Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 13, 2026

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross
Sunday Before the Exaltation
Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem

SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector
Cell: 570-604-4277
Email: nikolai.breckenridge@gmail.com

Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Patricia Stetz Grammes, Parish Council President

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

Danielle Brown, 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

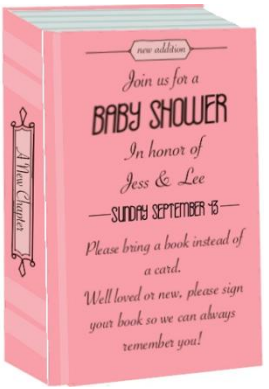
Schedule for the Week of September 13, 2026

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem (335). Sunday before Elevation. Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion (1st c.). Martyrs Chronides, Leontius and Serapion, of Alexandria (237). Martyrs Macrobius and Gordian at Tomi in Romania (4th c.). Hieromartyr Julian of Galatia (4th c.). St. Peter of Atroë (9th c.). Greatmartyr Ketevan, Queen of Georgia (1624). Ven. Hierotheus the Younger of Ivéron (Mt. Athos–1745).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, September 14th - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, September 16th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, September 18th – 9:00 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

The Coffee Hour today will be a
Baby Shower
In Honor of Jess & Lee

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Sunday, September 13	**15th Sunday After Pentecost**
	9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
	5:00 pm – Great Vespers
Monday, September 14	**Exaltation of the Cross**
	8:50 am – Reading of the Hours
	9:00 am – Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, September 15	6:00 pm – Catechism Class (via Zoom)
Saturday, September 19	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, September 20	**16th Sunday After Pentecost**
	9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
	12:00 pm – Panikhida for Nancy Sabol – One Year of Repose
Tuesday, September 22	6:00 pm – Catechism Class (via Zoom)
Wednesday, September 23	7:000 pm – Parish Council Meeting
Saturday, September 26	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, September 27	**16th Sunday After Pentecost**
	9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, September 29	6:00 pm – Catechism Class (via Zoom)

New Parish Directory Work Begins

This Fall we will be working on an updated Parish Directory, in the hopes of having it ready for distribution around the Nativity. If you are new and have not yet turned in a Contact Information Form, please do so ASAP. If you have recently moved, changed phone number or email, etc., please get those changes to Jennifer Bzik ASAP. In the coming weeks, we will hand out sheets to confirm the information that we have on file for each individual. The Directory project is a big undertaking, and the more helpful everyone is with getting information updated, the faster it will be to produce. Thank you all for your help!

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 13, 2026

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross
Sunday Before the Exaltation
Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem

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 4 **Troparion** *(Founding)*

Thou hast revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Thy glory on earth to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, strengthen it for ever and ever and accept our supplication which we ceaselessly offer Thee therein, the life and resurrection of all!

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Forefeast)*

We offer in supplication the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, O Lord, which Thou hast granted to us although we are unworthy. Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

Tone 6 **Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 2 **Kontakion** *(Founding)*

Grant renewal of spirit in our hearts, and illumination to all that is within us, as we celebrate in faith the sacred dedication of Thy house, which Thou wast well pleased to have built in Thy divine Name, O Thou Who alone art glorified in the sanctuary.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon *(Sunday Before)*

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)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Founding)*

Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore. *(Ps. 92:7b)*

Epistle
Read by Reader John Heitzenrater

(Galatians 6:11-18 *(Sunday Before)*) See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

(2 Corinthians 4:6-15 *(Resurrection)*) For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Tone 1
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

I have exalted one chosen out of My people. (Ps. 88:18b)

For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him. (Ps. 88:20)

Tone 2
Thy foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loveth thy gates, O Zion, more than all the dwellings of Jacob. (Ps. 99:1)

Gospel

(John 3:13-17 *(Sunday Before)*) No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

(Matthew 22:35-46 *(Resurrection)*) Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*
I have loved the beauty of Thy house, O Lord, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth. *(Ps. 25:7)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Candle Offerings for Sunday, September 13, 2026

Vigils in Altar – Windowsill (2)
In Memory Of Frank Guydan, Offered by Friends

Vigils in Altar – Table of Oblation (2)
Happy Birthday Grandpa Nicholas Lezinsky
Offered by Sophia, Jacob, Sasha, Elena, Nicholas, Brooke & Victoria

