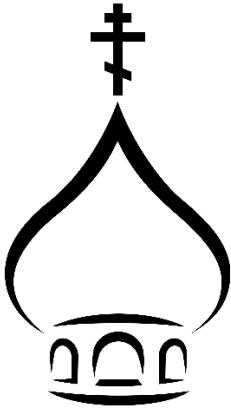


**Divine Liturgy**  
Sunday, February 8, 2026  
**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**  
**Afterfeast of the Meeting**



**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 February 8, 2026

**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON – Tone 2. Afterfeast of the Meeting.**  
Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates (“the General”–319). Prophet Zachariah (ca. 520 B.C.). St. Sava II, Archbishop of Serbia (1269).

## Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Nikolai's Day Off  
Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Friday, February 13<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 Young Orthodox Christians of St Nicholas

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

**Tuesday, February 10**  
**Saturday, February 14**

7:00 pm – Parish Council Meeting  
**Memorial Saturday**

8:50 am – Reading of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour  
9:00 am – Divine Liturgy  
5:00 pm – Great Vespers

**Sunday, February 15**

**Sunday of Last Judgement / Meatfare Sunday**  
9:10 am – Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, February 21** 5:00 pm - Great Vespers  
**Sunday, February 22** **Forgiveness Sunday / Cheese Fare Sunday**  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy  
12:00 pm - Forgiveness Vespers

### **First Week of Lent - Clean Week**

**Monday, February 23** 7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete  
**Tuesday, February 24** 7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete  
**Wed., February 25** 9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete  
**Thursday, February 26** 7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete  
**Friday, February 27** 6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy  
**Saturday, February 28** **St. Theodore the Recruit**  
8:50 am - Reading of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour  
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy St. Theodore the Recruit  
5:00 pm - Great Vespers  
**Sunday, March 1** **The Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy  
**Wednesday, March 4** 6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy  
**Friday, March 6** 9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 pm - Akathist - St. Nicholas

## **Upcoming Parish Council Meeting**

Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 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.

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, February 8, 2026  
**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**  
**Afterfeast of the Meeting**

**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 1      Troparion**      *(Feast)*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection!

**Tone 3      Kontakion**      *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou hadst given me. Therefore I cry to Thee like the Prodigal: "I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father; receive me a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants!"

**Tone 1      Kontakion**      *(Feast)*

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

**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)*

**Tone 3**      **Prokeimenon**      *(Song of the Theotokos)*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
*(Lk. 1:46-47)*

**Epistle**

Read by Reader John Heitzenrater

**(1 Corinthians 6:12-20)** All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

**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)*

**Tone 8**

*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation! (Luke 2:29)*

## Gospel

**(Luke 15:11-32)** Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)*

### **Tone 3**

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee!

In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful discern a figure: every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who has no beginning, the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

### **Communion Hymn**

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

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 115:4)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **Candle Offerings for Sunday, February 8, 2026**

### **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

### **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 Mireille on her Saint's Day, St. Anna Princess of Novgorod

Offered by Godmother Guliana

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

For Health Of Nancy Redline, Offered by Val & Gordon

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

For Health Of Joe Pinkowicz, Offered by Barry & Ann Marie

# The Psalter

Lent is almost upon us and it is time to form this years Psalter Group. There will be a sign up sheet at the candle desk if you would like to participate in reading the Psalter together as a church family. Last year was our first year and it was a success! I have already had individuals ask if we are going to have a group this Great Lent. If you are interested please sign up and include your email. If you do not have an email address I will gladly make sure you have a paper copy of the individuals in the group and your starting psalm.

## How it works:

The Psalter is divided into twenty sections, or kathismas. So to start a group, all you need is twenty people willing to commit to reading one kathisma per day. Each kathisma take approximately fifteen to twenty minutes to read. On the first day of the fast, each person begins reading a different kathisma.

## For Example:

- On Day One: Someone (ex: Patricia) would begin on Kathisma 1, I would read Kathisma 2, Michelle would read Kathisma 3, you would read Kathisma 4, and so on.
- On day Two: Patricia would read Kathisma 2, I would read Kathisma 3, Michelle would read Kathisma 4, you would read Kathisma 5, and so on. The person who had Kathisma 20 would read Kathisma 1.

