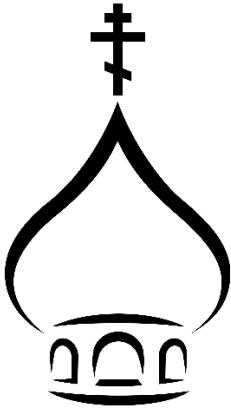


Divine Liturgy
Sunday, March 29, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Great Lent
St. Mary of Egypt



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



SAINT NICHOLAS

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector

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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

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Jennifer Bzik, Administrative Assistant

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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 29, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 1. St Mary of Egypt. Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the Deacon, of Heliopolis, and others who suffered under Julian the Apostate (ca. 364). Ven. John, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). St. Eustathius the Confessor, Bishop of Bithynia (9th c.). St. Niké́tas of the Roslavl Forests (Russia–1793).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Fr. Nikolai will not have formal office hours this week or next week due to the busy Lenten Schedule of Services. Please feel free to contact Fr. Nikolai directly if you need to speak with him.



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 Carolina Lopez & Nicholas Birosik

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

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

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 - Vespertal 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 - Vespertal 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

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 29, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Great Lent
St. Mary of Egypt

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Tone 8 Troparion *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Tone 1 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee! *(Ps. 32:22)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. *(Ps. 67:35a)*

Epistle

Read by Reader John Heitzenrater

(Hebrews 9:11-14) But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

(Galatians 3:23-29 (St. Mary of Egypt)) But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (Ps. 17:48)

He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps. 17:51)

Tone 1

I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication. (Ps. 39:1)

Gospel

(Mark 10:32-45) Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

(Luke 7:36-50 (St. Mary of Egypt)) Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One

owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

(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 29, 2026

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris Marietta

Votives in Altar

Happy Birthday Regina Pinkowicz, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry

Votives in Iconostas

Happy Birthday Michael Isbansky, Offered by Family

Crosses

Happy Birthday Leo Howell, Offered by Mom

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)

Happy Birthday Regina Pinkowicz, Offered Joe, Colleen, Donna & Gemma

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

Happy Birthday Stephanie Pasquel, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry

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

Happy Birthday Jacob Lezinsky, Offered by Aunt Marina & Uncle Joe

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

Happy Birthday Jacob Lezinsky, Offered by Mr. Mike & Ms. Mary

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

Happy Birthday Leo Howell, Offered Wife Nicole & Son Landry

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)

Happy Birthday Michael Isbansky, Offered by Family

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

Happy Birthday Michael Isbansky, Offered by Family

Upcoming Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday, March 31, 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.

Memorial Donations

In Memory Of Silva Davidian, Offered by Helen Acopian

In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko, Offered by Paul & Shelley Yavornitzky

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.

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

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

Help Needed - Halupki Making

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

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.

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 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.



Church School Announcements

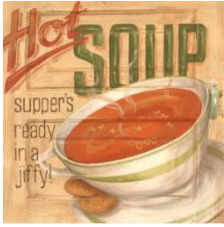
- On Lazarus Saturday, April 4, 2026, we will have a Church School Breakfast after the Divine Liturgy. Afterwards, we will prepare the pussy willows and palms for Palm Sunday. Many hands make light work, so please plan to join us if you are able.
- The Pascha Easter egg hunt (open to all children) will 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 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.



THIS WEEK:

- Chili
- Butternut Squash
- Etouffee
- A variety of frozen options also available!

St. John Chrysostom Academy



2026 SJCA GRYPHON GAMES T-Shirt Sponsors Needed!

Online sign-up form has details about each level of sponsorship:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-gryphon-games-t-shirt-sponsorship-advertising-event>



All funds go toward the children's t-shirts for the event in May and future activities for our school. Sponsors printed on t-shirts. Let's get the word out and make it a big success!! Sign-up by 3/31/26.

Questions contact Chrysostom Academy Faculty-Parent Council:
FPC@Chrysostomacademy.org. Printed sponsor forms available.

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 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.