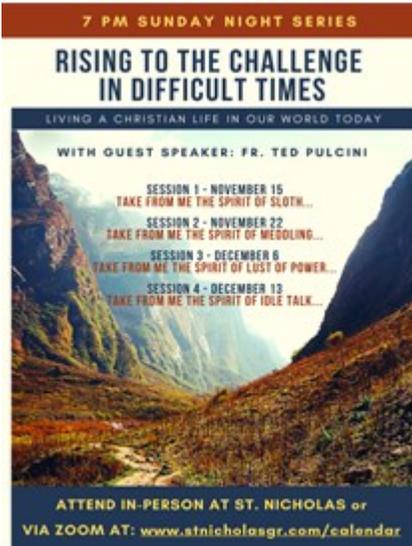


LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
(616) 954-2700 ▪ info@stnicholasgr.com ▪ stnicholasgr.com

DECEMBER 13-19, 2020

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE IN DIFFICULT TIMES: LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE IN OUR WORLD TODAY



Please join us virtually, tomorrow, December 13 at 7 PM, for the final session of the Adult Sunday Night Series "Rising to the Challenge in Difficult Times". The focus of this series is to live a life of virtue. Those virtues—and their corresponding vices—are captured in the *Prayer of St. Ephraim*, which Father Ted has expanded on so thoughtfully. If you missed either session, go to [\[SESSIONS 1-3\]](#).

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY SERVICES

Mark your calendars for the following services:

Eve of the Nativity of Christ on Thursday, December 24

Royal hours: 9-10 AM

Vesperal Liturgy: 5-6:30 PM

The Nativity of Christ on Friday, December 25

Matins: 8:30-10 AM

Divine Liturgy: 10-11 AM



THIS WEEK

Please visit stnicholasgr.com/calendar for information on these and all our activities. The Zoom password is 333.

Sunday, December 13

8:50AM—Orthros and Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

7PM—*Rising to the Challenge in Difficult Times*—Session 4

Tuesday, December 15

7PM—Stewardship meeting

Wednesday, December 16

6PM—Advent Paraklesis

Thursday, December 17

9AM—Bible Study: Revelations

6:45PM—Evangelism Ministry meeting

Saturday, December 19

6PM—Great Vespers followed by confession

BECOME A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER

During our January 31, 2021 General Assembly, we will be electing 3 members and an alternate to the Parish Council. If you are interested in being a potential candidate, please complete the Affirmation Statement and the Questionnaire. Both can be found on our [St. Nicholas website](#) under the "Parishioner" tab. If you have questions regarding Parish Council membership, please contact [Greg Lambert](#), [Mike Simon](#), or [Fr. Michael](#).



It is time to schedule your Theophany House Blessing! We have once again organized the House Blessing schedule according to zip codes and have provided an on-line sign-up feature for your convenience. If you do not have email access, please call the office to schedule your house blessing. Please do your best to schedule your House Blessing during your listed zip code time frame, **but if you must schedule outside the prescribed time frame, we will understand.** Register at: www.stnicholasgr.com/houseblessings. **The schedule is as follows:**

Date	Zip Codes
January 6 & 7	49503, 49506, 49507
January 8, 9, & 10	49302, 49315, 49316
January 12, 13, & 14	49306, 49341, 49504, 49505, 49525, 49544
January 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, & 20	49301, 49512, 49516, 49546
January 21 & 22	49508, 49509, 59519, 49548
February Please contact Fr. Michael to schedule your House Blessing.	48815, 48917, 49009, 49058, 49303, 49307, 49319, 49326, 49401, 49415, 49423, 49426, 49431, 49456, 49461

If your zip code is not listed, contact the church office so we can update our records.

Feel free to coordinate your House Blessing with parishioners in your neighborhood.

NOTE: Each household must be scheduled for their own time slot.

POINSETTIAS / FEAST DECORATIONS

If you would like to offer a Christmas poinsettia "in Eternal Memory of" or "for the Good Health of" your loved ones, kindly submit this form to the Plexiglas box on the Parishioners' table in the Narthex or return it to the church office by **tomorrow, December 13.** The electronic form is available at <https://stnicholasgr.com/advent/>.

DEPARTMENT of SACRED MUSIC

Join us **Tuesday, December 22** at 8PM on YouTube for a concert featuring music of the Nativity of Christ. This concert includes videos submitted from individual parishes all across the Archdiocese, featuring 4-part choirs, Byzantine choirs, and small groups, plus a Virtual Choir compilation of individual voices brought together by technology. More information will be coming soon, but mark your calendars right away.

ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS

All members of the *Order of Saint Ignatius* are encouraged to wear their crosses on *St. Ignatius Sunday, December 20.*



GENEROSITY CORNER

The parishioners of St. Nicholas continue to demonstrate the love of Christ through almsgiving and service. During the Nativity Fast, the following blessings of charitable giving have occurred:

Feeding the Poor

- * Our annual Gift of St. Nicholas was awarded to Feeding America West Michigan for \$5,000. Thanks to a generous parishioner, the original gift of \$2,500 was matched.
- * The Church of the Servant neighborhood food pantry will receive \$7,110.00 from the \$2,370.00 we collected for the Meijer Simply Give Double Match program.

Clothing those in Need

- * We gave an abundant quantity of winter coats, hats, gloves, and blankets to the students at our neighborhood school, Ridge Park Charter School.
- * The Fellowship Groups once again partnered with Project Mexico's Santa's Helper program to collect money to buy Andres, a student at St. Innocents Orphanage, Christmas presents.

Service

A special thank you to the twenty volunteers for all their efforts in sorting the mounds of Christmas toys and winter clothing at this year's Foster Care Christmas Store. They worked as diligently as Santa's elves!

With half as many people as usual, they still set up the Foster Care Christmas Store in one evening. Perhaps it was more "nose to the grindstone" than festive, as previous years, but the sorting and arranging got done! These volunteers represent the generosity and faithfulness of our St. Nicholas parish. Because of these efforts, foster children in Grand Rapids will have the joy of a gift at Christmas! Thank you!



END OF YEAR PACKETS

It is time to pick up your end of year packet! The packet contains vital information necessary to keep you informed and prepared. If you have not done so already, please pick up your packet from the table in the Narthex.



DISPOSING OF ICONS

As we approach the end of another year, questions arise regarding what to do with printed materials containing icons, such as calendars, obituary cards, newsletters, etc. We should never throw any icon in the trash, regardless of the material on which it is seen. We should dispose of unwanted printed materials containing icons in one of the following ways:

Burn the icon and place the ashes under a tree, bush, or other place where it won't trampled.

Bring only the pages containing the printed icons to the church and place them in the "ICON" bin outside the church offices. We will burn the icons for you.

WITH MUCH APPRECIATION

Dear Saint Nicholas Family,

Words cannot begin to express Marion and my thanks for the wonderful surprise that you gave us on December 6, 2020.

It is difficult to realize that we have been at home at St. Nicholas for fifty years. During those years we have experienced so much and so many beautiful parishioners.

The Icon we received is very special to us and the photo album brings back only good memories. The beautiful "Palik" box was an enormous surprise. We have collected the work of this small village of painters for many years and your gift is the crown of our collection. We feel unable to fully express our thanks for all the gifts and the many and blessed years of friendship we share with you.

It was so kind and thoughtful of you to remember this occasion and celebrate it with us. We also desire to extend our thanks to those who made contributions to the parish in our name and for the cards, texts, and phone calls we received.

We thank all of you for being such a special parish and for allowing us to partner with you for these past fifty years.

Fr. Elias and Kh. Marion

YOU ARE NEEDED

Did you know that stewardship is not just about money? A good steward also gives of his/her time and talents to the furtherance of the Church's mission. Now more than ever your help is needed by the Ushering Ministry. We need teams that are trained and willing to help! Please consider volunteering once a month or once a quarter by emailing [Rami Haddad](#).

THE PERFECT PRESENT

Looking for a great gift for your child's Youth Worker? Consider donating a book to the St. Nicholas Children's Library in honor of a teacher, superintendent, youth adviser or anyone of your choice. We have a [wish list](#) of books available to choose from. Once you have chosen the book(s) from the [wish list](#) that you would like to donate in honor of that special person, contact Jenny Khorey. Payment can be made electronically through the [parish donation page](#), [Venmo](#), or by check. Note: "Library" on the memo line.

PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Council is here to serve you. If you have a question or comment, email them by clicking on any of their names below.

Chairman

[Mike Simon](#)

Vice Chairman

[Sam Bander](#)

Treasurer

[Joe David](#)

Secretary

[Bruce Nicola](#)

Assistant Treasurer

[Melissa Powell](#)

OTHER MEMBERS

[Dan Abraham](#)

[Rami Haddad](#)

[Brian La Franboise](#)

[Greg Lambert](#)

[Steve Medich](#)

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Nicholas Church 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.

Our parish exists to seek and share Christ's love so that ALL will find Eternal Life in Him.