

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

JANUARY 2, 2022



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 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 FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY (TONE 4)

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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 FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY (TONE 4)

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

EPISTLE

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

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy 4:5-8

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On January 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the first day of the Forefeast of the Theophany of Christ, we commemorate our Father among the Saints Sylvester, Pope of Rome.

Verses

Pope Sylvester, who even when dead, yet liveth,
Quickened a dead ox, shaming magician Jambres.

At daybreak on the second, Sylvester breatheth forth his soul.

Sylvester was born in Rome, and from his early youth was learned in worldly wisdom and in the Faith of Christ. He always conducted his life according to the Gospel commandments. He benefited much from the instruction of Timothy the priest, whose death for the true faith Sylvester witnessed. Thus, he was imbued with just such a spirit throughout his entire life. He became Bishop of Rome at age thirty. By his prayers and miracles, Sylvester assisted in bringing Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena to baptism. With the Empress Helena, he took part in finding the Honorable Cross. He governed the Church of God for twenty years. His earthly life ended honorably and he entered into the Heavenly Kingdom.

On this day, we also commemorate Cosmas the wonderworker, archbishop of Constantinople; and the repose of Venerable Seraphim of Sarov.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Ben Gurk on his birthday. May God continue to bless you and guide you. Love, Dad and Mom.

For the safe travels of Fr. Elias and Marion as they venture back to their winter home in Florida.

For the Health and Blessings of Kevin Mitchell. May God continue to strengthen him and grant him many years!

*Do not say,
"this happened by chance,
while this came to be of itself."
In all that exists there is
nothing disorderly, nothing
indefinite, nothing without
purpose, nothing by chance ...
How many hairs are on your
head? God will not forget one
of them. Do you see how
nothing, even the smallest
thing, escapes the gaze of God?*

(St. Basil the Great)

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, France, Spain and throughout the world.

Ben Gurk	Dan Abraham	Thomas Ledford
Attallah Amash	Capri Coleman	Andrew
Audrey Nicoloff	Michael Ellis	Anastasia
Ralph Thomas	Shirley Salhaney	Nina
David Corey	Joshua Cass	Matthew
Joe Corey	Kim Clark	Liudmila
Hatem Karadsheh	Roy Gurk	Alexander
Marge Simon	Georgianna Daugherty	Thomas
Mary Ann Maloley	Kevin Mitchell	Victoria



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Archpriest Nicholas Neyman
Leona Assaly
Rhett Riley

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

Raisa
Nina
Zoya