Vigils in Altar – Side Table (2)
In Birthday Thanksgiving, Offered by Laurel Riley

Votives in Altar
In Memory Of Paul Hutz, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry

Votives in Iconostas
In Honor Of Theresa Green, Offered by Mat. Susan

Crosses
Happy Anniversary Ann Marie & Barry

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)
In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan

Vigils on Icon Table (2)
In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan

Vigils – Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)
In Memory Of Kh. Sophia Shadid, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan

Votives – Icon of the Virgin Mary
In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Vigils – Icon of St. John the Baptist (2)
In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Votives – Icon of St. John the Baptist
Happy Birthday Nick, Offered by Judy

Vigils of St. Gregory (1)
Happy Birthday Nick, Offered by Judy

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)
In Memory Of My Sister Delphina Pociluyko, Offered by Laurel Riley

Vigil of St. Michael (1)
In Thanksgiving, Offered by Michele Guydan

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of Universal Exaltation of the Cross
In Memory Of Michael Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

Panikhida for Nancy Sabol – One Year of Repose

All are invited to attend a Panikhida for Nancy Sabol's first year of repose on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 12:00 pm.

Hope Rescue Mission needs your HELP!

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church is collecting all types of gently used clothing including coats, hats, boots, belts, men's clothing for the men at Hope Rescue Mission and for the women's and children's shelter (Lighthouse). We will take all seasons of clothing for men, women, and children. We have a need for new men's underwear, undershirts, and sweatpants all in sizes medium to xxxl.

You can drop items off in the designated containers in the Chernay Fellowship Hall. Please make all donations by **Sunday, October 4, 2026**

This clothing helps provide food, clothing, and shelter for the men at Hope Rescue and the women and children at Lighthouse.

Thank you in advance for your donations!

Halupki Schedule

Help needed for halupki making Sunday - Tuesday, September 27-29.

Sunday:
- After coffee hour – steam, devein, make rice, set-up

Monday: help needed
- 7:00 a.m. mix meat/rice and make balls
- 8:00 a.m. roll/cook/cool halupki and clean up
- Possibly steam and devein after rolling, then clean up
- EVENING HELP NEEDED to pack and freeze 4 packs, and wrap and freeze large pans of halupki, some dishes/clean up involved

Tuesday: help needed
- 7:00 a.m. mix meat/rice and make balls
- 8:00 a.m. roll/cook/cool halupki and clean up
- EVENING HELP NEEDED to pack and freeze 4 packs, and wrap and freeze large pans of halupki, some dishes/clean up involved

Media Opt-Out Information

As many of you know, from time to time we (St. Nicholas Church) record, photograph or videotape various events and activities that reflect an active parish. These pieces of communication may be published on our website, in our bulletin, on our social media page, on the OCA website, or used on other printed material. Some people may choose not to have their photos used and if you are among them, we ask that you fill-out the Media Opt-Out Form that can be found at the information table outside the church hall. Please return it to the church administrative assistant so that we may have a copy on file. If you are okay with the use of media, you do not have to do anything. Thank you.

Kitchen Schedule

Perogies for the Bazaar will be made the weeks of September 14th and September 22nd.

Lenten Pierogies will be made November 9, 2026. Please place orders by November 8. Sign up sheet is by the kitchen phone.

Christmas Bazaar Prep

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

In preparation for our Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 12, we are looking for additional help with food preparation and packaging on the following dates:

- Kiffle Prep - Need 10 people After Coffee Hour on the following Sundays: 9/13, 9/20, 10/11, 10/25
- Kiffle Packaging - Need 4-5 People between 4 & 6 PM on the following Wednesdays: 9/16, 9/23, 10/14, 10/28
- Halupki Steaming/Deveining - Need 4-5 People After Coffee Hour Sunday 9/27
- Halupki Packaging - Need 4-5 People between 6 & 8 PM on Monday 9/28 & Tuesday 9/29

If you can lend a hand, please call or text me. As the saying goes "Many hands make light work."

