



LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

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

WELCOME FR. MICHAEL BASSETT

We thank Fr. Michael Bassett for serving us this weekend as “our” Fr. Michael is away attending the Village Alumni Reunion Weekend remembering Fr. John Namie on the 20th Anniversary of his passing. Fr. Michael Bassett is the Assistant Pastor of St. George Orthodox Church in Flint, MI. Welcome, Fr. Michael!

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Today is the last day to support our three Orthodox seminaries. Donations can be made by check or electronically through the [parish donation page](#) or through [Venmo](#).

GREAT VESPERS TIME CHANGE

Please note that Great Vespers will be served at 5PM this Saturday, November 13.

HONORING THE LORD WITH OUR FIRST FRUITS

This year’s Stewardship Drive is off and running! Prayerfully consider your giving for the coming year. Please review the information in the booklet which you received last Sunday (or in the mail this past week) and follow the instructions for completing the Commitment Card which is due **Sunday, November 21**. Thank you!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY NEW ADDITION

“Who You Gonna Call?” Leaky faucet, peeling paint, household or car repairs? Is your computer not working properly? Maybe you need tax or legal advice? Who ARE you going to call?

We are updating our parish business directory. If you would like your business or your special skills included in the new directory, please fill out the [online form](#) or an information card (located on the parishioner table in the Narthex) with your contact information by **Friday, November 19**.

ST. GEORGE MIDDLE EASTERN LUNCH/DINNER

This Tuesday, November 9 @ 11:30AM-1:30PM & 4:30-7PM

This year’s lunch/dinner is drive-thru pick-up only. Tickets are \$18 and must be pre-purchased. For tickets, go to: [stgeorge2021dinner.eventbrite.com](#) or call 454-7558.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 7

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

7PM—Adult Education Class

Tuesday, November 9

8:30AM—Orthros

9:30AM—Divine Liturgy of St. Nektarios @ Holy Trinity

11:30AM—St. George Middle Eastern Lunch/Dinner

7PM—Evangelism Team Meeting

8PM—Youth Ministry Oversight Committee

Wednesday, November 10

Family Night

6PM—Dinner

6:45PM—Meetings/classes

Thursday, November 11

No Bible Study

8AM—Forerunners Excursion

7PM—Women of St. Nicholas: Euchre

7:30PM—OK Mama: Moms Night Out



STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

WILDLY IMPORTANT GOALS #3 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

A WIG creates the discipline of focus on “the **THREE** things that will change everything”.



Let's review:

We started with a SWOT analysis in which the parish, as a whole, completed a survey of our **strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats**. Based on the data from that analysis, the strategic planning team (SPT) came up with 3 Wildly Important Goals (WIG).

WIG #3

Parishioner Engagement and Spiritual Growth

Develop and implement effective Parishioner Engagement & Spiritual Growth Programs (collectively, the “Engagement Programs”) that within 36 months will achieve the following “Engagement Targets”:

- a. Increase ministries engagement by at least 50%.
- b. Increase the parishioner financial stewardship so that:
 - i. All parish operating expenses (plus increases in funding for parish-chosen external charities and philanthropies to equal at least 10% of the other operating expenses) are paid through parishioner stewardship; and
 - ii. The median annual stewardship contribution from parishioners will increase by at least 50%;
- c. Actively engage at least 50% of parishioners in a religious education and spiritual engagement program.

Next Week's Strategic Plan Article:
All 3 WIGs—stay tuned!

The Strategic Planning team will meet for retreat #2 all day Saturday, November 20 to finalize the strategic plan.



Friday, November 12

7PM—Griffins Game with Shepherds of Independence

Saturday, November 13

10AM—Choir Rehearsal
8:30AM—Men's Breakfast & Work Day
5PM—Great Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday, November 14

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox Education
10AM—Divine Liturgy
5PM—JOY & SOYO Super Smash Bros Tournament
7PM—Adult Education Class

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH LIBRARY

Have you been wondering what is happening in the library? Well, the construction phase of the renovation is now complete. We are planning on new furniture and software in the coming months. For now, though, the books are back on the shelves and available to borrow. The library will be open during Coffee Hour. Stop by and see our progress.

