

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 3, 2023

26th Sunday after Pentecost (11th of Luke)

Prophet Zephaniah



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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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
Phone: 610-810-6290
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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 December 3, 2023

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias–635-605 B.C.). Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Zvenigorod, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh (1406). St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople (ca. 440). Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas' Monastery (558). Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria (606). Monastic Martyr Cosmas of St. Anne's Skete (Mt. Athos).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, December 4th – Fr. Nikolai's day off
Wednesday, December 6th – 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Friday, December 8th – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour today is hosted by Joseph & Marina Murgia
In Honor of Mary Dorosh's 80th Birthday

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Tuesday, December 5	6:00 pm – Great Vespers w/ Litia for St. Nicholas
Wed., December 6	St. Nicholas the Wonderworker 8:50 am – Reading of the Hours 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
Thursday, December 7	9:00 am – Akathist – Nurturer of Children
Saturday, December 9	Christmas Bazaar 10:00 am – 6:00 pm – Bazaar 6:00 pm – Great Vespers (NOTE DIFFERENT TIME)

Sunday, December 10

Sunday after Pentecost

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

3:30 pm - Choir Concert

Tuesday, December 12

6:00 pm - Great Vespers w/ Lita for St. Herman

Wed., December 13

St. Herman of Alaska

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 16

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, December 17

Sunday before Nativity

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

12:00 pm - Parish Yolka

7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting

Monday, December 18

Friday, December 22

9:00 am - Royal Hours

Saturday, December 23

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, December 24

Sunday before / Eve of Nativity

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

7:00 pm - Nativity Vigil

Monday, December 25

Nativity of our Lord

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 26

Synaxis of the Mother of God

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 30

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, December 31

Sunday before Theophany

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Friday, January 5 Eve of Theophany

9:00 am - Royal Hours

6:00 pm - Compline w/ Blessing of Waters

Saturday, January 6

Theophany / Epiphany

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm - General Panikhida

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, January 7

Sunday after Theophany

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Upcoming Pierogi Making Schedule

UPDATE: Dec 3, 4, 5, - PIEROGI MAKING. Please note change because of St Nicholas Day on the 6th. **Sunday** after coffee hour and cemetery meeting - peel & cook potatoes, **Monday** - make potato balls, **Tuesday** - Pinch and cook pierogi

Dec 11, 12, 13 - Pierogi making. Lunch will be served on Dec 13. More info to follow.

Dec 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27. NO Pierogi making - Merry Christmas!

Cemetery Informational Meeting TODAY - Sunday, December 3, 2023

On Sunday, December 3, 2023 after the Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour, we will be having an informational meeting about the Church Cemetery. If you currently own or plan to use plots in the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church section of the Union Cemetery of Hellertown, please make every effort to attend this brief meeting. If you are considering purchasing plots, please attend to learn more information about Cemetery procedures and rules. For anyone who thinks that they do not need to attend because they already know everything necessary to use plots in the Cemetery, we strongly encourage you to attend to hear updated and important information. If you have any questions, please contact the Cemetery Committee Chair, Jennifer Bzik.

Divine Liturgy

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Prophet Zephaniah

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Tone 2 Troparion *(Prophet Zephaniah)*

We celebrate the memory of Thy prophet Zephaniah, O Lord; through him we beseech Thee: "Save our souls!"

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Prophet Zephaniah)*

Thou hast been revealed by the Spirit of God to be brilliant, O Prophet Zephaniah, for thou didst proclaim the coming of God: "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to save mankind!"

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

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)

Epistle

Read by David Metz

(Ephesians 5:9-19) (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (Ps. 17:48)

He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps. 17:51)

Gospel

(Luke 18:18-27 (from the 28th Sunday)) Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Candle Offerings

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

In Honor Of Nicholas Petrides, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan Kon

Crosses

Happy Birthday Hannah Roberts, Offered by Baba & PaPa

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of Mike Stafiniak, Offered by Dorothy Stafiniak

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

In Memory Of Mike Stafiniak, Offered by Dorothy Stafiniak

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Miss Mary, Offered by Sophia & Jacob

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

Happy Birthday Mary Dorosh, Offered by Michael & Toni Dorosh

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

Happy Birthday Mary Dorosh, Offered by Joseph & Marina Murgia

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

Happy Birthday Mary Dorosh, Offered by Michael Dorosh

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

In Memory Of Father Michael Antoniak, Offered by Michele Guydan

Altar Candles for Advent

In Memory Of Konsevitch and Roberts Families
Offered by Gordon & Valerie Roberts

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

For Health Of Nicholas, Austin & Timmy, Offered by Stephanie Pasquel

Giving Tree

This year there is a slight change in the Giving Tree Project. On the Holiday tree in the vestibule, you will find tags for Homeless residents of Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties.

