

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
(THE GENEALOGY)**

DECEMBER 19, 2021



**ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2250 East Paris Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-954-2700 ▪ info@stnicholasgr.com ▪ www.stnicholasgr.com

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

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 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (TONE 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

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 PREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (TONE 3)

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word Eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth at the message with the angels and shepherds give glory to him who shall appear by his own will as a young child, he who is from eternity God.

EPISTLE

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel
according to St. Matthew 1:1-25**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to

shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.



TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the Servants of God Rhett Riley (40 days) and Steve Thomas (two years) of their falling asleep in the Lord offered by Barbara Thomas. May their memories be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Andrew, Sarah, Capri, Patrick, Lindsey, Luke, William, Ben, Ashley and Isabella, with much love from Pat and Diane. We give praise to our Heavenly Father for all the blessings He has bestowed upon our family. Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth, Peace and Goodwill toward men. *Luke 2:14*

For the Health and Blessings of Judy Welch on her upcoming surgery. May God bless you and grant you a speedy recovery. All our love, Jon, Jennifer and James.

For the Health and Blessings of Brian LaFranboise on the occasion of his birthday, offered by the St. Nicholas office staff. May God grant Brian many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Kinsley Rose Riley, Joanne Nicola, and Stephanie Thomas on the occasion of their birthdays, offered by Barb Thomas. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings on the birth of Sienna Grace Riley, offered by Barb Thomas. May God guide her and grant her many years of good health and happiness!

For the Health and Blessings of Bruce and Kim Nicola on the occasion of their anniversary, offered by Barb Thomas. May God grant you many more years!

For the Health and Blessings of Lila and Callia Gilbert on their 15th birthday, offered by Dn David and Jenny. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Nathaniel Gurk on the occasion of his 9th birthday. We love you! Gramps and GG. May God grant him many years!

In memory of Bertha Runyon on the anniversary of her falling asleep in the Lord offered by Debbie and Alan Abraham and family. Memory Eternal, Sitti B!

In memory of Amine Nicola, Rose Nicola, Joanne Bitar, and Lucille Thomas, offered by Barb Thomas. May their memories be Eternal!

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,
Germany, France, England and throughout the world.

Andrew Coleman	Bruce Nicola	Joshua Cass
Sarah Coleman	Kim Nicola	Kim Clark
Capri Coleman	Lila Gilbert	Roy Gurk
Patrick McCloskey	Callia Gilbert	Thomas Ledford
Lindsey McCloskey	Nathaniel Gurk	Diana
Luke McCloskey	Attallah Amash	Pat
William McCloskey	Audrey Nicoloff	Andrew
Ben Coleman	Ralph Thomas	Anastasia
Ashley Coleman	David Corey	Nina
Isabella Coleman	Joe Corey	Matttthew
Judy Welch	Hatem Karadsheh	Liudmila
Brian LaFranboise	Marge Simon	Alexander
Kinsley Rose Riley	Mary Ann Maloley	Thomas
Joanne Nicola	Dan Abraham	Victoria
Stephanie Thomas	Michael Ellis	Dianna Riffe
Sienna Grace Riley	Shirley Sallaney	Carol Zahn



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Archpriest Nicholas Neyman

Nabila Jarquio

Kh. Ilean Eyler

Rhett Riley

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

Steve Thomas	Rose Nicola	Raisa
Bertha Runyon	Joanne Bitar	Nina
Amine Nicola	Luncille Thomas	Zoya