



Weekly Bulletin - Sunday, September 22, 2024

Schedule of Services and Events

Date	Time	Service/Event
Friday, September 20	6:00 p.m.	Vigil - Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Saturday, September 21	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Saturday, September 21	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy - Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Saturday, September 21	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, September 22	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, September 22	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, September 22	Following Liturgy	40th day Panikhida for Theodore Salaneck, Memorial meal
Thursday, September 26	6:00 p.m.	Vigil - The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross
Friday, September 27	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Friday, September 27	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy - The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross
Saturday, September 28	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, September 29	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, September 29	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
<i>Sunday, September 29</i>	<i>12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Luncheon</i>
<i>Sunday, September 29</i>	<i>2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Marriage Service (See below for details)</i>
<i>Sunday, September 29</i>	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Reception and cake</i>

Symeon and Katerina Shackelford's Wedding

You are invited to join us for the Shackelford's wedding on Sunday, September 29. They were married outside of the Church, and as converts, they are desiring to have their marriage blessed with the service of the Mystery of Holy Matrimony. We hope that you can

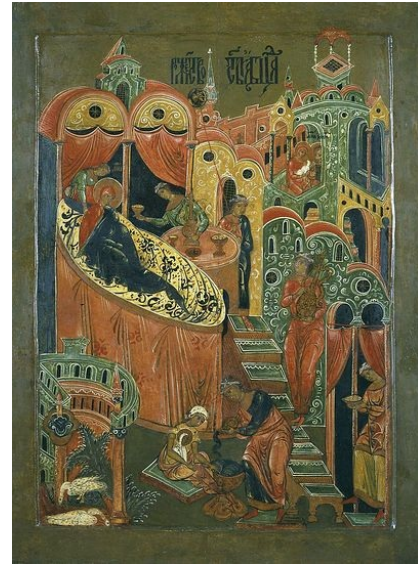
set aside your Sunday to share in these moments. After Sunday Divine Liturgy, there will be a lunch, followed by the Wedding, and afterward, a cake reception.

Please use this [link](#) to RSVP to give them a good estimate for food preparations.

Sorrow and Joy: A Homily on the Day of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God

*Thy Nativity, O Theotokos Virgin,
Has brought joy to all the inhabited earth:
For from Thee has sprung forth
the Son of Righteous, Christ our God.*

We solemnly celebrate, dear brothers and sisters, the Nativity of the Most Holy Virgin Mary from her barren parents, pious Joachim and Anna. The Holy Church established this feast during the first centuries of the Christian Faith. The event that we celebrate—the birth of the God-Chosen maiden—brought joy to all the world, for the God-man, Jesus Christ, Who shone forth from Her, destroyed God’s curse which weighed heavily upon the transgressing and accursed human race, and brought God’s blessing upon it; having trampled down inherent death, He gave people eternal life. Thus the Holy Church explains the cause of the present joy.



The parents of the Ever-Virgin sorrowed long over their barrenness; they prayed long and fervently to the Lord that He loose this barrenness, which was considered a punishment from God for sins. They gave much alms in order to incline the mercy of the All-Merciful, endured the reproach of their countrymen, and through this sorrow and ceaseless prayer and good works, they gradually purified their spirits, and burned ever greater with love and dedication to God, thus being prepared by God’s Providence to give blessed birth to the Most Blessed Daughter, chosen out of all people to be the Mother of the Incarnate Word.

The Lord leads His chosen ones to glory by a narrow and sorrowful path; for even She, the Mother of God according to the flesh, received the prophecy of Simeon that a sword shall pierce Her soul, and She will experience heavy sorrows in her soul during Her Son’s suffering life, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed (Lk. 2:34–35). The path of all God’s chosen is thus sorrowful and narrow, for the world and the prince of this world—that is, the enemy of God and people, extremely presses the people of God. The Lord Himself allows them to go by the narrow way, inasmuch as He enables them to strive for God and put all their hope in Him.

But let us turn our gaze from the sorrow to the joy. What joy does the Nativity of the Mother of God bring us? Let us explain in more detail the Church hymn which explains the meaning of this feast’s joy. Through the birth of the Ever-Virgin, through Her only-begotten Son and God, cursed and outcast mankind makes peace with God Who is immeasurably offended by man’s sins, for Christ became the mediator of this peace (cf. Rom. 5:10-11). Man is freed from the curse and eternal death, made worthy of the blessing of the Heavenly Father; he is united and co-mingled with the Divine nature; he is raised to his first inheritance by this co-mingling, according to the Church hymn. Mankind, once an outcast, has been made worthy of sonship to the Heavenly Father, received the promise of the glorious resurrection and eternal life in the heavens together with the angels.

