

# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, December 14, 2025

**27th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)**

**Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**



**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

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 December 14, 2025

**27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 2. Sunday of the Forefathers.**  
Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios, and Kallinikos (249-51). Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Arrian, and Theonas of Alexandria (286-287).

## Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off  
Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> - 11:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am - 2:00 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](http://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 The Lungu/Marian Family  
In Memory Of Nicolae

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

<b>Saturday, December 20</b>	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, December 21</b>	<b>Sunday Before Nativity</b> 9:10 am - Reading of the Hours 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
<b>Wed., December 24</b>	<b>Eve of Nativity</b> 9:00 am - Royal Hours 7:00 pm - Nativity Vigil

<b>Thurs., December 25</b>	<b>Nativity of our Lord</b> 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
<b>Friday, December 26</b>	<b>Synaxis of the Mother of God</b> 8:50 am – Reading of the Hours 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm – Great Vespers
<b>Saturday, December 27</b>	<b>Sunday after Nativity</b> 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy 4:30 pm – General Panikhida 5:00 am – Great Vespers
<b>Sunday, December 28</b>	<b>Sunday before Theophany</b> 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
<b>Saturday, January 3</b>	<b>Eve of Theophany</b> 9:00 am – Royal Hours TBD - Holy Supper 7:00 pm – Theophany Compline w/ Blessing of Waters
<b>Sunday, January 4</b>	<b>Holy Feast of Theophany</b> 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
<b>Monday, January 5</b>	<b>Old Calendar Nativity (In Slavonic)</b> 9:10 am – Reading of the Hours 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
<b>Tuesday, January 6</b>	
<b>Wednesday, January 7</b>	

## Upcoming Pierogi Schedule

The last time to order fresh pierogi will be **TODAY** 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.

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.

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 14, 2025

**27th Sunday after Pentecost (12th of Luke)**

**Sunday of the Holy Forefathers**

**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**      *(Forefathers)*

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed. So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

**Tone 6      Kontakion**      *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

**Tone 4      Prokeimenon**      *(Forefathers)*

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)*

## **Epistle**

Read by Reader Mark Hrebinka

**(Colossians 3:4-11 (Forefathers))** When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and

covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

#### **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. 98:6)*

#### **Gospel**

**(Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers))** Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

#### **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!

# **Candle Offerings for Sunday, December 14, 2025**

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

In Memory Of Nicolae, Offered by Lungu & Marian Family

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

In Memory Of Nicolae, Offered by Lungu & Marian Family

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

Happy Birthday Marina, Offered by Nick, Judy & Gram

## **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov

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

God Grant Many Blessed Years to Patty Felix on her Birthday  
Offered by Michael & Shirley Isbansky

## **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)**

Happy Birthday Aunt Marina, Offered by Sophia & Jacob

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

In Memory Of Nicolae, Offered by Doina, Aliana & Radu

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

In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

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

In Memory Of Charles Lackatos, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

# Remember Our Homebound

As of 12/4/2025

**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

**Mrs. Elizabeth Hasenecz** - 1856 Falcon Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017

**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

## Request for Annual Church Organization Reports

Please note that all Church Organization Reports must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant by January 15, 2026 in order to prepare the packets for the Annual Parish Assembly. Packets will be distributed to parishioners from the candle desk beginning on February 1, 2026 for their review prior to the meeting on February 15, 2026.

## **A Note of Thanks**

On behalf of the entire St. John Chrysostom Academy community I want to thank the OCF for its recent coffee hour and donation to the St. John Chrysostom Academy gym floor! We raised over \$1000 for the gym floor! Thank you.

John Heitzenrater

## **A Note of Thanks**

Father Nikolai & My Parish Family:

Glory to Jesus Christ! With humility and profound gratitude, I extend my wishes and thanks to my sisters in Christ, Julianna Holobeny & Karen Gowarty for their efforts spearheading the recent fundraising Coffee Hour on my behalf. Through their selflessness & usual boundless generosity of the parish, I will be able to acquire a portable power chair to improve my mobility. This device will allow me to leave home to independently complete miscellaneous errands, appointments -& by God's grace- attendance at services. It will truly be a life-changer! May our anticipated Incarnate Christ honor your generosity & bless you all richly.

