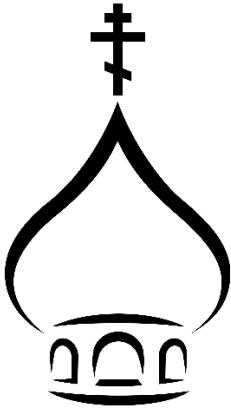


**Divine Liturgy**  
Sunday, April 6, 2025  
**Fifth Sunday of Great Lent**  
**St. Mary of Egypt**



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**



# SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Patricia Stetz Grammes, Parish Council President

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

Karen Gowarty, Church School Administrator

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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 April 6, 2025

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8. St Mary of Egypt.** St. Eutychius, Patriarch of Constantinople (582). St. Methodius, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Archbishop of Moravia and Enlightener of the Slavs (885). St. Platonis of Nisibis, Syria (Syria–308). 120 Martyrs of Persia (344-347). Martyrs Jeremiah and Presbyter Archilias (3rd c.). Ven. Gregory the Byzantine (1308). Monastic Martyr Gennadios of Dionysiou (Mt. Athos–1818).

## Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off

Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

## Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour will be hosted by Victoria Dimonie  
In Memory Of Mother, and Vasile Dudeanu

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

**Tuesday, April 8**

10:00 am - Panikhida - Catherine Miller 40<sup>th</sup> Day

**Wednesday, April 9**

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, April 11**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner

6:00 pm - Lazarus Saturday Compline

**Saturday, April 12**

**Lazarus Saturday**

8:50 am - Reading of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, April 13**

**Palm Sunday**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

## **Great and Holy Week**

**Monday, April 14**

### **Holy Monday**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

**Tuesday, April 15**

### **Holy Tuesday**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

**Wednesday, April 16**

### **Holy Wednesday**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Holy Unction

**Thursday, April 17**

### **Holy Thursday**

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

7:00 pm - Matins of Holy Friday with 12 Passion Gospels

**Friday, April 18**

### **Holy Friday**

9:00 am - Royal Hours

4:00 pm - Burial Vespers

7:00 pm - Matins with Lamentations

All Night Watch

**Saturday, April 19**

### **Holy Saturday**

9:00 am - Vespereal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday

## **GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA**

### **11:30 pm - Paschal Vigil and Paschal Divine Liturgy**

Followed by the blessing of baskets and Agape meal

**Sunday, April 20**

11:00 am - Agape Vespers

**Monday, April 21**

### **Bright Monday**

8:50 am - Paschal Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Saturday, April 26**

**Sunday, April 27**

### **St. Thomas Sunday**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

2:00 pm - Blessing of the Graves - Union Cemetery

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 6, 2025  
**Fifth Sunday of Great Lent**  
**St. Mary of Egypt**

**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 8      Troparion**                    *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

**Tone 8      Kontakion**                    *(Resurrection)*

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

**Tone 3      Kontakion**                    *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

**Tone 8      Prokeimenon**                    *(Resurrection)*

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! *(Ps. 75:10a)*

*In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)*

**Tone 4      Prokeimenon**                    *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. *(Ps. 67:35a)*

## **Epistle**

Read by David Metz

**(Hebrews 9:11-14)** But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not

of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**(Galatians 3:23-29 (St. Mary of Egypt))** But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

### **Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps. 94:1)*

*Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)*

### **Tone 1**

*I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication. (Ps. 39:1)*

### **Gospel**

**(Mark 10:32-45)** Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them,

“What do you want Me to do for you?” They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

**(Luke 7:36-50 (St. Mary of Egypt))** Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, “This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” So he said, “Teacher, say it.” “There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?” Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have rightly judged.” Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.” Then He said to her, “Your sins are

forgiven." And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

*(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)*  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*  
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 April 20<sup>th</sup>, we will need to store the willows until Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> for Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.



## **Lenten Covered Dish Coffee Hour Palm Sunday**

On Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025 we will be having a Lenten Covered Dish Coffee Hour. Please bring a Lenten covered dish to share for Coffee Hour. There is a sign up sheet at the candle desk to let us know what you'll be bringing.

# **Candle Offerings for Sunday, April 6, 2025**

## **Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)**

Happy Birthday Jean Lopata, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry

## **Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)**

In Memory Of Parents, Offered by Victoria Dimonie

## **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

## **Votives in Iconostas**

Happy Birthday Jean, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

## **Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)**

Happy Birthday Stephanie Pasquel, Offered by Patty Felix

## **Crosses**

Happy Birthday Jean Jubinski, Offered by Dan, Peter & Sarah

## **Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)**

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

## **Vigils on Icon Table (2)**

Happy Birthday Jean Jubinski, Offered by The Hodson Family

## **Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)**

Happy Birthday Becky Volkert, Offered by The Roberts Families

## **Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary**

Happy Birthday Miss Jean, Offered by Sophia & Jacob

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

In Memory Of Peter L. Slivka, Offered by Son Michael & Francine Slivka

## **Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist**

In Memory Of Parents, Offered by Victoria Dimonie

## **Vigils of St. Gregory (1)**

For Health Of Greg, Offered by Rosalie

## **Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)**

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

## **Vigil of St. Michael (1)**

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

# Pierogi Making Schedule

Pierogi Making April 7, 8, 9  
NO Pierogi April 14, 15, 16 (Holy Week)  
NO Pierogi April 21, 22, 23 (Bright Week)  
NO Pierogi April 28, 29, 30

