

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 10, 2023

27th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)

Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugephus, of Alexandria



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Reverend Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector
Cell: 570-604-4277
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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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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 10, 2023

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Euphrasius, of Alexandria (ca. 313). St. Joasaph, Bishop of Belgorod (1754). Martyr Gemellus of Paphlagonia (ca. 361). Ven. Thomas of Bithynia (10th c.). Bl. Jovan (John), King of Serbia (1503) and his parents, Stephen (1446) and Angelina Brancovich.

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, December 11th - Fr. Nikolai's day off
Wednesday, December 13th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, December 15th - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour today is hosted by Guliana Holobeny
In Honor of Mat. Mila's Birthday

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 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/ Litia 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	27th Sunday before Nativity 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm - Parish Yolka
Monday, December 18	7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting
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

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!

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Tone 2 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

Tone 8 Troparion *(Martyrs)*

Having slain the fiery ragings and fierce movements of the passions through their ascetic labors, the Martyrs of Christ, Menas, Hermogenes, and Eucraphus, received grace to dispel the afflictions of the infirm and to work wonders both while alive and after death. It is a truly great wonder that naked bones pour forth healing. Glory to our only God and Creator!

Tone 2 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Tone 1 1st Kontakion *(Martyrs)*

Let us sing praise in honor of the glorious Menas, and of his companions, the holy Hermogenes and Eucraphus. For they have honored the Lord and fought for His glory. They are worthy of numbering with the Angels in heaven, and are bountiful in their miracles.

Tone 4 2nd Kontakion (Martyrs)

The Lord snatched thee from the temporal army, making thee a fellow inheritor of the eternal, O Menas; together with Hermogenes and Euphrasius with whom thou didst suffer, thou art granted an incorruptible crown.

Tone 2 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. *(Ps. 117:14)*

*The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.
(Ps. 117:18)*

Epistle

Read by John Heitzenrater

(Ephesians 6:10-17) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Tone 2

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! (Ps. 19:1)

Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)

Gospel

(Luke 17:12-19) Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Communion Hymn

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

Candle Offerings

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Memory Of Victoria's Parents, Offered by Victoria Dimonie

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Archpriest Michael, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

God Grant You Many Years Patty Felix, Offered by Michael & Shirley Isbansky

Votives in Altar

For Health Of Patty Felix on her Birthday, Offered by Stephanie Pasquel

Crosses

Happy Birthday Patty Felix, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of James & Marianne Blachinski, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

Happy Birthday Patty Felix, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

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

In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

In Memory Of The Newly Departed Fr. Michael Oleska, A Luminary of Alaska,
A Dear Friend of 57 years, Offered by Fr. Tom & Matushka Evelyn

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)

In Memory Of The Newly Departed Robert Edwards,
Offered by His Brother, Fr. Tom & Matushka Evelyn

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

Upcoming Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meeting – Monday, December 18, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

Some may not know, but Council Meetings are open to all Parishioners to observe. If you wish to attend, please let Fr. Nikolai or Jen know, so we know to expect you.

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 Yolka Coffee Hour Collection

Sunday School is hosting the annual St. Nicholas 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.

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

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

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

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 Witaneck

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.