

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 26, 2025

31st Sunday after Pentecost

Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia



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 January 26, 2025

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia. Ven. Xenophon, his wife, Mary, and their two sons, Arcadius and John, of Constantinople (5th-6th c.). Translation of the Relics of Ven. Theodore, Abbot of Studion (845). St. Xenophon of Robeika (1262). Martyrs Ananias–Presbyter, Peter, and seven soldiers, in Phœnicia (284-305). St. Simeon “the Ancient” of Mt. Sinai (ca. 390). St. Joseph, Bishop of Thessalonica, brother of St. Theodore of Studion (830). Rt. Blv. David (Dató) III, King of Iberia and Abkhazia (Georgia–1125).

Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Regular Office Hours will resume after the House Blessing Season.

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour will be hosted by The Brown Family
In Honor of Everett’s Birthday

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Saturday, February 1 | 4:30 pm General Panikida
5:00 pm - Great Vespers |
| Sunday, February 2 | Meeting of the Lord / Sunday of Zacchaeus
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
<i><u>Please join us during coffee hour for a
Baby Shower honoring Kerry Kurtz!</u></i> |
| Saturday, February 8 | 5:00 pm - Great Vespers |
| Sunday, February 9 | Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy |
| Saturday, February 15 | 5:00 pm - Great Vespers |

Sunday, February 16

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son
St. Nicholas of Japan**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 22

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am Reading of Hours

9:00 am - Memorial Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, February 23

Sunday of the Last Judgment

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

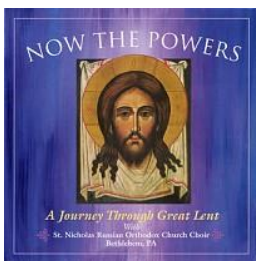
Pierogi Schedule

No Pierogi Making January 27, 28, 29

Resume "normal" Pierogi Making February 3, 4, 5

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

Prepare for Lent with the St. Nicholas Choir CD Now The Powers



For the Orthodox Christian, the liturgical year revolves around the celebration of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this recording we share with you the rich and powerful message of the Church's teaching about Great Lent and Pascha as conveyed through her liturgical worship. The music collection of over 25 hymns takes you on a moving, spiritual journey to Pascha, beginning with Pre-Lenten season and ending with the triumphant Paschal proclamation that "Christ is Risen...!" Contact Nick Lezinsky if you are interested in purchasing a CD.

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Tone 6 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

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 6 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

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 6 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

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 7 Prokeimenon (New Martyrs)

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

Epistle

Read by Tricia Metz

(1 Timothy 1:15-17) This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Tone 6

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

He who dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God. (Ps. 90:1)

He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust."(Ps. 90:2)

Tone 4

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

Gospel

(Matthew 15:21-28 (Canaanite Woman)) Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying,

"Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

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 for Sunday, January 26, 2025

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Honor Of Lydia, Offered by The Lungu Family

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of William Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

In Memory Of Ted Fedora, Offered by The Cudlic & Eck Families

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

In Memory Of Mary Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

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

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

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

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

Vigils of St. Paul (1)

For Health Of Nicolae, Offered by The Lungu Family

Vigil of St. Andrew (1)

For Health Of Nicolae, Offered by The Lungu Family



January 26, 2025
01/008

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

As we mark our annual Sanctity of Life Sunday, I would like to speak to you about martyrdom. Specifically, by understanding martyrdom, which we might consider the most pure, fundamental realization of the Christian vocation, we understand just why we hold life sacred.

At first, this may appear paradoxical. Martyrdom, after all, is willingly surrendering one's life for the sake of the Christian faith. Martyrdom teaches us that life in this world is not to be compared with the glorious and everlasting life that awaits us in the world to come. As the Lord says, "Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mk. 8:35).

Christ promises us in his Beatitudes that "blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven" (Matt. 5:11-12). When we are rejected by the world because we accept the Gospel—when we reject the world in order to take up our Cross—then we display the Christian faith in all its truth and power and glory. Martyrdom, etymologically and in fact, always means "bearing witness," and the greatest and most fundamental way to bear witness to the Gospel is to die for the sake of the Gospel.

However, martyrdom, even when it points us towards the next life, also testifies to the immeasurable sacredness of our mortal life in this world. Here, in this life, it is possible for us to bear witness; here, in this life, we have the possibility of accepting Christ's gift of salvation. This is true for the literal martyrs, but it is also possible for every Christian through the bloodless martyrdom of asceticism. Whenever we die to our fleshly desires for the sake of the Gospel, we suffer a little martyrdom. Whenever we forgo power or wealth or gratification for the sake of Christ's commandments, we are bearing witness, in a small way, to the truth of the Christian faith.

