

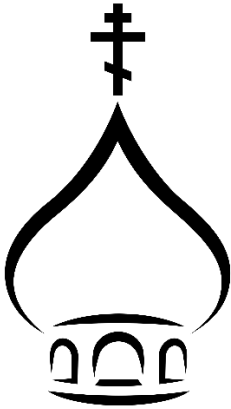
# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, September 7, 2025

**Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

**Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Martyr Sozón of Cilicia**



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



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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

Reader John Heitzenrater, Church School Administrator  
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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.***

980 Bridle Path Road | Bethlehem, PA 18017-3120 | T: 610-867-0402  
stnicholasoca.org

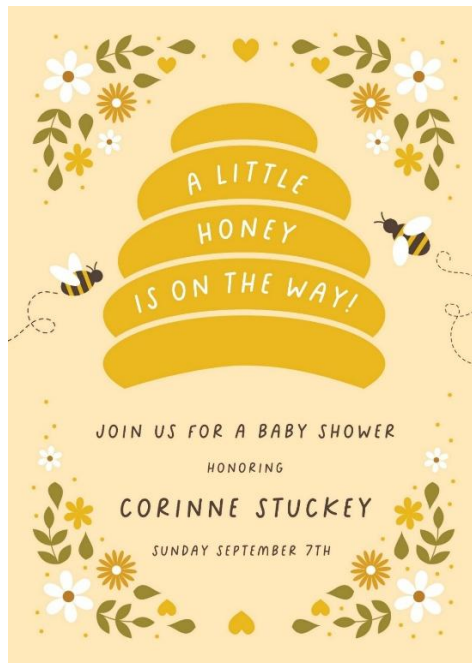
# Schedule for the Week of September 7, 2025

**13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4. Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Sunday before Elevation.** Martyr Sozón of Cilicia (ca. 304). St. John the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Novgorod (1186). Ven. Serapion of Spaso-Eleazar Monastery (Pskov–1481). Martyrdom of St. Makáry, Archimandrite of Kanev (Pereyaslavl’–1678). Apostles Evodia (Euodias) and Onesiphorus of the Seventy (66). Martyr Euppsychius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (2nd c.). Venerable Luke, Abbot of Batheos Ryako (10th c.). Ven. Cloud (Clodoald), Abbot, founder of Nogent-sur-Seine near Paris (560). Venerable Cassiani the Hymnographer.

## Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off  
Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

## Coffee Hour Today



# Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

<b>Monday, September 8</b>	<b>Nativity of the Theotokos</b> 8:50 am – Reading of the Hours 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
<b>Tuesday, September 9</b>	7:00 pm – Parish Council Meeting
<b>Saturday, September 13</b>	5:00 pm – Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, September 14</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> <b>Exaltation of the Cross</b> 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
<b>Saturday, September 20</b>	5:00 pm – Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, September 21</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
<b>Saturday, September 27</b>	5:00 pm – Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, September 28</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

## Administrative Assistant's Schedule

Please be advised that the St. Nicholas Church Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Bzik, will be traveling internationally from Thursday, September 10 through Sunday, September 21. During this time, please contact Fr. Nikolai regarding any urgent matters. Kindly refrain from calling or texting Jennifer during this time if at all possible. Feel free to email, but be aware that she will not be responding to emails until after her return.

In preparation for being out of the office, the Bulletins for Sunday, September 14 and Sunday, September 21 will be printed early. Please send any announcements for those dates no later than Sunday, September 7. If something else comes up that needs to be announced, please inform Fr. Nikolai so that he may make the announcement at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 7, 2025

## Forefast of the Nativity of the Theotokos Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross Martyr Sozón of Cilicia

### **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 4      Troparion**      *(Forefeast)*

Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David, the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us. Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices. Heaven and earth rejoice together. Praise her, you families of nations, for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life!"

### **Tone 4      Troparion**      *(St. Sozón)*

Thy holy martyr Sozón, O Lord, through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. Through his intercession, save our souls!

