

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND
FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

JULY 21, 2019



**ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2250 East Paris Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-954-2700 ▪ info@stnicholasgr.com ▪ www.stnicholasgr.com

CLERGY

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York & Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY,
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

V. Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser,
Pastor of St. Nicholas ▪ 616-216-3537 ▪ frmichael@stnicholasgr.com

V. Rev. Fr. Elias Mitchell,
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff
Rev. Deacon Theodore Sirotko
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located on the table in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us for refreshments & fellowship in the Cultural Center.

We believe **Holy Communion** to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, & regular confession are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

WHO WE ARE

St. Nicholas is a worshipping community in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian tradition that preserves, proclaims, and practices the Faith given by Christ to the Apostles, serving Him, one another and our neighbors. We manifest His love through sacramental and liturgical life, education, hospitality, works of mercy, and fellowship.

We would love to share more about our Orthodox Faith with you. Our website and our bookstore are great resources to assist you in learning more about us and what we believe! Also, feel free to make an appointment with our pastor.

We trust that you will experience Christ's presence as you worship with us today.



HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

HYMNS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)

Thy work of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness richness. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our soul.

ORDINARY KONTAKION (TONE 2)

O undisputed intercessor of Christians. The mediatrix who is unrejected by the Creator. Turn not away from the voice of our petitions; although we are sinners. Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith. For thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos. Who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

EPISTLE

*How great are Thy works, O Lord!
In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans

(10:1-10)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into Heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

(8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

SYNAXARION

On July 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate our Righteous Fathers John of Edessa in Mesopotamia; and Simeon of Homs (Emesa), the Fool-for-Christ.

Verses

A wise fool wast thou, mocking life, O Father Simeon,
escaping even to the end the crafty serpent.

O John, thou cholest to dwell in barren regions,
whereby thou didst render carnal passions barren.

On the twenty-first died Simeon the mock-fool and mocker.

Both men received the monastic tonsure at the hands of the Abbot Nikon in the Monastery of St. Gerasimos. They withdrew into the wilderness near the Dead Sea where they lived an austere life of asceticism for nearly thirty years. They mortified their bodies so much that they resembled two withered trees. One day Simeon told John that, according to God's command, he must depart from the wilderness, go among the people and serve God there. John said to Simeon, "Pray to God for me, that He does not separate us, one from the other, in the future life." Simeon went among the people of Homs, Syria as a "fool for Christ," to teach people and to convert them to the Faith of Christ. He pretended insanity before everyone but his heart was the temple of the Holy Spirit and, in that temple, was unceasing prayer. Simeon possessed abundant grace from God and was able to discern all the inner secrets of people, healing them from evil spirits and other ailments. Simeon came across a young fornicator who went out of his mind. Simeon struck him across the face with his hand and said: "Do not commit fornication." At that moment the unclean demon departed from the young man and he became well. Simeon reposed in 570; by the providence of God, John, who had remained in the wilderness, departed soon after.

On this day, we also commemorate Parthenios, bishop of Radovizlios; and Martyr Victor of Marseilles. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the one-year falling asleep in the Lord of the handmaiden of God Nora Ayoub lovingly offered by Nick, Joe, Elizabeth, and Josephine Ayoub. Memory Eternal Mama/Sitti!

HOLY OBLATION IS OFFERED

For all those participating in the Archdiocese Convention, for its Sanctity and Success, and for the safety of all who travel to Grand Rapids to be with us in Celebration of Orthodoxy by Richard and Suzanne Geha Merpi and family!

For the Health and Blessings of R. Leo (Elias) Olson by Emily Olson. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Gresham Elias Olson by Leo and Emily Olson. May God grant him many years!

For the Eternal Memory of our parents, grandparents, siblings, and children, and for the Health and Blessings of our children, grandchildren, siblings and their children by Richard and Suzanne Geha Merpi.

In memory of the one-year falling asleep in the Lord of Handmaiden of God Mary Howard and the 40-day falling asleep in the Lord of Servant of God David Vaillancourt by Dan, Kathy, Marilyn, Pat, Diane, Linda, Mark and Janet. Memory Eternal!

In memory of Nazim and Adele Kallas by George, Sophia, Christina and John Soukar. Memory Eternal!

In memory of Hanin Soukar by George, Sophia, Christina and John Soukar. Memory Eternal!

SERVING MINISTRIES

Epistle Reader: Nick Ayoub

Coffee Hour: Convention Lunch

REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

LIVING

Vera Mijatovic	LaVerne Audy	Kh. Cynthia Hogg
Audrey Nicoloff	Eva Rose Saseen	Barbara Sielaff
Ralph Thomas	Dennis Hattem	Joe Corey
David Corey	Richard Traxler	Sam Homsey

If you desire a name to be added to this prayer list, Holy Oblations may be offered, with the option of being added to the bulletin Prayer List for 40 days.

DEPARTED

Victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty in the Middle East and throughout the world.

PARISHIONERS DEPARTED IN THE MONTH OF JULY

7/01/1988	Linda Lou Sylvester	7/17/1969	Antonina Oleszezuk
7/01/1996	Hasebie Gantos	7/17/2006	Maxine Hattem
7/02/1967	Fozee Yared	7/18/1988	Hazel Salhaney
7/03/1997	Mary Sayfee	7/21/2007	Thomas Bander
7/05/1967	Ferris Sickrey	7/23/2017	George Mickel
7/06/1956	Michael Azkoul	7/26/1967	Julia Sickrey
7/11/1967	Andreas Nakas	7/26/1983	Louise Salhaney
7/13/2002	Edward Khouri	7/27/1963	Arthur Watson
7/16/1977	Kh. Anna Mickel	7/28/1935	Rev. Philip Assaley
7/16/2017	Millard Laramy	7/29/2018	Nora Ayoub

CONVENTION PARKING

If you are heading downtown to the Convention and looking for inexpensive parking, consider this option:

The Louis Campau Parking Garage has an indoor Skywalk connecting all the way to the Amway Grand Plaza).

- \$1.25 for each half hour
- \$12 daily maximum
- \$8 for an event

It is located at 43 Monroe Ave, NW