

**SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2023**



**ST. NICHOLAS  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**CLERGY**

His All Holiness, JOHN X  
*Patriarch of Antioch and all the East*

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](mailto:frmichael@stnicholasgr.com)*

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 and taking a visitor's packet both 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 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 FOR SUNDAY OF LAST JUDGEMENT (TONE 1)*

When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

**EPISTLE**

*The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement has the  
Lord chastened me!*

**The Reading from the  
First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians 8:8-9:2**

Brethren, food will not bring us closer to God; for neither if we eat, are we the better, nor if we do not eat, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this authority of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if any one sees you, as someone who has knowledge, reclining at a table in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of the one who is weak be emboldened to eat of the things sacrificed to idols, and through your knowledge the weak brother perishes, for whom Christ died? And thus, sinning against the brethren, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will not eat meat forever, lest I cause my brother to stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not you my work in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord.

## GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 25:31-46**

The Lord said, “When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Then He will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?’ Then He will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

## **SYNAXARION**

*(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)*

On February 19 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Apostles Archippos, Philemon and Apphias of the Seventy. Today, we commemorate the Second and impartial Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### *VERSES*

*When the Judge of all sitteth to judge the earth,  
Come now! Mayest Thou judge me worthy of Thy voice!*

It is the Sunday of the Last Judgment—known also as Meat Fare Sunday—the lesson of which occurs in today’s Holy Gospel. Jesus illustrates to us God’s ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so lest some who are lazy should loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin, and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers decree that on this day the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

By Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ God, make us worthy of Thy devoted voice, number us among Thy righteous ones and have mercy on us. Amen.

## TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

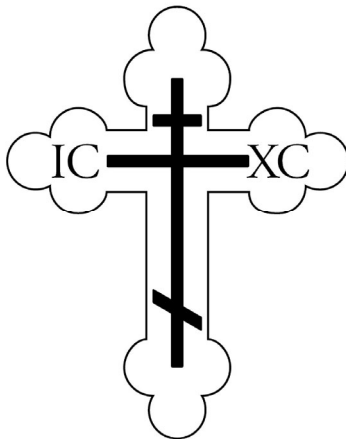
In memory of Marjorie Simon on her one year passing to be with our Lord, offered with love by Mike and Lynn Simon and family. May her memory be Eternal!

## HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Alison Khorey on her birthday, offered by Chris, George, Margaret, Archdeacon David, and Jenny Khorey. May God grant her many years.

For the health and blessings of Chris Khorey on his birthday, offered by Alison, George, Margaret, Archdeacon David, and Jenny Khorey. May God grant him many years.

In memory of Leo, Mary, and Karen Henry, offered by their family. May their memory be 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  
Priest Steve VanBronkhorst

And all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty at Michigan  
State, and in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Africa and throughout  
the world.

Subdeacon Peter Marth	Dan Abraham
Allison Khorey	Kevin Mitchell
Chris Khorey	Michael Ellis
Attallah Amash	Briana Bond
Mary Ann Maloley	Christina Younes
Audrey Nicoloff	Russ Adolphson
Ralph Thomas	Allie
David Corey	Anna Corsetti
Joe Corey	John Foresman

### **DEPARTED**

#### **NEWLY DEPARTED**

Pearl Nahass  
Ramez Wadi Karadsheh  
Olga Wassouf  
Semaan Sarab  
Bob Spicer

And all the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and  
poverty at Michigan and in Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, Africa and  
throughout the world.

Marjorie Simon  
Leo Henry  
Mary Henry  
Karen Henry