

**SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS
(CHEESE FARE)**

FEBRUARY 26, 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

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 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 ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
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.

KONTAKION FOR FORGIVERNESS SUNDAY (TONE 6)

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

EPISTLE

O chant unto our God, chant ye. Clap your hands, all ye nations!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans 13:11-14:4

Brethren, now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. But as for the one who is weak in faith, receive him, but not for disputes over opinions. For one believes he may eat anything; but the weak person eats herbs. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to be the judge over the servant of a stranger? To his own master he either stands or falls; but he will be made to stand; for God is able to make him stand.



GOSPEL



The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On February 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Righteous Father Porphyrios, bishop of Gaza; Great-martyr Photeini the Samaritan Woman and those with her.

On this day, we make remembrance of the exile of the first-fashioned, Adam, from the Paradise of delight.

VERSES

*Let the world mourn bitterly along with ages past;
As, by sweet eating, it hath fallen along with those who had fallen.*

It is the Sunday of Forgiveness, known also as Cheese Fare Sunday. Today's lesson from the Holy Gospel teaches us about forgiveness and fasting, and how both are crucial to our own return to Paradise. The divine Fathers also set the anniversary of the exile of Adam from the Paradise of bliss on this day, at the entrance of Great Lent, to show us by deed as well as word how great is the benefit that accrues to man from fasting and repenting; and, on the contrary, how great the harm that comes from destructive gluttony and from disobedience to the divine commandments. The sin of gluttony resulted in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise, because they disobeyed God by eating from the tree which He had forbidden them. The Church reminds us of this event to encourage us to return to that ancient glory and primeval happiness by means of fasting and obedience to God and His commandments.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us worthy of the delight of Paradise and have mercy on us, as Thou art alone the Lover of mankind. Amen.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

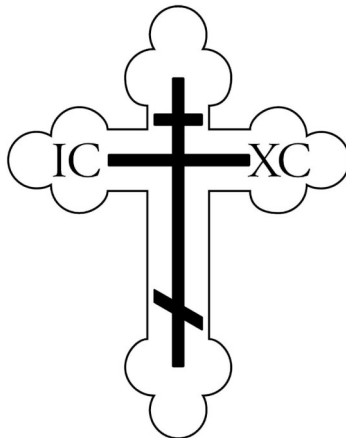
In memory of Semaan and Olga offered by Sarab, Victor, Eli, Josph and Mariam Hajjar. May their memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the health and blessings of our Parish Council Members: Joe David, Mark Ansara, Melissa Powell, Yuri Kazarov, Dan Abraham, Joanna Abud, Amy Amash, Brian La Franboise, Frouq Karadsheh, Nick Nicola, and Sarab Hajjar offered by your St. Nicholas Parish Family. May God grant them many years.

For the health and blessings of George, offered by Emily.

For the good health and abundant blessings of Carol Assaly on the occasion of her birthday, offered by her children Allison and Paul and Meredith and Cameron, and her Grandson, Andrew. May God's love and light surround her always!



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.

Joe David	Carol Assaly	Michael Ellis
Mark Ansara	Subdn. Peter Marth	Briana Bond
Melissa Powell	Allison Khorey	Christina Younes
Yuri Kazarov	Chris Khorey	Russ Adolphson
Dan Abraham	Attallah Amash	Anna Corsetti
Joanna Abud	Mary Ann Maloley	John Foresman
Amy Amash	Audrey Nicoloff	Andrew Pohka
Brian La Franboise	Ralph Thomas	Bianca Pohka
Frouq Karadsheh	David Corey	Evelyn Pohka
Nick Nicola	Joe Corey	Oliva Pohka
Sarab Hajjar	Dan Abraham	
George	Kevin Mitchell	

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 State and in Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, Africa and throughout the world.