### **Tone 2      Kontakion**      *(St. Sozón)*

Let us gather today and together sing to Sozón, the true and divinely wise martyr, an expert fighter for the faith, the mystical seer of divine grace, a generous provider of healing, who prays to Christ God for us all.

### **Tone 3      Kontakion**      *(Forefeast)*

Today the Virgin Theotokos Mary, the bridal chamber of the Heavenly Bridegroom, by the will of the God is born of a barren woman, being prepared as the chariot of God the Word. She was foreordained for this, since she is the divine gate and the true Mother of Life.

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon      (Sunday Before)**

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)*

**Epistle**

Read by Reader Matthew Lezinsky

**(Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday Before))** See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

**(1 Corinthians 16:13-24)** Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren - you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints - that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand - Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps. 88:18b)*

*For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. (Ps. 88:20)*

## **Gospel**

**(John 3:13-17 (Sunday Before))** No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**(Matthew 21:33-42)** Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

## **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# **Candle Offerings for Sunday, September 7, 2025**

## **Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)**

Happy Birthday Grandpa

Offered by Sasha, Sophia, Jacob, Victoria, Elena, Brooke, Nicholas

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

Happy Birthday Dan Jubinski, Offered by Barry & Ann Marie

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

Happy Birthday Mr. Dan, Offered by Sophia & Jacob

## **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

## **Votives in Iconostas**

Safe Travels Jennifer Bzik, Offered by The Bzik Family

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

Happy Birthday Dad, Offered by Scott & Jen, Keri & Jason

## **Crosses**

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

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

In Memory Of Michael Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

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

In Memory Of Michael Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

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

Happy Birthday Jessica Roberts, Offered by Mom & Dad Roberts

**Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary**

Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Nick, Offered by Judy

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

In Memory Of Michael, Mary & Joan Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

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

In Memory Of Michael, Mary & Joan Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

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

Happy Birthday Greg Radio, Offered by Rosalie

**Vigils of St. Paul (1)**

Happy Birthday Dad, Offered by Scott, Jen, Keri & Jason

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

Happy Birthday Poppy, Offered by Ethan, Owen, Talia & Jones

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

In Memory Of Subdn Michael (Frank) Guydan, Offered by Michele D. Guydan

**Vigil of St. Andrew (1)**

In Memory Of Departed September 11<sup>th</sup>, Offered by Michele D. Guydan

**Flowers to Adorn the Icon of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos**

For Health Of Radio & Tomsic Families, Offered by Greg & Rosalie Radio

# Pierogi Project

The pierogi workers at St. Nicholas have been very generous in supporting the church, particularly when costly repair projects arise. The bells, doors, and HVAC are just a few examples of their support

The project is in need of a few new workers, those who can help every week and those who can help occasionally.

- Monday Needs:
- 7:00 am (1) Potato Machine Peeler
  - 8:00 am (6-8) Potato Cutters
  - 8:15 am (1) Potato Cooker
  - 8:30 am (1) Potato Mixer
- Prepare sauerkraut and plastic bags  
Cleanup
- Tuesday Needs:
- 6:00 am (1) Potato in machine
  - (3) Place balls on trays
- Cleanup
- Wednesday Needs:
- 7:00 am (1) Dough Maker
  - (2) Cookers
  - (1) Cooler
  - (1) Counter
  - (1) Tie bags and keep track of production numbers
  - (1) Roller
  - (2) Cutters
  - (1) Person to delivery trays and pick up pierogi
- Pinchers (as many as we can get)  
Cleanup

If you are interested, please contact Pat Grammes or Sandi Keysock.

**Thank you!!!**

# Donations Received In Memory

**In Memory Of Very Rev. Dimitri Oselinsky,** Offered by Barry & Ann Marie Bretz

## A Note of Thanks

To my fellow parishioners in Christ,

Perhaps you have noticed that I have not joined you regularly in church to worship recently. It has been a trying and challenging summer healthwise. I wish to offer my humble gratitude for the hearty homemade meals you sent to me and Fr. Michael, your calls of concern and support, your uplifting cards, and especially your prayers for my unanticipated affliction. I am hopeful to be with you soon again as God provides. Until then, my deepest thanks (and please save my favorable pew).

