

LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

DECEMBER 17, 2023

(616) 954-2700 ▪ info@stnicholasgr.com ▪ stnicholasgr.com



No Christmas celebration is complete for Orthodox CHRISTians without receiving Him in Holy Communion in the Manger of our hearts. Please see the services listed above and come celebrate the birth of our Lord!

CONFESSION DURING NATIVITY FAST (LAST WEEK)

All Orthodox Christians should have their Confessions heard during the Nativity Fast. Below are the several opportunities being offered:

Unscheduled Confession

This Wednesday from 10AM - 12:45PM (w/ Fr. Elias)

This Wednesday and Saturday following Services (w/Fr. Michael and Fr. David)

You may also schedule an appointment at the following link: stnicholasgr.com/appointments. If none of these times work for you, please call the church office to be scheduled with Fr. Elias or Fr. Michael.

HOUSE BLESSINGS

It is time to schedule your Theophany House Blessing! We have once again organized the House Blessing schedule according to zip codes and have provided an on-line sign-up feature for your convenience. If you do not have email access, please call the office to schedule your house blessing. Please do your best to schedule your House Blessing during your listed zip code time frame, but if you must schedule outside the prescribed time frame, we will understand. You may register your house blessing at: stnicholasgr.com/houseblessing/

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 17

8:50AM—Orthros &
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

4PM—Young Adult
Advent Gathering

Tuesday, December 19

5PM—Church School:
Shepherds of Independence
Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 20

10AM-12:45PM—
Unscheduled Confessions
with Fr. Elias

6PM—Advent Paraklesis
followed by Confession

Thursday, December 21

10AM—Bible Study
7:30PM—OK Mama:
Book Club

Friday, December 22

9AM—Royal Hours

Saturday, December 23

10:30AM—Icon Decorating

10:30AM-1PM—JOY/SOYO
Christmas Crunch

6PM—Great Vespers
followed by Confession

Sunday, December 24

No Orthros & Orthodox
Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

5PM—Great Vespers of
Christmas



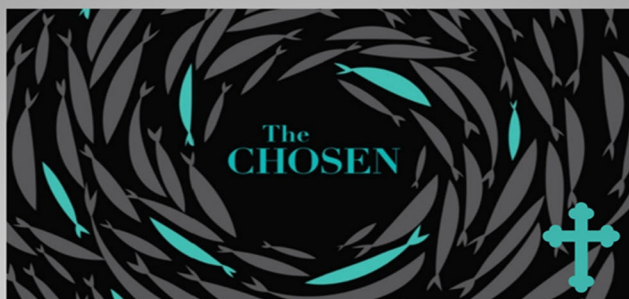
QUESTIONS ABOUT BECOMING A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER? REACH OUT TO US TODAY

Are you interested in being on the Parish Council, but you're not sure exactly what that entails, how much time it requires, or what your responsibilities would be? Reach out to a current Parish Council member, or stop by our INFORMATION TABLE in the atrium during Coffee Hour. If you're thinking the Parish Council might be a good way for you to serve your parish, now or in the future, let's talk!

As a reminder, the parish will be electing three members and an alternate to the Parish Council during the General Assembly on January 28. Each potential candidate must be vetted to confirm their good standing, and each vetted candidate must submit a signed Affirmation Statement before their name can be added to the ballot. Candidates must also submit their Parish Council Nominee Questionnaire and a photo by Sunday, December 31 if they would like them included in the General Assembly booklet. If you would like to be considered as a potential candidate, please contact Amy Amash (amy.amash@gmail.com) no later than Sunday, December 24, to allow time for the vetting and application process prior to the General Assembly.

SOUP SUNDAY

The Women's Leadership Team would like to thank the parish for participating in our first ever Soup Sunday Coffee Hour. Your wonderful cooperation made this event very successful. We especially want to thank those who brought soup, bread, and dessert! We look forward to our next Soup Sunday which will be held during Great Lent 2024.



Join the Conversation

Join us Sunday evenings from 8-9pm via Zoom, to discuss the popular TV series, *The Chosen*, depicting the Gospel and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Sunday 1/7/24: Season One, Episodes 1-3

*What is redemption? How did Jesus redeem Mary Magdalene?
Why does Jesus say we need faith like children?
How can we listen like the little children and receive His message of grace and love?*

Sunday 1/21/24: Season One, Episodes 4-6

Sunday 2/4/24: Season One, Episodes 7-8

Fr. Michael will lead each discussion from an Orthodox Christian perspective.

Sign-up to receive the Discussion Group Zoom link:

stnicholasgr.com/the-chosen/

Invite a Friend - Everyone is Welcome!



LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, January 1
Circumcision of Christ
Feast of St. Basil
Civil New Year
8:50AM—Orthros
10AM—Divine Liturgy

Friday, January 5
Feast of Theophany
9AM—Royal Hours

Saturday, January 6
Feast of Theophany
8:45—Orthros
10AM—Divine Liturgy with the
Great Blessing of the Waters
@ St. George

END OF YEAR GIVING

All 2023 check/cash, online or Venmo donations need to be received by December 31, 2023 to be included in 2023 parishioner



FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS MAILBOX

Thank you to all those who have offered their prayers and best wishes for my continued ministry at St. Nicholas. Many years to you and to all your good works for the Church. Thank you also from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of my family to everyone who worked so hard on such a wonderful celebration. Please join my prayers that all our service to Our Lord and his Church may be pleasing to Him, and a worthy means of bringing His love to all.

