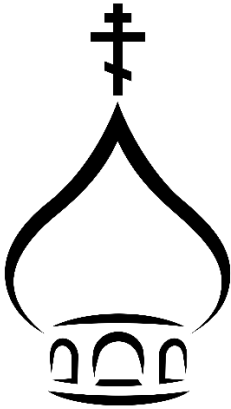


Divine Liturgy

December 25, 2023

**The Nativity according to the Flesh of
Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ**



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Reverend Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector
Cell: 570-604-4277
Email: nikolai.breckenridge@gmail.com

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
Email: kareng18020@gmail.com

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

Divine Liturgy

December 25, 2023

The Nativity according to the Flesh of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

The First Antiphon

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known. *(Ps. 110:1a)*

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord. *(Ps. 110:1b-2a) (Refrain)*

They are sought out according to His will. *(Ps. 110:2b) (Refrain)*

Full of honor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. *(Ps. 110:3) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

The Second Antiphon

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. *(Ps. 111:1)*

Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee:
Alleluia!

His descendants will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed. *(Ps. 111:2) (Refrain)*

Glory and wealth are in His house and His righteousness endures forever. *(Ps. 111:3) (Refrain)*

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate, and righteous. *(Ps. 111:4) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

("Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God... ")

The Third Antiphon

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand." *(Ps. 109:1a)*

Tone 4 Troparion

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

"Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool!" (Ps. 109:1b)

Troparion of the Feast

The Lord will send Thee the scepter of power from Zion: "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies!" *(Ps. 109:2)*

Troparion of the Feast

With Thee is dominion on the day of Thy power, in the radiance of holiness. *(Ps. 109:3)*

Troparion of the Feast

Entrance Verse

Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord has sworn, and will not change His mind: "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." *(Ps. 109:4)*

Tone 4 Troparion

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Tone 3 Kontakion

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds glorify Him; The wise men journey with the star, since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child.

(Instead of the Trisagion)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Tone 8 Prokeimenon

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; let it praise Thy Name, O Most High! *(Ps. 65:3)*

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise! (Ps. 65:1)

Epistle

Read by Reader Matthew Lezinsky

(Galatians 4:4-7) But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps. 18:1)

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. (Ps. 18:2)

Gospel

(Matthew 2:1-12) Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

(Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing:)

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: heaven—the cave; the cherubic throne—the Virgin; the manger—the place where Christ lay: the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

(or, the ninth heirmos of the second canon)

Out of fear, we should choose to love silence, for that is a safer course; so difficult it is lovingly to compose intricately woven songs to thee, O Virgin. But grant us strength, O Mother, equal to our natural calling.

Communion Hymn

The Lord has sent redemption to His people. *(Ps. 110:8a)*
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



325 N. Walnut Street * Bath, Pennsylvania 18014-1201
Telephone: 484.281.3406 * <http://www.doepa.org> * Email: dioceseoepa@gmail.com
Chancellor: V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne * Mobile: 570.906.1388
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