In other words, martyrdom proper, as well as the ascetic martyrdom to which we are all called, are a way of "redeeming the time" (Eph. 5:16). Through Christ's Incarnation and Passion, the fallen world

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and passing present age have become an arena of spiritual struggle and the place where salvation is accomplished.

Seen from this perspective, life in this world is not something cheap and utilitarian, but incredibly dear. The Lord gives us this life that we might offer it back to him, fulfilling our primordial role as priest and mediator of creation: man is called to commend himself and his fellow-men and all his life to Christ our God.

All life comes from God; all life belongs to God; and through the saving work of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, biological life in this world is now open to the possibility of true and everlasting life in the world to come.

Thus, on this Sanctity of Life Sunday, we bear witness to the truth that all human life, from conception to natural death, is sacred. We pray that the scales will fall from the eyes of our countrymen who do not recognize this basic truth, and we beseech the Lord that all violations of this holy principle—abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and the rest—would come to a swift end in our age and our land. Finally, we pray that we might find the strength to live in accordance with this teaching, showing forth the sanctity of life by devoting our own life to the pursuit of sanctity, thus bearing witness in our flesh to the truth of the holy Orthodox Christian faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada



PETITIONS AND PRAYER

FOR SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

The following petitions are to be inserted into the **Litany of Fervent Supplication** as part of the annual commemoration of *Sanctity of Life Sunday*:

- Again we pray that You will grant to the people of this nation the will to do good, to flee from evil, and to practice all righteousness, making us respectful of life and sharers of Your blessings, caring for one another in mercy and truth.
- Again we pray that You will banish all evil from our hearts and wickedness from our laws, enabling us to be servants of Your holy will and performers of Your Love.
- Again we pray that You will kindle in our hearts the will to care for the needy, to show kindness to the poor, to aid the homeless and help the helpless.

The following prayer is to be read after the singing of **“Blessed be the Name...”** (2x)

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, Who are in the bosom of the Father, True God, source of life and immortality, Light of Light, Who came into the world to enlighten it: You were pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of Your All-Holy Spirit. O Master, who came that we might have life more abundantly, we ask You to enlighten the minds and hearts of those blinded to the truth that life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with Your image and likeness; enable us to guard, cherish and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For You are the Giver of Life, bringing each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be Merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness, affront Your divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, and all of us, come to the light of Your Truth and glorify You, the Giver of Life, together with Your Father, and Your All-Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to all who participated in the many activities necessary for us to host our annual Christmas Bazaar. It was enjoyed by all, with many compliments received from our customers. It was also a great success, raising \$30,101.28 for St. Nicholas Church. Thank you everyone!!!

A Note of Thanks

Many thanks to all who donated at the Coffee Hour on January 12 to benefit the Holy Transfiguration Monastery. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. May God Grant You Many Years!
Nick & Judy Lezinsky

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 2, 2025. Please include the scouts' rank with their names. Kindly submit all names no later than Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Thank you!

Please Collect Your Dishes!

Many thanks to all of our wonderful bakers! Please review the table in the Fellowship Hall and collect any dishes that you may have left at the church. All dishes not collected by January 31, 2025 will be donated.

Cleanliness is Next to Godliness

We have noticed that in recent weeks there has been an unusual increase in the number of messes left around the church and hall. In particular, our Fellowship Hall is often left untidy after Coffee Hour on Sunday, with food and drinks left on tables and spills/messes on the floor. As a reminder, while our dedicated cleaning staff works hard to maintain our beautiful facility, it is not their responsibility to clean up after individual people, whether adults or children. If you or your children cause an accidental mess (or if you notice a mess that you did not create), please take the time to clean it up if you are able, or notify a parish council member so that it can be handled promptly. It is our shared responsibility to maintain the house of Our Lord. Your help in this matter is deeply appreciated.

Annual Parish Meeting Notice

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2025. 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 Church Office Elections

What you need to know to vote in the Annual Parish Meeting being held on February 16, 2025 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 be 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)

Parish Council Positions

Two (2) three year terms

Auditor Positions

Four (4) one year terms

Cemetery Committee Chair

One (1) one year term

Diocesan Assembly Positions

Diocesan Assembly Delegate
Diocesan Assembly Alternate

All American Council Positions

All American Council Delegate
All American Council 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.

Annual Parish Meeting Reports Available

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2025. Please be advised that printed copies of the agenda and reports will be available at the candle desk beginning on Sunday, January 26, 2025. 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.

JOIN US FOR A



BABY
SHOWER

IN HONOR OF

Kerry Kurtz

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY

2

AT 11 AM

2025

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

980 BRIDLE PATH RD
BETHLEHEM PA 18040

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 Holobeney, 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, William Potter, 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.