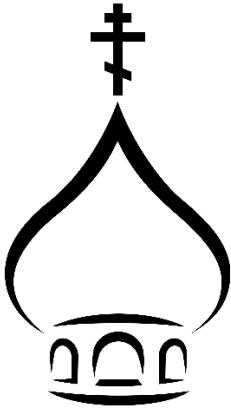


Divine Liturgy
Sunday, March 1, 2026
First Sunday of Great Lent
Sunday of Orthodoxy



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 March 1, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 5. Sunday of Orthodoxy. Martyr Eudokia of Heliopolis (ca. 160-170). Ven. Martyrii (Martyrius) of Zelenétsk (Pskov–1603). Martyrs Nestor, Tribimius, and those with them (3rd c.). Martyr Antonina of Nicæa in Bithynia (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Marcellus and Anthony. Saint Domnina the Younger of Syria (ca. 450-460). Ven. Agapius of Vatopedi (Mt. Athos).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, March 2nd - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, March 4th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, March 6th - 11:00 am - 4:00 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 house blessing or an in-person or Zoom meeting with me. - Fr. Nikolai

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour today is hosted by the Lezinsky Family
In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko, on the 40th Day of Her Repose

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Wednesday, March 4

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 6

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - St. Nicholas

Saturday, March 7

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

4:30 am - General Panikhida

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 8

St. Gregory Palamas

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 11

Friday, March 13

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - to our Lord's Passion

Saturday, March 14

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 15

Sunday of the Cross

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 18

Friday, March 20

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner

Saturday, March 21

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 22

St. John Climacus

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, March 24

Eve of Annunciation

6:00 pm - Vespers for Annunciation

Wednesday, March 25

Annunciation

8:50 am - Reading of the 9th Hour

9:00 am - Festal Vesperal Divine Liturgy

6:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St.

Andrew of Crete and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt

Friday, March 27

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - Theotokos

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 1, 2026
First Sunday of Great Lent
Sunday of Orthodoxy

Tone 5 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 2 Troparion *(Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy. Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee: "Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world."

Tone 8 Kontakion *(Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty.// We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Song of the 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 11:24-26; 32-12:2) By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 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. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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. 98:7a)

Tone 4

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give to Him glorious praise! (Ps. 65:1)

Gospel

(John 1:43-51) The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing the following)

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child: our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

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, March 1, 2026

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

For Health Of Rosalie, Offered by Greg

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko 40th Day, Offered by Family

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko 40th Day, Offered by Family

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko 40th Day, Offered by The Hodson Family

Crosses

For Health Of Rosalie & Scott, Offered by Greg

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko 40th Day, Offered by The Hodson Family

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

Happy Birthday Scott Radio, Offered by Jen, Ethan & Owen

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Birthday Baba, Offered by Ethan, Talia, Owen & Jones

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko 40th Day, Offered by Family

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

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

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

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

Donations Received In Memory

In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko, Offered by: The Bombicca Family, Barry & Ann Marie Bretz, Greg & Joann Brusko, David Brzuchalski, Terry Butler, Lorraine Chromiak, Victoria Dimonie, Michael & Mary Dorosh, Damian Drasher, Patty Felix, Carol Fenn, Pat Grammes, Michele Guydan, Mark & Nadya Hrebinka, Bill & Sandi Keysock, Nancy Kohudic, Gerald & Carol Krutsick, Paula & John Lahutsky, Peter & Erin Lezinsky, Maxine Marsh, Peter & Patricia Metz, Bob & Maryanne Mitchell, Barb Monarek, Marina Murgia, Stephanie Pasquel, Joe & Regina Pinkowicz, Gordon & Val Roberts, Anna Rodzianko, Rhonda Rohaly, Paul & Liz Romanowsky, Mike & Fran Slivka, Ola Tatusko

In Memory Of Dorothy Stafiniak, Offered by: Damian Drasher

In Memory Of Mat. Julia Romanchuk, Offered by: Fr. & Pres. Konstantinos Kautraub, John & Eleni Sitaras

Church Tour / Explanation - Tuesday, March 10th

Join us on Tuesday, March 10th, at 6:00 pm for about an hour tour and explanation of an Orthodox Temple, particularly, our St. Nicholas Church

We'll go over the various parts of the Temple, the fixtures, furniture, and Icons contained in our Parish Temple. This will also give an opportunity for people to see some of the things that aren't regularly seen by those outside the Altar.

This will be especially beneficial for our Catechumens and Inquirers. Who likely have many questions about why things are the way they are.

--- Fr. Nikolai

SYNODIKON

of the Sunday of Orthodoxy

As the prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught,
As the Church has received,
As the teachers have dogmatized,
As the universe has agreed, as grace has shown forth,
As falsehood has been dissolved,
As wisdom has presented,
As Christ awarded,
Thus we declare,
Thus we assert,
Thus we preach Christ our true God,
And honor His saints in words, in writings,
In thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in Holy Icons;
On the one hand worshipping and reverencing
Christ as God and Lord;
And on the other hand,
Honoring as true servants of the same
Lord of all and accordingly offering them veneration.