The tag will indicate the gender, age, and suggestion for a Christmas Gift item, or it may be a generalized item that is needed by the shelter as they anticipate needing to assist more individuals in the coming months. These suggestions come from Homeless Shelter staff (New Hope Recuse Mission, Lighthouse, and Safe Harbor). Please bring your gift unwrapped in a gift bag or a bag to contain/separate your item from the others when placed in the large collection box in the vestibule. **Please ensure that the tag is firmly attached to the gift(s).** (If item is wrapped IT WILL BE OPENED!) **Gifts are due in by 12/17 -no exception,** as the gifts will be delivered to shelters by 12/18 and 12/19.

You will see a list of general items hanging on the tree that are needed during the winter months; New/Sealed ChapSticks/Lip Balm (unisex), Razors, Halls Cough drops, Deodorant, Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Tums, ground coffee, instant oatmeal, and protein bars. Please donate NEW items in original packaging. There will be a smaller box to place these items.

Should you like to make a monetary donation please pass that donation onto Jennifer Bzik.

Thank you in advance.

St. Nicholas Day Yolka Coffee Hour Collection

Sunday School is hosting the annual St. Nicholas Day Yolka Coffee hour. Our advent donation collection will be offered to benefit of St. John Chrysostom Academy. Please be as generous as you are able in support of our very own local Orthodox Christian school, which also benefits some of the children in our parish who are students of the school. If you wish to make a donation by personal check, you may make it out to the school. Thank you so much for your generosity and support.

Help Wanted!

Traditionally, our annual Yolka St. Nicholas Day celebration (December 17) and coffee hour is hosted by our Sunday school. Since teachers are helping the students to prepare for their concert and to allow time for teachers/students to eat, we are asking for volunteers to help us setup, serve and clean up afterwards. We would appreciate your help. Please see Karen Gowarty with your intent: text 610-810-6290 email: kareng18020@gmail.com.

A Note of Thanks

A big thank you to all parishioners that donated items for the during the "One Can Can Help" food drive to benefit the Allentown Rescue Mission. They were so grateful and said that God should bless us all for being so generous.

Sandi Keysock, President
RO59/NSS

Basket Raffle Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who donated baskets or made cash donations toward the basket raffle. With your help we have over 60 baskets!!! Make sure to stop by to take a look at the many beautiful baskets.

Request for Annual Church Organization Reports

Please note that all Church Organization Reports must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant by January 15, 2024 in order to prepare the packets for the Annual Parish Assembly. Packets will be distributed to parishioners from the candle desk beginning on January 28, 2024 for their review prior to the meeting on February 18, 2024.

Poinsettias for Christmas

If you wish to sponsor the Poinsettias that will decorate the church during the Nativity season, please sign up in the book at the candle desk. Red and White Poinsettias are available for a \$12.00 donation and may be taken home at the end of the Nativity Season.

Theophany Eve Supper

We're looking for a host for the annual strict lenten supper traditionally held on Theophany Eve. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Fr. Nikolai or Jennifer Bzik.

A Note of Thanks

Many thanks to the Pierogi Workers, who have generously contributed \$15,000 towards the HVAC project. May God Grant You Many Years!

The Parish Council

House Blessing Schedule

Dear faithful,

Glory to Jesus Christ! This year, I am attempting as much as possible to schedule 2024 House Blessings electronically. Therefore I've created an online sign-up form. We will also have the normal paper sign up at the candle desk, for those who don't wish to fill in the form themselves. Blessings will begin on Monday, January 8th, and are arranged according to location, so be sure to check both the time and the location on the schedule when you sign up.

The sign-up form can be found at www.stnicholasoca.org/theophany2024

In Christ,

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge

A Note of Thanks

Thank you, thank you. Because of your generosity, the funds collected at the coffee hour on November 5 for St. Tikhon's Seminary totaled \$3,700. The ROCMAS match of \$500.00 brings the total amount to \$4,200.00. This was presented to Father John Parker of the Seminary on November 16. Thank you to ROCMAS (Russian Orthodox Catholic Mutual Aid Society) for the generous matching offer. May God grant all of us many many blessed years of good health and happiness.

Peter and Sarah Jubinski

A Note of Thanks

TO OUR WONDERFUL PARISH FAMILY:

Thank you ever so much for your prayers, best wishes, thoughtful greetings, candle offerings, and financial contributions for St. Tikhon's Seminary. They made our 60th wedding anniversary celebration a truly special and memorable event. As one young guest remarked, "It was awesome." May our Lord and Savior grant all of you many, many blessed years.

Peter and Sarah Jubinski

Remember Our Homebound

As of 11/14/2023

Fr. Thomas & Mat. Evelyn Edwards - 4052 Lehigh Drive, Northampton, PA 18067

Mrs. Olga Frimenko - Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17554

Mr. Walter Grigoruk - The Village at LifeQuest, 2100 Cherry Blossom Ln, Apt 156, Quakertown, PA 18951

Mr. Andrew Hasenecz - 315 Balleck Road, Riegelsville, PA 18077-9606

Mr. Michael & Mrs. Shirley Isbansky - 2022 Arlington Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017-4879

Ms. Mary Koretski - 3060 West Blvd, Apt. A, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Mrs. Antoinette Lebeduik - 832 Wellington Road, Manchester, NH 03104

Mrs. Michele Lovell - PO Box 20031, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0031

