

# LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

## THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

**DECEMBER 4, 2022**

(616) 954-2700 ▪ [info@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:info@stnicholasgr.com) ▪ [stnicholasgr.com](http://stnicholasgr.com)

### **METROPOLITAN ANTONIOS TO VISIT GRAND RAPIDS**

**THIS THURSDAY, December 8**

His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONIOS, our Patriarchal Vicar, is visiting Grand Rapids this Thursday, December 8.

All are invited to hear from his Eminence about the coming nomination process for our new Metropolitan.

- ◇ **4PM:** Meeting with West MI Antiochian Clergy
- ◇ **6PM:** Vespers - please arrive early
- ◇ **7PM:** Lenten meal in the Cultural Center. His Eminence will take questions from all those present.

### **A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS**

**Tomorrow, December 5,** we will be having Orthros (5PM) and Divine Liturgy (6PM) in honor of our Patron Saint. Children, please leave a shoe in the Narthex in the designated area on your way into the Nave.

Immediately following, the parents of the youth are hosting a festive dinner. "St. Nicholas" himself will be visiting all the children and posing for individual and group photos. Everyone is invited to attend.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS**

With Christmas falling on a Sunday this year, all are encouraged to plan ahead so that we keep CHRIST in CHRISTmas. We will have liturgy for the pre-feast on Saturday morning, and on Christmas Eve we will celebrate Festal Vespers. On Sunday morning, we will celebrate the Festal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Christ's birth. No Christmas celebration is complete for CHRISTians without worshipping at the manger in the Divine Services.

### **FEAST OF THE NATIVITY SERVICES**

**Friday, December 23**

Royal Hours: 9AM

**Eve of the Nativity of Christ on Saturday, December 24**

Orthros of the Pre-feast: 9AM / Divine Liturgy: 10AM

Christmas Eve Vespers: 5PM

**The Nativity of Christ on Sunday, December 25**

Orthros: 8:30AM / Divine Liturgy: 10AM

### **THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 4**

8:50AM—Orthros &  
Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Youth Christmas Pageant Practice  
following Communion

Patronal Festal Luncheon  
Each household is encouraged to bring  
a fast-friendly dessert or  
fruit tray.

**Monday, December 5**

**Feast of St. Nicholas**  
5PM—Orthros

6PM—Divine Liturgy

Festive Dinner—everyone is  
invited!

**Wednesday, December 7**

6PM—Advent Paraklesis  
No confessions

**Thursday, December 8**

NO Bible Study

**Visit by Metropolitan ANTONIOS**

6PM—Vespers followed by dinner  
and Q & A session

**Friday, December 9**

10AM—OK Mama:  
Moms & Kids Playdate

11AM—St. Xenia's Circle  
(note date change)

Teen SOYO Retreat  
@ Rives Junction



## PLANT SALE

Today & Tomorrow, December 4 & 5

Did you know that indoor plants boost moods, increase creativity, reduce stress, and eliminate air pollutants—making for a healthier, happier you. Indoor plants don't just look good—they can make us feel good, too.

The Women of St. Nicholas will be having a Plant Sale both days following Liturgy. The proceeds will be used to assist in future projects. Plants will be priced ranging from \$5-\$15. Please stop by the table to make your purchase. Plants also make wonderful gifts!

## NATIVITY POINSETTIAS

If you would like to offer a Christmas poinsettia "in Eternal Memory of" or "for the Good Health of" your loved ones, kindly submit the form to the Plexiglas box on the Parishioners' table in the Narthex or return it to the church office by **Sunday, December 11**. The electronic form is available at [stnicholasgr.com/advent/](http://stnicholasgr.com/advent/).



## YOUTH IN ACTION

### MYRRH BEARERS CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY

December 18 during Coffee Hour

Girls, teens, and young women, mark your calendars for our 2nd annual Myrrh Bearers Christmas Tea Party. Watch your email for more details! (Parents and women of all ages are also welcome to attend to learn how they can support this wonderful group of girls as they serve the Lord and His Church!)

### SHEPHERDS OF INDEPENDENCE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 20 @ 4-7PM

We will be hosting the Christmas party for the adult foster care residents at Shepherds of Independence! All JOY and SOYO students are invited to help with the party. We will have food, play bingo, sing songs, and help Santa deliver gifts to the residents! Please RSVP to Mykel or Elizabeth Ayoub (414.305.4676) if you are JOY/SOYO and able to participate.