YOUTH IN ACTION

YOUNG ADULTS

Friendsgiving

This Saturday, November 13 @ 6PM (Vespers @ 5PM)

Ben & Meredith Solak would like to invite all of our Young Adults to a Friendsgiving Party at their new home (*237 Eastern Ave SE Grand Rapids, MI 49503*). The event will take place following Great Vespers, which has been moved to 5PM to accommodate this event. We are planning to have all Young Adults present at Great Vespers and then journeying to the Solak house together, so please come and join us for worship!

Please bring either a main dish, dessert, drinks, appetizer, etc. with you to share with the rest of our friends! Hope to see you all there!

Fire on Father

Thursday, November 18 @ 7PM

Fire on Father is a spiritually enriching experience where Young Adults anonymously write questions directed towards their spiritual father about personal issues going-on in their lives. These questions are then randomly selected (like a raffle) by the priest and are then openly responded to in a discussion setting with the Young Adults. Uniquely individual questions, personally challenging questions, and the need for spiritual mentorship questions are what Fire on Father is all about and what we hope to achieve out of this experience. Begin thinking of questions you think would help serve you when you have thoughts like, "wow . . . I could really use a spiritual father to help answer this one for me." This discussion will be held at Fr. Michael's house (*1055 Dogwood Meadows Dr. SE Ada, MI 49301*). If you need a ride, please contact Mykel Giannakakos (mykel@stnicholasgr.com).

JOY & SOYO

Sunday, November 14 @ 5-7:30PM

Calling all JOY & SOYO gamers! Ready to test your Super Smash Bros. skills? Think you have what it takes to claim the title of JOYO Super Smash Bros. Champion?

Join us at Jeff & Amy Amash's house (*462 Morraine Hill Dr. SE, Ada*) for an exciting evening of gaming and prizes. Even if video games aren't your thing, come for the pizza and to cheer on your friends! We have plenty of board games, too, if that's more your speed. RSVP to Amy Amash (amy.amash@gmail.com) or Mykel Giannakakos (mykel@stnicholasgr.com) by November 10.

OK MAMA

Moms Night Out

This Thursday, Nov. 11

@ 7:30PM

Hey Mamas! Let's have some fun before the Nativity fast begins! Meet us at Cooper's Hawk (*4515 28th St SE, Kentwood, MI 49512*) to sample some wines/appetizers/desserts (purchased at your discretion), and enjoy each other's company!

Please RSVP (Hannah Seeley 517-648-3296 or hrseeley@gmail.com) as we need to reserve a space for our group!

This is a really lovely and yummy place! You can check it out here: <https://chwinery.com/locations/michigan/kentwood-mi>. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Moms and Kids Morning

Friday, November 19

@ 10AM

Join us for an outing-in! Mama's and Kids, we are meeting at St Nicholas for a special "outing"! Our topic is "Oh Give Thanks" and we are planning some Thanksgiving and Nativity fast appropriate activities! Fun and uplifting times ahead! Ask Hannah Seeley for more details or questions. See you soon!



Antiochian Village

worship | fellowship | education | love

Antiochian Village Updates

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Antiochian Archdiocese,

We are excited to announce some of our upcoming events at Antiochian Village Camp. If you would like to include this information in your upcoming Sunday bulletin we would greatly appreciate it.

- **Annual Appeal – begins November 9.** This yearly fundraiser helps sustain our ministry throughout the year. [We are thankful to announce that a generous donor has agreed to match all donations during this campaign up to \\$100,000, whether one-time gifts or monthly gifts, to help us sustain our ministry!](#)

- **Winter Family Camp – January 14-17, 2022.** Fr. Paul and Kh. Kristina Abernathy will speak on the topic, "Family: Our First Ministry". Together they run the Neighborhood Resilience Project in Pittsburgh where they provide support to those in need in the Hill District.

- **Summer Family Camp – May 27-30, 2022.** Fr. John Salem of St. Elijah Church in Oklahoma City, OK will be our speaker. Registration will open in January.