This is the Faith of the Apostles!

This is the faith of the Fathers!

This is the faith of the Orthodox!

This is the faith which has established the Universe!



His Eminence, the Most Reverend

+ **MARK**

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

February 22, 2026
Beginning of Great Lent

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

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

As we prepare to enter this holy season, I sincerely ask each and every one of you to forgive me. For the times when I fell short as your archpastor, when I spoke when I should have remained silent, or remained silent when I should have spoken, and for any way in which I have hurt you, knowingly or unknowingly, please forgive me. The Church once again places before us the call to repentance, forgiveness, and renewed love for God and our neighbor. This most holy season invites us not only to examine our own hearts, but also to deepen our commitment to one another as members of the Body of Christ, bound together in prayer, sacrifice, and, above all, love.

In this light, the words of Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh speak with sobering clarity. He says, *“To forgive does not mean to forget; to forgive means, with compassion and pain in the soul, to say: when the Last Judgment comes, I will stand up and say: Do not judge him, Lord.”* Forgiveness, as the Church teaches us, is neither just a sentimental moment nor ignoring the wrong that was done. It is a costly act of love that requires humility, patience, and a willingness to bear the burdens of others. It is precisely this kind of love that Great Lent seeks to cultivate within us.

In the readings from Genesis proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, we are reminded that humanity was created in the image and likeness of God, called into communion with Him and with one another through a bond of eternal love. Through sin, death entered the world, defacing what God had made good and fracturing our communion with our Creator. Yet, beloved, in the most supreme and awesome expression of divine love, the only begotten Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, took upon Himself our flesh and blood for our salvation. By His voluntary Passion and glorious Resurrection, He has granted us victory over death and opened for us the path to the Pascha incorruptible. Great Lent is the sacred journey of repentance and preparation by which we are led toward that life-giving Feast. Even in the light of the Resurrection, we stay in constant need of repentance, for we too often fall short and “miss the mark” of what is asked of us. To heal our fallen image, the Church grants us this season of fasting, not only from food, but from all that separates us from God and alienates us from our brothers and sisters in Christ. We do not fast just in order to suffer, but to be liberated, so that we may once again learn how to commune rightly with our Lord and with one another.

During the Great Fast, the virtues of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are set before us as concrete expressions of repentance and love. Almsgiving, in particular, calls us to look beyond ourselves and to respond to the needs of others with generosity and compassion. Through acts of mercy, we take part in the life of the Church and become laborers in her mission, offering tangible support to those who proclaim the Gospel.

In this spirit, I ask that you remember in your prayers, and support according to the kindness of your hearts, our diocesan 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. Neither seminary provides assistance for rent, utilities, groceries, or books. Your support, whether through a monthly gift or a one time offering made directly to a seminarian or sent to the Diocesan Chancery with a notation, provides meaningful help and eases these burdens.

Those wishing to send support directly may do so at the following addresses:

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

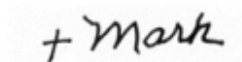
Rdr. Alexander Koropsak
St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary
575 Scarsdale Rd
Yonkers, NY 10707

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

As we prepare to enter this holy season, I again sincerely ask each and every one of you to forgive me. For the times when I fell short as your archpastor, when I spoke when I should have remained silent, or remained silent when I should have spoken, and for any way in which I have hurt you, knowingly or unknowingly, please forgive me.

I humbly ask you to remember me in your prayers, as I remember you in mine, as we journey toward the Feast of Feasts, Great and Holy Pascha.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Mark". The plus sign is a simple cross, and the name "Mark" is written in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

+MARK
Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania



2026 Lenten Fish Dinner Fundraiser



Plated Dinner Includes:

Baked or Hand Breaded Fried Fish
Oven Roasted Potatoes
Fresh Green Beans & Dinner Roll
Coffee or Tea
Delicious Homemade Desserts

Vendors

Treasures of Russia
Boutique for Religious and
Ethnic Gift Items

Soda & Water - \$1.00

Frozen potato/cheese pierogi & paska breads for sale.

**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

O 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 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, Benjamin Peterson

Igumen: Patrick 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, Rebekah Markewich, Sophia Shadid, 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, Heatherlyn Sturges, Jerry Volkert, Irene Witaneck, Sandra Wyslutsky

Catechumens: Mo AboHagar, Austin Bednar, Shane Ernst, Nicholas Heacock, Margaret MacKay, Taylor Magditch, Mithrin Moses, Adam and Nicole Pell, Bryan Peterson, Christian Reichert, Alejandro Santiago, Adam Smith, Shawn, Donna.

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

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