We continue in this manner until we reach the end Kathisma 20. And with twenty people each reading one Kathisma per day, between them the Psalter is being read in its entirety everyday of that fasting period. On the twenty-first day, we begin again where we started, individually reading the entire Psalter a total of twice during the forty days.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report Summary**

October 2025	Income:	\$27,565.33
	Expenses:	\$62,942.42
	<u>Net Revenue:</u>	<u>\$(35,377.09)</u>
November 2025	Income:	\$48,626.41
	Expenses	\$29,320.34
	<u>Net Revenue:</u>	<u>\$19,306.07</u>
December 2025	Income:	\$89,767.58
	Expenses:	\$36,810.37
	<u>Net Revenue:</u>	<u>\$52,957.21</u>

## **Lenten Schedule Available at the Candle Desk**

In the past we have handed or mailed individual copies of the Lenten and Paschal Schedule to every parishioner. Since we have noted that so many are now using the online calendar on the church's website, and in an effort to save on printing and postage, we will not be individually handing/mailing the schedule. There will still be printed copies available for anyone who is interested. Just stop by the candle desk to pick one up at your convenience.

## **Poinsettias Still Available**

There are still a few lovely Poinsettias from the Nativity Season which have not yet been "adopted". These plants were not sponsored during the Nativity Season, so they are now available on a first come, first served basis. The plants have been moved to the office for easier care. If you are interested in taking home any plants, please see Jennifer Bzik or just stop by the office and help yourself.

## **Please Check Lost & Found**

There are quite a few things piling up in our Lost & Found box. Please take a moment the next time you are in church to look through and collect any of your items. Thank you!

## **Recycling of Vigil Containers**

If you'd like to help out the church and the environment, please feel free to take a box of empty vigil containers home to put in your own recycling. The boxes are located on the right side of the main doors as you exit the building (near the wheel chairs).

## **A Note of Thanks**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for coffee hour and your generosity which will help the family focus entirely on healing. The outpouring of support exceeded anything we could have imagined. We ask that you please continue to keep the Stuckey family in your daily prayers as they navigate appointments over the next month and throughout the rest of the year. Glory to God!

**LEHIGH VALLEY ORTHODOX  
CLERGY BROTHERHOOD  
PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | 4 PM**

*Triumph of  
Orthodoxy*

**ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**  
1607 W Union Blvd | Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Homilist**

***Archpriest Andrew  
Stephen Damick***

Chief Content Officer of Ancient Faith Ministries, author of multiple books from Ancient Faith Publishing, and host or co-host of numerous podcasts on Ancient Faith Radio.



**Food and fellowship to follow**

# Discover why Chrysostom Academy is the fastest-growing private school in the Lehigh Valley!

395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017



We're hosting "*Pathways to Purpose*", an experience on our Bethlehem campus—for families with students entering kindergarten to 12th grade in the 2026–2027 school year. Tour the school, hear from faculty and students, visit classrooms, and see how a rich, joyful education forms both mind and character.

February 10th, 2026,  
*Tuesday*

**Kindergarten – 12th Grade**

**Time:** 9:00–10:30 AM

*Who it's for:*

Parents and prospective students entering Kindergarten through 12th Grade.

*All are welcome.*

**RSVP:** Please confirm your attendance with the QR code below to receive event updates and parking information or email Amy Chebib at [achebib@chrysostomacademy.org](mailto:achebib@chrysostomacademy.org).

## What to expect

- ✔ A clear look at Classical Orthodox education in action here in the Lehigh Valley
- ✔ Opportunities to meet teachers and current families
- ✔ Vision for rigorous, humane secondary education
- ✔ Insights into house life, arts, athletics, and college preparation
- ✔ Conversations with faculty and student leaders
- ✔ Guidance on admissions, tuition assistance, and next steps!

St. John Chrysostom Academy  
[www.chrysostomacademy.org](http://www.chrysostomacademy.org)



# Annual Parish Meeting Notice

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026. The meeting will be held in the church hall immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A light luncheon will be served. All are encouraged to read the agenda and reports thoroughly and prepare their questions to ensure an expedited parish meeting. Please note that there will be no means of virtual participation in the meeting.

According to the bylaws of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the required quorum for a parish meeting is the attendance of at least 25% of voting members in good standing. A quorum must be maintained throughout the meeting. If a quorum is not present, the meeting shall then be rescheduled by the Parish Council in consultation with the Rector, at which time the members present will constitute a quorum.

