



# LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

## THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

**APRIL 4, 2021**

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### **BEFORE THY CROSS, WE BOW DOWN AND WORSHIP**

Today marks the halfway point between the beginning of Lent and Holy Week. The Church lifts up the Holy Cross for us, to encourage us as at this halfway point to the Cross of Christ, as well as the Tomb He will empty when He rises from the dead. It is also the reminder that we only journey to the Kingdom of Heaven by travelling the way of picking up our own crosses and offering ourselves to God and others in sacrificial love. This halfway point is an appropriate moment to ask:

- ◇ How can I bring more prayer into my life, both by attending services and by my personal prayer, to draw close to Christ?
- ◇ How can I engage in the Fast so as to strengthen the result of my soul over the weaknesses of my body?
- ◇ How can I love the people around me, especially the neediest of the poor, as an expression of my love for Jesus Christ, who offers himself for me and my salvation?

### **SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL SPRING WORK DAY**

**Saturday, April 24** - The day begins with Orthros at 9AM and Divine Liturgy at 10AM followed by a light breakfast. We will then join our fellow parishioners in sprucing-up our church! There is plenty to be done by our youth and adults both indoors and outside. Look for details next week.

### **FOOD for HUNGRY PEOPLE & CHARITABLE OUTREACH**

Now that we're about half way through Great Lent, how are you doing? Are you fasting? Are you giving to the Food For Hungry People campaign? Are you praying? One of my favorite prayers, (I don't know if you can really call it a prayer), goes like this; Pray for those who need prayers but have no one to pray for them. I heard that from Bishop Anthony. It really hits home when thinking about what the FFHP does for those who we will never see or hear about, but we help take care of indirectly by giving to the FFHP. There is so much need out there, please give generously.

*"The merciful person is he who gives to others what he himself received from God, whether it be money, or food, or strength, a helpful word, a prayer, or anything else he has through which he can express his compassion for those in need."*

St. Peter of Damascus



### **THIS WEEK**

#### **Sunday, April 4** **Sunday of the Holy Cross**

8:50AM—Orthros  
(No Orthodox Education)

10AM—Divine Liturgy

**Monday, April 5**  
6PM—Great Compline

**Wednesday, April 7**  
10AM—Moms and Kids Event  
6PM—Presanctified Liturgy  
followed by supper

**Thursday, April 8**  
10AM—Bible Study

**Friday, April 9**  
9AM—Presanctified Liturgy  
6PM Akathist Hymn  
@ St. Nicholas

**Saturday, April 10**  
6PM—Great Vespers/  
followed by confession

**Sunday, April 11**  
**Sunday of St. John Climacus**  
8:50AM—Orthros and  
Orthodox Education  
10AM—Divine Liturgy

## LENTEN SUPPER

Each week following the Presanctified Liturgy, you are invited to join us in The Cultural Center for a Lenten meal being hosted by one of our Fellowship Groups.

Last week JOY and SOYO teamed up to host a delicious Mexican-themed meal. They also held a very successful 50/50 Raffle, raising \$200 for the Food for Hungry People program!

This week the Men of St. Nicholas will host the meal after Liturgy. As always, please be aware that all Covid safety guidelines must be followed.



Birthday Buddies!  
at Lenten Supper!

## PARENTING WORKSHOP RECAP

Our parenting workshop was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came and joined in a very fruitful conversation about parenting and the future of our youth programs. A very special thanks to our speakers Leo and Emily Olson, Cecelia Olson and Nick Nicola, to Meredith Solak for hanging out with the kids and to Joshua Nasser for designing the scavenger hunt and also hanging out with the kids! If anyone would like to watch/rewatch the videos that were shown or see the parts that we were unable to watch due to time constraints, both videos and the worksheet are available on the church website at [www.stnicholasgr.com/parents](http://www.stnicholasgr.com/parents).

## A GREAT BOOK FOR YOUR KIDS

The Women of St. Nicholas are selling *A Child's Guide to the Divine Liturgy* (for children ages 2-10). This book is designed as an aid to help children negotiate their way through the Divine Liturgy and learn more about the Church and our faith. Small and easy to hold, with engaging illustrations, the guide is divided into six color-coded sections. The very young child will learn basic vocabulary and come to recognize the various milestones in the Divine Liturgy. For the older child, the guide includes several longer psalms, quotes, and prayers; the 12 feast icons and kontakia; plus an extensive glossary filled with terms and vocabulary often heard throughout the liturgical year. The book is on sale for \$20 or 2 books/\$30 and will be sold in the Narthex following Liturgy.

## GREAT LENT FASTING GUIDELINES

The Church's prescription for how to fast is the following:

- ◆ **Monday—Friday:** No meat, eggs, dairy, oil, & wine
- ◆ **Saturday & Sunday:** Oil & wine are permitted

Of course, for most of us adaptation is needed, so all are encouraged to fast as they can with joy and gratitude. Fr. Michael is available to assist in adapting the Fast to you and/or your family's particular situation.



*A Child's Guide  
to the Divine Liturgy*

## YOUTH IN ACTION

### YOUTH CHOIR

We need the angelic voices of ALL preschool-12th graders to sing the Bridegroom Matins service on **Holy Tuesday, April 27** at 6PM. Newcomers welcome! We will have two rehearsals ahead of time, so please mark your calendars and join us on **Sunday, April 18** (right after Communion) and **Tuesday, April 27** at 5:30PM (just before the service). Parents, we will send home music and words on April 11 so they can start practicing at home!

### ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

Registration is now open! **Session 2 options are as follows:**

- ♦ **Sunday, July 4-Friday, July 9** or
- ♦ **Sunday, July 11- Friday, July 16.**

St. Nicholas will not be organizing transportation as campers are required to arrive by car only this year.

There are many enhanced safety requirements being taken this year including a 7 day quarantine and a negative Covid test before arriving at camp. Please go to [{SUMMER CAMP}](#) for detailed information regarding this year's camp expectations. Please see [Gretchen Zahn](#) with questions or contact the Antiochian Village office by phone at 724-238-9565 or by email at [office@avcamp.org](mailto:office@avcamp.org).

If you are in need of financial assistance, we ask that you complete the [AV Camp Financial Assistance form](#) and also complete the [St. Nicholas Financial Assistance form](#). Funds will be distributed on a needs-based basis.



## St. George Spinach Fatayer Sale

**\$22 per dozen**

Orders and payment must be in by **April 15**.

To order call 616-454-7558 or e-mail [polly.stgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:polly.stgeorge@gmail.com)

Or pay on-line at [Bit.ly/stgeorgegr](http://Bit.ly/stgeorgegr) (select fatayer/spinach pie sale from drop down)

Pick up is April 20 1-6 p.m. at the St. George Banquet Center 336 LaGrave SE

Handmade dough filled with fresh spinach, onion and fresh lemon juice for a light, delicious meal or appetizer during our Lenten season.

*All proceeds go to assist those in need of safe and affordable housing, through a project with other Orthodox Churches and Inner City Christian Federation.*



## 2021 ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX OPEN

**Friday, May 21, 2021**

**Thornapple Pointe  
Golf Club**

7211 48th Street SE,  
Grand Rapids, MI

**11:00 AM** Check-in begins  
(Box Lunch)

**12:00 PM** Shotgun start

### Registration includes

- \* Golf
- \* Box lunch
- \* Gift for each player

### Hole Sponsorship includes

- \* Hole signage
- \* Program recognition

### Platinum Sponsorship includes:

- \* Event banner
- \* Program recognition
- \* Podium recognition
- \* Foursome
- \* Registration

**Sponsorships are tax deductible.**

### Payment options

(check or credit card) will be presented to you after you press "Submit" when registering.

[\[Registration Link\]](#)

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

### **FORERUNNERS**

**Thursday, April 15** at noon: Join us for our monthly get together and lunch. After lunch everyone will have the opportunity to share their ancestry. Bring stories, photos, articles, etc. of your background to share with everyone. Even if we know you well, there is always something new we didn't know.

We are looking for Lenten lunch ideas as well as two people to volunteer to help us clean up after lunch. All ideas are welcome. Let Eileen or Barbara know if you plan to attend and don't forget to wear your masks.

### **OK MAMA**

**This Wednesday, April 7** at 10AM: Moms and Kids, join us at 10AM for an outdoor morning hiking and playing at the Meadows area at Millennium Park. There's space to hike, picnic, and play! We hope you can join us!

**Thursday, April 15** at 7:30PM: Moms, we'll be putting together little care packages for the elderly in our parish. We will have bags and supplies to make cards. If you'd like to bring any little treats/gifts for our elderly, please visit our FB page to sign up!

**Wednesday, April 21** at 10 AM: Moms and Kids, join us for one of our favorite activities--making resurrection gardens together to prepare for the Resurrection! Please bring a small pot to plant your garden in (google Resurrection garden to get ideas!) and we will have flowers, dirt, and other accessories! Contact [Elizabeth Ayoub](#) with questions.

### **WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS**

**Wednesday April 14** at 9:30AM: Ladies, time for another Chit Chat and Coffee! Join us in our new modular seating area located in Heritage Hall (just outside the Cultural Center) for some conversation and coffee! It will also be held virtually if you can't make it in person, but would still like to join us! See church calendar for Zoom login information.

### **YOUNG ADULTS**

**Tuesday, April 13** at 6PM: In advance of our sponsored supper following Presanctified Liturgy next Thursday, the Young Adults will be meeting in the kitchen to prepare food. We'll have food ready to prepare, and will put the finishing touches on it before serving after Presanctified Liturgy this Thursday. Many hands will make light work, so contact Ben Bauman or Ibtisam Matta if you'd like to help!

## **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.

[Mike Simon](#)

*Chairperson*

[Sam Bander](#)

*Vice President*

[Joe David](#)

*Treasurer*

[Greg Lambert](#)

*Secretary*

[Melissa Powell](#)

*Assistant Treasurer*

[Dan Abraham](#)

[Mark Ansara](#)

[Roger David](#)

[Rami Haddad](#)

[Yuri Kazarov](#)

[Nick Nicola](#)

## **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.



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## Holy Week & Pascha Offerings

St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

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If your family would like to contribute toward the items indicated below for “the Good Health of” or “in Eternal Memory of” loved ones, kindly submit this form to the Plexiglass box on the Parishioner’s table in the Narthex or return it to the church office by Sunday, April 22. An electronic form is available at: [www.stnicholasgr.com/lent](http://www.stnicholasgr.com/lent).

Please choose one of the following services you desire to have your loved ones remembered:

- Palm Sunday—Palms & Pussy Willows
- Holy Saturday (departed)—Bay Leaves
- Pascha—Candle & Lilies

Contribution amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT FIRST NAMES ONLY

**For the Good Health of:**

**In Eternal Memory of:**

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