

**SUNDAY BEFORE
THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
AFTER-FEAST OF
THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
SEPTEMBER 11, 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

Very Reverend Elias Mitchell
Pastor Emeritus

Reverend Theodore Sirotko
Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff
Rev. Deacon John Kaufman
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 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world 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



*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.”

*Our theme verse for the new
Ecclesiastical Church Year*

O Lord, thou art my God;
I will exalt thee,
I will praise thy name;
for thou hast done
wonderful things.

Isaiah 25:1

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On September 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos, and we commemorate our righteous Mother Theodora of Alexandria.

Verses

Aspect and mind Theodora maketh manlike,
And shameth the great mind before her departure.
On the eleventh, Theodora resteth with the last sleep.

Urged on by a fortune-teller, Theodora committed adultery with another man. Her conscience immediately began to trouble her, and she cut off her hair and dressed in men's garb, then went off to the men's monastery of Octodecatos under the man's name of Theodore. Her labors, fasts, vigils, meekness and tearful repentance were a source of wonder to all the brethren. Driven out of the monastery, she spent seven years wandering in the forests and deserts, caring for a harlot's child. Theodora overcame all devilish illusions by making the sign of the Cross; they all vanished like smoke. After seven years, the abbot of the monastery received her back, and she lived there in asceticism a further two years and then entered into rest in the Lord in the year 490. Only then did the monks learn that Theodora was a woman, when an angel appeared and explained everything. Thus God glorified this true penitent, who, with heroic endurance, spent nine years repenting of one sin.

On this day, we also commemorate the Righteous Euphrosynos the Cook; Martyrs Demetrios, Evanthia and Demetrianos; and Venerable Sergios and Herman of Valaam.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

HOLY OBLATIONS

For a wonderful mother and wife! Health, joy and all God's blessings for Melissa Adolphson on the occasion of her birthday, offered by Dn. Justin, Olivia, Sam and Grace. May God grant you many years!

We are blessed to welcome our new little angel into our family, Ellison (Ellie) Marie. May God continue to bless her, Levi, Mommy and Daddy and keep them all under His watchful care. All our Love - Opa, BB, Uncle Jake, and Auntie Tor.

For the Health and Blessings of Matthew Ledford and Liudmila on their journey through recovery, offered by Nina Ledford and family. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Carol, Kamil & Erika, Paulina, Antoni, Andre, Eva, Asher, Stefan & Sofie, Mikolai, Monica, Daniel, Voytek, Mike & Barbara Nester, Susan, Deana, Aaron, Ginger, Peter, Donovan, and Isaac, offered by Carol Steele. May God grant them many years!

In memory of our beloved mother and grandmother, Nita Loss, on the 11th year of her falling asleep in the Lord, offered by the Storey family. Memory Eternal!

REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*Names are added to the Prayer List for one week by offering Holy Oblation
or for up to 40 days in the case of an ongoing serious illness.*

LIVING

Metropolitan PAUL

Archbishop JOHN

And all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty
throughout our nation, and in Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Pakistan
and throughout the world.

Melissa Adolphson
Ellison Rinvelt
Matthew Ledford
Liudmila
Carol
Kamil
Erika
Paulina
Antoni
Andre
Eva
Asher
Stefan
Sofie

Mikolai
Monica
Daniel
Voytek
Mike
Barbara
Susan
Deana
Aaron
Ginger
Peter
Donovan
Isaac
Attallah Amash

Mary Ann Maloley
Audrey Nicoloff
Ralph Thomas
David Corey
Joe Corey
Dan Abraham
Kevin Mitchell
Michael Ellis
Sam Barkett
Edward Bucknell
Tony Tran
Jobje Lammers
Daniel Kaufman



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Metropolitan KALLISTOS
Julia Pirich Messner

And all the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and
poverty throughout our nation, and in Ukraine,
Pakistan and throughout the world.

Nita Loss