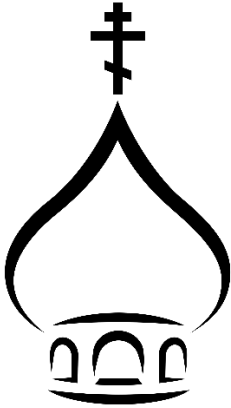


# **Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, April 5, 2026

**Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem—Palm Sunday**



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



# SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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.***

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# Schedule for the Week of April 5, 2026

**ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM. Palm Sunday.** Martyrs Agathopodes the Deacon and Theodulus the Reader at Thessalonica (ca. 303). Ven. Publius of Egypt (4th c.). Ss. Theonas, Simeon and Phorbinus, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. Mark the Anchorite, of Athens (400). St. Plato the Confessor, of Studion (814). Ven. Theodora of Thessalonica (892). Translation of the Relics of St. Job, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (1652).

## Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Fr. Nikolai will not have formal office hours this week due to the busy Holy Week 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](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

Palm Sunday Lenten Covered Dish Coffee Hour

## Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

### 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

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Saturday, April 18**

**Sunday, April 19**

**St. Thomas Sunday**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

2:00 pm - Blessing of the Graves - Union Cemetery

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

*Blessing of Graves - Catasauqua*

**Saturday, April 25**

*To Be Determined*

**Sunday, April 26**

**Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women**

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

# Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 5, 2026

## Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem—Palm Sunday

### The First Antiphon

I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication. *(Ps. 114:1)*

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.  
*(Ps. 114:2) (Refrain)*

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me. *(Ps. 114:3) (Refrain)*

I suffered distress and anguish, then I called on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 114:4a) (Refrain)*

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. *(Ps. 114:9) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,  
and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

### The Second Antiphon

I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." *(Ps. 115:1)*

*Refrain:* O Son of God, seated on the colt of an ass, save us who sing to  
Thee: Alleluia!

What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me? *(Ps. 115:3)*  
*(Refrain)*

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 115:4)*  
*(Refrain)*

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. (Ps. 115:5)  
(Refrain)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*("Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God... ")*

### **The Third Antiphon**

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:1)

#### **Tone 1      Troparion**

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

Let the house of Israel say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever.  
(Ps. 117:2)

*Troparion of the Feast*

Let the house of Aaron say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever.  
(Ps. 117:3)

*Troparion of the Feast*

Let those who fear the Lord say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever.  
(Ps. 117:4)

*Troparion of the Feast*

## **Entrance Verse**

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. God is the Lord and He has revealed Himself to us. *(Ps. 117:25b-26)*

### **Tone 1      Troparion**

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

### **Tone 4      Troparion**

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection. Now we praise Thee and sing: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!"

### **Tone 6      Kontakion**

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing: "Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

*(The Trisagion is sung.)*

### **Tone 4      Prokeimenon**

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. *(Ps. 117:26b, 27b)*

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. *(Ps. 117:1)*

## **Epistle**

Read by Tricia Metz

**(Philippians 4:4-9)** Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

## **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! (Ps. 97:1)*

*All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Ps. 97:5)*

## **Gospel**

**(John 12:1-18)** Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he

cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)*

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!  
Celebrate the feast and come with gladness!  
Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches,  
singing: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, our Savior!"

### **Communion Hymn**

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. (*Ps. 117:26b, 27b*)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# **Candle Offerings for Sunday, April 5, 2026**

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

In Honor Of Taras Guanowsky, Offered by Godparents Greg & Rosalie

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

In Honor Of Ethan Radio, Offered by Baba & Poppy

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

In Honor Of Ethan Radio, Offered by Baba & Poppy

## **Votives in Altar**

In Honor Of Philp Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

## **Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)**

Happy Birthday Stephanie Pasquel, Offered by Patty Felix

## **Crosses**

Happy Birthday Jean Jubinski, Offered by Dan, Peter & Sarah

## **Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)**

In Memory Of Pauline Radchuk, Offered by Bill & Sandi Keysock

## **Vigils on Icon Table (2)**

Happy Birthday Jean Jubinski, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry

## **Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)**

Happy Birthday Miss Jean, Offered by Sophia & Jacob

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

In Honor Of Nora Shadid, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan Kon

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

Happy Birthday Becky Volkert, Offered by Gordon & Val Roberts

## **Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist**

In Memory Of Peter L. Slivka, Offered by Son Michael & Francine Slivka

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

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

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

In Honor Of Taras Guanowsky, Offered by Godparents Greg & Rosalie

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

In Honor Of Luke Gabriel Shadid, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan Kon

### **Flowers to Adorn the Icon of Palm Sunday - The Entrance into Jerusalem**

For Health Of All Members of the Metz Family, Offered by Peter & Patricia Metz

## **Memorial Donations**

**In Memory Of Dorothy Havrilko**, Offered by Michael & Mary Dorosh, Andrew & Kyra Florenz, Peter & Sarah Jubinski, Greg & Rosalie Radio, Mat. Fran Vansuch

## **Parish Council Members**

As Of 03/29/2026

Parish Council President - Patricia Stetz Grammes

Parish Council Vice President - Laura Eck

Financial Secretary - Anna Rodzianko

Recording Secretary - Valerie Roberts

Treasurer - Joseph Kavchok

Council Member - Nicholas Birozik

Council Member - John Heitzenrater

Council Member - Radu Lungu

Council Member - Marietta Peytcheva

### **Auditors**

Katherine Lichtenwalner   Radu Lungu

David Metz                      Peter Metz

### **Cemetery Committee Chair**

Jennifer Bzik

# Flowers to Adorn the Grave of Our Lord

**LAST DAY TO SPONSOR IS HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026**

In order to give Jen enough time to prepare the Pascha bulletin flower listing, please add all flower sponsor information no later than HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026. Thank you!

