chance to get those tickets in will be on Sunday, December 17th from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, following our Children's Yolka Program. The Basket Raffle Drawing will begin at 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 17th.

If you are planning to make a cash donation, please do so as soon as possible (no later than Sunday, November 18, 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, November 25, 2023.** If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Jennifer Bzik. Thank you so much for your support!

A Note Of Thanks

On behalf of the entire Chrysostom Academy family, THANK YOU for your generosity during coffee hour. Because of your gifts, the Academy raised more than \$600 in monies that will be used toward scholarships for St. Nicholas's students at Chrysostom Academy. May God bless you all!

In Christ,
John and Christina Heitzenrater & Chrysostom Academy

Annual "Church Musician Sunday" to be held Sunday, October 1

SPRINGFIELD, VA [OCA]

The [Holy Synod of Bishops](#) of the Orthodox Church in America has designated the Sunday on or following the commemoration of [Saint Romanus the Melodist](#) (October 1) as "Church Musician Sunday." This yearly designation will take place this year on Sunday, October 1, 2023. Church Musician Sunday highlights the essential role of liturgical music in Orthodox Christian worship and the important role of church musicians in the life of the Church.



Parishes are encouraged to recognize those who serve in the various roles involved in Church music: choir directors, singers, chanters, readers, composers, arrangers, and bell-ringers, through a public acknowledgment following the Divine Liturgy. Additionally, parishioners and parish leaders are strongly encouraged to consider the many essential responsibilities of those who lead the musical responses during the Divine services including the offering of appropriate remuneration for choir directors. The [Department of Liturgical Music](#) offers numerous resources to support the role of liturgical music through providing texts, rubrics, music, classes, and workshops. The majority of resources are offered free of charge.

You can support the ongoing projects of the [Departments of the OCA](#) by considering a gift to the [Stewards of the OCA](#). Your financial support is crucial to the success of these endeavors! For questions about the work of the Departments, contact Father Thomas Soroka at tsoroka@oca.org.

"One Can Can Help" Annual Food Drive

Sponsored by: RO59/NSS

We will be collecting non-perishable food products to benefit the Allentown Rescue Mission starting in October until the November 5, 2023.

Please leave your generous donations in the boxes on either side of the entrance doors to the hall. They will accept nonperishable food items as well as paper products.

Thank you so much!

A Note Of Thanks

Dear parishioners - thank you for your generosity in support of Matushka Priscilla's family. May God bless you , save you and grand you many blessed years.

Thank you all who cooked, served and cleaned up. Contributions are still coming in for this fundraiser , so total amount will be announced later.

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!

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, George Hasenecz, Emilian Hutnyan

Priests: Nikolai Breckenridge, John Nightingale

Deacons: Geoffrey LoBalbo

Matushki: Liudmyla Breckenridge, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, 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 Holobeny, 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, Patricia Telepchak, Irene Witanek

Handmaidens of God: Julianna Kahl, Tosha Roberts and their unborn children, Nina Abaishvilli and her newborn child.

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