

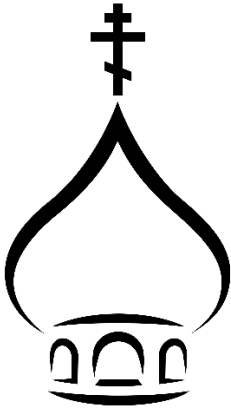
Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 9, 2025

First Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



SAINT NICHOLAS

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archpriest 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 March 9, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 4. Sunday of Orthodoxy. The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste: Cyrion (or Quirio), Candidus, Domnus, Hesychius, Heraclus, Smaragdus, Eunocius (or Eunicus), Valens, Vivianus, Claudius, Prescus, Theodulus, Euthychius, John, Xantheas, Helianus, Sisinius, Angius, Aetius, Flavius, Acacius, Ecditius, Lysimachus, Alexander, Elias, Gorgonius, Theophilus, Dometian, Gaius, Leontius, Athanasius, Cyril, Sacerdon, Nicholas, Valerius, Philoctimon, Severian, Chudion, Aglaius, and Meliton (ca. 320). Martyr Urpasianus, of Nicomedia (ca. 295). St. Cæsarius, brother of St. Gregory the Theologian (ca. 369). Righteous Tarasius. The “ALBAZIN” Icon of the Mother of God (“THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH”–1666). Venerable Vitalius of Castronovo (10th c.).

Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Monday, March 10th - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, March 12th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, March 14th - 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour will be hosted by Jerri Williams

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Wednesday, March 12	6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
Friday, March 14	9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm - Akathist - St. Nicholas
Saturday, March 15	Memorial Saturday 8:50 am - Reading of the 3 rd Hour 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 16

St. Gregory Palamas

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 19

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 21

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

6:00 pm - Akathist - to our Lord's Passion

Saturday, March 22

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 23

Sunday of the Cross

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Monday, March 24

Eve of Annunciation

6:00 pm - Vespers for Annunciation

Tuesday, March 25

Annunciation

8:50 am - Reading of the 9th Hour

9:00 am - Festal Vesperal Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 26

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 28

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner

6:00 pm - Akathist - Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos

Saturday, March 29

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 30

St. John Climacus

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 9, 2025

First Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

Tone 4 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Tone 2 Troparion *(Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: "Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world."

Tone 1 Troparion *(Holy 40 Martyrs)*

Through the sufferings which Thy holy Forty Martyrs endured for Thy sake, O Lord, we beseech Thee, O Lover of mankind: "Heal all of our infirmities!"

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Holy 40 Martyrs)*

You have abandoned all earthly armies, cleaving to the heavenly Master, O Forty Martyrs of the Lord. Having passed through fire and water, O blessed ones, you have fittingly received heavenly glory and many crowns.

Tone 8 Kontakion (*Sunday of Orthodoxy*)

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty. We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Song of the 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)

Tone 5 Prokeimenon (*Holy 40 Martyrs*)

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.
(*Ps. 11:7*)

Epistle

Read by Reader Matthew Lezinsky

(Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-12:2) By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 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. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:1-10 (Holy 40 Martyrs)) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

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. 98:7a)

Tone 4

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give to Him glorious praise! (Ps. 65:1)

Gospel

(John 1:43-51) The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

(Matthew 20:1-16 (Holy 40 Martyrs)) For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.' So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received

it, they complained against the landowner, saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.'"

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

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

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!

Pussy Willow Branches



Reminder: It will soon be time for pussy willows to start blooming. Please cut the branches of willows and bring them to the church as soon as they bloom. Since Pascha is May 5th we will need to store the willows until Saturday, April 27th for Palm Sunday, April 28th. Please wrap the willows loosely in newspaper (PLEASE DO NOT WRAP IN PLASTIC!) so we can save them for Palm Sunday. Thank you for your help in gathering the willows.



Candle Offerings for Sunday, March 9, 2025

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

Happy 1st Birthday Felix Bessman, Offered by Guliana Holobeny & Family

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

Happy Birthday Lydia Bzik, Offered by Godparents Carmen & Moses

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

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

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

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

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

In Memory Of JoAnn Konsevitch, Offered by Konsevitch & Roberts Families

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Dmitry, Offered by Valentia Zyryanova

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

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

Church Scholarship Applications Now Available

The St. Nicholas Church Scholarship Trust announces that applications are available for the 2025-26 school year. Grants of \$1,300, \$1,200, and \$1,000 are available for awarding. Applicants must be members in good standing of the Church and be at least entering second year full time (minimum 12 credit hours) study at an accredited two or four year college/university or Orthodox seminary. Full details are described on the application. Please contact Nancy Kohudic at ndk175@ptd.net or 610.391.1257 for an application or for answers to any questions. Deadline for submission is June 1, 2025. Thank you.

SYNODIKON

of the Sunday of Orthodoxy

As the prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught,
As the Church has received,
As the teachers have dogmatized,
As the universe has agreed, as grace has shown forth,
As falsehood has been dissolved,
As wisdom has presented,
As Christ awarded,
Thus we declare,
Thus we assert,
Thus we preach Christ our true God,
And honor His saints in words, in writings,
In thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in Holy Icons;
On the one hand worshipping and reverencing
Christ as God and Lord;
And on the other hand,
Honoring as true servants of the same
Lord of all and accordingly offering them veneration.

This is the Faith of the Apostles!

This is the faith of the Fathers!

This is the faith of the Orthodox!

This is the faith which has established the Universe!



DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia • Orthodox Church in America

Great Lent 2025

Dear Reverend Fathers, Matushki and Faithful,

Christ is in our midst!

