

**SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT  
(MEAT FARE)**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2020**



**ST. NICHOLAS  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**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](mailto: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 3)*

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the 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.

### *KONTAKION FOR SUNDAY OF LAST JUDGMENT (TONE 1)*

When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

## EPISTLE

*The Lord is my strength and my praise.  
The Lord chastising hath chastised me,  
but He hath not delivered me over to death.*

### **The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians 8:8-9:2**

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you—a man of knowledge—at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

## GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 25:31-46**

The Lord said, “When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Then He will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?’ Then He will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

## SYNAXARION

On February 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna; Venerable Gorgonia, sister of Gregory the Theologian; Venerable Zebinas, Polychronios, Moses and Damian near Cyrrhus in Syria; and Venerable Damian of Esphigmenou Monastery on Mount Athos.

Today, we commemorate the Second and impartial Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### *Verses*

When the Judge of all sitteth to judge the earth,  
Come now! Mayest Thou judge me worthy of Thy voice!

It is the Sunday of the Last Judgment—known also as Meat Fare Sunday—the lesson of which occurs in today’s Holy Gospel. Jesus illustrates to us God’s ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so lest some who are lazy should loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin, and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers decree that on this day the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

By Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ God, make us worthy of Thy devoted voice, number us among Thy righteous ones and have mercy on us. Amen.

## **THE TYPICA SERVICE**

The Office of the Typica with the Reception of Holy Communion is being celebrated today. This takes place any time that the Divine Liturgy would normally be served, and includes portions from the Divine Liturgy, with the addition of prescribed Psalms.

## **SERVING MINISTRIES**

|                         | <b><u>Today</u></b> | <b><u>Next Week</u></b>         |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Epistle Readers:</b> | Nick Nicola         | Gretchen Zahn                   |
| <b>Coffee Hour:</b>     | LaFranboise family  | Teen SOYO Cheesecake Fundraiser |

## **MEAT FARE SUNDAY**

This Sunday reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

## **HAPPENING TODAY**

Youth Rock Climbing Event  
at GVSU - 1:30 PM

## **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            |