

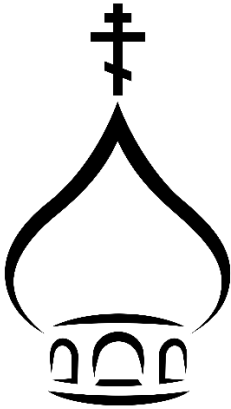
# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, February 4, 2024

**35th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Afterfeast of the Meeting**

**Ven. Isidore of Pelusium**



**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 February 4, 2024

**35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Afterfeast of the Meeting.** Ven. Isidore of Pelusium (ca. 436-440). Rt. Blv. George, Great Prince of Vladimir (1238). Ven. Kirill (Cyril) the Wonderworker, Abbot of Novoezérsk (Novgorod–1532). Ven. Abraham and Coprius, of Pechenga (Vologdá–15th c.). Martyr Jadorus (3rd c.). Hieromartyr Abramius, Bishop of Arbela in Assyria (ca. 344-347). Ven. Nicholas the Confessor, Abbot of Studion (868).

## 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 Lungu Family

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

**Saturday, February 10**  
**Sunday, February 11**

5:00 pm - Great Vespers  
**36<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

**Thursday, February 15**

10:00 am - Essentials of The Orthodox Faith  
Session #9 - The Church

**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**

- Thursday, February 22** 10:00 am – Essentials of The Orthodox Faith  
Session #10 – Who is Christ, and who are we?
- Saturday, February 24** 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
- Sunday, February 25** **Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee**  
9:10 am – Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
- Thursday, February 29** 10:00 am – Essentials of The Orthodox Faith  
Session #11 – The History of the Church

## **Parish Budget Presentation - TODAY!**

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 Schedule**

- Pierogi Making – Feb 5, 6, 7
- Pierogi Making – Feb 12, 13, 14
- Pierogi Making – Feb 19, 20, 21
- Pierogi Making – Feb 26, 27, 28
- Pierogi Making – Mar 4, 5, 6
- Pierogi Making – Mar 11, 12, 13
- Pierogi Making – Mar 18, 19, 20
- Pierogi Making – Mar 25, 26, 27
- Pierogi Making – April 1, 2, 3
- Pierogi Making – April 8, 9, 10
- Pierogi Making – April 15, 16, 17
- Pierogi Making – April 22, 23, 24
- NO Pierogi Making – April 29, 30, May 1
- NO Pierogi Making – May 6, 7, 8

*\*\*\*Please note that this schedule is subject to change as we work on scheduling the HVAC replacement work.\*\*\**

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 4, 2024

**35th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Afterfeast of the Meeting**

**Ven. Isidore of Pelusium**

**Tone 2      Troparion      *(Resurrection)***

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

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

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection!

**Tone 8      Troparion      *(Ven. Isidore)***

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Father, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore thy spirit, venerable Isidore, rejoices with the angels.

**Tone 2      Kontakion      *(Resurrection)***

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

**Tone 4      Kontakion      (*Ven. Isidore*)**

Finding thee to be another morning star, O glorious one, the Church is illumined by the brilliance of thy words. She cries out to thee: "Rejoice, all-blessed and divinely-wise Isidore!"

**Tone 1      Kontakion      (*Feast*)**

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

**Tone 2      Prokeimenon      (*Resurrection*)**

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. (*Ps. 117:14*)

*The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.*  
(*Ps. 117:18*)

**Tone 3      Prokeimenon      (*Song of the Theotokos*)**

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
(*Lk. 1:46-47*)

**Epistle**

Read by David Metz

**(Colossians 3:12-16)** Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

## **Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! (Ps. 19:1)*

*Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)*

## **Tone 8**

*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation! (Luke 2:29)*

## **Gospel**

**(Matthew 25:14-30)** For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received

back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

### **Tone 3**

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee!

In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful discern a figure: every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who has no beginning, the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

### **Communion Hymn**

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

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 115:4)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



# **Candle Offerings**

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

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

Happy Birthday Donald Holobeny, Offered by Guliana

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

In Honor Of Vadym, Offered by Family

### **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

### **Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)**

In Memory Of Helen Day, Offered by Barry & Ann Marie Bretz

### **Crosses**

In Honor Of Vadym, Offered by Family

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

In Memory Of Alexander Radchuk, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

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

In Memory Of Anna Kanerva on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her passing  
Offered by Barb, Kyra, and Gregory

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

In Memory Of Anna Kanerva on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her passing  
Offered by Barb, Kyra, and Gregory

### **Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist**

For Health Of Vadym, Offered by Family

### **Vigil of St. Michael (1)**

In Memory Of Michael Dranichak

# **Volunteers Needed!**

Volunteers needed for Paska baking Saturdays February 10 and March 2 9:00 AM through 3:00 PM.

Please call Maxine Marsh 610-837-8063 if interested.

Fish dinners are scheduled for Fridays, March 15 & 29 from 4-6:00 PM.

Please consider helping during these events and contacting Pat Grammes for information.

An "angel" has made a monetary donation to the Christmas bazaar which rounds the net profit to \$27,000.00.

Thank 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

## **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



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, 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.**