Father David

FOSTER CARE CHRISTMAS STORE

Thank you to all the St. Nicholas parishioners and friends who helped organize the Foster Care Christmas Store. Together we organized over 2,000 toys in less than 90 minutes!! From a "pile" of toys on a loading dock to what you see below. The wonderful power of working together as one!



The Feast of Holy Theophany

in the parishes of
**St George
St Nicholas
& Holy Cross**

**SATURDAY
JANUARY 6, 2024**



Part I

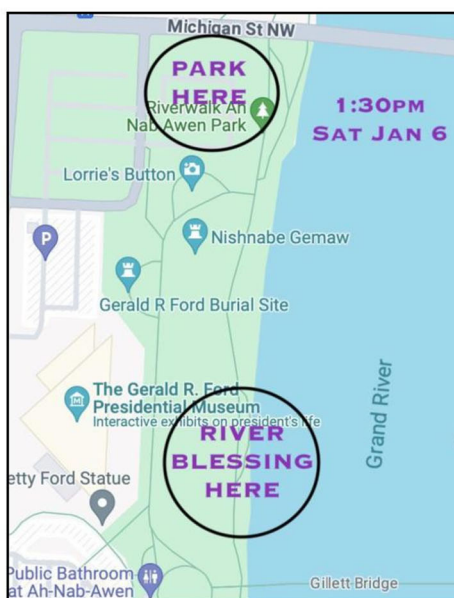
@ St George Orthodox Church,
334 La Grave Ave SE

**8:45am Orthros +
10:00am Divine Liturgy
+ Indoor Blessing of
Waters**
followed by
coffee & refreshments.

Part II

@ Ah-Nab-Awen Park
290 Michigan St NW, 49504

**1:30-2:00pm Outdoor
Blessing of Waters
at the Grand River**



COFFEE HOUR HOST SIGN UP ONLINE

We have made it easier to sign up to host a Coffee Hour by doing so electronically! To use the electronic sign up feature, go to: stnicholasgr.com/coffeehour. You can still sign up to host a Coffee Hour by using the paper sign up sheets located on the easel in the atrium.

The following host dates are available:

December 24 (Fast), 31

January 7, 21

February 11, 18, 25

March 3, 10 (Meatfare),
17 (Cheesefare)

TRIVIA COMPETITION

Save the Date

Sunday, January 21
during Coffee Hour

It's time to have some fun during the post holiday winter blues! Christopher and Alex DeMorrow are preparing another fun trivia competition. Begin thinking about playing. More details to come soon.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Fellowship activities provide great opportunities to invite others to engage in faith, fellowship & fun.



YOUNG ADULTS

Today, December 17 @ 4-7PM

All St. Nicholas Young Adults (18-35) are invited to Fr. Michael & Vicky's home (1055 Dogwood Meadows Dr. SE Ada, MI 49301) for Advent fellowship, food and spiritual enrichment. Fr. Michael will be answering our (anonymous) questions about the Church or Christian living. Bring a Lenten dish to share. Fr. Michael is making vegan chili!

OK MAMA

Book Club

This Thursday, December 21 @ 7:30PM

Hello Mamas! Please join us for our last book club night (for now), which will be held at St Nicholas. We will be talking about the book *"The Religious Potential of the Child"* by Sofia Cavalletti. This is a Pan-Orthodox book club and everyone is welcome, so please bring a friend or two! See Hannah Seeley or our Facebook group for more details and questions. We are so excited to talk about this book with you!

MEN – Join us ...

Suds with Padre

Save the Date
Saturday, January 6, 2024

FOLLOWING VESPERS WE'LL GATHER AT A LOCAL PUB

WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR MORE DETAILS

LET US KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:
STNICHOLASGR.COM/MEN

YOUTH IN ACTION

SHEPHERDS OF INDEPENDENCE CHRISTMAS PARTY

This Tuesday, December 19

@ 5-7:30PM

Church School students! You are invited to help serve at Shepherds of Independence. We will be helping to host a Christmas party for all of the residents: we will eat pizza together, play bingo, and help Santa pass out gifts. SOYO and JOY students are welcome to be dropped off; students in Archangels and younger need a parent/caregiver to accompany them.

IT'S CRUNCH TIME!

JOY & SOYO

CHRISTMAS CRUNCH

Saturday, December 23

@ 10:30AM-1PM

All members of St. Nicholas JOY and SOYO (grades 4-12) are invited to the Christmas Crunch, *the last opportunity to give their confession before the Nativity of our Lord*. As the kids wait their turn, we'll also be doing a service project for our St. Nicholas shut-ins. Please see Dn. Justin with any questions.

SOYO CHRISTMAS BREAK FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, December 28

4-6PM

It'll be too warm for tubing so we're going Fowling instead. If you've never heard of it, it's knocking down bowling pins with a football, and it's A LOT of fun! Pizza and pop provided. Teens, Please come join us at The Fowling Warehouse (6797 Cascade Rd, SE).

