

# **Divine Liturgy**

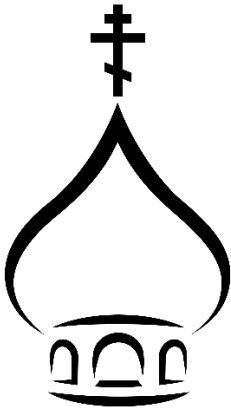
Sunday, January 7, 2024

**31st Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday After the Theophany**

**Afterfeast of the Theophany**

**Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John**



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**



# SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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 January 7, 2024

**31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Theophany . Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. Sunday after Theophany.**

## Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Regular Office Hours will resume after the House Blessing Season.

## Coffee Hour Today

There will be no coffee hour today due to the inclement weather.

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

**Saturday, January 13**

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, January 14**

**32<sup>nd</sup> 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**

**33<sup>rd</sup> 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**

**34<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Monday, January 29**

7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 7, 2024

**31st Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday After the Theophany**

**Afterfeast of the Theophany**

**Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John**

**Tone 6      Troparion      (*Resurrection*)**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

**Tone 1      Troparion      (*Feast*)**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

**Tone 2      Troparion      (*Forerunner*)**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world, and grants us great mercy.

**Tone 6      Kontakion      (*Forerunner*)**

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back, filled with fear at Thy coming in the flesh, while John drew back in awe as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit. The ranks of Angels stood amazed when they beheld Thee baptized in the stream. And we who were in darkness are filled with light. We praise Thee, O God made manifest, as Thou dost enlighten all.

**Tone 4      Kontakion      (*Feast*)**

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: "Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O unapproachable Light."

**Tone 1      Prokeimenon      (*Sunday After*)**

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)*

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon      (*Forerunner*)**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him. (*Ps. 63:11a*)

**Epistle**

Read by Reader Nicholas Lezinsky

**(Ephesians 4:7-13 (*Sunday After*))** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" - what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the

knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

**(Acts 19:1-8 (Forerunner))** And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

### **Tone 5**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. (Ps. 88:1-2)*

*For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. (Ps. 88:3)*

### **Tone 5**

*Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. (Ps. 96:12)*

### **Gospel**

**(Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday After))** Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**(John 1:29-34 (Forerunner))** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)*

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos; even angels are overcome with awe praising thee. But since thou art good, accept our faith; for thou knowest our love inspired by God! Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee.

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# **Candle Offerings**

## **Sunday, January 7, 2024**

### **Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)**

In Memory Of Paul Havrilko, Offered by Family

### **Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)**

In Memory Of Paul Havrilko, Offered by Family

### **Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)**

In Memory Of Nicholas Lezinsky, Offered by Family

### **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

### **Crosses**

In Memory Of Mary Radio, Jay Radio, Fr. Michael  
Offered by Greg & Rosalie

### **Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)**

In Memory Of Mary Strohecker on her Birthday, Offered by Pat & Joan

### **Vigils on Icon Table (2)**

In Memory Of Mary Strohecker on her Birthday, Offered by Pat & Joan

### **Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)**

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

### **Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary**

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

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

Happy Birthday Liliana Roberts, Offered by Baba & PaPa

### **Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)**

Happy Birthday Alexander Roberts, Offered by Mom & Dad

### **Flowers to Adorn the Icon of the Theophany of Our Lord**

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



## **Media Opt-Out Information**

As many of you know, from time to time we (St. Nicholas Church) record, photograph or videotape various events and activities that reflect an active parish. These pieces of communication may be published on our website, in our bulletin, on our social media page, on the OCA website, or used on other printed material. Some people may choose not to have their photos used and if you are among them, we ask that you fill-out the Media Opt-Out Form that can be found at the information table outside the church hall. Please return it to the church administrative assistant so that we may have a copy on file. If you are okay with the use of media, you do not have to do anything. Thank you.

## **Parish Budget Presentation**

In order to facilitate a smooth Annual Parish Meeting, we will be having an open presentation of the proposed budget that the Parish Council is recommending for 2024. This will be held in the Chernay Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 4, 2024, after Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour. We will be talking about the major budget items, so that any questions can be asked well in advance of the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 18, 2024

## **Pierogi Updates**

We are currently on our Holiday Break. We will resume regular weekly pickup orders on January 24, 2024. We also have frozen 4 packs of Halupki for sale for \$15. Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

## **Bakers - Come Get Your Dishes!**

Thank you to all of the bakers who made delicious treats for the Christmas Bazaar. Please make sure to pick up your plates/dishes in the kitchen as soon as possible. Thank you!

## **Christmas Bazaar**

Thank you again to all who labored to make the Christmas Bazaar such a wonderful success. As you may know, it takes some time for all associated bills to be processed so that income and expenses may be accurately reported. We are now happy to report net proceeds of \$26,869 from this event.

## A Note of Thanks

Bless us, Father

Dear Father Nikolai and our faithful friends at St. Nicholas Parish,  
Christ is Born! Glorify Him! You have once again blessed us and encouraged us  
with your generosity and kindness. May our Lord continue to direct your labors  
and good works.

Mother Christophora and the Sisterhood

Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA

## A Note of Thanks

Dear St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church,

Thank you so much for your support of our work! It is such a blessing to see  
God's faithful promise to care for the poor and those in need, in action, through  
the support from generous partners like you! Your kindness has a profound  
impact that will echo through generations to come. We look forward to your next  
clothing drive for the Mission and Lighthouse! May you be blessed by blessing  
others!

Thank you,

Diane Schenk

Director of HopeThrift Distributors

Hope Rescue Mission

## Donations Received In Memory

**In Memory Of Philip Stefanov:** Offered by M. Peytcheva & B. Stefanov

**In Memory Of Michael & Vincentine Brusko:** Offered by Andrew & Patricia  
Brusko

**In Memory Of Yelena Davidian:** Offered by Helen Acopian

**In Memory Of Mark Davidian:** Offered by Helen Acopian

**In Memory Of Mary Strohecker:** Offered by Michele Guydan, Rosalie & Greg  
Radio

**In Memory Of Natalie & Stefan Danchenko:** Offered by Halina Danchenko

# 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](http://www.stnicholasoca.org/theophany2024)

In Christ,

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge

## 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, 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, William 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.**