Life at St. Nicholas

The Sunday Bulletin of St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

May 23, 2021

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

CHRIST IS RISEN! - TRULY HE IS RISEN!

WELCOME!

With great joy, we welcome Bishop ANTHONY! His Grace participated in Friday's Antiochian Golf Outing and will celebrate with us as we burn our mortgage during the luncheon following the Divine Liturgy.

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE and CHARITABLE OUTREACH

"Share what you have, lest you lose what you have. Spend what you possess on the needs of others in order to keep what you possess." St. John Chrysostom

Christ is Risen! Thank you to those who gave to the FFHP. The drive officially ended last Sunday, but we are still accepting donations to see if we can reach our goal. Please give generously, by check, (noting FFHP in the memo line) or electronically from the church website: [FFHP]. Thank you!

METROTROPOLITAN ANTHONY BASHIR MEMORIAL SCHOLOARSHIP

These scholarships are awarded to Orthodox youth of the Antiochian Archdiocese who have resided within the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest for at least one year prior to awarding of the scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate students showing outstanding commitment to and involvement in their church community. Four $750 scholarships will be awarded. Visit https://stnicholasgr.com/parishioners/ for the application. **Deadline is Tuesday, June 1.**

SEATING UPDATE

Seating changes have occurred in the Chapel and in the Nave of the Church. The ropes have been removed and open seating is now in place except in the areas noted below.

Chapel: The last row in the back is reserved for those wearing a mask who desire to social distance.

Church Nave: The pews on the far left wing are reserved for those wearing a mask who desire to social distance.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 23

8:50AM—Orthros and Orthodox Education

10AM—Hierarchal Divine Liturgy followed by Mortgage Burning Luncheon & Ceremony

Thursday, May 27

10AM—Bible Study

7:30PM—OK Mama: Moms Night

Friday, May 28

6PM—Young Adults

Saturday, May 22

6PM—Great Vespers

Sunday, May 30

8:50AM—Orthros and Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

ROAD WARRIOR EVENT

Saturday, June 12 @ 2 PM

Plan now to join us as we travel to the homes of some of our parishioners to wish them Paschal greetings and sing a few songs to brighten their day. Everyone is welcome regardless of singing ability. Contact Mike Karolle at (616) 446-8648 with questions.

YOUTH IN ACTION

Senior Class, Church History

By Abe Newhouse and Jaredt Hultink

Christ is Risen! This year several students elected to learn Church History. The curriculum for this class was Fr. Thomas Hopko's book aptly titled *Church History*. This book breaks down the history of the church covering a century per chapter, from the first century through the developments in the twentieth century. Students were shocked to discover that Abe and Jaredt were so old they were born in a century already covered in a history book!

During Great Lent we decided to switch things up and cover the Sundays of Great Lent. We watched *Be the Bee* videos from the Greek Archdiocese and followed it up with discussions such as tying the Triumph of Orthodoxy into a review of Iconoclasm and the Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas into a review of the showdown between St. Gregory vs. Scholasticism.

Overall, this year has been solid considering all the hurdles the students had to overcome with technical glitches and gap weeks. We sincerely hope that the students learned the importance of our ancient Faith and its continuation in our modern world. We would also like to thank the parents for letting us teach your children.

End of Year Celebration

Today marks the end of our Church School year, and we would love to invite our parish to an open house following Liturgy in the Cultural Center next **Sunday, June 6**. On display will be photos and projects from all of our classes showing the year of learning and growing in the Faith together. We would love for all of you to come and see what we've been working on this year!

We will also be honoring all of our students and teachers at the end of Liturgy and then enjoying some outdoor fun to celebrate! We will be packing IOCC kits (our Lenten project that got postponed), playing games, and enjoying cake together in the back parking lot. We hope you can join us to celebrate together!

Vacation Church School

June 13-17

We are excited to announce this year's Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School program - *BEHOLD the LIGHT*! A kick-off picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 13** from 12-3 PM. The activities on Monday-Thursday will be held at each of the participating Orthodox churches. Visit our website for additional details.

Vacation Church School will host engaging activities for kids beginning at age 4 through grade 12. The cost is $10 per child with a $30 family cap. Registration is now open by visiting: [VCS].

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

OK Mama

This Thursday, May 27 at 7:30 PM

Mamas! Join us for a night of fellowship and fun at Hudsonville Winery (3768 Chicago Dr, Hudsonville, MI 49426). We'll enjoy wines and outdoor seating at this beautiful spot! We hope you can join us. Contact Elizabeth Ayoub with questions.