**Saturday, December 10**

9:30AM—Choir Rehearsal

12PM—Nativity Retreat  
with Fr. Chad Hatfield  
@ St. George

6PM—Great Vespers  
followed by Confession

**Sunday, December 11**

8:50AM—Orthros &  
Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Youth Christmas Pageant Practice  
following Communion

Choir & Chanter Recognition

## PARISHIONER UPDATE

New Address

Doris Sullivan

1501 Woodworth St. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

## BECOME A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINEE

During our January 29, 2023 General Assembly, we will be electing three members and an alternate to the Parish Council. If you are interested in being a potential candidate, please complete the Affirmation Statement and the Questionnaire. Both can be found on our [St. Nicholas website](http://St.Nicholas website) under the "Parishioner" tab. If you have questions regarding Parish Council membership, please contact Mark Ansara ([mark.ansara@advantage-cre.com](mailto:mark.ansara@advantage-cre.com)).

All nominees are welcome to submit a biography for the General Assembly booklet. **The deadline for inclusion is December 31.**

## **JOB OPENING FOR ARABIC INTERPRETER**

Are you fluent in the Arabic Language and interested in working part-time utilizing this skill in the health care setting? Spectrum Health is hiring an Arabic Interpreter for use with patients who do not speak English. The job may vary and be in person or over the phone. If interested, please visit <https://careers.spectrumhealth.org/us/en/job/R70683/Interpreter-Arabic> for all details and to apply. Contact Joanna Abud via email [abud.joanna@gmail.com](mailto:abud.joanna@gmail.com) to utilize as a Spectrum Health connection and/or reference.

## **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

### **OK MAMA**

#### **Moms and Kids Playdate**

**This Friday, December 9 @ 10AM**

Moms! You are invited to bring your kiddos to a playdate! Hannah Nelson (a St. George mom) is hosting our play date this month. You know it's going to be a fun time! This is such a great opportunity to let the kiddos play and make friends and for you to connect with other moms. See you soon

**Address:** 2051 Breton Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, 49546.

Please follow us on our facebook page "O.K. Mama" for details and updates!

#### **Moms Night Out**

**Thursday, December 15 @ 6PM**

What could be better than Christmas shopping with your lady friends? I don't know either. So, come along, we are meeting at St. George's parking lot at 6PM to carpool for some shopping in Holland. Sounds so lovely, doesn't it? (psst, come anyway if your shopping is done, you need the night out, Sister!) We'd LOVE to have you there! Contact Hannah Seeley for more information or find us on Facebook by searching for "O.K. Mama".

### **YOUNG ADULTS: ADVENT FELLOWSHIP**

**December 17 @ 6:30PM**

The Young Adults are invited to the Olson House for an Advent Fellowship Get Together. A fast-friendly main dish will be provided but sides or fast-friendly desserts will be happily welcome. For address or more information, please consult Gresham Olson or the Young Adults group message.



## **OUR MISSION—WHAT WE DO**

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is a worshipping community living and sharing the Faith Christ gave to the Apostles.

## **WHY WE EXIST**

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church exists to seek and share Christ's love so that all will find Eternal Life in Him.

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

Please use the following email address when communicating with the Parish Council:

[parishcouncil@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:parishcouncil@stnicholasgr.com)

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

For updated information go to: [stnicholasgr.com/parishioners](http://stnicholasgr.com/parishioners)

## **SUBMISSION REMINDERS**

Announcements and Holy Oblations are due by noon each Wednesday.

Submit Announcements to [announcements@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:announcements@stnicholasgr.com)

Submit Holy Oblation to [stnicholasgr.com/parishioners/](http://stnicholasgr.com/parishioners/) or by completing an envelope located on the Parishioner's Table in the Narthex.

## A FOCUS ON ALMSGIVING

*“Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs.” + St. John Chrysostom*

### **CLOTHING THE NEEDY**

**Today is the last day to give.**

This Advent season we are conducting a Winter clothing drive for the residents of the Camelot Community. On your next shopping trip please consider purchasing NEW coats, 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 is a collection box for the clothes in the Narthex and another by the west entrance across from the Cultural Center.