This has all been and is being wrought by the Son of God incarnate from the Most Pure Virgin from the Holy Spirit, and by the intercession of His Most Pure Mother. How honored and magnified is mankind through the Holy Virgin Mother of God, for it has been made worthy of renewal and sonship by God; She Herself was made worthy by Her immeasurable humility and exceedingly great purity and holiness to be the Mother of the God-man! She is ever the most powerful Intercessor for the Christian race before Her Son and God! She is our Hope unashamed; She turns away from us the dark cloud of God’s righteous wrath, opens to us the ancient paradise by Her powerful intercessions; She upholds the thrones of kings, and preserves them unshakeable to the ages. She has

saved Russia thousands of times and continues to save her; She has made her strong, glorified her, established her, and continues to do so; She is the Surety of Sinners for salvation. To Her do Christians direct their numberless prayers, requests, and praises, doxologies and thanksgiving; She has worked and continues to work miracles without number in the Church, to the ends of the world.

Let us brightly celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Most Pure Virgin Mary, adorning ourselves with all the Christian virtues.

St. John of Kronstadt

Source: <https://pravoslavie.ru/39253.html>

Save the Date: Atlantic States Deanery Gathering

On Saturday, November 9, 2024, our parish will be hosting the next gathering of the Patriarchal Parishes Atlantic States Deanery. More details to come.

Psalter Prayer Group

The Psalter prayer group is currently in need of one more person. If you have not participated in the past, this is how it works. Each person is assigned a different kathisma to start. Each person reads one kathisma each day in sequential order, along with opening and closing prayers and prayers for the living and departed. Between the group, the entire Psalter is read each day. The Psalter prayer group usually takes breaks after Great Lent and the Nativity Fast.

If you are interested in joining the Psalter prayer group, please see [Svitlana Breniser](#). You will need to provide her with your baptismal name and 10 names for the prayer list (living or departed).

Prayer List

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Catechumens

Cipolle, Kate
Rogozin, Daniel
Rogozin, Ryelle
Rogozin, Danielle

Departed

Theodore

To add a name to our prayer list (health, newly departed), please reply to this email or see Fr. Daniel.

September Celebrations

Name Days

- September 30 - Sofia Lutcza

Many Years! Многая Лета!

If you would like to be included in the parish directory of commemoration dates (birthdays, name days, and marriage anniversaries), please submit the information in this [form](#). If you have questions, please see [Anastasia Lutcza](#).

Reminders

Online candle stand: Candles and vigil lights can now be ordered [online](#) to be lit at the next service.

Online donations: One-time or recurring donations to the church can be made [online](#). The recurring option is a convenient way to donate and also helps to better plan our budget.

Benevolent fund: The benevolent fund was established to help those in need. To donate specifically to the benevolent fund, please use the special pink envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the benevolent fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Building fund: The building fund was established to save for future building projects. Our next major maintenance project will be the masonry restoration work that is scheduled to begin in early October 2024. The total cost will be about \$29,000-\$30,000. The building fund currently has a total of about \$20,000 after making the down payment of \$7,000. The balance of \$22,000-\$23,000 will need to be paid after the job is complete. Please consider donating to the building fund to help us reach this goal of \$3,000. To donate specifically to the building fund, please use the special blue envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the building fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Rectory fund: The rectory fund was established to save for a future rectory close to the vicinity of the church. To donate specifically to the rectory fund, please use the special yellow envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the rectory fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Church cleaning schedule: The church cleaning schedule for the second half of 2024 is available [here](#). A [cleaning list](#) and other helpful information is also available for those volunteering.

Church calendar: You can subscribe to the church calendar (add the church calendar to your mobile device or calendar application) by using these links: [Services](#) and [Events](#).

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser: Our parish is participating again in the annual Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser. The shopping passes are \$5 and are good for 25% off almost all purchases made on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at all Boscov's locations. Our church keeps 100% of the shopping pass proceeds. If you would like to purchase a discount shopping pass or help sell them, please see Jean Salaneck.

A Parish of the Moscow Patriarchate | Reading, Pennsylvania | Founded in 1905
Priest Daniel Meyer, Rector | 909-286-0814 | frdanielmeyer@protonmail.com

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St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church | 241-243 South Third Street | Reading, PA 19602 US

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