## A Note of Thanks

Thank you for your generosity towards the St. Tikhon's Summer Camp kitchen/food fundraising coffee hour. We raised \$1,650 including \$500 from the Pierogi Workers. We will be using these funds to help in our efforts to make meatballs, breakfast bakes, homemade cookies and uncrustables.

## Lenten/Paschal Sign Up Sheets

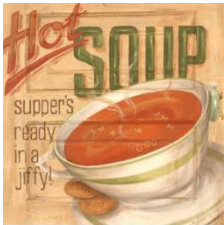
As we approach the end of our Lenten journey to Pascha, there are many opportunities to become involved. Please visit the candle desk to review the following sign up sheets.

- Flowers to adorn the grave of Our Lord
- Burial Vespers Procession
- Bright Monday Procession
- Red Eggs
- Grave Watch
- Pascha Procession

If you have any questions, please ask a Church Council Member or stop by the candle desk.

## Lenten Soup Sale

Every coffee hour during lent we will be hosting a take home quart soup sale. Each week will be different 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 Marina or Lori if you have any questions.



- THIS WEEK:** Black Bean  
Minestrone  
Garbanzo Cream (Lenten, coconut cream)
- Frozen Options: Lentil, Lima bean, Manhattan Clam Chowder,  
Vegetable, Persian Lentil, Split Pea



The Orthodox Church in America  
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

March 26, 2025

### INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

*Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)*

Dear to God,

Christ is in our midst! This year we will be ministering to approximately 150 children at the St. Tikhon's Camp Program. Through the program, our youth not only learn about their faith, and have fellowship with other Orthodox youth, but have the opportunity to develop lifelong relationships. These relationships and their experience help solidify their relationship to Christ and the Church.

Our Diocesan Council wants to ensure that all children of the Diocese are able to attend. The past two years the Diocese, together with our parishes and camp tuition from outside the Diocese covered the cost for all children of the Diocese. The previous cost of \$375 for the first child and \$350 for any siblings, made it quite difficult for families with more than one child. Parents previously decided that if they could not send all of their children who were age appropriate, they would not send any of them. Thanks be to God, we had numerous children there for the first time! Last year Diocesan Campers outnumbered those coming from outside the Diocese for the first time. This year, 110 of the 150 are from our own Diocese.

As a Church, we should never want any child unable to attend because of the cost. Secondly, we do not want to embarrass or humiliate parents by having to ask for assistance from their parish or the Diocese, whether it is for one child or more. We as Orthodox Christians need to invest in our youth by supporting all youth ministry fully. In some Orthodox jurisdictions parishes or organizations within the parish make sure every child can go to camp and even cover airfare.

Statistically, 70% of our youth once going away to college or entering the workforce fall away from the Church and 2/3 of those never return. We as a Church must do a better job of caring for our youth and providing opportunities for learning, fellowship and growth in their faith. Our Camp program is an important part of addressing the problem and has also contributed to young men and women making decisions to serve the Church in various ways. They want to give back.

In order to make our camp available and accessible to all our youth within the Diocese we are asking our faithful to consider sponsoring a camper with a contribution of \$375. We also ask our parishes to consider covering the cost of their own campers. If the parish has none, to consider helping to underwrite the cost of caring for our youth with a contribution of \$500. If we can get a commitment of \$42,000 a year through various contributions, we can offer the camp free of charge for all our children. We are also setting up a donation button on our website. You may send contributions to the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, 325 N Walnut St., Bath, PA 18014 and earmark it for St Tikhon's Camp. Thank you for your generosity and concern for our youth.

While we make this appeal to our parishes and faithful, please be aware the Diocese also covers the cost of the fall and Winter Retreats for our youth at a cost of approximately \$30,000. Likewise, we cover all clergy, clergy wives, men's and women's retreats.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK (Maymon), Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania  
*Please post on every parish website and in every parish bulletin.*



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Chancellor: V. Rev. Raymond Martin Browne \* Mobile: 570.906.1388  
Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linneman \* [treasurer@doepa.org](mailto:treasurer@doepa.org)

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine

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, Olga Frimenko, David Gowarty, Tom Grammes, Rachel Hardesty, Artemiy Hartman, Kalista Hartman, Nicholas Hazzard, Don Holobeny, Jonathan Hontz, Sherry Hromiak, Krista Irwin, Michael H. Isbansky, Shirley 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, 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, Christina Mazur, Amanda Riley, Corinne Stuckey, and their unborn children;

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