Divine Liturgy

Sunday, October 4, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost (2nd of Luke)

Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens

SAINT NICHOLAS

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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

Danielle Brown, Church School Administrator
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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 October 4, 2026

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens (1st c.). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Gurias, first Archbishop of Kazan, and St. Varsonúphy (Barsanuphius), Bishop of Tver' (1595). Synaxis of the Hierarchs of Kazan' (1976). Rt. Blv. Prince Vladimir Yaroslavich, Prince of Novgorod (1052). Ven. Helladius and Onesimus of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th-13th c.). Ven. Ammon, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.). Martyrs Gaius, Faustus, Eusebius, and Chæremon, of Alexandria (3rd c.). Martyr Peter of Capitolias (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Domnina and her daughters Berenice and Prosdoce of Syria (305-306). Ven. Ammon (ca. 350) and Paul the Simple (4th c.), of Egypt. St. Stephen Stiljianovich of Serbia (1515).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, October 5th - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, October 7th - 12:00 pm - 5:00 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 hosted by Boris Stefanov & Marietta Peycheva
In Honor Of the Newly Illumined Austin, Carolina & Margaret

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

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

Thursday, October 8	9:00 am - Akathist - Theotokos, Nurturer of Children
Saturday, October 10	2:00 pm – 4:30 pm – Fellowship Picnic
	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, October 11	**19th Sunday After Pentecost**
	9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
Saturday, October 17	9:30 am – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Ordination (Reception to Follow)
	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, October 18	**20th Sunday After Pentecost**
	9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
	110th Anniversary Celebration following the Liturgy
Saturday, October 24	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, October 25	**21st Sunday After Pentecost**
	9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am – Divine Liturgy
Saturday, October 31	5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sunday, November 1	**22nd Sunday After Pentecost**
	9:10 am – Reading of the Hours
	9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

LAST DAY TO DONATE!
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!**

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, October 4, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost (2nd of Luke)
Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens

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 1 **Troparion** *(St. Hierotheus)*

We the faithful all praise Hierotheus, the disciple of Paul, Hierarch of Athens, the world's teacher and a preacher of the Faith, who revealed to us Christ's Mysteries and poured forth streams of godly doctrine. His life was well-pleasing to God, Who is greatly merciful.

Tone 1 **Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Tone 8 **Kontakion** *(St. Hierotheus)*

Hierarch of Athens, we praise thee for thou hast instructed us in awesome and ineffable things, and thou wast revealed to be a divinely-inspired writer of hymns. Pray that we be delivered from every kind of sin, so that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, divinely-wise Father Hierotheus!

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)

Epistle
Read by Amber Metz

(2 Corinthians 9:6-11) But this I say: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

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)

Gospel

(Luke 6:31-36) And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Candle Offerings for Sunday, October 4, 2026

Vigils in Altar – Table of Oblation (2)
In Honor Of Kh. Sophia Shadid, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan

Votives in Altar
Happy Anniversary Matt & Jess, Offered by Mom & Dad

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)
In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Vigils on Icon Table (2)
In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan, Offered by Pat & Tom

Vigils – Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)
Happy Anniversary Matthew & Jessica Roberts, Offered by Mom & Dad

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 Reader Leonty Macalush, Offered by Fran & Mike Slivka

Votives – Icon of St. John the Baptist
In Honor of Carolina, Offered by Nicholas

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)
Happy Anniversary Pat & Tom

Vigils of St. Gregory (1)
In Memory Of Joseph Slivka, Offered by Fran & Mike Slivka

Vigils of St. Paul (1)
In Memory Of Kevin Slivka, Offered by Fran & Mike Slivka

Vigil of St. Michael (1)
For Health Of Tania J., Offered by Nicholas & Carolina

Vigil of St. Andrew (1)
For Health Of Tania J., Offered by Nicholas & Carolina

October 4, 2026

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved children in the Lord,

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16).