Besides general winter clothing articles for children, teens, and adults: coats, hats, mittens, scarves and socks, below are specific clothing items for Camelot students attending Ridge Park Charter School:

- Boys snow pants size 5/6 (for two students)
- Boys snow pants size 7/8 and 8 (for two students)
- Girls snow pants size 5/6
- Boys coat size 5/6
- Boys boots sizes 3, 11, 12
- Boys hats (size small and medium)
- Boys gloves (size small and medium)
- Man Size Hat

### **FEEDING the HUNGRY**

**Monday, December 12 is the last day to donate.**

Meijer has selected Green Apple Pantry as a recipient of the “Simply Give” double match this Advent season. That means \$10 donated to “Simply Give” will result in a \$30 food donation. Contributing to St. Nicholas for the “Simply Give” program feeds the hungry right here in our community. Donate at [stnicholasgr.com/almsgiving/](http://stnicholasgr.com/almsgiving/), by Venmo or by check. Please include “Simply Give” in the memo.

### **ENGAGING IN SERVICE**

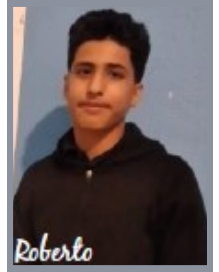
**Monday, December 12 @ 5:30PM**

Our Parish, in partnership with Catholic Charities, will again be setting up and stocking this year’s Foster Care Christmas Store. It is a fun night of work and fellowship with dinner provided. Over 1,200 children will receive Christmas gifts and winter clothing as a result of this effort. Consider bringing a friend to join us this year! Check out all the fun we had last year by going to the video link at: [stnicholasgr.com/almsgiving/](http://stnicholasgr.com/almsgiving/)

Catholic Diocese of West Michigan  
360 Division Avenue S, Suite 3A  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

### **PRESENTS UNDER THE TREE**

Thank you to everyone who donated for Roberto's Christmas gifts through the Santa's Helpers program. The presents are on their way to St. Innocent's Orphanage. If you are looking for ways to engage your faith to serve, review the Almsgiving opportunities: [\[ALMSGIVING\]](#).



DECEMBER

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# NATIVITY RETREAT

“MARY, MISSION & MYSTERIES - THE  
PATHS TO THE KINGDOM”

ARCHPRIEST FR. CHAD HATFIELD



THE THEME WILL FOCUS ON "ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN BASICS: DISCOVERING THE THREE SCRIPTURAL WAY OF KNOWING THE BODY OF CHRIST."

NOON - POT LUCK LUNCH

1:00PM - FIRST ADDRESS: "MARY"

2:15PM - QUIET REFLECTION TIME

2:30PM - SECOND ADDRESS: "MYSTERIES"

3:15PM - QUIET REFLECTION TIME

3:30PM - THIRD ADDRESS: "MISSION"

4:15PM - QUIET REFLECTION TIME

CONCLUSION

GREAT VESPERS

RETREAT LOCATION: St. George Banquet Center

Lunch will be a pot luck. Everyone should bring a fast-friendly dish to pass.

Child care will not be provided.

Admission is free.

ONLINE REGISTRATION @ [STGeorgeNativityRetreat.Eventbrite.com](https://STGeorgeNativityRetreat.Eventbrite.com)



The Very Reverend Dr. Chad Hatfield is the President of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Father Chad came to St. Vladimir's from St. Herman Seminary in Alaska, where he served as the Dean. His experience in various pastoral, teaching and administrative roles, spread over some 41 years of ordained ministry, are now blended into his ministry of seminarian formation at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

## 56th Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention



July 23-30, 2023  
St. George • Phoenix, AZ  
[www.ac2023az.org](http://www.ac2023az.org)



### Visit [www.ac2023az.org](http://www.ac2023az.org) Today!

As we begin Advent, we cannot forget that the 2023 Archdiocese Convention is fast approaching!  
Visit [www.ac2023az.org](http://www.ac2023az.org) for all of your convention needs.

Once there, you can:

1. Reserve your room at the beautiful JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge;
2. Get your Early Bird ticket books before the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline;
3. Sponsor a page in the Souvenir Journal or an Event before the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline;
4. Reserve your Vendor space.

You can do all of this, today, at [www.ac2023az.org](http://www.ac2023az.org)!