- **Arch Weeks – Summer 2022.** This *brand new program* is for anyone who graduates in 2022, and serves to "bridge the gap" to life after high school. More information will follow and registration opens on January 8th!

Help Needed - We are currently searching for nurses who are interested in working at Antiochian Village Camp for Summer 2022. If you or anyone that you know is interested in a seasonal nursing position, please email Fr. Chris Shadid at frchris@avcamp.org or call our camp office at 724-238-9565.

We thank you so much for your continued support. We ask that you keep us in your prayers, and you will continue to be in ours.

In Christ,

Fr. Chris Shadid
Camp Director
Antiochian Village Camp

FAMILY NIGHT

This Wednesday

last week of the session

6 PM: Dinner
(\$1 per person)

6:45 PM: classes/
activities

Youth opportunities:
Teen SOYO, JOY and
Pre-K –grade 3

Adult opportunities:
Parenting Plus and
Orthodoxy 101

Special thanks to the
Forerunners for hosting
last week's dinner.

Young Adults will host
this week's dinner!

HOLY OBLATION SUBMISSION

Everyone with computer access is encouraged to submit Holy Oblations by utilizing the online form found under the "Parishioners" tab on our St. Nicholas website: <https://stnicholasgr.com/> or by using the envelopes on the Parishioners' Table in the Narthex. Holy Oblations must be received no later than noon on Wednesday prior to the Sunday that you desire your Holy Oblation to appear in the Liturgical Guide.

CLOTHING DRIVE

November 14-28

This Advent season we will again be conducting a winter clothing drive for the residents of the Camelot Community. On your next shopping trip, please consider purchasing NEW hats, mittens, scarves and socks for children, teens and adults. Many of our Camelot neighbors are from warmer parts of the world, and winters are difficult for them. There will be a collection box for the clothes in the Narthex and another by the west entrance across from the Cultural Center.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The fourth quarter of the calendar year is traditionally a time to review the past year and begin to make plans for the upcoming year. This month, you are encouraged to make a STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT to the church. You will need to decide how much of your time and which God-given talents you will give to “church work”, and how much money you will donate.

The church needs your TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE to do God’s work of worship and almsgiving. The following is a quote from a recent article on almsgiving from “The Word” magazine.

The Scriptures clearly teach that this ten-percent offering is holy (Leviticus 27:30,32), just like the life-giving Body and Blood of Christ are holy, and the image of God in every human being is holy. It is that portion of our “excess provision” that God provides us so that we can express gratitude to Him and grow into His likeness. We are, of course, completely free not to give the ten percent offering, as we are free not to obey any of God’s commandments. God will not love us any less if we do not tithe, nor will He love us any more if we do, but not giving the ten-percent offering robs us of the blessing of obeying God’s commandments.

All of God’s commandments are given to us for our own good. Adultery destroys families and damages children. Stealing undermines the fabric of communities. Coveting leads to lack of personal contentment. On the other hand, loving enemies makes us emotionally and psychologically healthy. Forgiving those who sin against us enables us to experience God’s forgiveness towards us. And “mercy-giving” through the ten-percent offering and other acts of generosity enlarges the capacity of our hearts to experience God’s love.

I encourage you to read the full article by visiting:

<https://antiochianprodsa.blob.core.windows.net/websiteattachments/SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER%20WORD%202021%20for%20ARCHDIOCESE.pdf>



Hannah Moore was Chrismated last Saturday as a member of the Orthodox Church. Please extend your warmest wishes to her as she continues her Faith journey.



Steve and Becky Palumbo are proud to announce the birth of their second grandchild, Olivia Hope Pokha who was born on Thursday, November 3. She and mom are doing great! She joins her mom and dad, Bianca and Andrew, and older sister, Evelyn (4 yrs). They live in St. Louis, MO. May God grant them many years!

