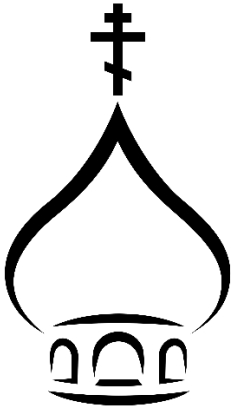


# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, January 28, 2024

**34th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia**



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



# SAINT NICHOLAS

## RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

# Schedule for the Week of January 28, 2024

**34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia.** Ven. Ephraim the Syrian (373-379). Ven. Theodosius, Abbot, of Tot'ma (Vologdá–1568). Ven. Efrem (Ephraim) the Wonderworker, Abbot of NovotórzhsK (1053). St. Efrem, Bishop of Pereyasavl' (Kiev Caves–ca. 1098). Ven. Palladius the Hermit, of Antioch (4th c.). St. Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh (7th c.).

## Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Regular Office Hours will resume after the House Blessing Season.

## Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour today is hosted by The Heitzenrater Family

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

<b>Monday, January 29</b>	7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting
<b>Thursday, February 1</b>	6:00 pm - Great Vespers with Litia
<b>Friday, February 2</b>	<b>Meeting of Christ in the Temple</b> 8:50 am - Reading of the Hours 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
<b>Saturday, February 3</b>	4:30 pm - General Panikhida 5:00 pm - Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, February 4</b>	<b>35<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
<b>Saturday, February 10</b>	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, February 11</b>	<b>36<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, February 17**

**Sunday, February 18**

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

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

**Sunday of Zacchaeus**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Annual Parish Meeting following Coffee Hour**

**Saturday, February 24**

**Sunday, February 25**

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

## **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

## **Upcoming Parish Council Meeting**

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, January 29, 2024, 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.

## **Candle Prices**

- Decorated Candles \$10 each
- Tall Thin Beeswax Tapers \$1 each
- Short Thick Beeswax Tapers \$2 each
- Vigils in Colored Glass \$4 each
- 4 hr votives \$.50 each

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 28, 2024

**34th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia**

**Tone 1      Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

**Tone 4      Troparion**      *(New Martyrs)*

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

**Tone 1      Kontakion**      *(Resurrection)*

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

**Tone 3      Kontakion**      *(New Martyrs)*      *(Today the Virgin)*

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God unto the ages of ages. Amen."

**Tone 1      Prokeimenon      (*Resurrection*)**

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      (*New Martyrs*)**

God is our refuge and strength, a help in afflictions that severely befall us.  
(*Ps. 45:1*)

**Epistle**

Read by Reader Nicholas Lezinsky

**(Colossians 3:4-11)** 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.

**(Romans 8:28-39 (New Martyrs))** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes

intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (Ps. 17:48)*

*He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps. 17:51)*

### **Tone 4**

*The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps. 33:17)*

### **Gospel**

**(Matthew 22:35-46)** Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

**(Luke 21:8-19 (New Martyrs))** And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately." Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls.

### **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, January 28, 2024**

### **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

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

Happy Birthday Fr. Thomas Edwards



## **Preparing for Scouting Sunday**

We would like to refresh our list of St. Nicholas Scouts, so please take a moment to let us know of anyone who should be listed in the bulletin for Scouting Sunday on February 4, 2024. Please include the scouts' rank with their names. Kindly submit all names no later than Wednesday, January 31, 2024. Thank you!

## **A Note of Thanks**

Dear St. Nicholas Church Family,

Thank you for your donation of Amazon Gift Cards on 12/22/2023. Your gift is a blessing to those seeking refuge and life restoration at Hope. Your support enables us to provide food, shelter, clothing, and guidance to over 1,200 individuals annually, including homeless veterans and many who are battling addiction. You are a valued partner in this ministry, and we could not manage all we do without your faithful financial and prayer support.

As we celebrate 129 years of service to the homeless of Berks County, we praise the Lord for our faithful partners who give sacrificially to feed the hungry, provide safe shelter for the homeless, and restore broken lives!

Blessing Hope Partners!

Sincerely,

Robert Turchi, CEO

## **Annual Parish Meeting Notice**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024. The meeting will be held in the church hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A light luncheon will be served. All are encouraged to read the agenda and reports thoroughly and prepare their questions to ensure an expedited parish meeting. Please note that there will be no means of virtual participation in the meeting.

According to the bylaws of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the required quorum for a parish meeting is the attendance of at least 25% of voting members in good standing. A quorum must be maintained throughout the meeting. If a quorum is not present, the meeting shall then be rescheduled by the Parish Council in consultation with the Rector, at which time the members present will constitute a quorum.

# Annual Parish Meeting Reports Available

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024. Please be advised that printed copies of the agenda and reports will be available at the candle desk beginning on Sunday, February 4, 2024. Please stop by to pick up a copy at your convenience. If you would like a copy emailed to you or mailed to you, please contact the Administrative Assistant at Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com. Please note that due to postal delays, we cannot guarantee that mailed copies will arrive prior to the meeting.

## Annual Church Office Elections

What you need to know to vote in the Annual Parish Meeting being held on February 18, 2024 and to run for Church Office: According to our Bylaws in order to vote and participate in the discussions you must be a member at least 18 years of age and in good standing (both financially and sacramentally) for one (1) year. In order to run for Church Office you must have been a practicing Orthodox Christian for at least one (1) year and a parishioner of this Parish for a prior 12 month period

**If you are interested in serving on the Parish Council, please see Fr. Nikolai or any current member of the Parish Council.**

Please note the Parish Council Vice President and Secretary are chosen by and from the newly elected Parish Council to serve for one (1) year terms.