In these words, the holy Apostle Paul makes an important connection between the word of Christ, the teaching of the faith, and the singing of sacred music. This should not surprise us. From generation to generation, Christians have learned the faith not only by hearing it preached or reading it in books, but by singing it.

The hymns of the Church give special voice to her theology. They proclaim Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection; they teach us how to speak of the most holy Theotokos and the saints; they teach us the meaning of the feasts and fasts; they give us words of repentance, thanksgiving, supplication, and praise. Often, words first encountered in worship remain with us long afterward, deep impressed into our memory, because they have been joined to melody and repeated in prayer.

For this reason, the ministry of our church musicians is also a ministry of teaching. Choir directors, singers, chanters, readers, composers, arrangers, translators, hymnographers, and all those who labor in the musical life of the Church do more than beautify our services. Through their work, they help the word of Christ to dwell richly among us.

This responsibility is especially important as we hand on the Orthodox faith to others. A child learning to sing the responses, a new singer finding his or her place in the choir, or someone entering an Orthodox church for the first time may know little of our musical traditions. Patient instruction, good examples, and the welcoming of new voices are therefore not merely musical concerns. They are part of the work of transmitting the life and tradition of the Church.

Our pursuit of beauty and excellence in worship should never become a barrier to participation. Rather, those who have received musical gifts, knowledge, and experience should generously share them with others. I encourage our parishes and missions to teach their people to sing, to give children

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opportunities to learn the hymns of the Church, to welcome and form new choristers, and to support those musicians who devote themselves to preserving and handing on this part of our liturgical inheritance.

On this Church Musician Sunday, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all those who give their voices, their skill, their time, and their prayer to the musical service of the Church. Through your efforts, words proclaimed by prophets, apostles, fathers, and saints continue to be placed upon the lips and within the hearts of the faithful.

May the Lord strengthen you in this ministry, and may he grant that, through our common song, his word may dwell ever more richly within us.

