

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, November 16, 2025

23rd Sunday after Pentecost (8th of Luke)

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector

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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 November 16, 2025

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (60 A.D.). St. Fulvian, Prince of Ethiopia, in Baptism Matthew (1st c.).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, November 17th - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, November 19th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, November 21st - 11:00 am - 3:00 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

Coffee Hour today is hosted by Karen Goward & Guliana Holobeny
To assist Stephanie Koretski in the purchase of a Power Lift Mobile Chair

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Monday, November 17 7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 18 6:00 pm - November Zoom Lecture Series
Liturgy of the Faithful
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	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, November 23	24th Sunday After Pentecost 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, November 25	6:00 pm - November Zoom Lecture Series On Prayer
Thursday, November 27	Thanksgiving Day 9:00 am - Moleben of Thanksgiving
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

Upcoming Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, November 17, 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!

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Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

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 3 Troparion *(St. Matthew)*

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, entreat the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

Tone 3 *(or this Troparion)*

With zeal didst thou follow Christ the Master, Who, in His goodness, appeared on earth to mankind. Summoning thee from the customs house, He revealed thee as a chosen apostle: the proclaimer of the Gospel to the whole world. Therefore, divinely eloquent Matthew, we honor thy precious memory. Entreat the merciful God that He may grant our souls remission of transgressions!

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 4 Kontakion *(St. Matthew)*

Casting aside the bonds of the customs house for the yoke of justice, thou wast revealed as an excellent merchant, rich in wisdom from on high. Thou didst proclaim the word of truth rousing the souls of the slothful by writing of the hour of Judgment.

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 8 Prokeimenon (St. Matthew)

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. (*Ps. 18:4*)

Epistle

Read by Reader Matthew Lezinsky

(Ephesians 2:4-10) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

(1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (St. Matthew)) For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

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 1

The heavens will praise Thy wonders, O Lord; and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints. (Ps. 88:5)

Gospel

(Luke 10:25-37) And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of

him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

(Matthew 9:9-13 (St. Matthew)) As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*
Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends
of
the universe. *(Ps. 18:4)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Candle Offerings for Sunday, November 16, 2025

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Memory Of Nicolae (Aliana's Father), Offered by Victoria Dimonie

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

Happy Birthday Susan Nielsen, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

Happy Birthday Eric Lustig, Offered by The Lustig Family

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

Votives in Iconostas

Happy Birthday Barb Monarek & Susan Nielsen, Offered by Kyra & Greg

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

In Honor Of Matthew Shadid, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan

Crosses

Good Health Barbara Monarek, Offered by Susan & Bill

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

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

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

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

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

In Honor Of Nora Marie Shadid, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan Kon

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

Happy Birthday Susan Nielsen, Offered by Bill

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

In Memory of Michael, Michael, Michael

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

In Memory Of Metz & Radick Families, Offered by Peter & Patricia Metz

Remember Our Homebound

As of 11/1/2025

Mrs. Mary Dorosh - 4535 Charles Street, Easton, PA 18045-4809

Mr. Damian Drasher - Whitehall Manor Room A8, 1177 Sixth St, Whitehall, PA 18052

Fr. Thomas & Mat. Evelyn Edwards - 4052 Lehigh Drive, Northampton, PA 18067

Mrs. Olga Frimenko - Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543

Mr. Michael & Mrs. Shirley Isbansky - 2022 Arlington Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017-4879

Ms. Mary Koretski - Gracedale Nursing Home, 2 Gracedale Ave, SE 2, Room 8, Nazareth, PA 18064

Mrs. Antoinette Lebeduik - 832 Wellington Road, Manchester, NH 03104

Mrs. Michele Lovell - PO Box 20031, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0031

Mat. Patricia Mason - 788 Hunter Rd, Easton, PA 18040

Mat. Julia Romanchak - Whitehall Manor Room A10, 1177 Sixth St, Whitehall, PA 18052

Mrs. Dorothy Stafiniak - 8 Dara Circle, Broomall, PA 19008

*****Let's Have a Card Shower!*****

*Dorothy Stafiniak is celebrating a Milestone Birthday Soon!
She will be turning 90 on November 20, 2025!!!*

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to our parishioners their generous donations to benefit the Alaskan flood victims. A total of \$1,211.00 was collected during the recent coffee hour.

“One Can Can Help” Annual Food Drive

Sponsored by: RO59/NSS

We will be collecting non-perishable food products to benefit the New Bethany Ministries until December 7, 2025.

Please leave your generous donations in the boxes on either side of the entrance doors to the hall. They will accept nonperishable food items as well as paper products.

Thank you so much!

Hope Rescue Mission needs your HELP!

