

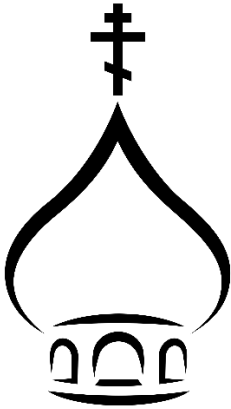
Divine Liturgy

Sunday, October 19, 2025

19th Sunday after Pentecost (4th of Luke)

Prophet Joel

Martyr Varus, and with him six Monk Martyrs



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector

Cell: 570-604-4277

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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

Email: ChurchSchool@stnicholasoca.org

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 October 19, 2025

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Prophet Joel (ca. 800 B.C.). Martyr Varus, and with him seven Monastic Martyrs (ca. 307). Translation of the Relics of Ven. John, Abbot of Rila, Bulgaria (1238). Bl. Cleopatra and her son John, in Egypt (327). Hieromartyr Sadoc (Sadoth), Bishop of Persia, and 128 Martyrs with him (342).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, October 20th - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, October 22nd - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm



In an effort to make my scheduling more efficient, and to avoid a bunch of back-and-forth emails, please take advantage of my new scheduling app at www.calendly.com/frnikolai You can also scan this QR code with your phone, to be taken directly to the site. With this you can schedule a confession outside of the usual Vespers times, or schedule a 1-hour in-person or Zoom meeting with me. - Fr. Nikolai

Coffee Hour Today

At the time of printing there was no host for Coffee Hour

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Saturday, October 25

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, October 26

20th Sunday After Pentecost

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Thursday, October 30 10:00 am – 40th Day Panikhida for Nancy Sabol
Saturday, November 1 4:30 pm – General Panikhida
 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Sunday, November 2 **21st Sunday After Pentecost**
 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
Friday, November 7 6:00 pm – Great Vespers
Saturday, November 8 **Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the Other
 Bodiless Powers**
 8:50 am – Reading of the Hours
 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Sunday, November 9 **22nd Sunday After Pentecost**
 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
Thursday, November 13 9:00 am – Akathist to the Theotokos, Nurturer of
 Children
Saturday, November 15 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Sunday, November 16 **23rd Sunday After Pentecost**
 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
Thursday, November 20 6:00 pm – Great Vespers
Friday, November 21 **Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the
 Temple**
 8:50 am – Reading of the Hours
 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
Saturday, November 22 6:00 pm – Great Vespers
Sunday, November 23 **24th Sunday After Pentecost**
 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
Thursday, November 27 9:00 am – Moleben of Thanksgiving, in honor of
 Thanksgiving Day
Saturday, November 29 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Sunday, November 30 **25th Sunday After Pentecost**
 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

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Tone 2 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

Tone 2 Troparion *(Prophet Joel)*

We celebrate the memory of Thy prophet Joel, O Lord; through him we beseech You: "Save our souls!"

Tone 4 Troparion *(St. Varus)*

Thy holy martyr Varus, 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 *(Resurrection)*

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee, and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Tone 4 Kontakion *(St. Varus)*

Following Christ, O Martyr Varus, thou didst drink of His chalice; thou didst receive the crown of martyrdom and now rejoicest with the Angels. Pray for our souls unceasingly!

Tone 2 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. *(Ps. 117:14)*

*The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.
(Ps. 117:18)*

Epistle

Read by Reader Matthew Lezinsky

(2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9) The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Tone 2

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee! (Ps. 19:1)

Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)

Gospel

(Luke 8:5-15) “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a

hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Communion Hymn

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

Candle Offerings for Sunday, October 19, 2025

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Memory Of Grandma Nancy Sabol
Offered by Moses, Carmen, Alexander & Christopher

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Olga Sawarynski, Offered by Goddaughter Sandi Keysock

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

Happy 95th Birthday Olga Frimenko

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

Votives in Iconostas

In Memory Of Grandma Nancy Sabol
Offered by Moses, Carmen, Alexander & Christopher

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

Happy Birthday Elena Florenz, Offered by Baba & Grandpa

Crosses

In Honor Of Olga Frimenko's 95th Birthday

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

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

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

Happy Birthday Dale Konsevitch, Offered by Gordon & Val Roberts

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Elena Florenz, Offered by The Lezinskys

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

Happy Birthday Naomi, Offered by Mom, Dad, Tanis & Jack

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 on South Wall Window Sill (3)

In Honor of Olga & Nikolay for their Wedding Anniversary
Offered by Guliana Holobeny

Vigil of St. Andrew (1)

In Honor Of Andrew Petrides, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan Kon

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, October 26	12:00 pm (after liturgy) - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, October 29	12:00 pm (after pierogies) - Kiffle filling/baking
Sunday, November 2	12:00 pm (after liturgy) - Kiffle dough prep
Wednesday, November 5	12:00 pm (after pierogies) - Kiffle filling/baking

Church Property Outside Clean Up Day

On Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 9:00 am we will be meeting to clean up the exterior of the church property. If you are available to help out, please let Pat Grammes know. No tools are necessary, but if you have hedge clippers it would be helpful to bring those along.