With my primatial prayers and blessing,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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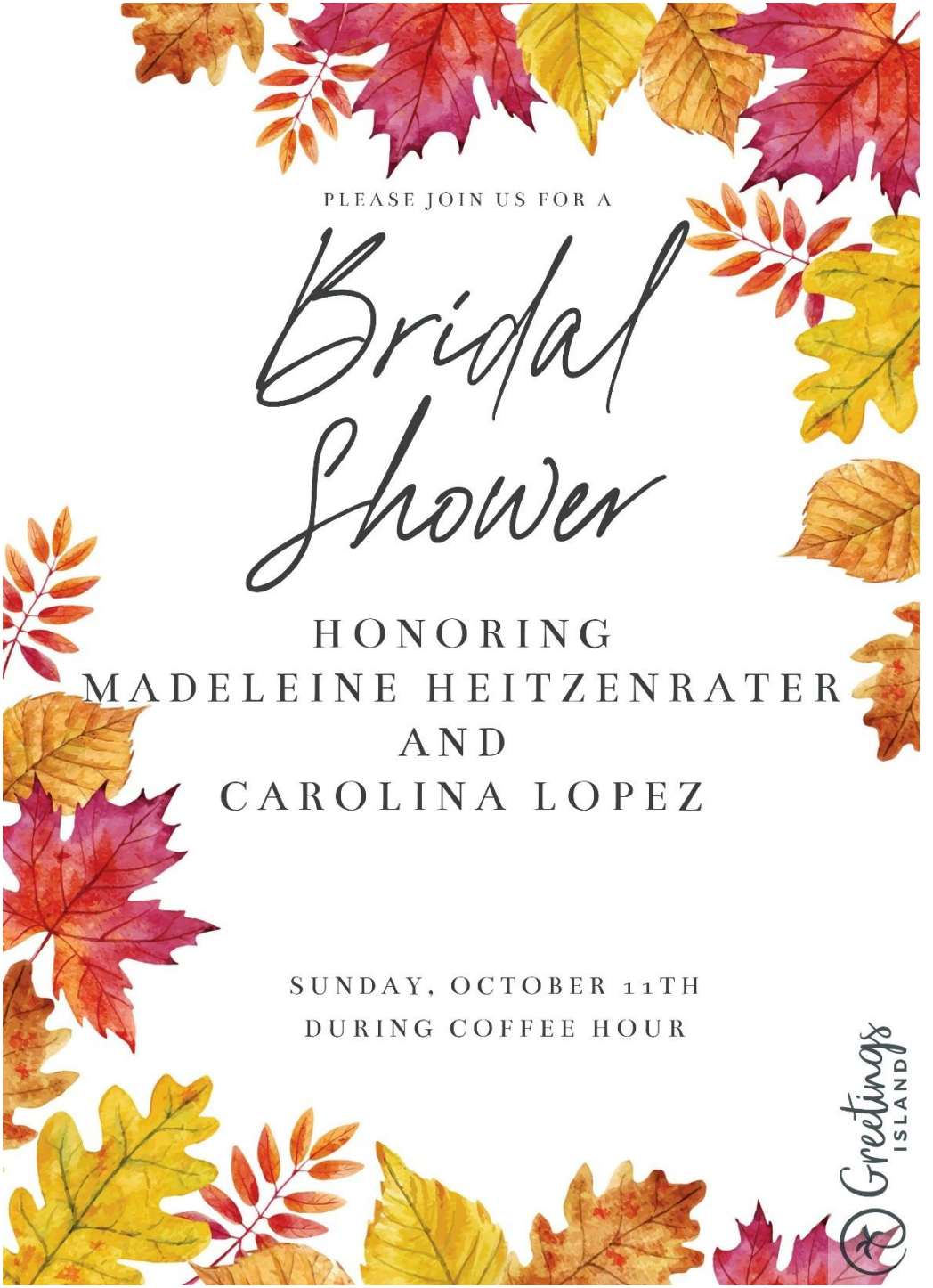
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Bridal Shower
HONORING
MADELEINE HEITZENRATER
AND
CAROLINA LOPEZ
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH
DURING COFFEE HOUR
Greetings
ISLAND

A Note Of Thanks

Many thanks to all those who helped with the making of our delicious halupki (2,000 this time!) for our upcoming halupki dinner in November, and for our bazaar in December. We had a small dedicated group on Friday to core the cabbage, and another small group on Saturday to start steaming the cabbage. Then a wonderful set of helpers Sunday through Tuesday doing many different jobs. And last but not least, the night crew! They came to pack our 4 counts, and wrap and freeze the large pans, along with taking care of the cabbage for halushki. This is a daunting job that requires many hands, and I am so grateful for you all! May God continue to shine His grace upon us.

In Christ, Val Roberts

Fellowship Hall Game Drive for our Youth

On rainy or snowy Sundays when outdoor play is not an option, our children and youth need wholesome ways to unwind and connect during Coffee Hour, as well as for our upcoming Youth Group gatherings.

To help build this fellowship space for our youth, we are gratefully accepting donations of:

- Gently Used or New Board Games suitable for children and teenagers
- Financial Contributions to help purchase games and storage supplies

If you have any games that you would like to contribute, please place them in the designated box in the hall or speak with Nicole Pell.

2nd Quarter Treasurer's Report Summary

April 2026	Income:	$97,814.97
	Expenses:	$38,514.61
	Net Revenue:	$59,300.36
May 2026	Income:	$32,519.70
	Expenses	$27,835.68
	Net Revenue:	$4,684.02
June 2026	Income:	$36,531.92
	Expenses:	$28,980.92
	Net Revenue:	$7,551.00

"One Can Can Help" Annual Food Drive

Sponsored by: RO59/NSS

We will be collecting non-perishable food products to benefit the New Bethany Ministries from October 1st through October 31st.