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church is collecting all types of gently used clothing including coats, hats, boots, belts, men’s clothing for the men at Hope Rescue Mission and for the women’s and children’s shelter (Lighthouse). We will take all seasons of clothing for men, women, and children. We have a need for new men’s underwear, undershirts, and sweatpants all in sizes medium to xxxl.



You can drop items off in the designated containers in the Chernay Fellowship Hall. Please make all donations by **Sunday, November 30, 2025.**

This clothing helps provide food, clothing, and shelter for the men at Hope Rescue and the women and children at Lighthouse.

Thank you in advance for your donations!

Coffee Hour & Donation Housekeeping Notes

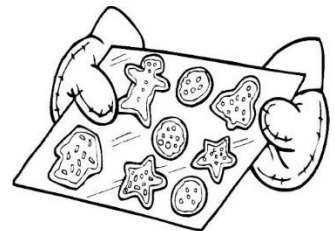
A few housekeeping notes regarding coffee hour and other kitchen donations:

- If you are hosting Coffee Hour, please check the kitchen fridge before you purchase new items. There are often open containers of our frequently used items (peanut butter, jelly/jam, creamers, juice, soda, etc.), which should be used before opening new containers to avoid waste.
- If you host coffee hour or another event, please distribute or take home all leftovers. When leftovers are not taken home, they end up going to waste and making a project for someone else to dispose of them.
- If you are placing something in the fridge/freezer/pantry for future use, please mark it with your name and the date you are planning to use it.
- If you are donating snacks, drinks, kitchen items, etc., for general use (not for a specific event), please label those items as donations available for general use.
- Please note that all food items that are not used or labeled by November 30, 2025 will be donated as part of the One Can Can Help food collection.

It's time again for **COOKIES!!!**

We will be making cookie trays to sell at the Christmas Bazaar and would appreciate your help.

- 🍪 Please make at least **5 dozen** cookies (more is totally fine).
- 🍪 Notify Kathy Lichtenwalner what kind you would like to make (We would like to prevent duplicate flavors), or sign up at the candle desk.
- 🍪 Please bring in your cookies in sealed containers on Sunday, December 7, 2025. There will be a rack in the Church Hall for cookies to be placed on.
- 🍪 Please no cookies that have to be refrigerated.
- 🍪 Please put cookies on plates or in containers with wax paper to separate the layers. No Zip Loc Bags please.



Thank you!!!

3rd Quarter Treasurer's Report Summary

July 2025	Income:	\$39,318.30
	Expenses:	\$33,261.91
	<u>Net Revenue:</u>	<u>\$6,056.39</u>
August 2025	Income:	\$27,801.05
	Expenses	\$28,906.42
	<u>Net Revenue:</u>	<u>\$(1,105.37)</u>
September 2025	Income:	\$37,025.85
	Expenses:	\$31,468.50
	<u>Net Revenue:</u>	<u>\$5,557.35</u>

Calling All Bakers for the 12/13 Christmas Bazaar Fire up the ovens!

It's time for your SCRUMPTIOUS desserts that St. Nicholas is famous for. If you are a returning baker or new to the task, we welcome your YUMMY desserts. Please keep these things in mind:

- We have very limited refrigerator space, so please consider items that do not require refrigeration.
- Please DO NOT slice your cakes, pies, brownies, etc. The baked goods team will pre-slice items for consistence in serving piece and pricing.
- Feel free to provide a label e.g. German Chocolate Cake, Snickerdoodle Cookies, etc. There is no need to list ingredients, however it is useful to note: "nut free", "egg free", "dairy free" or "sugar free".
- Please provide baked goods on sturdy plates. DO NOT use cardboard because it is often too big and not sturdy.
- Securely label your name on your containers/dishes that you want returned. They will be cleaned and placed on racks in the kitchen where you can pick them up. And, whilst we are very careful with your dishes, DO NOT use precious containers that cannot be replaced if accidentally broken.

Thank you to all the great bakers who contribute to the success of the sale! Your efforts are truly appreciated! Baked goods may be dropped off on Friday, December 12th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Grammes.

Upcoming Pierogi Schedule

The last time to order fresh pierogi will be Sunday, December 14, 2025 for pickup on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Get your orders in early as quantities will be limited. We will not be making any fresh pierogi in January or February 2026. We will return the week of March 1, 2026. Please place phone orders by Sunday, February 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Please also note - Fresh Pierogi will not be made the week of Thanksgiving. Frozen Pierogi will be available during the break on a first come, first served basis. Leave a message on the pierogi hotline and we will call you to coordinate pickup.

Lenten Pierogi (Potato or Sauer Kraut) will be made December 1, 2025. To order, please sign up on the sheet by the phone in the kitchen no later than noon on Sunday, November 30, 2025.

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, 2025.** If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Jennifer Bzik. Thank you so much for your support!

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.