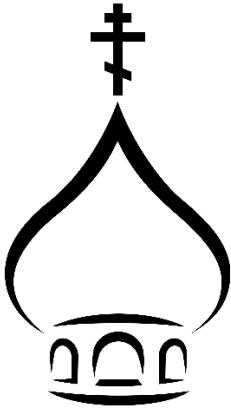


**Divine Liturgy**  
Sunday, March 15, 2026  
**Third Sunday of Great Lent**  
**Veneration of the Cross**



**SAINT NICHOLAS**  
**RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**



# SAINT NICHOLAS

## RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector

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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  
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# Schedule for the Week of March 15, 2026

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 7. Veneration of the Cross.** Martyrs Agapius, Publius (Pausis), Timolaus, Romulus, two named Dionysius, and two named Alexander, at Cæsarea in Palestine (303). Hieromartyr Alexander of Sīdē, in Pamphylia (270-275). Martyr Nicander of Egypt (ca. 302).

## Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off  
Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> - 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](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 house blessing or an in-person or Zoom meeting with me. - Fr. Nikolai

## Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour today is hosted by Victoria Dimonie  
In Memory Of Departed Loved Ones

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

<b>Wednesday, March 18</b>	6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
<b>Friday, March 20</b>	9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy <b>4:00 - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner</b>
<b>Saturday, March 21</b>	<b>Memorial Saturday</b> 8:50 am - Reading of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> Hour

8:00 am - Festal Vespersal 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, April 3**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

**4:00 - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner**

6:00 pm - Lazarus Saturday Compline

**Saturday, April 4**

**Lazarus Saturday**

8:00 am - Baptisms/Chrismations

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm - General Panikhida

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sunday, April 5**

**Palm Sunday**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 15, 2026

## Third Sunday of Great Lent Veneration of the Cross

**Tone 7      Troparion      *(Resurrection)***

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 1      Troparion of the Cross**

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation!

**Tone 7      Kontakion      *(Cross)***

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross. The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell: "Enter again into Paradise!"

*(Instead of the Trisagion, we sing:)*

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon      *(Cross)***

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! *(Ps. 27:9a)*

*To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)*

## **Epistle**

Read by Reader Mark Hrebinka

**(Hebrews 4:14-5:6)** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

## **Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast purchased of old! (Ps. 73:2)*

*God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth! (Ps. 73:13)*

## **Gospel**

**(Mark 8:34-9:1)** When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

*(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**

The light of Thy countenance has shone on us, O Lord. *(Ps. 4:7a)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# **Candle Offerings for Sunday, March 15, 2026**

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

In Memory Of Nancy Sabol, Offered by Her Daughter, Elizabeth

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

In Memory Of Nancy Sabol, Offered by Her Daughter, Elizabeth

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

In Memory Of Nancy Sabol, Offered by Her Daughter, Elizabeth

## **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 Nancy Sabol, Offered by Her Daughter, Elizabeth

## **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

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

Happy Birthday Holga (my mother), Offered by Guliana Holobeny

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

Happy Birthday Peter Slivka, Offered by Mike & Fran Slivka

## **Vigils of St. Paul (1)**

In Honor Of Carolina, Offered by Nicholas

## **Flowers to Adorn the Cross**

In Honor Of Dorothy (Michele Guydan), Offered by Mark & Nadya Hrebinka

## **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 21<sup>st</sup>**

The chandeliers are coming down! Please help us to keep our beautiful crystal chandeliers sparkling. On March 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **Lenten Covered Dish Coffee Hour Palm Sunday**

On Palm Sunday, April 5, 2026 we will be having a Lenten Covered Dish Coffee Hour. Please bring a Lenten covered dish to share for Coffee Hour. There is a sign up sheet at the candle desk to let us know what you'll be bringing.

## **Volunteers Needed!**

Fish dinners are scheduled for Fridays, March 20, 2026 and Friday, April 3, 2026 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please consider helping during these events and contacting Pat Grammes for information.

Thank you

## **Reminder - Fish Dinner Baked Goods**

Reminder: We need those delicious cakes! If you are able to bake a dessert for the Lenten Fish Dinners, please deliver to the church between 7:00 am and 2:00 pm on Fridays, March 20, 2026 and/or Friday, April 3, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Grammes.



# A Note of Thanks

Many thanks to our wonderful parish family. At the coffee hour In Memory of Dorothy Havrilko, we raised \$1,500. These funds go towards St. Tikhon's Summer Camp to benefit our Orthodox Youth. God Grant You Many Years!

## 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 12<sup>th</sup>, we will need to store the willows until Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> for Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.



## Church School Announcements

- On Lazarus Saturday, April 4, 2026, we will have a Church School Breakfast after the Divine Liturgy. Afterwards, we will prepare the pussy willows and palms for Palm Sunday. Many hands make light work, so please plan to join us if you are able.
- The Pascha Easter egg hunt (open to all children) will be after liturgy on Sunday, April 19, 2026 with rain date of April 26, 2026.
- Last day of Sunday School is May 24, 2026

## Please Help Take Care of Our Church

As we approach Holy Week and Paschal Services when many parishioners may be holding lit candles during services, please be reminded to take care not to drip wax on the pews, floor, or carpet, etc. As a general reminder, please leave all parts of the church facility in the condition you found it (or better). Some examples: If young children are snacking during services, make sure not to leave crumbs in and around the pews. If you are hosting coffee hour, make sure to put extra paper products back on the shelves in their labeled spots. If something spills or there are crumbs around your table at the end of coffee hour, please tidy up. Everyone doing their part helps to maintain our beautiful church.



# Lenten Retreat

*at St. John Chrysostom Academy*

With Guest Speaker: **Fr. Chris Shadid**, Director of the Antiochian Village Camp

When: Saturday, March 28, 2026, 10:00am–3:00pm

Where: St. John Chrysostom Academy, 395 Bridle Path Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017, Lower School Cafeteria

\*Calling all teens in grades 8-12, Fr. Chris will come and enlighten our teens with discussions about life with our faith. This is an opportunity for teenagers to learn from one of our very own.\*

**AM Session: Healthy Relationships**

**PM Session: Effects of Social Media**

*Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.*



*Scan this QR code  
to register!*



# 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:** Ann Marie Bretz, Bethany Bruder, Theresa Butler, Jennifer Bzik, Nichols 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, Jared Buck, 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.**