

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 15, 2024

25th Sunday after Pentecost (13th of Luke)

Sunday of the Holy Forefathers



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

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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 December 15, 2024

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. Sunday of the Forefathers.

Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria, his mother, Martyr Evanthia, and Caribus the Eparch (2nd c.). Ven. Paul of Latros (955). St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Sourozh, Crimea (8th c.). Ven. Tryphon, Abbot of Pechenga (Kol'sk), and his martyred disciple, Jonah (1583). Martyr Eleutherius at Constantinople (3rd c.). Ven. Pardus, Hermit, of Palestine (6th c.).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, December 16th – Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, December 18th – 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Friday, December 20th – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour today is hosted by The Mikhalik Family

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Wednesday, December 18 7:00 pm – Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, December 21 5:00 pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 22 **Sunday Before Nativity**

9:10 am – Reading of the Hours

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 24 **Eve of Nativity**

9:00 am – Royal Hours

7:00 pm – Nativity Vigil

Wed., December 25 **Nativity of our Lord**

9:10 am – Reading of the Hours

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Thursday, December 26	Synaxis of the Mother of God 8:50 am - Reading of the Hours 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
Saturday, December 28	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, December 29	Sunday after Nativity 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Friday, January 3	9:00 am - Royal Hours of Theophany
Saturday, January 4	4:30 pm - General Panikhida 5:00 am - Great Vespers
Sunday, January 5	Sunday before Theophany 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm - Theophany Comp. w/ Blessing of Water
Monday, January 6	Theophany / Epiphany 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, January 7	Old Calendar Nativity (In Slavonic) 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Upcoming Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday, December 18, 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.

Giving Tree Reminder

Today is the deadline for Holiday Gift donations. If you have any items that you did not yet bring to the church, please contact Jennifer today.

The generosity of our St. Nicholas family is amazing. Thank you so much!!!

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Sunday of the Holy Forefathers

Tone 8 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 2 Troparion *(Forefathers)*

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Forefathers)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)

Epistle

Read by Reader Matthew Lezinsky

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

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name. (Ps. 98:6)

They called to the Lord and He answered them. (Ps. 98:6)

Gospel

(Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers)) Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have

bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

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!

The Kanon of the Feast

Hirmos 1

Christ is born, glorify Him; Christ is from heaven, receive Him. Christ is on earth, be lifted up. Sing to the Lord all the earth and praise Him with joy all people, for He has been glorified.

Hirmos 3

To the Son who before all time was born immortal of the Father and in these later days became incarnate without seed of a Virgin, Let us cry out to Christ our God, Thou who had raised our horn: Holy art Thou, O Lord.

Candle Offerings - Sunday, December 15, 2024

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Memory Of John Aranjó & Paraskeva Aranjó
Offered by children, Laurel Riley & Diana Buskirk

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

For Health Of Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

Crosses

In Memory Of Rosemary Ziegenfuss, Delphine Pociluyko, David Aranjó
Offered by sisters, Laurel Riley & Diana Buskirk

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

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

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

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

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

In Memory Of Marianne Blachinski, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

For Health Of Maeve & Corinne Stuckey, Offered by Danny Stuckey

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

In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Vigils of St. Paul (1)

For Health Of Mircea, Offered by The Lungu Family

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

In Memory Of Michael Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

Remember Our Homebound

As of 12/06/2024

Fr. Thomas & Mat. Evelyn Edwards - 4052 Lehigh Drive, Northampton, PA 18067

Mrs. Olga Frimenko - Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543

Mr. Michael & Mrs. Shirley Isbansky - 2022 Arlington Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017-4879

Ms. Mary Koretski - Gracedale Nursing Home, 2 Gracedale Ave, SE 2, Room 8, Nazareth, PA 18064

Mrs. Antoinette Lebeduik - 832 Wellington Road, Manchester, NH 03104

Mrs. Michele Lovell - PO Box 20031, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0031

Mat. Patricia Mason - 788 Hunter Rd, Easton, PA 18040

Ms. Nancy Sabol - 2443 Black River Road #4, Bethlehem, PA 18015

Mrs. Dorothy Stafiniak - 8 Dara Circle, Broomall, PA 19008

Pierogi Schedule

Pierogi Making December 16, 17, 17

NO Pierogi Making December 23, 24, 25, December 30, 31, January 1

NO Pierogi Making January 6, 7, 8, January 13, 14, 15

Resume Pierogi Making January 20, 21, 22.

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

Borscht Available This Sunday

Quarts of Borscht will be available for purchase this Sunday during Coffee Hour. \$12/Qt. See Nick Lezinsky.

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.

A Note of Thanks

Many, Many thanks to all of the parish bakers who provided delicious cookies for the cookie trays sold at the Christmas Bazaar. We were overwhelmed by the wonderful offerings. God Grant You Many Years!

A Note of Thanks

Dear St. Nicholas Community,

Thank you for graciously opening your beautiful church to host our Byzantine Chant fundraiser. Your brotherly kindness means so much to us, and we deeply appreciate your generosity. May you continue to have a blessed and peaceful Nativity Fast.

In Christ,

St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church Fundraising Committee

A Note of Thanks

Dear St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church,

Thank you so much for your support in 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. Thank you for being a faithful partner in fighting homelessness. We look forward to your next drive for the Mission and LightHouse. May you be blessed by blessing others!

Thank you,

Diane Schenk, Director of HomeThrift Distributions

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: Nikolai Breckenridge, Thomas Edwards, John Perich, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, Dimitri Oselinsky, David Shewczyk, Ian Shipley, James Weremedic, John Onofrey, George Hasenecz, Emilian Hutnyan

Priest: 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, Theresa Butler, Helen Cotirgasanu, David G. Cudlic, Val Danchenko, Maryann Dudash, Christopher Felix, Patricia Felix, Olga Frimenko, David Gowarty, Tom Grammes, Rachel Hardesty, Artemiy Hartman, Kalista Hartman, Nicholas Hazzard, Don Holobeny, Jonathan Hontz, Suzanna Hrebinka, 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, Mircea Lupo, 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: Jason & Taylor Fogel, Martha Klein, Chris Kiris, Mrudhuma Ravada, Lee & Jess Snekot, William Stofko, Kevin Walter

Handmaiden: Christina Heitzenrater, Kerry Kurtz and their unborn children; Elizabeth Hockman and her newborn daughter

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