

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 8, 2024

11th Sunday after Pentecost

**The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross**



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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stnicholasoca.org

Schedule for the Week of September 8, 2024

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary . Sunday before Elevation. Icons of the Mother of God: “KURSK-ROOT” Icon of the Sign (1259), “POCHAEV” (1559), “KHOLMSK”, and others.

Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Tuesday, September 10th – Fr. Nikolai’s Day Off
Wednesday, September 11th – 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Friday, September 13th – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour today is hosted by The Bessman Family
In Honor of Phoebe’s Birthday!

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

- Wednesday, September 11** 6:00 pm – Zoom Lecture – The 7 Ecumenical Councils, Session 1 of 5
- Friday, September 13** 6:00 pm – Great Vespers
- Saturday, September 14 Exaltation of the Cross**
8:50 am – Reading of the Hours
9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
5:00 pm – Great Vespers
- Sunday, September 15 12th Sunday After Pentecost**
9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, September 18** 6:00 pm – Zoom Lecture – The 7 Ecumenical Councils, Session 2 of 5
- Saturday, September 21** 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
- Sunday, September 22 13th Sunday After Pentecost**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Monday, September 23 7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 25 6:00 pm - Zoom Lecture - The 7 Ecumenical Councils, Session 3 of 5

Saturday, September 28 5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, September 29 **14th Sunday After Pentecost**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

The following Sundays are without a Coffee Hour Host:

September 15, 2024 (Next week!)

October 27, 2024

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!

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 8, 2024

11th Sunday after Pentecost

**The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross**

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 4 Troparion *(Feast)*

Thy nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from thee, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

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 *(Feast)*

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve – from the corruption of death. And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: "The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

Tone 6 Prokeimenon *(Sunday Before)*

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! *(Ps. 27:9a)*

To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

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 Reader Michael Metz

(1 Corinthians 9:2-12) If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

(Philippians 2:5-11 (Feast)) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps. 88:18b)

For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. (Ps. 88:20)

Tone 8

Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps. 44:9a)

Gospel

(Matthew 18:23-35) Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

(Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Feast)) Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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

Tone 8

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God!

Virginity is foreign to mothers; childbearing is strange for virgins. But in thee, O Theotokos, both were accomplished. For this all the earthly nations unceasingly magnify thee.

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, September 8, 2024

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

For Health Of Greg Radio on his birthday, Offered by Rosalie

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Honor Of Nick Lezinsky's Birthday, Offered by Judy

Votives in Altar

Happy Birthday Phoebe Bessman, Offered by Godmother Guliana

Votives in Iconostas

For Health Of Kh. Sophia Shadid, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan Kon

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

Happy Birthday Poppy (Greg Radio), Offered by Ethan, Owen, Talia & Jones

Crosses

Happy Birthday Grandpa (Nick Lezinsky)

Offered by Sasha, Sophia, Jacob, Brooke, Elena, Victoria, Nicholas

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan, Offered by Pat & Tom

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan, Offered by Pat & Tom

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Jessica Roberts, Offered by Mom & Dad Roberts

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

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

In Memory of Jay Radio, Offered by The Radio Family

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of Ed Kahdrot, Brother of Maryann Dudash
Offered by Don & Maryann Dudash

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

In Memory Of John Frimenko, Jr., Offered by His Wife, Olga

Vigils of St. Gregory (1)

Happy Birthday Dad, Offered by Scott & Keri

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)

In Honor Of J. Trofim Frimenko's Name Day, Offered by Mom, Olga

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

In Memory Of Michael Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of The Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

Given in Thanksgiving, Offered by The Heitzenrater Family

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of The Universal Exaltation of the Cross

In Memory Of Michael Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

A Note of Thanks

Dear Fr. Nikolai and Faithful Members of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church,
It is with a heavy heart to have our Cathedral to be affected by this fire and sustain so much damage. Our Cathedral and its history has a strong bond with our parishioners, extended family, our community, and faithful friends near and far.

On behalf of our Parish Council and our entire Parish community, we thank you for your generous donation to our Cathedral of \$564 along with additional donors from your parish. Thank you for remembering us.

We greatly appreciate this kind and thoughtful gesture of support at this time, and we keep you all in our prayers. We also ask for your continued prayers for our wisdom and strength in this process of restoring our beloved St. Theodosius Orthodox Christian Cathedral.

In Christ,
Priest Jan Cizmar
St. Theodosius Orthodox Christian Cathedral

Halupki Dinner

We are thrilled to announce \$6,000 profit from the Halupki Dinner held on August 17th. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard for the success of this event for the benefit of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

Basket Raffle Donations Wanted

We will once again be hosting a Basket Raffle this year during the holiday season and we are looking for volunteers to donate baskets. We have a track record of offering beautiful baskets and we are hoping to uphold tradition. If you are able to make a basket, please contact Jennifer Bzik to let her know in advance.

Don't be shy if you have never made a basket for the raffle before! Jennifer will be happy to help you out. If you are interested in supporting the Basket Raffle but are not able to make a basket, please consider making a cash donation. Jennifer (and her daughter Lydia 😊) will be happy to do the shopping and prepare a basket on your behalf!

