

Divine Liturgy

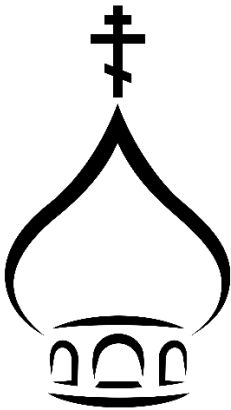
Sunday, December 21, 2025

28th Sunday after Pentecost (13th of Luke)

Sunday before the Nativity

Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Sunday of the Holy Fathers



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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.***

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Schedule for the Week of December 21, 2025

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity. Virgin Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia, and with her 500 men and 130 women (304). Repose of St. Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow, Wonderworker of All Russia (1326). Right-believing Princess Juliana of Vyazma (1406). Repose of Bl. Procopii (Procopius) of Vyatka, Fool-for-Christ (1628). Martyr Themístocles of Myra in Lycia (251).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Fr. Nikolai will not have any official office hours this week due to the holiday.



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 Marietta Peytcheva & Boris Stefanov

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Wed., December 24

Eve of Nativity

9:00 am – Royal Hours

7:00 pm – Nativity Vigil

Thurs., December 25

Nativity of our Lord

9:10 am – Reading of the Hours

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 26

Synaxis of the Mother of God

8:50 am – Reading of the Hours

9:00 am – Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 27

5:00 pm – Great Vespers

Sunday, December 28

Sunday after Nativity

9:10 am – Reading of the Hours

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 3

4:30 pm – General Panikhida

5:00 am – Great Vespers

Sunday, January 4

Sunday before Theophany

9:10 am – Reading of the Hours

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Monday, January 5

Eve of Theophany

9:00 am – Royal Hours

TBD - Holy Supper

7:00 pm – Theophany Compline w/ Blessing of Waters

Tuesday, January 6

Holy Feast of Theophany

9:10 am – Reading of the Hours

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, January 7

Old Calendar Nativity (In Slavonic)

9:10 am – Reading of the Hours

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

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Tone 3 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Tone 2 Troparion *(Holy Fathers)*

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4 Troparion *(Forefeast)*

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of It, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Fathers)*

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Tone 2 Kontakion (*Forefeast*)

He Who holds the earth in the hollow of His hand now is beheld in Bethlehem wrapped in swaddling bands. We offer prefestal hymns to his Mother, who maternally rejoices having held to her bosom the Son of God.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Holy Fathers*)

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 Tricia Metz

(Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Sunday Before)) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better

resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. (Ps. 43:1a)

For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. (Ps. 43:8)

Gospel

(Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before)) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen

generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

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 21, 2025

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Memory Of James & Marianne Blachiroski, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of William & Mary Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Memory Of John Junda, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

Votives in Iconostas

For Health Of Leah Roberts, Offered by Baba & PaPa

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

For Health Of Leah Roberts, Offered by Baba & PaPa

Crosses

In Honor Of Elizabeth Glazman, Offered by Marietta & Boris

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

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

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

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

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

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

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

For Health Of Leah Roberts, Offered by Mommy, Daddy, Lili & Nathan

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

In Memory Of David Keysock, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of John Junda, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

For Health Of Leah Roberts

Offered by Uncle Matt, Aunt Alex, Aunt Jess, Evie & Hannah

Vigils of St. Gregory (1)

In Memory Of Henry, Josephine, Michael, Offered by Barry & Ann Marie

Vigils of St. Paul (1)

In Memory Of Anna, Andrew, Paul, Offered by Barry & Ann Marie

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)

In Memory Of My Mother, Offered by Elizabeth Sabol

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

In Thanksgiving, Offered by Michele D. Guydan

Theophany House Blessings

Dear faithful, Glory to Jesus Christ! This year, I am attempting as much as possible to schedule 2025 House Blessings electronically. Therefore I've created an online sign-up form. We will also have the normal paper sign up at the candle desk, for those who don't wish to fill in the form themselves. Blessings will begin on Thursday, January 8th, and are arranged according to location, so be sure to check both the time and the location on the schedule when you sign up. The sign-up form can be found at www.stnicholasoca.org/theophany2026

In Christ,

Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge

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.

Baked Goods Still Available First Come, First Served!

As of the time of bulletin writing, the following baked goods were still available. Please note that this is subject to change. Please see Pat or Maxine to purchase.

Frozen Rolls (Apricot, Poppy, Lekvar) - \$10

Frozen Paska Bread

Frozen Kiffles (Nut, Apricot, Poppy) - \$5

Frozen Borscht - \$10

Reminder - Please Take Home Your Dishes!!!

Many thanks to those who provided delicious baked goods for our Christmas Bazaar! Don't forget to collect your containers from the racks in the kitchen. Please note items left after January 31, 2026 will be donated or tossed.

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

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to all who worked hard to make our Christmas Bazaar a huge success this year! This event could not happen without all the help from so many: our pierogi makers, our bakers, our cooks and servers in the kitchen (and outside in the cold, frying our delicious potato pancakes, brrr), the bake table helpers, basket raffle organizers, Treasures of Russia helpers, those manning the preorders and frozen selections, our washroom volunteers, and our wonderful vendors! If you didn't know, we also have an increasing number of parishioners' friends coming to help as well. Our parish upkeep depends on these fundraisers right now, and we pray God will continue to bless us with enough organizers, volunteers, and customers for as long as we need.

In Christ,

Pat, Maxine, Val

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.