

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 17, 2023

28th Sunday after Pentecost (13th of Luke)

Sunday of the Forefathers



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Patricia Stetz Grammes, Parish Council President

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

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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 December 17, 2023

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Sunday of the Forefathers. Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael (600 B.C.). Ven. Daniel the Confessor, in schema Stephen, of Spain and Egypt (10th c.).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Wednesday, December 20th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today 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.

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

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 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Saturday, January 13	5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Sunday, January 14	32nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Saturday, January 20	5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Sunday, January 21	33rd Sunday After Pentecost 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Saturday, January 27	5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Sunday, January 28	34th Sunday After Pentecost 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Christmas Day Luncheon

Please join us for light lunch on Christmas Day after the Divine Liturgy. We invite you to break the fast and celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please make time to spend Christmas Day with your church family.

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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 2 Troparion *(Forefathers)*

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Forefathers)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)

Epistle

Read by Reader Nicholas Stepanoff

(Colossians 3:4-11 (Forefathers)) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps. 98:6)

They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps. 98:6)

Gospel

(Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers, from the 26th Sunday)) Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things

to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

Communion Hymn

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

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Candle Offerings

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Honor Of Marina on her Birthday, Offered by Mom & Dad

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

Votives in Iconostas

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

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

In Honor Of Marina on her Birthday, Offered by Nick & Judy

Crosses

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

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Honor Of the Newly Baptised Emilia Kahl, Offered by Nick & Judy

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

In Honor Of the Newly Baptised Emilia Kahl, Offered by Nick & Judy

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Aunt Marina, Offered by Sophia & Jacob

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

In Memory Of Steve & Anna Sherbechuk, Offered by Family

Altar Candles for Advent

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

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.

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.

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.

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!



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.