Thank you,
Damian Vansuch (484-764-9712)

Save the Date for Sunday, October 18, 2026
St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church
110th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday October 17 we will be celebrating Rdr. John Heitzenrater's ordination to the Deaconate. To RSVP for his celebration please email john.heitzenrater@icloud.com.

To make reservations for our 110th Anniversary celebratory reception on Sunday, October 18, please sign up at the Candle Desk. You must list the names of the adults (number of adults) and number of children under the age of 12 so we have an exact count for the caterer. No reservations will be accepted after Sunday, October 4.

The $10 per adult nominal fee has been waived as an anonymous donor has stepped forward to cover the charge.

Any questions please see Sandi Keysock or Patty Felix.

Church School Information

Church School sign up forms are now available at the Candle Desk. Even if your children have attended Church School in the past, please sign up to update your information. This year Church School will include children from Kindergarten through 6th Grade. We are planning for the Church School Moleben on Sunday, September 13th, with an orientation meeting following coffee hour. This meeting will be for Church School families and parishioners who desire to know about the Sunday School Program. All interested are welcome! Church School classes will officially begin on Sunday, September 20, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact the Church School Administrator, Danielle Brown.

Frozen Halupki 4 Packs Available

We still have frozen Halupki 4 Packs available for $15. Please see Val Roberts if you are interested.

2:00-4:30PM |FOLLOWED BY 5PM VESPERS

OCTOBER 10TH

Fellowship PICNIC

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN, POTLUCK, AND GAMES!

WHAT TO BRING?

FAMILY/FRIENDS
FOOD TO SHARE
GAMES

ST. NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΚΟΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΕΛΕΝΗΣ

Rev. Fr. Theodore Petrides, Proistamenos 570.713.7095
Fr. Emmanuel Maginas, Assistant Priest 724.709.9145
Fr. Cornelius Grandberry, Chaplain 732.318.4301
Dr. Deacon Jim Elliker 610.507.9233

August 28, 2026

National Slovak Society Of USA, Bethlehem
John Lahutsky, treasurer
3914 Linden Street
Bethlehem, PA 18020

Dear John,

On behalf of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Reading, PA, we sincerely thank you for your generous donation of $2,640 on behalf of National Slovak Society Of USA, in support of our Guatemala Well Project. Also, we will send a thank you letter to everyone who made this collection for the well project possible.

Your generosity is helping provide clean and safe water to families in San Andreas Seminary, Talmiche, Guatemala and is making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in the area in need. We are deeply grateful for your kindness and support of this important project.

This letter serves as an acknowledgment of your charitable contribution for your tax records. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

Thank you again for your generosity and for helping us bring hope and positive change to the people of Guatemala.

May God bless you and your family!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Theodore Petrides

Rev. Fr. Theodore Petrides

Thank you to everyone who contributed!

ST NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

See our Pre-Order Form to place Bake Sale Orders by November 8, 2026!

980 Bridle Path Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-867-0402
stnicholasoca.org

SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Matushki: Liudmyla Breckenridge, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Rebekah Markewich, Mary Reynolds, Sophia Shadid, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic, Stephanie Onofrey, Susan Kon

Servants: Ann Marie Bretz, Bethany Bruder, Theresa Butler, Jennifer Bzik, Helen Cotirgasanu, David G. Cudlic, Val Danchenko, Alexis Defoe, Maryann Dudash, Christopher Felix, Nikolay Fetisov, Olga Frimenko, David Gowarty, Patricia Grammes, Rachel Hardesty, Luca Harford, 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, Laurel Riley, Valerie 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, Jerri Williams, Irene Witanek,

Catechumens: Austin Bednar, Seth Brady, Jared Buck, Jessica Clossey, Nicholas Heacock, Eli Lerch, Carolina Lopez, Margaret MacKay, Taylor Magditch, Luke Maritch, Kate Maritch, Anastasia Moore, Emily Moore, Isaac Moore, Józef Moore, Mariella Moore, Michael Moore, Thérèse Moore, Christian Reichert, Sean Seidel, Adam Smith,

Handmaidens:, Tanner Mazur, Juliane Metz, Amber Metz, Lisa Metz, Jess Sneket and their unborn children, Lydia Claycomb, Ruth Finlaw, and their newborn children

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