Please leave your generous donations in the boxes on either side of the entrance doors to the hall. They will accept nonperishable food items as well as paper products.

Thank you so much!

Basket Raffle Donations Wanted

We will once again be hosting a Basket Raffle this year during the holiday season and we are looking for volunteers to donate baskets. We have a track record of offering beautiful baskets and we are hoping to uphold tradition. If you are able to make a basket, please contact Jennifer Bzik to let her know in advance.

Don't be shy if you have never made a basket for the raffle before! Jennifer will be happy to help you out. If you are interested in supporting the Basket Raffle but are not able to make a basket, please consider making a cash donation. Jennifer (and her daughter Lydia 😊) will be happy to do the shopping and prepare a basket on your behalf!

The Basket Raffle will open on Sunday, December 6th and will also be open Saturday, December 12th during the Christmas Bazaar and Sunday, December 13th during Coffee Hour. The last chance to get those tickets in will be on Sunday, December 13th before our Christmas Choir Concert, which begins at 3:30 pm. The Basket Raffle Drawing will be held following the conclusion of the concert on Sunday, December 13th.

<u>If you are planning to make a cash donation, please do so as soon as possible (no later than Sunday, November 22, 2026)</u> so that we have an opportunity to shop and prepare a basket using those funds. **<u>All donated baskets must be brought to the church by noon on Sunday, November 29, 2026</u>**. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Jennifer Bzik. Thank you so much for your support!

Kitchen Schedule

Perogies for the Bazaar will be made the weeks of October 19, 20, 21 and November 9, 10, 11.

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: 10/11, 10/25
- Kiffle Packaging - Need 4-5 People between 4 & 6 PM on the following Wednesdays: 10/14, 10/28

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)

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!

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.

If you have signed up but have not yet received your tickets, please see Patty Felix.

Any questions please see Sandi Keysock or Patty Felix.

2027 Stewardship Envelopes

If you did not receive a box of personalized weekly Stewardship Envelopes in 2026 and would like to receive a box for 2027, please email Jennifer Bzik with your name and address no later than October 9, 2026. Please note that Stewardship Envelopes are not required to make donations, but are available for those who choose to use them. Thank you!

A Note of Thanks

We would like to thank Guliana for hosting our beautiful baby shower last week and our church family for celebrating Baby Sneket. We truly appreciate the love, support, and thoughtful gifts. We are so grateful for your generosity and feel blessed to be part of this amazing church family.

In Christ,
The Sneket Family

The Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos from Hawaii

When: Saturday, October 10, 202610:00 AM

Where: Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Cathedral
109 Grand Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302.
Parking is available at St. Peter's Prep on Grand Street.

Service and anointing, with refreshments to follow

On Saturday morning, October 10, this diocese will be blessed by the presence of the miraculous Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos from Hawaii, and Saints Peter and Paul is the first stop on its visit. We will have a service before the icon, everyone present will be anointed with the myrrh, and refreshments will follow.

In June of 2008 the Holy Myrrh-Streaming Hawaiian Iveron Icon was officially recognized by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia as miraculous and genuine, and given the blessing to travel to the churches and monasteries of Holy Orthodoxy. The icon continues to stream myrrh to this day.

If you belong to pan-Orthodox groups, or have friends who have never been inside an Orthodox church, please invite them. Parking is available at St. Peter's Prep.

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

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, Austyn Mazur, 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: Seth Brady, Jared Buck, Jessica Clossey, Nicholas Heacock, Eli Lerch, Taylor Magditch, Kate Maritch, Luke Maritch, Anastasia Moore, Emily Moore, Isaac Moore, Józef Moore, Mariella Moore, Michael Moore, Thérèse Moore, Anastasia Quadrino, Cecilia Quadrino, Juliana Quadrino, Meghan Quadrino, Theodora Quadrino, Christian Reichert, Sean Seidel, Adam Smith,

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

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