This year the Basket Raffle will be open on two weekends to allow for plenty of time to check out all those wonderful goodies. The Basket Raffle will open on Saturday, December 7th during the Christmas Bazaar and Sunday, December 8th for Coffee Hour, as well as during Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 15th. The last chance to get those tickets in will be on Sunday, December 15th before our Christmas Choir Concert, which begins at 3:30 pm. The Basket Raffle Drawing will be held following the conclusion of the concert on Sunday, December 15th.

If you are planning to make a cash donation, please do so as soon as possible (no later than Sunday, November 24, 2024) so that we have an opportunity to shop and prepare a basket using those funds. **All donated baskets must be brought to the church by noon on Sunday, December 1, 2024.** If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Jennifer Bzik. Thank you so much for your support!

Save the Date!

Coffee Hour - September 29, 2024

John Heitzenrater has been given a blessing to begin the Diaconal Formation Vocations Program with the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania. In order to raise funds for his tuition (\$1500), he is sponsoring a coffee hour on September 29, 2024. Please come and enjoy some good food and, if you are able, help support him in raising these funds. May God reward your generosity.

Upcoming Baking Schedule

Many hands make light work, and we have lots to do to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar! Please consider helping out if you are able. Contact Pat Grammes if you have any questions.

Thursday, September 12	9:00 am - Roll baking
Sunday, September 15	12:00 pm - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, September 18	12:00 pm - Kiffle filling/baking (after pierogi)
Sunday, September 22	12:00 pm - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, September 25	12:00 pm - Kiffle filling/baking (after pierogi)
Sunday, September 29	12:00 pm - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, October 2	12:00 pm - Kiffle filling/baking (after pierogi)
Sunday, October 13	12:00 pm - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, October 16	12:00 pm - - Kiffle filling/baking (after pierogi)
Sunday, October 20	12:00 pm - Halushki noodle making
Thursday, October 24	9:00 am - Roll baking
Sunday, October 27	12:00 pm - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, October 30	12:00 pm - Kiffle filling/baking (after pierogi)
Sunday, November 3	12:00 pm - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, November 6	12:00 pm - Kiffle filling/baking (after pierogi)
Thursday, November 7	9:00 am - Roll baking
Sunday, November 10	12:00 pm - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, November 13	12:00 pm - Kiffle filling/baking (after pierogi)
Sunday, November 17	12:00 pm - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, November 20	12:00 pm - Kiffle filling/baking (after pierogi)

Pierogi Schedule

Pierogi Making September 9, 10, 11
September 16, 17, 18
September 23, 24, 25
September 30, October 1, 2

****Please note that this schedule is subject to change.****

Welcome Back Children!

Sunday School Begins:

September 8 with a Moleben prayer immediately following Divine Liturgy
September 15 Sunday classes begin just before dismissal

Please see Karen Gowarty if you wish your child/grandchild to be enrolled in our Sunday School program if he/she has not been enrolled before this year. Children must turn 4 by October 1st to begin Sunday School.

Parents - Please also note that we have created an emergency contact form for our students. Please stop by the candle desk and fill out a form for each child enrolled in the Sunday School program. Thank you!

Church School Background Checks

In accordance with Diocesan policies and OCA statutes, all adults over the age of 18 who have regular contact with the Church School students must pass a background check.

This includes all parents who join their children in Church School regularly and all Church School teachers.

To get background check started, see Carmen Hodson.

THE 7 ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

5 ZOOM LECTURES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

6:00 PM - SESSION #1

WHAT ARE THE ECUMENICAL COUNCILS?

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

6:00 PM - SESSION #2

COUNCILS 1 - 3

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:00 PM - SESSION #3

COUNCILS 4 - 6

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

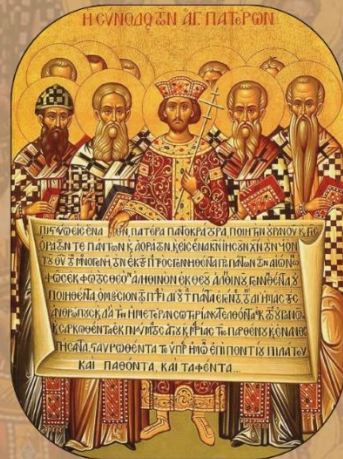
6:00 PM - SESSION #4

THE 7TH COUNCIL (ICONOCLASM)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

6:00 PM - SESSION #5 (FINAL)

ARE THERE REALLY ONLY 7 ECUMENICAL COUNCILS?



**COMING WEDNESDAYS, STARTING
SEPTEMBER 11TH - AT 6:00 PM**

ZOOM ONLY!

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT:
STNICHOLASOCA.ORG/ECUMENICALCOUNCILS**

**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:

Archbishops: Melchisedek Pleska, Nathaniel Popp

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, Tom Grammes, Walter Grigoruk, Robin Haney, Rachel Hardesty, Artemiy Hartman, Kalista Hartman, 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, Radu Lungu, Victoria Lustig, Olga Maksimova, Amber Metz, Michael Metz, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Catherine Miller, Nicolae & Doina Marian, Kylie Pinho, Kiera Pheiffer, Laurel Riley, Gordon Roberts, Leah Roberts, Barbara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Connor Samuels, Robert Schainfeld, Catherine Shea, Janice Shumbata, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Dorothy Stafiniak, Corinne Stuckey, Maeve Stuckey, Patricia Telepchak, Irene Witanek, Sandra Wyslutsky

Catechumens: Nicholas Birosik, Jason & Taylor Fogel, Lee & Jess Snekot, John Strom, William Stofko

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