Preparing for Veterans Day

Parish Faithful,

We would like to refresh our list of St. Nicholas Veterans, so please take a moment to let us know of anyone who should be listed in the bulletin for Veterans Day. Please include the Veteran's name and branch of service. Kindly submit all names no later than Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

Thank you!

Basket Raffle Donations Wanted

We will once again be hosting a Basket Raffle this year during the holiday season and we are looking for volunteers to donate baskets. We have a track record of offering beautiful baskets and we are hoping to uphold tradition. If you are able to make a basket, please contact Jennifer Bzik to let her know in advance.

Don't be shy if you have never made a basket for the raffle before! Jennifer will be happy to help you out. If you are interested in supporting the Basket Raffle but are not able to make a basket, please consider making a cash donation. Jennifer (and her daughter Lydia 😊) will be happy to do the shopping and prepare a basket on your behalf!

The Basket Raffle will open on Saturday, December 13th during the Christmas Bazaar and Sunday, December 14th during Coffee Hour. The last chance to get those tickets in will be on Sunday, December 14th before our Christmas Choir Concert, which begins at 3:30 pm. The Basket Raffle Drawing will be held following the conclusion of the concert on Sunday, December 14th.

If you are planning to make a cash donation, please do so as soon as possible (no later than Sunday, November 30, 2025) so that we have an opportunity to shop and prepare a basket using those funds. **All donated baskets must be brought to the church by noon on Sunday, December 7, 2024.** If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Jennifer Bzik. Thank you so much for your support!

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1607 W Union Blvd
Bethlehem, PA



Nativity Retreat Sat, 11.15.25

Topic 1

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Topic 2

RE-ENCHANTING A DISENCHANTED WORLD

The Very Rev. Archpriest Andrew Stephen Damich is Chief Content Officer of Ancient Faith Ministries, the former pastor (2009-2020) of St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church of Emmaus, Pennsylvania, and a prolific author.

He has been podcasting since 2007 and is co-host of The Lord of Spirits (with Fr. Stephen De Young), The Great Tales (with Don. Seraphim Richard Rohlin), Amon Sül (through 2024, with Richard Rohlin) and The Areopagus (with Michael Landsman) and host of The Orthodox Pilgrim, Orthodox Engagement, Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy and Roads from Emmaus.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature from North Carolina State University, a Master of Divinity in Orthodox Theology from St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, and a Master of Arts in Language and Literature from Signum University. He speaks frequently at lectures and retreats both in parishes and in other settings.

He does believe in both dragons and giants.

9AM / Registration
Topic 1 / 9:30AM - 11AM
Small Lunch / 11AM - 11:30AM
Topic 2 / 11:30AM - 1PM, ending with Q/A
To register, please email:
womenoftheotokos@gmail.com
Fee - \$10/Person



JOURNEY THROUGH THE DIVINE LITURGY

4 ZOOM LECTURES, NOVEMBER, 2025



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

6:00 PM - SESSION #1
WHAT IS LITURGY?

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

6:00 PM - SESSION #2
THE LITURGY OF THE CATECHUMENS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

6:00 PM - SESSION #3
THE LITURGY OF THE FAITHFUL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

6:00 PM - SESSION #4
ON PRAYER

**COMING TUESDAYS, STARTING
NOVEMBER 4TH - AT 6:00 PM
ZOOM ONLY!**

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT:
[STNICHOLASOCA.ORG/LITURGY](https://stnicholasoca.org/liturgy)**

**ST. NICHOLAS RUSSIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH (OCA)**

980 BRIDLE PATH ROAD | BETHLEHEM, PA 18017

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, Gregory White

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, Susan Kon

Servants: Bethany Bruder, Theresa Butler, Jennifer Bzik, 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, Kiera Pheiffer, William Potter, Rosalie Radio, Laurel Riley, Gordon Roberts, Leah Roberts, Barbara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Connor Samuels, Robert Schainfeld, Catherine Shea, Janice Shumbata, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Dorothy Stafiniak, Maeve Stuckey, Irene Witanek, Sandra Wyslutsky

Catechumens: Shane Ernst, Elizabeth Glazman, Tonia Matyger, Mithrin Moses, Adam and Nicole Pell, Robert Peloquin, Bryan Peterson, Alejandro Santiago

Handmaidens: Corinne Stuckey, and her newborn son

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