

**SUNDAY BEFORE  
THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS  
LEAVE-TAKING OF  
THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021**



**ST. NICHOLAS  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**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](mailto:frmichael@stnicholasgr.com)*

Very Reverend Elias Mitchell  
*Pastor Emeritus*

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 Church is a worshipping community, living and sharing the Faith Christ gave to the Apostles.

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

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 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

### ***APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS*** (TONE 4)

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

### ***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 OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS*** (TONE 4)

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

## EPISTLE READER

Today: Duane Hattem

## EPISTLE

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.  
Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians 6:11-18**

Brethren, see how large a letter I have written to you with my own hand. As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the Cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised do themselves keep the Law; but they desire to have you circumcised, that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no one trouble me; for I bear in my body the brand-marks of the Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

## GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John 3:13-17**

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

*For God so loved the world  
that He gave His only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him  
should not perish  
but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

## SYNAXARION

On September 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the celebration of the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos, and we commemorate the precious staves and contest of the holy Hieromartyr Autonomos, bishop from Italy, who was slain in Bithynia.

### Verses

*As a sacrifice set upon Thine altar, O Savior,  
is Autonomos Thy sacrificer, slain by stoning.  
On the twelfth Autonomos was beaten to death  
with staves (sticks) and stones.*

In Soreoi, Autonomos brought many to the Christian faith and built them a church dedicated to the Archangel Michael. Not far away was a place called Limnae, entirely inhabited by pagans. Autonomos went to this place and quickly brought many of them to the light by the Gospel of Christ. This roused the other pagans, and they hurried to Archangel Michael Church and, during divine service, slew Autonomos on the altar, killing also many other Christians in the church. Two hundred years after his death, Autonomos appeared to a soldier called John. This soldier dug up the saint's relics and found them to be completely uncorrupt, and many of the sick received healing from them.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Coronatos of Iconium; and Venerable Daniel of Thasios. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the servant of God, John Thomas Barfuss, on the occasion of his one year passing into eternal life by his wife, Evelyn Philippi, sons Evan Barfuss and Thomas Barfuss, Eileen Adolphson, and Barbara Walsh. We carry you in our hearts. We love and miss you every day. Memory Eternal!

## HOLY OBLATIONS

For Andrew Peter Close on the occasion of his Baptism into the Holy Orthodox Church, with love from his godparents, Chris Andrews and Allison Assaly. God Bless Andrew on this lifelong journey of faith.

For the Health and Blessings of Julie Karrip on the occasion of her birthday, offered by her St. Nicholas family. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Dan and Kim Hoodhood on the occasion of their 34th wedding anniversary being celebrated today. May God continue to bless them with many years of joy, peace, and prosperity.

For the Health and Blessings of Jimmy King on a successful sophomore year at MSU, offered by Julie Karrip. May God grant him many years of success!

For the Health and Blessings of Zoe King on her journey as she begins graduate school at GVSU, offered by Julie Karrip. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Mychail Lyubov and Yuriy Oxana Vasiliy, offered by George.

For the repose of the soul of Nicholas Salhaney who fell asleep in the Lord 35 years ago on September 8, the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos! Memory Eternal Dad, Giddo & Great Giddo! We feel your love surrounding us every single day! We love and miss you so very much!

## REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*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.*

### LIVING

Metropolitan Paul                      Archbishop John

And all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty  
throughout our Nation, and in Lebanon,  
England, Brazil, Iran and throughout the world.

Andrew Peter Close	Yuriy Oxana Vasiliy	Marge Simon
Julie Karrip	Attallah Amash	Dan Abraham
Dan Hoodhood	Audrey Nicoloff	Mary Ann Maloley
Kim Hoodhood	Ralph Thomas	Glenn Zimmermann
Jimmy King	David Corey	Michael Ellis
Zoe King	Joe Corey	Edison
Mychail Lyubov	Hatem Karadsheh	Roy



### DEPARTED

#### NEWLY DEPARTED

Archpriest Gregory Ofeish  
Kh. Helen Ashie

And all the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty  
throughout our Nation, and in Lebanon,  
Mexico, Russia, Brazil and throughout the world.

John Barfuss  
Nicholas Salhaney