Young Adults

Friday, May 28 at 6 PM

The Young Adults will return to the Scott Storey farm (10840 Midway Rd, Clarksville, MI 48815) for a night of fellowship, barbeque, and campfire. Please contact Ben Bauman, Ibtisam Matta, or Cecelia Olson if you'd like to carpool. Bring a beverage and folding chair to enjoy a taste of the country as we celebrate the Paschal season.

Kids Entering Grades 7-12

Sunday, June 6 at 12:30 PM

Let's join together for a summer planning picnic at Leslie Tassell Park! We'll leave church after the Church School open house/ celebration, pick up lunch, and have a picnic in the park while we plan the summer SOYO calendar (using your ideas from our brainstorming session). Parents, plan to pick your child(ren) up at church at 3PM. Any questions, contact Fr. Michael, Sonia Nicola, or Amy Amash.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE: JANUARY - APRIL

One of the goals of the Parish Council is to keep the parish informed and be transparent. Remember, if you have any questions regarding finances, policy, or other decisions, do not hesitate to contact a Parish Council member. Our first priority is to represent and serve the parish.

Here are a couple of highlights of Parish Council activity.
January: Although much of it was virtual, the Annual Meeting was very successful, and we thank everyone who worked so hard to get ready for in-person and at home participation and voting. Despite all of the hardships with Covid and being closed part of the time in 2020, St. Nicholas managed to end the year in a positive financial position. This was an incredible achievement and it was thanks in part to the hard work of several Council members. But most of the credit goes to all members of the parish who contributed so much in a time of uncertainty.

February: Fr. Michael and the Parish Council made the call to the parish, a call to finally eliminate the St. Nicholas mortgage. And again during this difficult time, so many people contributed in large and small amounts to finally, after twenty years, put the church in a position of being debt free. His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY praised this achievement thanks to the Glory of God and is in Grand Rapids to attend our Mortgage Burning celebration!

March: With the elimination of the mortgage, the Parish Council voted to increase our Capital Reserve Fund to plan in advance for any building needs. Many parish members who were contributing toward the elimination of the mortgage for many years are now contributing to this Capital Reserve Fund.

Also, now that we are debt free, the Parish Council authorized the Youth Committee (Amy Amash, Dan Abraham and others) to move ahead with posting a job for a Youth Director. This has been a goal of the Parish (part of our Strategic Plan) and a specific goal of Bishop ANTHONY who met with the Parish Council to encourage this hiring. Thanks be to God that we can get the resources needed to care for our youth, the future of the church.

April: By the Grace of God the Parish Council was able again this year to sponsor the luncheon on Palm Sunday and the late-night dinner on Pascha for the parish. And we need to thank all parish members for the hard work that made Holy Week and Pascha beautiful and meaningful.

Thanks also to the ushers (led by Rami Haddad), for their incredible work in helping us all navigate the changes to our liturgical lives.

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 worshiping 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.

7th - 12th Grade
Iconography Sunday School Class
2020-2021

Nate Sirotko

The experience is amazing, a very true and calming sensation flows within, a certain calmness within you. Seeing the progress as you go along is great!

Father Michael at the workshop

Aelitta Kazarov

I learned that writing the physical Icon writes your inner icon as well. It helps you see the steps you take to create an Icon and how dedicated you have to be. Writing my own Icon, now, makes me look at every individual Icon in a different way.

Co-Teachers
Heidi La Franboise
Carolyn Rock

Olivia Adolphson

It takes patience and a lot of time, but the results are rewarding.

The purpose of our Icon class was to introduce the students to Icon writing and discovering the Icon within. Finding the Image of God within requires practice, going inside and praying quietly to your Heavenly Father. The color, lines and light of the Icon are about transfiguration. One of the goals for the class was for the students to find the Word of God within, and to make it active in the way they live.

I learned how Icons have a meaning to every single step, to even colors and I look at every Icon differently, and see them in a different way than I used to.

Ailah Arnone

The roskrysh was meaningful for me because it represents "chaos" and that is sort of what it was like for me. Sometimes I thought I was doing really well and sometimes I didn't know what happened. It reminded me that no matter what I do, God is always in control.

Anwen Amash

Grace Stewart

I think this year's church school was amazing and it's so great to learn about putting your mind and heart on an icon. It was taught so well and I really enjoyed it!