### **Parish Council Officer Positions**

Parish Council President (one year)  
Treasurer (one year)  
Financial Secretary (one year)

### **Auditor Positions**

Four (4) one year terms

### **Parish Council Positions**

Two (2) three year terms

### **Cemetery Committee Chair**

One (1) one year term

### **Diocesan Assembly Positions**

Diocesan Assembly Delegate  
Diocesan Assembly Alternate

# Voting Members

A voting member is a parishioner who has the privilege of attending, being counted when determining the number required for a quorum, taking part in discussion, and voting at any annual or special parish meeting. A voting member may also have the privilege of being elected as a member of the Parish Council if he or she possesses the appropriate gifts and disposition for working with others. A voting member is in "good standing" if he or she:

- a.** Is a baptized and chrismated an Orthodox Christian;
- b.** Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- c.** Partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in this Parish at least once during the previous 12 month period;
- d.** Has been a practicing Orthodox Christian for at least one (1) year and a parishioner of this Parish for a prior 12 month period;
- e.** Has demonstrated commitment to the defined financial obligation during the previous 12 month period. (\$520 per year) If the financial obligation cannot be reached, an exemption can be requested and given by the Rector;
- f.** "Good standing" is determined in collaboration with the Rector and the Council President;
- g.** Voting membership in two or more Orthodox parishes is not permitted.
- h.** A Voting Member has accepted the right, privilege, and responsibility to vote in Parish Assemblies. A Voting Member may be considered for election to office in appropriate Parish bodies. A Voting Member is eligible for election as a delegate to the Diocesan Assembly and the All-American Council.

## A Note of Thanks

I want to thank the carolers that visited me during the Nativity Season. It was very uplifting and I really enjoyed hearing the carols. When you attend church all your life and suddenly you can't there's a big void in your life. I also want to thank the for the gift. May God grant all of you many more blessed years.

With love in Christ,  
Mat. Pat

# A Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift to St. Herman Seminary! We are deeply grateful for your generosity. Your prayer and financial support ensure the continued training of clergy and church workers for the Diocese of Alaska. Every gift helps to ensure that every student attending has all their needs met to become capable servants of the Lord! Every donation helps in part to reach out to all the spiritual needs of those who are suffering in the parishes. As you give out of the goodness of your heart remember that Christ teaches that this is a wonderful sacrifice and you would be wonderfully rewarded, as He says to us in Matt. 6:20: "...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

We all should understand that the Seminary is a place that doesn't just produce clergy, but also helps to prepare readers, choir directors, church-school teachers, etc. St. Herman Seminary is able to give the tools needed to each student, to reach out and offer help to those who suffer from various forms of addictions, help counsel those who are emotionally struggling. Each seminarian is on the path to prepare and offer church services in various forms as needed from readers services for funeral, to serving as a parish priest to many different locations.

In these trying times we are in need to offer these gifts from God to His children. Every student hears the call of Christ by virtue of their baptism, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..". And as they hear and answer this call, they make the sacrifice to leave their homes and follow the path of Christ. Thank you for your generosity. This gift makes it possible for each student to accomplish the task that God asks of them. For your loving give, we give you our heartfelt thanks.

With Love in Christ,  
The Reverend Father Andrei Tepper  
St. Herman Theological Seminary



The Lehigh Valley  
Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood

INVITES YOU TO

*The Blessing of  
the Jordan Creek*

1169 N 6TH STREET | FULLERTON, PA 18102

*Sunday, January 28th*

*3:00 pm*



Presented by The Diocese of Eastern PA and the Women's Group of Holy Trinity

## **THE GIFT OF COMPASSION:**

**From God to Us —Through Us, to Others**

~Extending and Receiving Compassion ~Compassion vs. Empathy

~Compassion in Scripture ~The Many "Faces" of Compassion

**Saturday, March 2nd - 10am-3pm**

Holy Trinity Church, 1501 Trinity Ct, Stroudsburg, PA

**Our featured speaker:**

**Presbytera Kerry Pappas**

Kerry is a priest wife and licensed marriage and family therapist. She works extensively with seminarian and clergy families, primarily through the Center for Family Care Team of the GOA. Kerry's work of over 40 years takes her around the country leading women and couples in interactive exercises and dialogue.



This event is open to all women of our diocese and beyond. There is no charge and lunch and snacks will be provided.

Please bring a friend and enjoy a day of reflection and fellowship.

Please RSVP to Sara Rusk at [rusksara21@gmail.com](mailto:rusksara21@gmail.com) by February 24.

# ESSENTIALS OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH

WINTER/FALL SESSIONS - 9 THROUGH 16

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

10:00 AM - SESSION #9

THE CHURCH

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

10:00 AM - SESSION #13

THE MOTHER OF GOD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

10:00 AM - SESSION #10

WHO IS CHRIST,  
AND WHO ARE WE?

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

10:00 AM - SESSION #14

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

10:00 AM - SESSION #11

THE HISTORY OF  
THE CHURCH

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

10:00 AM - SESSION #15

THE SACRAMENTS  
/ MYSTERIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

10:00 AM - SESSION #12

GOD'S RELATIONSHIP  
WITH US

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

10:00 AM - SESSION #16

THE FELLOWSHIP OF  
THE FAITHFUL & OUR  
WITNESS TO THE WORLD

**COMING THURSDAYS, STARTING  
FEBRUARY 15TH - AT 10:00 AM**

**ST. NICHOLAS RUSSIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH (OCA)**

980 BRIDLE PATH ROAD | BETHLEHEM, PA 18017

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, Lydia Bzik, 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, Janice Shumbata, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Dorothy Stafiniak, Joan Stetz, Vera Stoiancheff, Maeve Stuckey, Patricia Telepchak, Irene Witaneck

**Handmaidens of God:** Lara Bessman, Tosha Roberts and their unborn children, and Yana Fedorenko and her newborn child.

**Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.**