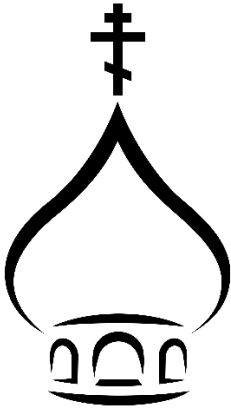


# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, March 22, 2026

**Fourth Sunday of Great Lent**  
**St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)**



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



# SAINT NICHOLAS

## RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector

Cell: 570-604-4277

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Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

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 22, 2026

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder).**

Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra (362-363). Martyr Drosīs, daughter of Emperor Trajan (1st-2nd c.). Ven. Isaac, the Confessor Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople (4th c.). Monastic Martyr Euthymius of Prodomou (Mt. Athos–1814).

## **Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours**

Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off  
Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Friday, March 27<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 The Lezinsky Family

## **Weekly & Upcoming Calendar**

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

**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 Vespers 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  
6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

**Wednesday, April 1**

**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

## **Great and Holy Week**

**Monday, April 6**

**Holy Monday**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

**Tuesday, April 7**

**Holy Tuesday**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

**Wednesday, April 8**

**Holy Wednesday**

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 pm - Holy Unction

**Thursday, April 9**

**Holy Thursday**

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Vespertine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

7:00 pm - Matins of Holy Friday - 12 Passion

Gospels

**Friday, April 10**

**Holy Friday**

9:00 am - Royal Hours

4:00 pm - Burial Vespers

7:00 pm - Matins with Lamentations

**All Night Watch** - *Sign up at the candle desk*

**Saturday, April 11**

**Holy Saturday**

9:00 am - Vespertine Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday

## **GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA**

**11:30 pm - Paschal Vigil and Paschal Divine Liturgy**

**Followed by the blessing of baskets and Agape meal**

**Sunday, April 12**

11:00 am - Agape Vespers

Followed by the blessing of baskets

**Monday, April 13**

**Bright Monday**

8:50 am - Paschal Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

## **Coffee Hour Hosts Needed**

Coffee Hour for next Sunday, March 29, 2026, is STILL without a host. There are several other Sundays without a host in the upcoming months as well. If you haven't volunteered to host a coffee hour in the past year, please consider signing up for this week or an upcoming Sunday. Please note that if there is no one signed up to host, there will be no coffee hour.

If you have never hosted before or have not hosted in a while and would like to review what is recommended, please reach out to Jennifer Bzik. She would be happy to help you become familiar with the church kitchen and review what is usually done.

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 22, 2026

## Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

### St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)

**Tone 8      Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

**Tone 1      Troparion**      *(St. John Climacus)*

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

**Tone 4      Kontakion**      *(St. John Climacus)*

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our father and teacher John.

**Tone 8      Prokeimenon**      *(Resurrection)*

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God! *(Ps. 75:10a)*

*In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)*

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon**      *(St. John Climacus)*

Let the saints exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches! *(Ps. 149:5)*

## **Epistle**

Read by Amber Metz & Reader Michael Metz

**(Hebrews 6:13-20)** For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**(Ephesians 5:9-19 (St. John Climacus))** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

## **Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps. 94:1)*

*Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)*

## **Tone 4**

*They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Ps. 91:12)*

## Gospel

**(Mark 9:17-31)** Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

**(Matthew 4:25-5:12 (St. John Climacus))** Great multitudes followed Him - from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who

are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*(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!

# **Candle Offerings for Sunday, March 22, 2026**

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

In Memory Of Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, Offered by Mat Fran & Family

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

Happy Birthday Jacob Lezinsky, Offered by Daddy, Mommy & Sophia

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

In Memory of Daniel Riley, Offered by Laurel Riley

## **Votives in Altar**

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

## **Votives in Iconostas**

In Memory Of Daniel Riley, Offered by Laurel Riley

## **Crosses**

In Memory Of Nina, Offered by Natalia

## **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 Memory Of Mary Monarek, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

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

In Memory Of Mary Monarek, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

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

For Health Of Terri Butler, Offered by A Friend

### **Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)**

In Memory Of Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, Offered by Mat. Fran & Family

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

Happy Birthday Paul Stepanoff, Offered by Godfather Matthew

### **Vigil of St. Michael (1)**

In Honor of Carolina, Offered by Nicholas

### **Flowers to Adorn the Icon of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos**

In Memory of Nina, Offered by Natalia Trott

## **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.

## **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.

## **A Note Of Thanks**

I want to express my sincere thanks to the members who assisted me last Sunday when I had a medical emergency. Their concern for me made me feel more comfortable and exemplified the teachings of the church to help your fellow man. May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years !!!

Thank You

David G. Cudlic

## **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.

## **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

## **Memorial Donations**

**In Memory Of John Mikita**, Offered by Lorraine Chormiak

**In Memory Of Dorothy Stafiniak**, Offered by Greg & Rosalie Radio, National Slovak Society of USA

## **Help Needed - Halupki Making**

We will be making Halupki on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> starting after coffee hour and Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 am. Many hands make light work! Please contact Val Roberts if you have any questions.

## **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!

## **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 Friday, April 3, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Grammes.

## **Did You Know? - Vigil Jars**

Some parishioners have recently been asking if the empty glass jars from vigil candles can be returned. We have verified with our candle supplier that YES, they will accept returned glass jars for a small credit on the Church's next candle order. So if you're wondering what to do with those jars, please bring them back to the church and turn them in at the candle desk. Please note that this only applies to the colored glass jars (blue, red, white, gold) purchased here at the church. Thank you!

## **Lenten/Paschal Sign Up Sheets**

As we continue our Lenten journey to Pascha, there are many opportunities to become involved. Please visit the candle desk to review the following sign up sheets.

- Flowers to adorn the grave of Our Lord
- Burial Vespers Procession
- Grave Watch
- Pascha Procession
- Red Eggs
- Bright Monday Procession

If you have any questions, please ask a Church Council Member or stop by the candle desk.

# 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!*

JUNE 27 THROUGH JULY 4, 2026

# APPLY TO BE A COUNSELOR TODAY!

AT ST. TIKHON'S SUMMER CAMP 2026

LEAD CAMPERS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK,  
GROW IN LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND FAITH,  
AND BE PART OF A GREAT WEEK OF  
FELLOWSHIP AT ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY!



APPLY TODAY AT  
[YOUTH.DOEPA.ORG/](https://youth.doeпа.org/)  
COUNSELOR-  
APPLICATION



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 Wyslutzky

**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.**