

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Sunday before the Nativity

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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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 December 22, 2024

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity. Great Martyr Anastasia, “Deliverer from Poisons”, and her teacher, Martyr Chrysogonos, and with them Martyrs Theodota, Evodias, Eutychianus, and others, who suffered under Diocletian (ca. 304).

Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Fr. Nikolai will not have any official office hours this week due to the holiday.

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour today is hosted by The Hrebinka Family
For the Health and Salvation of Susanna

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

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
Thursday, January 9	9:00 am - Akathist to the Theotokos, Nurturer of Children
Saturday, January 11	5:00 am - Great Vespers
Sunday, January 12	29th Sunday After Pentecost 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Saturday, January 18	5:00 am - Great Vespers
Sunday, January 19	30th Sunday After Pentecost 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, January 21	7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting
Saturday, January 25	5:00 am - Great Vespers
Sunday, January 26	31st Sunday After Pentecost 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

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.****

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Sunday before the Nativity Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

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 2 Troparion *(Holy Fathers)*

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4 Troparion *(Forefeast)*

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Fathers)*

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Tone 3 Kontakion (*Forefeast*)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Holy Fathers*)

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 Tricia Metz

(Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Sunday Before)) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the

mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps. 43:1a)

For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. (Ps. 43:8)

Gospel

(Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before)) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

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, December 22, 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

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

For Health Of Mat. Pat Mason, Offered by Fr. James Mason

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

Votives in Iconostas

For Health Of Maryann Dudash, Offered by Don & Family

Crosses

In Memory Of Rosemary Ziegenfuss, Delphina 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

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of The Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

For Health Of Family, Offered by The Mason Family

House Blessing Schedule

Dear faithful,

Glory to Jesus Christ! This year, I am attempting as much as possible to schedule 2025 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 Wednesday, 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/theophany2025

In Christ,
Priest Nikolai Breckenridge

Remember Our Homebound

As of 12/18/2024

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

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

Mrs. Elizabeth Hasenecz - 1856 Falcon Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017

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

Request for Annual Church Organization Reports

CORRECTED DATES

Please note that all Church Organization Reports must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant by January 15, 2025 in order to prepare the packets for the Annual Parish Assembly. Packets will be distributed to parishioners from the candle desk beginning on January 26, 2025 for their review prior to the meeting on February 16, 2025.

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, Susanna 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 Witaneck, 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.