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/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.

## 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.

# A Note of Thanks

Dear Church Family:

Many thanks for your visits, phone calls, inquiries, cards, gifts and prayers while I was in the hospital and at rehab. You brightened up my long days. I have missed all of you and hope to return real soon.

Joe Pinkowicz

## 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.

## Pierogi Making Schedule

NO Pierogi April 6, 7, 8 (Holy Week)  
NO Pierogi April 13, 14, 15 (Bright Week)  
NO Pierogi April 20, 21, 22  
Back to Pierogi Making April 27, 28, 29

## Church School Announcements

- 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

## 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:

Shrimp Corn Chowder  
Split Pea  
Borscht  
A variety of frozen options also available!

# How to Prepare for Pascha Night

With newcomers incorporating themselves into parish life, I think it prudent to explain some helpful points, so they don't feel lost. Of course, many have been Orthodox your whole lives, but maybe even find these helpful.

**Pascha is a Long Service** - Really, it's a combination of several services. Nocturns, Matins, and the Divine Liturgy. We begin at **11:30 pm** Saturday night and will not likely end until about **2:30 am**. Wear comfortable shoes and try to get in a nap Saturday Evening. We will also process outside for a good 20 minutes or so, and we never know how the weather will be. Dress appropriately.

**Preparation for Communion** - The normal practice of preparation is to fast from all food and drink from the midnight before Liturgy every time. But since this is an exceptional time for Liturgy, the norm is to abstain from food and drink for at least **6 hours** before communion, in this case, this means about **7:30 pm**. But keep it moderate, and still fast friendly

**Paschal Meal** - After the Liturgy, the custom in the Slavic world, and at St. Nicholas is to bring a basket of Feasting foods (generally whatever you missed the most during Lent) to be blessed, and to break the fast together. Bring whatever you want, but there are also traditional foods that are common to our Tradition. **Paskha Bread** - A rich, sweetened, yeast bread. Unlike the Hebrews, who ate unleavened bread at Passover, we eat leavened, because Christ is Risen! - **Ham** - The richness of ham symbolizes the great joy and abundance of Pascha, and our freedom from the restrictions of the Old Law. **Eggs** - Symbolize the Resurrection - usually dyed Red (google the story of St. Mary Magdalene and the Emperor Tiberias as to why). **Wine and other Alcohol (in moderation), as well as Sausages, Butter, Cheese**, and lastly, **Whatever** will make the celebration the most festive for you.

Like any of the other "rules" in the Church, they don't exist for us simply to be servants of these rules. They exist to give us structure, and to guide us toward the Kingdom of God, even in mundane things.

- **Fr. Nikolai**



*The Orthodox Church in America*  
**DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
*The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia*

March 24, 2026

## KNEELING IN THE CHURCH

Dear to clergy and faithful of the Diocese,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be. I pray your Lenten Journey is fruitful. Please forgive the delay in addressing the issue of kneeling in the Church. There are matters of Church decorum that are universal, such as not crossing your legs, not chewing gum, not moving around or entering and exiting the Church during the reading of the Gospel or during the censuring of the Church.

As Sunday is the Day of Resurrection, kneeling is prohibited in many of the Orthodox Churches as it is considered penitential. In Carpatho-Rusyn tradition, people kneel during the anaphora and the Lord's prayer. Either is acceptable. The Antiochians introduced kneeling on Sundays when they were not celebrating Feast Days during the week but transferred them to nearest Sunday several years ago. Now that they resumed weekday festal liturgies kneeling on Sunday is declining and they are returning to their authentic tradition of only kneeling at a weekday liturgy. I mention these things to underscore that there remains a distinction between Tradition with a capital "T" and traditions with a small "t," sometimes referred to as local pious customs.

As we approach Holy Week, I want to remind you that kneeling during the Passion Gospels on Holy Thursday is a local custom. Both kneeling and standing are, however, acceptable. If kneeling is too painful and distracts you from hearing the Gospel, then remain standing. We must be reasonable and realize that if all we can think about when kneeling is how much pain we are in, then we are not able to hear about the sufferings of our Lord.

Sincerely,

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine

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 Witanek, Sandra Wyslutsky

**Catechumens:** Mo AboHagar, Austin Bednar, Jared Buck, Nicholas Heacock, Margaret MacKay, Taylor Magditch, , Christian Reichert, Samuel Rizzo, Adam Smith, Sean

**Handmaidens:** Ruth Finlaw, Tanner Mazur, and their unborn children, Lydia Claycomb and her newborn child

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