Stephanie Koretski

## **A Note of Thanks**

Thank you to all who baked cookies for the cookie trays sold at the Christmas Bizarre. With all of the different variety of cookies, the trays looked beautiful and delicious. Because of everyone's help, the sale of the trays was a big success. Thank you!

Kathy Lichtenwalner

## **A Note of Thanks**

Thank you to all of our busy bakers! Our cookie trays and baked goods table were FILLED! Please remember to pick up your containers/dishes on the bakers racks in the kitchen. Thank you again! May God continue to bless you and keep you in His grace.

Val Roberts

# Giving Tree

This year our parish Giving Tree will support the Cay Galgon Life House in their mission to prepare local pregnant women and mothers of infants for a life of self-reliance. Through their group home for homeless pregnant women and their community outreach program, they support hundreds of women and infants each year. Located on West Broad Street in Bethlehem, they are well positioned to help at risk families right here in our area. The tags on our Giving Tree will be ideas for items to help support the general mission of the Cay Galgon Life House.

In addition we are collecting gift cards:

Amazon gift cards (any dollar amount)

Walmart gift cards (any dollar amount)

Giant grocery gift cards (\$25 increments are most helpful)

Lowe's gift cards (\$25 increments are most helpful)

Please bring your gift unwrapped in a gift bag or a bag to contain/separate your item from the others when placed in the large collection box in the narthex. (If item is wrapped IT WILL BE OPENED!) **Gifts are due in by 12/21 -no exception.** If you would like to make a monetary donation please pass that donation on to Jennifer Bzik.

Remember that specific brand names are not as important as getting these vital items into the hands of those that need them. Bargain shopping is a great way to help more families. For these and other consumable items (baby wash, shampoo for moms, etc.), keep in mind that multiple small or medium containers are more useful than large bulk sizes. While one giant size bottle of shampoo might be the better bargain, buying several smaller bottles allows them to be distributed to help multiple families.

**The generosity of our St. Nicholas family is amazing.  
Thank you in advance.**



His Eminence, the Most Reverend

**+ MARK**

*Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania  
Orthodox Church in America*

December 6, 2025  
Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker

Dear Reverend Fathers, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, and Faithful,

*Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!*

I greet you all during this Advent season and on the feast of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker. As we commemorate the guardian of those in need, I invite the faithful to remember our seminarians during this time. Your generosity throughout the year strengthens the life of the Church, and we remain grateful for your recent support of Youth Ministries this past "Giving Tuesday" and for our diocesan seminarians.

On this feast of Saint Nicholas, the Diocese asks the faithful to keep in prayer our seminarians, Subdeacon Jacob Kurtz, Reader Alexander Koropsak, and Nicholas Sheridan, as they continue their formation for service in Christ's Holy Church. Their studies require their full attention, making outside employment impossible. Your support provides meaningful help. Neither seminary covers rent, utilities, groceries, or books. A monthly gift or one time offering made directly to a seminarian or sent to the Diocesan Chancery with a notation will ease these burdens. Those wishing to send support directly may do so at the following addresses:

Rdr. Alexander Koropsak  
St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary  
575 Scarsdale Rd.  
Yonkers, NY 10707

Nicholas and Abigail Sheridan  
St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary  
575 Scarsdale Rd.  
Yonkers, NY 10707

Sden. Jacob and Mariana Kurtz  
Children: Luka, Noah, and newborn Magdalena Christine  
St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary  
P.O. Box 130  
South Canaan, PA 18459

May God bless your kindness and our God-protected Diocese!

Your unworthy father in Christ,

*+ Mark*

+MARK  
Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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, Doina Marian, Kylie Pinho, Kiera Pheiffer, William Podlusky, Kathy Porter, 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, Maeve Stuckey, Irene Witaneck, Sandra Wyslutsky

**Catechumens:** Shane Ernst, Elizabeth Glazman, Nicholas Heacock, 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.**