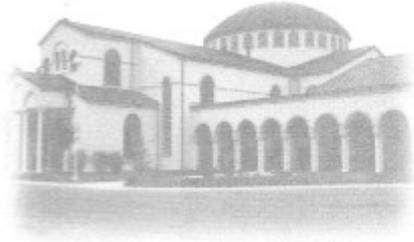


SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

FEBRUARY 16, 2020



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

Very Reverend Michael Nasser
Pastor of St. Nicholas ▪ 616-216-3537 ▪ frmichael@stnicholasgr.com

Reverend Theodore Sirotko
Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff
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 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

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.

KONTAKION FOR THE PRODIGAL SON (TONE 3)

Foolishly I sprang away from Thy great fatherly glory, and dispersed in wicked deeds the riches that Thou didst give me. With the Prodigal I therefore cry unto Thee now: I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. But receive me in repentance; make me as one of Thy hired servants, O Lord.

EPISTLE

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians 6:12-20

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 15:11-32

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he

squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

SYNAXARION

On February 16 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Pamphilos, priest of Caesarea in Palestine and his companions; Venerable Flavian the hermit; and Venerable-martyr Romanos from Solovak of Carpenision.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the noble Gospel and which our deified Fathers reinstated in the Triodion.

Verses

O thou who art like me, a prodigal,
come forward with confidence and tranquility;
For unto all has been opened the door of Divine Mercy.

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God's compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us, distant from God and His Sacraments. However, we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening with hope to return to Him through repentance. Our Savior wants to call back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all of his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts, and revive their energies for virtuous deeds.

Through Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

HOLY OBLATION IS OFFERED

For the Health and Blessings of Marge Simon on the occasion of her 88th birthday by Mike and Lynn and her entire family. May God continue to bless her and grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Ivetta and Yuri Kazarov on the occasion of their birthdays by their children; Aelitta, Arianna, and Aemelia. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Victor Jammal on his 18th birthday from Mom, Dad, Julia, and Jorgan. May God guide you every step of the way in your new ventures and grant you many years! We love you!

SERVING MINISTRIES

| | <u>Today</u> | <u>Next Week</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Epistle Readers: | Nick Ayoub | Nick Nicola |
| Coffee Hour: | Mike & Lynn Simon | LaFranboise family |

HAPPENING TODAY

Parish Council Meeting - 12:30 PM

All You Need is Love IOCC benefit Concert - 4 PM
Orthodox Choirs of West Michigan
and Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church

REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

LIVING

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Fr. John Dixon | David Corey | Sam Homsey |
| Vera Mijatovic | Eva Rose Saseen | Jean Laramy |
| Audrey Nicoloff | Barbara Sielaff | Laura Lee |
| Ralph Thomas | Joe Corey | Attallah Amash |

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 FEBRUARY

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 2/04/1997 | Albert Philippi |
| 2/04/2006 | Subdeacon Joseph Nicola |
| 2/04/2008 | Mona Bashara |
| 2/07/2010 | Marie Azkoul |
| 2/09/1975 | Saleme Ayoub |
| 2/11/1980 | Donald Mickel |
| 2/11/2001 | Josephine Sickrey |
| 2/11/2007 | Mabel Sickrey |
| 2/12/1944 | Joseph Eyd |
| 2/13/1958 | Sleyman Abraham |
| 2/14/1962 | C. K. Maloley |
| 2/15/1991 | Kezma Sayfee |
| 2/16/1944 | Assad Maloley |
| 2/17/1986 | Ramza Cassis |
| 2/19/1960 | Mose Halaley |
| 2/20/1972 | Josephine Wawee |
| 2/22/2001 | Helen J. Maloley |
| 2/24/2009 | Mary Henry |
| 2/29/1956 | Adeeb Nassif |