

Divine Liturgy

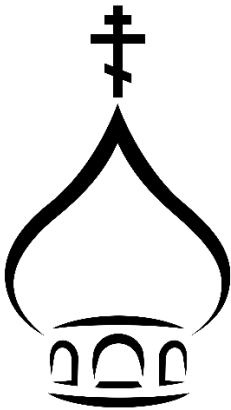
Sunday, December 24, 2023

29th Sunday after Pentecost (14th of Luke)

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

Eve of the Nativity of Christ



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



SAINT NICHOLAS

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

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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 December 24, 2023

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4. Eve of the Nativity of Christ . Sunday before the Nativity. Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia (ca. 262). Ven. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria (9th c.).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Fr. Nikolai will be on Vacation from
Wednesday, December 27 through Thursday, January 4.

Coffee Hour Today

There will be no coffee hour today so that all may go home to prepare for the
Nativity of Christ

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

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

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

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

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 4 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Tone 2 Troparion *(Holy Fathers)*

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast

Mary was of David's seed, so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem. She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man. The time for the birth was at hand. Since there was no room at the inn, the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen. Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Holy Fathers)*

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Tone 3 Kontakion (*Forefeast*)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Holy Fathers*)

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 Tricia Metz

(Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Sunday Before)) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the

mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps. 43:1a)

For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. (Ps. 43:8)

Gospel

(Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before)) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

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!

Candle Offerings

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

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

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory of Alexander & Pauline Radchuk, Offered by Bill & Sandi

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Memory of Willam & Mary Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of John Junda, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Votives in Iconostas

In Memory Of Lucille Lezinsky, Offered by The Lezinsky Family

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

Crosses

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

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Honor Of Ethan Radio's 20th Birthday, Offered by Poppy & Baba

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

In Honor Of Ethan Radio's 20th Birthday, Offered by Aunt Keri & Uncle Jason

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

In Honor Of Ethan Radio's 20th Birthday, Offered by Dad & Jen

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

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

In Memory Of David Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of Fred Budnar, Offered by The Nielsen & Hasenecz Families

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

Happy Birthday Moses Hodson, Offered by Carmen, Alex & Christopher

Vigils of St. Gregory (1)

In Honor Of Ethan Radio's 20th Birthday, Offered by Owen, Talia & Jones

Vigils of St. Paul (1)

In Memory Of Lucille Lezinsky, Offered by The Lezinsky Family

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)

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

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

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

Vigil of St. Andrew (1)

In Memory Of Lucille Lezinsky, Offered by The Lezinsky Family

Altar Candles for The Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

For Health Of Peter, Sarah, Dan & Jean, Offered by Peter & Sarah Jubinski

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of

The Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

For Health Of Family, Offered by The Mason Family

Christmas Poinsettia Donations

Red Poinsettias

In Honor Of Our Much Beloved Church Family
Offered by Mike & Shirley Isbansky

In Memory Of Felix Family, Offered by Patty Felix

In Memory Of Betty Fedora, Offered by The Cudlic & Eck Families

For Health Of Guydan/Dupay & Antoniak/Kaminsky Families
Offered by Michele D. Guydan

In Memory Of Family & Friends, Offered by Damian Drasher

In Memory Of Nicholas Roberts, Offered by Damian Drasher

In Memory Of Peter Kohudic

In Memory Of Mike Stafiniak, Offered by Dorothy Stafiniak

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

In Memory Of Drs. Julius & Anna Herz, Offered by Peter & Sarah Jubinski

In Memory Of John, Anna & Kathryn Mason
Offered by Fr. James & Mat. Pat Mason

In Memory Of Selar & Jo-Ann Konsevitch
Offered by Roberts & Konsevitch Families

In Memory Of Hasenecz & Nielsen Families, Offered by Susan & Bill Nielsen

Christmas Poinsettia Donations

White Poinsettias

In Memory Of Departed Loved Ones, Offered by Mike & Shirley Isbansky

In Memory Of Subdn Michael, Offered by Michele D. Guydan

In Memory Of Guydan/Dupay & Antoniak/Kaminsky Families
Offered by Michele D. Guydan

In Memory Of Departed Hutz & Bretz Families
Offered by Ann Marie & Barry Bretz

For Health Of Fedora & Cudlic Families, Offered by Cudlic & Eck Families

For Health Of Metz Family Members

In Memory Of Departed Family Members, Offered by Sarah & Peter Jubinski

In Memory Of Departed Family Members, Offered by Greg & Rosalie Radio

In Memory Of Peter & Mary Baker, Offered by Fr. James & Mat. Pat Mason

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

In Memory Of Reade & Mary Roberts, Offered by The Roberts Family

In Memory Of Richard Stevenback

In Memory Of Yarastaw Tatusko

General Flower Donations

In Memory Of Natalie & Stephen Danchenko, Offered by Halina Danchenko



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

December 25, 2023
Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Dear Rev. Frs., Matushki and Faithful,

*Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, proclaiming the present mystery; for He has broken the middle wall of partition, and the flaming spear will turn about, and the cherubim will admit all to the tree of life. As for me, I will return to enjoy the bliss of paradise from which I was driven away before, by reason of iniquity; for the likeness of the Father, and the Person of His Eternity, which it is impossible to change has taken the likeness of a Servant, coming from a Mother who has not known wedlock; free from transubstantiation, since He remained as He was, true God, and took what had not been, having become Man for His love of mankind. Wherefore, let us lift our voices unto Him crying, O Thou Who was born of the Virgin, O God, have mercy upon us. (*Idiomelon* By Germanus from *Great Vespers on the Eve of the Nativity*)*



Have a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a Joyous New Year! May our Lord bless you with good health, length of days and a happy and peaceful New Year!

Yours in Christ,

+ Mark

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



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Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linnehan * treasurer@doepa.org

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

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

Theophany Eve Holy Supper

A Strict Lenten Holy Supper will be served at 4:30 pm on Theophany Eve, Friday, January 5, 2024. Please sign up at the candle desk if you are interested in attending. Thank you to Lori Lezinsky for hosting!

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!

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, Cindy Ann Chernay, 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.