



LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

APRIL 18, 2021

(616) 954-2700 ▪ info@stnicholasgr.com ▪ stnicholasgr.com

GETTING READY FOR PALM SUNDAY

A couple things to keep in mind for Palm Sunday next week:

- ◆ Please prepare a special offering for our Patriarchate. Your gift can be placed in the offering box located in the Narthex, mailed to the church by **Wednesday, April 28**, or given electronically via [Venmo](#) or the [website donation link](#).
- ◆ Everyone is invited to our annual Palm Sunday luncheon hosted by the Parish Council. As responsible citizens, we continue to strongly encourage everyone to follow these guidelines:
 - * Sanitize your hands before entering the luncheon.
 - * No more than six people per table.
 - * Wear a facemask at all times except when eating.

SOYO PALM SUNDAY CANDLE SALE

Teen SOYO will be selling specially decorated Palm Sunday candles just before the Liturgy on April 25. Plan to buy a few to support the teens and add to the beauty of the Palm Sunday procession! (SOYO members, please plan to come to the Lazarus Saturday Work Party to help decorate the candles!) Any questions, please contact Kima David (rkdavid@comcast.net) or Amy Amash (amy.amash@gmail.com).

FOOD for HUNGRY PEOPLE & CHARITABLE OUTREACH

I recently was in a medium-sized city, one that I have never been to before, and I was amazed at the number of homeless and hungry people I saw. I immediately thought, what do these people do all day long, how do they eat, where do they sleep? Then, I was greatly comforted when I thought of the FFHP program and how it helps so many people like this. When you look at your FFHP box, think of these people and please give generously.

"It is not right or proper for the rich to keep excess wealth when there are many poor people in need of the means of existence, of necessary clothing and proper dwellings, for we have nothing of our own; everything belongs to God!" St. John of Kronstadt

LENTEN SUPPER

Last week the Young Adults hosted the meal after the Presanctified Liturgy. This week the final supper will be hosted by our clergy and wives. As always, please be aware that all Covid safety guidelines must be followed.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 18

Sunday of
St. Mary of Egypt

8:50AM—Orthros and
Orthodox Education
(No Adult Education)

10AM—Divine Liturgy

11:15AM—Youth Choir
Bridegroom Matins Practice

12:30PM—Parish Council
meeting

Monday, April 19

6PM—Great Compline

Wednesday, April 21

10AM—OK Mama:
Moms and Kids

6PM—Presanctified Liturgy
followed by supper

Thursday, April 22

10AM—Bible Study

Friday, April 23

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy

6PM Little Compline with
Canon of Lazarus



JOURNEYING TO PASCHA

Each morning and evening during Holy Week, there are services to be a part of as we journey to Pascha. Please make these services a priority by placing them on your calendar.

EXCUSE FORMS AVAILABLE

We desire everyone to worship together for the Holy Thursday and Holy Friday services. Excuse forms are available on the table in the Narthex or from the Church office for you to submit to your child's school and/or your employer. Please make these services a priority.

HOLY WEEK BOOKLETS

A booklet reviewing all of the Holy Week worship opportunities is included in this bulletin. Additional copies are available on the table in the Narthex or you can find this information on our website: www.stnicholasgr.com.

CONFESSION BEFORE PASCHA

An indispensable part of our preparation for Holy Week and Pascha is the offering of our Confession. While there are no more midweek appointments available, Confessions will be heard this week after Compline on Monday and Friday, and the standing time following Saturday evening Vespers. Confessions will also be heard following Bridegroom Matins on Palm Sunday, Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday.

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA OFFERINGS

Every family is invited to contribute toward special items used to celebrate Holy Week and Pascha "for the health of" and/or "in memory of departed loved ones". Each name will be remembered in the services of Lazarus Saturday through Pascha. A form was in last week's announcements and is also on the table in the Narthex. Offer prayers by completing the form and enclosing it in the envelope on the table along with your contribution. An electronic form is also available at: www.stnicholasgr.com/lent. Forms are due by **Tuesday, April 20**.

ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

Having laid the body of Christ into the Tomb on Holy Friday, we stand vigil at His Tomb all night by taking turns reading from the Holy Scriptures. The experience of being in the near-empty, candlelit Church in the middle of the night and hearing and reading the words of our Lord is not soon forgotten. A Reader's Sign-up Schedule is available in the Narthex for those desiring to read. Even if you do not desire to read, come at any time to be a part of this experience. Our Lord asked His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Can you not watch with me one hour?" Let us answer "Yes" and take our place in the Holy Friday Vigil.

Saturday, April 24

8:50AM—Orthros
10AM—Divine Liturgy
6PM—Great Vespers/
followed by confession

Sunday, April 25

Palm Sunday

8:50AM—Orthros and
Orthodox Education
9:45AM—Candle Sale
10AM—Divine Liturgy
11:30AM—Palm Sunday
Luncheon
6PM—Bridegroom Matins

THANK YOU!

Seminaries

Thanks to the generosity of our St. Nicholas Family, we collected \$1,433.20 for the three seminaries within the Archdiocese!

Book Sale

Thank you also to those who purchased *A Child's Guide to the Divine Liturgy* to support our project "Fulfilling the Vision". Books are still available for sale if you missed it last month. Please see [\[Barbara Thomas\]](#) if you are interested. Cost is \$20.00 or two for \$30.00.

Women of St. Nicholas

We thank you for your more visible participation during March, Women's Month in the Archdiocese.

LAZARUS SATURDAY SPRING WORK DAY!

April 24th



We're having a party,
and YOU are invited!

The day begins with Orthros (9 AM) and Divine Liturgy (10 AM) followed by a light breakfast. Then we will join our fellow parishioners in sprucing-up our church!

Youth - Prayer Garden, Palm Crosses & Baseboard Dusting, etc.

Adults - Dusting Iconostasis, Polishing Brass, Cleaning Oven Vents, Power Washing Entry Mats, Washing Trash Cans, Weeding, Changing light bulbs, Basement cleaning and reorganizing, Cleaning all interior wooden doors, picking up trash around the property, sweeping sidewalks in front of entrance doors, and so much more!



There are projects galore!

Come and be a part of the fun!



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 **today** (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!



Congratulations to our Church School students who made their first confessions!

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

OK MAMA

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

FORERUNNERS

The Forerunners had a great time at this week's luncheon where everyone shared stories and pictures of their ancestry. Mark your calendars now for our upcoming May luncheon with a special visit from Paws with a Cause.



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.