

# LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

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

### DECEMBER 24, 2023

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#### WISHING YOU A BLESSED NATIVITY

On behalf of the Clergy, Parish Council, Ministry Team Leaders, staff, and volunteers, we wish each of you a blessed Feast of the Nativity!

*Come, you "who have put on Christ, let us behold a wonder that overtake all minds with astonishment: and as we kneel down in true worship, let us give praise in faith: for the Maiden, having conceived, cometh today to Bethlehem, to give birth to the Lord..."*

—The Idiomela for Sixth Hour of the Feast of the Nativity of Christ

#### 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/](http://stnicholasgr.com/houseblessing/)



#### 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/](http://stnicholasgr.com/the-chosen/)

Invite a Friend - Everyone is Welcome!

#### THIS WEEK

##### Sunday, December 24

8:45AM Orthros & No  
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

5PM—Great Vespers of  
Christmas

##### Monday, December 25

The Great Feast  
of the Nativity of Christ

8:45AM—Orthros

10AM—Divine Liturgy

##### Thursday, December 28

4PM—Teen SOYO:  
Fowling Fellowship

##### Saturday, December 30

6PM—Great Vespers  
followed by Confession

##### Sunday, December 31

8:45AM Orthros & No  
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

#### 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



## 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 statements.

## END OF YEAR PACKETS

If you have not done so already, please pick up your packet from the table in the Narthex. It contains vital information necessary to keep you informed and prepared.

## BECOME A PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER

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](mailto:amy.amash@gmail.com)) no as soon as possible to allow time for the vetting and application process prior to the General Assembly.

## 12th ANNUAL DINNER FOR THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD MONASTERY

**Thursday January 18**

St. George Flint (5191 Lennon Rd, Flint, MI 48507) welcomes Mother Abbess Gabriella, Father John and the Nuns from Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery.

**5PM:** Vespers sung by the Nuns followed by a time to visit, appetizers

**7PM:** Dinner, desserts and three spiritual talks speaking to our lives as Orthodox Christians as individuals, in the parish and influenced by monastics. The reflections (starting around 7:30 PM) will also be Live Streamed on YouTube (click to set a NOTIFICATION reminder).

**8:30PM:** Closing prayer

This event is a fundraiser for the Monastery so please give generously. You are welcome to join for any or all of the evening even if you are unable to make a donation; just keep in mind that **REGISTRATION** is required if you are coming for dinner so that they can plan properly.

**REGISTER and/or DONATE ONLINE** for the 12th Annual Winter Dinner for The Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery!



**Saturday, January 6**

*@ St. George*

**Feast of Theophany**

8:45—Orthros

10AM—Divine Liturgy  
with the Great Blessing  
of the Waters

1:30PM—*Outdoor Blessing  
of Waters*

(see page 3 for information)



## FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS MAILBOX

Thank you for your generous gifts of winter clothes for the children in the Camelot Community and at Ridge Park Charter School. Many of these children do not have sufficient winter clothing and in some cases have never experienced winter. This winter clothing drive was one of our most successful. Every item received by the Church of the Servant pantry has already been distributed! Several children with only sweatshirts for the winter received coats. Thank you!

## 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](http://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 31

January 7, 21

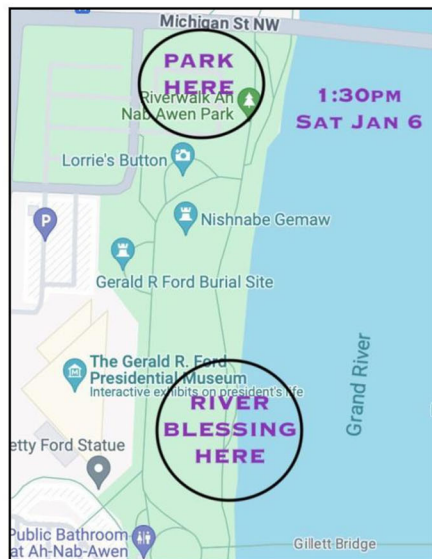
February 11, 18, 25

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

## **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**

### **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:**

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

#### **Submit Holy Oblations:**

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

### **SCHEDULING TIME WITH FR. MICHAEL**

To make a an appointment, please call the Church Office and arrange. For those who would like to arrange their own appointments, please go to [stnicholasgr.com/appointments](http://stnicholasgr.com/appointments) and do so directly online.

### **TRIVIA COMPETITION**

**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.

### **FAMILY NIGHT**

**Beginning Wednesday, January 10**

The schedule remains the same as it was in the fall:

6PM: Vespers

6:30PM—Dinner

7PM—Groups

More information coming soon!

### **BOOKS WITH ABOUNA**

**Screwtape Letters Discussion**

**Sunday, January 14. February 11 & March 10**

For more information and to register, visit [stnicholasgr.com/books](http://stnicholasgr.com/books).



## YOUTH IN ACTION

### 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, its knocking down bowling pins with a football, and it's A LOT of fun! Pizza and pop will be provided. Teens, come join us at The Fowling Warehouse (6797 Cascade Rd SE 49546). Please sign up at [stnicholasgr.com/youth/](http://stnicholasgr.com/youth/) so we know who will be attending.

### SOYO TEEN NIGHT & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday January 7 @ 5-7PM in the Teen Room

All St. Nicholas Teens (7th-12th grade) are invited to join in some Christmas Cheer: dinner, refreshments, games...and a Secret Santa gift exchange (\$25 max)! If a teen needs the Secret Santa Questionnaire, please see Dn. Justin.

### HOPE & JOY PANCAKES WITH PADRE!

Saturday, January 13 @ 9:30-11AM.

All Kids in HOPE (Pre/K-3rd grade) and JOY (grades 4-6) are invited to enjoy a pancake breakfast and hang out with Fr. Michael!



### NEW Y.E.S. ONLINE SERIES

Join us for a 3-week series on building intergenerational relationships!

January 16th

Looking Inward: The Path to Building Healthy Habits with Elissa Bjeletich Davis

January 23rd

Looking Outward: The Practices of Liturgy Beyond the Church Walls with Steve Christoforou

January 30th

Looking Forward: The Pursuit of Forgiving Yourself with Fr. Daniel Reese

TO SIGN UP, PLEASE FILL OUT THE GOOGLE FORM BY JANUARY 15TH!

VISIT

[yesnorthamerica.org/series](http://yesnorthamerica.org/series)

## BRIDGES:

BRINGING EVERYONE TO THE TABLE

BEGINS TUESDAY, JANUARY 16TH

5-6:30PM PT  
8-9:30PM ET

High school students, college students, and adults of all ages are welcome!

- Speakers will each reflect on a topic
- YES leaders will facilitate small group sessions
- Each participant will spend time with their Bridge Buddy, a person from another age group

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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



### Antiochian-MEN SUDS WITH PADRE

Saturday January 6

Men, save the date for Suds with Padre, a night out following Vespers. We will pray together during Vespers at 6PM and then make the short ride to Noco Provisions for fellowship and discussion with Father Michael.

### WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS RETREAT

January 20 @ 9:30AM

Save the date and please join us for a Women's Retreat with Fr. Michael! We'll begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and light refreshments, with Fr. Michael beginning to speak at 10AM. Soups and bread will be offered for lunch, and we ask participants to bring a salad or dessert to share. We plan to be gathered together until 2PM, and look forward to sharing fellowship with you!