## Annual Church Office Elections

What you need to know to vote in the Annual Parish Meeting being held on February 15, 2026 and to run for Church Office: According to our Bylaws in order to vote and participate in the discussions you must be a member at least 18 years of age and in good standing (both financially and sacramentally) for one (1) year. In order to run for Church Office you must have been a practicing Orthodox Christian for at least one (1) year and a parishioner of this Parish for a prior 12 month period.

**If you are interested in serving on the Parish Council, please see Fr. Nikolai or any current member of the Parish Council.**

Please note the Parish Council Vice President and Secretary are chosen by and from the newly elected Parish Council to serve for one (1) year terms.

### **Parish Council Officer Positions**

Parish Council President (one year)  
Treasurer (one year)  
Financial Secretary (one year)

### **Diocesan Assembly Positions**

Diocesan Assembly Delegate  
Diocesan Assembly Alternate

### **Parish Council Positions**

Two (2) three year terms

### **Auditor Positions**

Four (4) one year terms

### **Cemetery Committee Chair**

One (1) one year term

# Voting Members

A voting member is a parishioner who has the privilege of attending, being counted when determining the number required for a quorum, taking part in discussion, and voting at any annual or special parish meeting. A voting member may also have the privilege of being elected as a member of the Parish Council if he or she possesses the appropriate gifts and disposition for working with others. A voting member is in "good standing" if he or she:

- a.** Is a baptized and chrismated an Orthodox Christian;
- b.** Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- c.** Partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in this Parish at least once during the previous 12 month period;
- d.** Has been a practicing Orthodox Christian for at least one (1) year and a parishioner of this Parish for a prior 12 month period;
- e.** Has demonstrated commitment to the defined financial obligation during the previous 12 month period. (\$520 per year) If the financial obligation cannot be reached, an exemption can be requested and given by the Rector;
- f.** "Good standing" is determined in collaboration with the Rector and the Council President;
- g.** Voting membership in two or more Orthodox parishes is not permitted.
- h.** A Voting Member has accepted the right, privilege, and responsibility to vote in Parish Assemblies. A Voting Member may be considered for election to office in appropriate Parish bodies. A Voting Member is eligible for election as a delegate to the Diocesan Assembly and the All-American Council.

## Annual Parish Meeting Reports Available

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026. Please be advised that printed copies of the agenda and reports will be available at the candle desk beginning on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Please stop by to pick up a copy at your convenience. If you would like a copy emailed to you or mailed to you, please contact the Administrative Assistant at [Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com](mailto:Assistant4StNicholas@outlook.com). Please note that due to postal delays, we cannot guarantee that mailed copies will arrive prior to the meeting.

O Heavenly Father...

Physician of our souls and bodies, Who hast sent Thine only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal us, Thy servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments, through the grace of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. Grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body, and recovery of health. Lord, Thou hast taught us through Thy Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. For Thou art the source of healing, and to Thee we send up glory, to the 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, 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, Patricia Grammes, Tom Grammes, Rachel Hardesty, Artemiy Hartman, Kalista Hartman, Nicholas Hazzard, Dymphna (Madeleine) Heitzenrater, Marina (Margaret) Heitzenrater, Don Holobeny, Jonathan Hontz, Sava Hrebinka, Sherry Hromiak, Krista Irwin, Michael H. Isbansky, Shirley Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Kathleen Keimer, 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, Joseph Pinkowicz, Kiera Pheiffer, William Podlusky, Kathy Porter, William Potter, Rosalie Radio, Laurel Riley, Leah Roberts, Barbara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Connor Samuels, Robert Schainfeld, Catherine Shea, Janice Shumbata, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Maeve Stuckey, Jerry Volkert, Irene Witaneck, Sandra Wyslutsky

**Catechumens:** Mo AboHagar, Austin Bednar, Shane Ernst, Nicholas Heacock, Mithrin Moses, Adam and Nicole Pell, Robert Peloquin, Bryan Peterson, Christian Reichert, Alejandro Santiago, Adam Smith,

**Handmaidens:** Lydia Claycomb, Ruth Finlaw, Tanner Mazur, Heatherlyn Sturges, and their unborn children

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