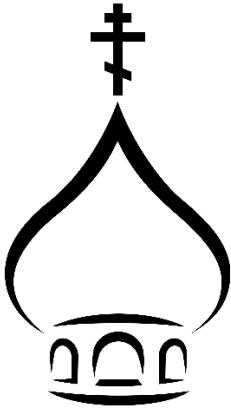


Divine Liturgy
Sunday, March 8, 2026
Second Sunday of Great Lent
St. Gregory Palamas



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Deacon Geoffrey LoBalbo

Patricia Stetz Grammes, Parish Council President

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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 March 8, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 6. St. Gregory Palamas. Synaxis of the Venerable Fathers of the Kiev Caves Lavra. St. Theophylactus, Bishop of Nicomedia (842-845). Ven. Lazarus (1391) and Athanasius (15th c.), of Múrom. Apostle Hermes of the Seventy (1st c.). Hieromartyr Theodoretus of Antioch (4th c.). Ven. Dometius (363). The “KURSK-ROOT” Icon of the Mother of God.

Fr. Nikolai’s Office Hours

Monday, March 9th - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, March 11th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, March 13th - 11:00 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 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 Heitzenrater Family

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Wednesday, March 11	6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
Friday, March 13	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 3 rd Hour

Sunday, March 15

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Wednesday, March 18
Friday, March 20

Sunday of the Cross
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 21

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner
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
7:50 am - Reading of the 9th Hour
8:00 am - Festal Vespereal Divine Liturgy
(Note time change from 9:00 am to 8:00 am)
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

Saturday, March 28

Akathist Saturday
8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 29

St. Mary of Egypt
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 1

Friday, April 3

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy
4:00 - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner
6:00 pm - Lazarus Saturday Compline

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Second Sunday of Great Lent

St. Gregory Palamas

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 8 Troparion *(St. Gregory Palamas)*

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation, O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians, O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

Tone 8 Kontakion *(St. Gregory Palamas)*

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology, together we sing thy praises, O God-inspired Gregory. Since thou now standest before the Original Mind, guide our minds to Him, O Father, so that we may sing to thee: "Rejoice, preacher of grace!"

Tone 4 Kontakion *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors! So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying: "Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea; but forgive us, O Master of all, so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!"

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.
(Ps. 11:7)

Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps. 11:1a)

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (St. Gregory Palamas)

My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (Ps. 48:3)

Epistle

Read by Reader Matthew Lezinsky

(Hebrews 1:10-2:3) And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

(Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (St. Gregory Palamas)) For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

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 2

The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment. (Ps. 36:31)

Gospel

(Mark 2:1-12) And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" - He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

(John 10:9-16 (St. Gregory Palamas)) I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

(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)*
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Donations Received In Memory

In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko, Offered by: Katherine C. Ball

In Memory Of Catherine Miller, Offered by: Christopher & Donna Cole

In Memory Of Helen Karel, Offered by: Thomas & Olga Karel & Family

Candle Offerings for Sunday, March 8, 2026

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

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

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of Alexander 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 JoAnn Konsevitch, Offered by Val, Gordon & Family

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

In Memory Of Reade Roberts, Offered by Gordon, Val & Family

Pussy Willow Branches



Reminder: It will soon be time for pussy willows to start blooming. Please cut the branches of willows and bring them to the church as soon as they bloom. Since Pascha is April 12th, we will need to store the willows until Saturday, April 4th for Palm Sunday, April 5th. Please wrap the willows loosely in newspaper (PLEASE DO NOT WRAP IN PLASTIC!) so we can save them for Palm Sunday. Thank you for your help in gathering the willows.



Flowers to Adorn the Grave of Our Lord

If you wish to sponsor flowers that will decorate the grave of Our Lord during Holy Week, please sign up in the book at the candle desk. There are a variety of cut flowers and potted plants for assorted donation amounts. All flowers may be taken home any time after the Divine Liturgy on Bright Monday.

Chandelier Cleaning - March 21st

The chandeliers are coming down! Please help us to keep our beautiful crystal chandeliers sparkling. On March 21st at 11:00 am (following the Divine Liturgy) we will be lowering the chandeliers for cleaning. Please stay to help if you are able. Contact Pat Grammes if you have any questions.

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.

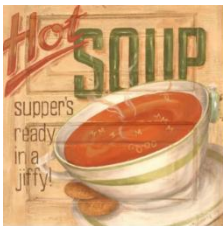
This will be especially beneficial for our Catechumens and Inquirers. Who likely have many questions about why things are the way they are.

--- Fr. Nikolai

Lenten Soup Sale

Every coffee hour during lent we will be hosting a take home quart soup sale. Each week will be different strict Lenten soups.

\$10 a quart. While supplies last. All proceeds will go to St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church. If you're able, please wash and return your quart containers in the labeled box behind the soup sale. See Judy or Lori if you have any questions.





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.

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, Sean, 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.