With love in Christ,  
Mat. Susan

## Welcome Back Children!

Sunday School Begins:

September 7 with a Moleben prayer immediately following Divine Liturgy. There will also be a brief meeting during coffee hour to hand out the Church School Calendar and review the church school structure for the year.

September 14 Sunday classes begin just before dismissal

Please see John Heitzenrater if you wish your child/grandchild to be enrolled in our Sunday School program if he/she has not been enrolled before this year. Children must turn 4 by October 1<sup>st</sup> to begin Sunday School.

Parents - Please also note that we have created an emergency contact form for our students. Please stop by the candle desk and fill out a form for each child enrolled in the Sunday School program. Even if you have filled out this form in the past, please complete and updated version for our records. Thank you!

## A Note of Thanks

Sending many thanks for all the help in making our halupki this past week. So many of you were able to offer your time and energy to come set up and prep, make the halupki, and clean up over the four days. We made about 1600 halupki in record time this year because we had so many hands available. Some will be used for our Christmas Bazaar, and the rest for another halupki dinner. Until next time, may God's grace be with you all.

With love in Christ,  
Val

## Weekly Offering Envelopes for 2026

It's hard to believe, but it is already time for us to begin planning for 2026! In reviewing our records, we have noticed that a growing number of parishioners are using online banking to make their offering, and are not using the traditional weekly envelopes. Any method of making donations is always welcome! In the interests of saving some paper and a few dollars for the church, we would like to check in with you to see if you are still interested in receiving a box of weekly envelopes for 2026.

- If you received a personalized box of weekly envelopes in 2025, and you would like to receive the same style box of offering envelopes in 2026, you do not need to take any action. Your box will be available to pick up at the candle desk towards the end of the year.
- If you received a personalized box of weekly envelopes in 2025, and you would like to discontinue those envelopes, please notify Jennifer Bzik by September 15, 2025.
- If you did not receive a personalized box of weekly envelopes in 2025, and you would like to receive a box for 2026, please notify Jennifer Bzik, and confirm your mailing address by September 15, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Bzik

## Frozen Halupki 4 Packs

As a reminder, Frozen Halupki 4 packs are still available for \$15. Please see Val Roberts if you are interested.

# Upcoming Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 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.

## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

There are several open coffee hour days in the upcoming months. Please consider signing up if you haven't hosted in the past! There are copies of the guidelines for hosting coffee hour available in the signup book at the candle desk if you are not familiar with what to do. Contact Jennifer Bzik if you need help or have questions. Thank you!

## Pierogi Making Schedule

NO PEROGI MAKING ALL SUMMER Monday, June 9 to Wednesday, Sept. 10  
RESUME Making our delicious pierogi Monday, September 15, Tuesday, September 16 and Wednesday, September 17.

## Upcoming Baking Schedule

Many hands make light work, and we have lots to do to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar! Please consider helping out if you are able. Contact Pat Grammes if you have any questions.

Sunday, September 7	12:00 pm (after liturgy) - Kiffle dough prep
Thursday, September 4	9:00 am - Roll Baking
Wednesday, September 10	8:00 am - Kiffle filling/baking
Thursday, September 18	9:00 am - Roll Baking
Thursday, September 25	9:00 am - Roll Baking
Thursday, October 2	9:00 am - Roll Baking

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, David Shewczyk, Ian Shipley, James Weremedic, John Onofrey, George Hasenecz, Emilian Hutnyan, 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, Alexis Defoe, Maryann Dudash, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, David Gowarty, Tom Grammes, Rachel Hardesty, Artemiy Hartman, Kalista Hartman, Nicholas Hazzard, Marina (Margaret) Heitzenrater, Don Holobeny, Jonathan Hontz, Sava Hrebinka, 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, Joseph Pinkowicz, Kiera Pheiffer, William Potter, Rosalie Radio, 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 Witanek, Sandra Wyslutsky

**Catechumen:** Elizabeth Glazman, Tonia Matyger, Alejandro Santiago

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

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