Great Lent is here, and the Lord gives us wonderful opportunities to redirect our lives and hearts to Him. Hopefully, we will take full advantage of this time to renew our relationship with the Lord through repentance, confession, increased prayer, reading of the Holy Scriptures, fasting, and almsgiving. As Fr. Alexander Schmemmann comments in his book on Great Lent, "Let us abstain from frivolous conversation and various forms of entertainment." The fast is not simply from certain foods but from feeding the passions and sin. In the Gospel of the Last Judgment (Matthew 25:31-46), we understand that when the Lord returns in glory, His judgment will not simply be based upon the absence of sin but on the development of virtue. Essentially, are we loving and compassionate, and is this evident in concrete ways through our actions? Remember the hymnography of Lent: the demons do not eat either. Let us seek to minimize time spent on the internet or watching television. Let us strive to be at peace with one another, forgiving and offering forgiveness. Read through Genesis, Isaiah, Psalms, and Proverbs during this holy season.

Let us use this time to rid our lives of the distractions that clutter our minds. As we ponder the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian, let us abstain from "the spirit of sloth, despair (faint-heartedness), lust for power, and idle talk" and open our hearts to chastity, humility, patience, and love. May the Lord help us to see our own sins and not judge our brother. Do we believe change is possible for ourselves and others? Are we willing to utilize the tools the Church, in her wisdom, gives us to do so?

Sadly, some of our clergy and faithful have never embraced the Lenten school of repentance and its discipline. We will try everything the world offers to seek mental and physical health but never embrace the tried and proven gift of Great Lent. If you have never engaged in the Lenten prescription above, try it this year. By the time we reach Holy Week, things we once considered unchangeable in our lives suddenly begin to be addressed or resolved through a lengthy and determined effort. Many talk about what they are "giving up" for Lent but do not consider what they have the opportunity to get rid of—namely, bad habits that ultimately separate us from communion with the Lord.

St. Mark the Ascetic remarks, "We beg and plead with God to deliver us from our sins, yet we continue to love and nurture their causes." As we embrace the discipline of the Church, we are giving up nothing but gaining true and authentic freedom and the gift of eternal life. Doing things our own way is what landed us in this mess. Let us seek to embrace the discipline of the Church so that we might experience the authentic freedom and joy Christ graciously bestows upon those beloved of Him.

Asking for your holy prayers, I remain your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

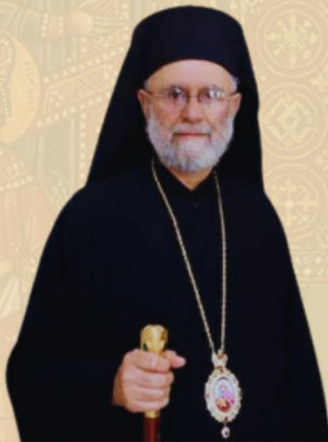
+MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania

LEHIGH VALLEY ORTHODOX
CLERGY BROTHERHOOD
PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS
SUNDAY, MARCH 9 | 4 PM

*Triumph of
Orthodoxy*

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1011 Catasauqua Avenue | Allentown, PA 18102



Homilist

**His Eminence
Met. SABA**

Metropolitan of the
Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America

Food and fellowship to follow

UPCOMING EVENT

Come and See

Join us for a presentation from Josh Williams to hear an update on Chrysostom Academy and learn about different ways to support the students who attend.

When: Sunday March 9th
during Coffee Hour



CHRYSOSTOM
ACADEMY™



A Note of Thanks

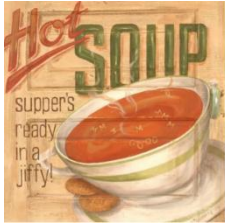
To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ here at St. Nicholas and beyond,

Many thanks to all of you for your help this past week in making our delicious halupki. This is an all day project, and I mean from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. I am so thankful that this year we were able to stagger our help through the day. Please know that your help was greatly appreciated, as we were able to make almost 2,400 halupki to be used for about 650 halupki dinners later this year and 240 frozen packs of four. May God grant you all many blessed years!

In Christ,
Val

Lenten Soup Sale

Every coffee hour during lent we will be hosting a take home quart soup sale. Each week will be different strict Lenten soups.



\$10 a quart. While supplies last. All proceeds will go to St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church. If you're able, please wash and return your quart containers in the labeled box behind the soup sale. See Judy or Lori if you have any questions.



THIS WEEK: Butternut Squash Soup
Kapusta
Manhattan Clam Chowder

Pierogi Making Schedule

RESUME Pierogi making week of March 10, 11 12

*** This schedule is subject to change. ***

A Note of Thanks

Dear Church family,

Mike and I were overwhelmed with gratitude for the love, kindness, and generosity you showed us through the beautiful baby shower. Your thoughtful gifts, warm wishes, and heartfelt support mean the world to us as we prepare to welcome our little one. We are blessed to be part of such an amazing and caring congregation. We look forward to brining our little one to church in the near future, where they can grow in faith and experience the same warmth from all of you. Thank you for celebrating this joyous occasion with us. We are grateful to be surrounded by such a wonderful church family.

With heartfelt thanks,
Mike, Kerry and Baby Kurtz

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, 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, Maeve Stuckey, Patricia Telepchak, Irene Witaneck, Sandra Wyslutsky

Catechumens: Jason & Taylor Fogel, Chris Kiris, Mrudhuma Ravada, Lee & Jess Snekot, William Stofko, Kevin Walter

Handmaiden: Christina Heitzenrater, Kerry Kurtz, Amanda Riley, Corinne Stuckey, and their unborn children;

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