Ms. Nancy Sabol - 2443 Black River Road #4, Bethlehem, PA 18015

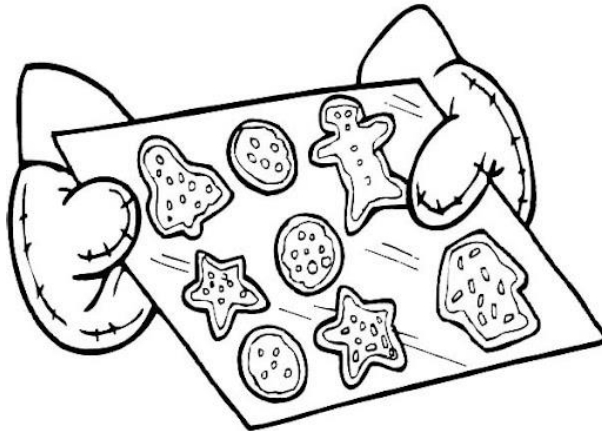
Mrs. Dorothy Stafiniak - 8 Dara Circle, Broomall, PA 19008

It's time again for COOKIES!!!

We will be making cookie trays to sell at the Christmas Bazaar and would appreciate your help.

- 🍪 Please make at least 4 dozen cookies (more is totally fine)
- 🍪 Notify Judy Lezinsky or Jean Jubinski what kind you would like to make (We would like to prevent duplicate flavors)
- 🍪 **Please bring in your cookies in sealed containers/bags on Sunday, December 3, 2023. There will be a rack in the Church Hall for cookies to be placed on.**
- 🍪 Please no cookies that have to be refrigerated.

Thank you!!!



Calling All Bakers for the 12/9 Christmas Bazaar

Fire up the ovens!

It's time for your SCRUMPTIOUS desserts that St. Nicholas is famous for. If you are a returning baker or new to the task, we welcome your YUMMY desserts. Please keep these things in mind:

- We have very limited refrigerator space, so please consider items that do not require refrigeration.
- Please DO NOT slice your cakes, pies, brownies, etc. The baked goods team will pre-slice items for consistence in serving piece and pricing.
- Feel free to provide a label e.g. German Chocolate Cake, Snickerdoodle Cookies, etc. There is no need to list ingredients, however it is useful to note: "nut free", "egg free", "dairy free" or "sugar free".
- Please provide baked goods on sturdy plates. DO NOT use cardboard because it is often too big and not sturdy.
- Securely label your name on your containers/dishes that you want returned. They will be cleaned and placed on racks in the kitchen where you can pick them up. And, whilst we are very careful with your dishes, DO NOT use precious containers that cannot be replaced if accidentally broken.

Thank you to all the great bakers who contribute to the success of the sale! Your efforts are truly appreciated! Baked goods may be dropped off on Friday, December 8th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Maxine Marsh at 610-837-8063.

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!

ST NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

"LITTLE" RUSSIAN DAYS
ETHNIC FOODS & BAKE SALE

& FROZEN PIEROGI & HALUPKI FOR SALE

DEC 9 FROM 10 AM - 6 PM
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

COME BACK ON SUNDAY DEC 10 AT 3:30 FOR OUR ANNUAL
ACAPELLA CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT

Christmas Bazaar "LITTLE RUSSIAN DAYS" features ethnic foods like Halupki, Pierogi, Potato Pancakes, Halushki, Borscht, Pelmeni and our much celebrated Home Baked Goods plus Holiday Shopping



980 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem
stnicholasoca.org
610-867-0402



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

12-09-2023

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

A Cappella Choir

Presents

Orthodox Hymns and Christmas Carols



Sunday, December 10, 2023
3:30 p.m.

980 Bridle Path Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Fellowship & Refreshments following the concert.
For additional information please call 610-868-9468



2023 Christmas Basket Raffle



Sunday, December 3 - Basket Raffle opens during
Coffee Hour after the Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 9 - Basket Raffle will be open from
10:00 am to 6:00 pm during the Christmas Bazaar

Sunday, December 10 - Basket Raffle will be open during
Coffee Hour after the Divine Liturgy AND before and after
the Christmas Choir Concert at 3:30 pm.



Sunday, December 17 - From 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm (after our Children's
Yolka Program) is your final opportunity to check out the Basket Raffle
goodies. Light refreshments will be available for purchase. **The Basket
Raffle Drawing begins at 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 17.** You do
not need to be present to win. Winners who are not present will be
notified during the following week.



Tickets:
1 ticket for \$1.00
7 tickets for \$5.00
15 tickets for \$10.00
40 tickets for \$20.00

Contact Jennifer Bzik for more information.

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, Theresa Butler, Helen Cotirgasanu, David G. Cudlic, Val Danchenko, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, David Gowarty, Walter Grigoruk, Monique Haney, 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, 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, Maeve Stuckey, Patricia Telepchak, Irene Witanek

Handmaidens of God: Lara Bessman, Tosha Roberts and their unborn children, Nina Abaishvilli, Julianne Kahl and their newborn children.

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