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Euchre Excitement - This Thursday, November 11 @ 6:30-9PM
Do you love having fun, playing cards, and/or getting together with others? Then join other women of our parish for some Euchre Excitement! It doesn't matter if you know or don't know how to play. Come and learn! Come for fellowship! Come for fun! Bring your favorite snack or dessert and a beverage! Watch your inbox for additional information. Mark your calendars today. Contact Janet (janisue9697@gmail.com), Debra (taylorweisses@verizon.net), Barbara (bat47@wmis.net), or Gretchen (gretchen@zahna.com) if you have questions.

MEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Saturday November 13 @ 8:30-11:30AM
The Men will be having a Work Day at St. Nicholas. We will have a light breakfast and then work on indoor and outdoor tasks that need to be done around the church. Please join us! Contact Sam Bander (drsam@banderdentalgroup.com) or Greg Lambert (gmlambert@att.net) with questions.

THE ORDER of ST. IGNATIUS of ANTIOCH

Please join the members of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch of greater Grand Rapids for a reception with His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY & Roger David, National Chairman of The Order.

Sunday, December 5, 2021

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

The Cultural Center at St. Nicholas

This is an opportunity for The Order members and interested guests of Holy Cross, St. George, St. Willibrord, and St. Nicholas to learn about what is taking place on the North American level and in individual communities.

Our goal is for our local community to take an active roll in the ministry for Christ and the Church. It is our hope that we can come together several times a year in Orthodox Christian worship, philanthropy and fellowship. Members of The Order are encouraged to bring interested guests so that they better understand the mission of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

Please RSVP by December 1 at the following link: <https://stnicholasgr.com/st-ignatius/>.

If you have questions, please contact:

- ◇ Abe Howell—616-540-1465—Abraham.howell59@gmail.com
- ◇ Alan Abraham—616-443-6963—Alangeorge819@outlook.com



ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE

COFFEE HOUR

All families are encouraged to host at least one Coffee Hour each year. Feel free to invite another family to partner with you if you prefer. When selecting a Coffee Hour date, take into account significant events such as memorials, anniversaries, names day, significant birthdays, etc. The Coffee Hour sign-up sheet can be found on the Parishioners' table in the Narthex. As a reminder, Coffee Hour does not have to be elaborate. It can be as simple as coffee and bagels or you can pay \$60 for Krispy Kreme donuts (contact Kim for details). We have all of the paper products and coffee supplies on hand.

ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CARD

Today is the last day forms and online submissions will be accepted. Forms are available on the parishioners' table in the Narthex or use the following link: <https://stnicholasgr.com/christmas-card/>.

The cost is \$20.00. Checks should be made out to St. Nicholas and include "Christmas Card" on the memo line, pay by Venmo or by credit card. Thank you!

COLLEGE CONFERENCE 2021

Monday, December 27 - Thursday, December 30

College Conference is an annual four-day gathering of college students from all over the country to grow in fellowship, dive deeper into their faith through speakers and workshops around the conference theme, worship together, and serve! College Conference takes place in two locations: East & Midwest. Registration is open, but these events tend to sell out quickly. To register, go to ocf.net/college-conference.



WINTER CAMP

Friday, February 18-Monday, February 21. Registration is open.

Winter is coming...and so is Winter Camp at the Antiochian Village! Winter Camp is a weekend retreat open to kids grades 7-12 taking place over President's Day weekend. The cost is \$200 per camper. This year's speakers are Fr. Nick Belcher and Alyssa Kyritsis. Winter Camp includes Christian Ed, afternoon and evening programs, and much more! Please visit the Antiochian Village Winter Camp page: <https://avcamp.org/programs/winter-camp/> for more information and to review COVID-19 guidelines. See Gretchen Zahn (gretchen@zahna.com) with questions.

That same weekend, parents are invited to attend a Marriage Retreat hosted by Ancient Faith at the AV Conference Center. It's the perfect weekend getaway after dropping your campers off at Winter Camp! Led by Rev. Dr. Nicholas and Dr. Roxanne Louh, the theme of the retreat is Making Over Your Marriage. Please see the event website for more information and to register for the retreat. <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/behind-the-scenes/2021/04/13/2022-ancient-faith-marriage-retreat-in-person/>.

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, 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.

