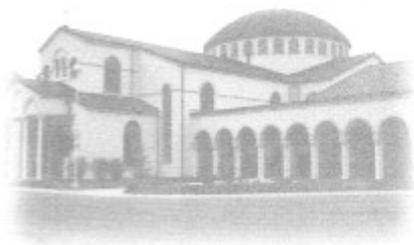


**SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS
(CHEESE FARE)**

MARCH 1, 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 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.

KONTAKION FOR FORGIVENESS SUNDAY (TONE 6)

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

CHEESE FARE SUNDAY

On Cheese-Fare Sunday, we also commemorate the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, entering into the Lenten fast in remembrance of mankind's separation from God through disobeying his commandment to fast from the fruit of the tree. Furthermore, many faithful attend Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday evening, asking forgiveness from each other in accordance with the Lord's words: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Matthew 6:14).

EPISTLE

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
O clap your hands, all ye nations.*

The Reading from the of St. Paul to the Romans 13:11-14:4

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

SYNAXARION

On March 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable-martyr Eudokia of Heliopolis; Venerable Domnina of Syria; Martyrs Markellos and Anthony of Pamphylia; Venerable Agapios of Vatopedi monastery on Athos; and Venerable David of Wales, bishop of Menevia.

On this day, we make remembrance of the exile of the first-fashioned, Adam, from the Paradise of delight.

Verses

Let the world mourn bitterly along with ages past;
As, by sweet eating, it hath fallen along with those who had fallen.

It is the Sunday of Forgiveness, known also as Cheese Fare Sunday. Today's lesson from the Holy Gospel teaches us about forgiveness and fasting, and how both are crucial to our own return to Paradise. The divine Fathers also set the anniversary of the exile of Adam from the Paradise of bliss on this day, at the entrance of Great Lent, to show us by deed as well as word how great is the benefit that accrues to man from fasting and repenting; and, on the contrary, how great the harm that comes from destructive gluttony and from disobedience to the divine commandments. The sin of gluttony resulted in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise, because they disobeyed God by eating from the tree which He had forbidden them. The Church reminds us of this event to encourage us to return to that ancient glory and primeval happiness by means of fasting and obedience to God and His commandments.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us worthy of the delight of Paradise and have mercy on us, as Thou art alone the Lover of mankind. Amen.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the 40-day falling asleep in the Lord of the Servant of God Dennis Hattem by the Hattem family. May his memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATION IS OFFERED

In memory of the 2-year falling asleep in the Lord of the Handmaiden of God Eva Ozman by Julie Karris. May her memory be Eternal!

In memory of the 8-year falling asleep in the Lord of the Servant of God James Salhaney by his loving wife Dorothy Salhaney and his children and great grandchildren. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of the St. Nicholas parishioners who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the month of March. May the Lord give comfort to His departed servants and may their memory be Eternal!

SERVING MINISTRIES

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Epistle Readers:	Gretchen Zahn	Christianna Hultink
Coffee Hour:	Teen SOYO Cheese-cake Fundraiser	Pancake Breakfast

HAPPENING TODAY

Kids Food basket "GO ORANGE" Volunteer Day - 1:30 PM
Forgiveness Vespers - 6 PM
Camp Deadline: Financial Assistance & Session 2 Transportation

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 MARCH

3/02/1956	Mike Simon
3/02/1996	Mary Aboosamra
3/03/1967	Della Azkoul
3/03/1978	Carrie Wawee
3/03/2017	Abe Simon
3/06/1968	Alexander Mallick
3/07/1968	Wadia Laham
3/07/1991	Juri Sulizki
3/07/2018	Rojina Jawiche
3/10/2012	James Salhaney
3/14/1947	Mitchell Livantis
3/16/1945	Damoos Sayfee
3/17/2005	Yuri Sarkisov
3/19/1969	Charles Bedree
3/20/1960	Louise Salhaney
3/21/2018	Louise Whalen