

# LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

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

### JANUARY 7, 2024

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

#### THE CHOSEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Tonight @ 8PM

The first group discussion of the series *The Chosen* will cover Season 1/ Episodes 1-3. You can still register to participate at [stnicholasgr.com/the-chosen/](http://stnicholasgr.com/the-chosen/).



#### FAMILY NIGHT STARTS THIS WEEK

Everyone is invited to participate in our Wednesday Family Night Program. Registration is not required. The schedule is as follows:

- 6 PM - Vespers/Akathist
- 6:30 PM - Spaghetti Supper
- 7 PM - Groups

#### Adult Groups

##### The Great Journey to Pascha:

In the depths of winter, this class will explore the "Lenten Spring" of Great Lent, its prayers, services, history, and meaning in our life throughout the year. We will use the classic book "Great Lent" by Father Alexander Schmemmann as our guide for this course. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of our Lenten traditions and practices and their application to our lives as Orthodox Christians all through the year.

##### The Mystical Life

In this course, we will explore our encounter with God as practiced through our Sacramental participation as well as in the ascetical practices of prayer, fastings, and almsgiving.

#### Youth Groups

Each of these groups will encounter faith-based fun, fellowship, and challenge.

- SOYO: grades 7-12
- JOY: grades 4-6,
- HOPE: grades 3 & younger

#### THIS WEEK

##### Sunday, January 7

8:50AM—Orthros &  
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

SOYO Leadership Meeting  
during Coffee Hour

5PM—SOYO Teen Night/  
Christmas Party

8PM—*The Chosen* Zoom  
Group Discussion

##### Wednesday, January 10

Family Night

6PM—Vespers

6:30PM—Dinner

7PM—Groups

##### Thursday, January 11

10AM—Bible Study

11AM—St. Xenia's Circle

6PM—Parish Council  
Meeting

6PM—Stewardship  
Leadership Meeting

7PM—Ministry of Fun  
Leadership Meeting

##### Friday, January 12

10AM—OK Mama:  
Moms & Kids Playdate

##### Saturday, January 13

9:30AM—HOPE/JOY:  
Pancakes with Padre

10:30AM—Choir Rehearsal

6PM—Great Vespers  
Followed by Confession



## BISHOP ANTHONY'S NAME DAY/BIRTHDAY

**Tuesday, January 16 @ 6PM**

Bishop ANTHONY has invited us to celebrate with him and the faithful of St. George the Vespertine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Anthony. This service will be held at St. George.

On Wednesday, January 17 is Bishop ANTHONY's Names Day and Birthday; be sure to wish him many blessings!

## THE BATTLE OF KNOWLEDGE

**Sunday, January 21 @ Coffee Hour**

Since the parish had such a fun time last year playing Jeopardy, the Ministry of Fun is sponsoring the Battle of Knowledge (Jeopardy) again this year to see who, if anyone, can beat last year's JOY champions! Sign up to play today: [stnicholasgr.com/battle](http://stnicholasgr.com/battle).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Susan Mast ALS Foundation needs volunteers the last Friday of each month to help deliver meals in the Grand Rapids area. Each volunteer will deliver a tote full of meals to 1-2 families. Meal pickup will take place between 9:30AM—2PM at the Susan Mast ALS Foundation's office (2500 Waldorf Court, Grand Rapids, 49544). The meals are frozen and need to be delivered on the same day as pick up. Volunteers can commit a month at a time. Contact Greg Storey if you are interested in volunteering at [gregorystorey1@gmail.com](mailto:gregorystorey1@gmail.com).

## THE WORD MAGAZINE

*The Word* is the official news magazine of the Antiochian Archdiocese. Published monthly (with the exception of July and August) the magazine circulates to the households of all members of the Antiochian Archdiocese. While content is primarily intended to keep readers informed of Orthodox news, it also educates and inspires with articles on faith and practice. The Word magazine is free to all Antiochian Orthodox members. To subscribe or submit an address change visit: <http://ww1.antiochian.org/address-updates>.

### SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024

To plan your giving this year, please consider the following annual opportunities:

March (on Orthodoxy Sunday): Seminarians

March: Patriarchate

October: Orthodox Seminaries

October: Special Olympics

During Great Lent: Food for Hungry People (FFHP)

Decorations for Palm Sunday/Pascha

November/December: Meijer Simply Give

November/December: Winter Gear for Camelot Community

December: Christmas Decorating

December: Santa's Helpers



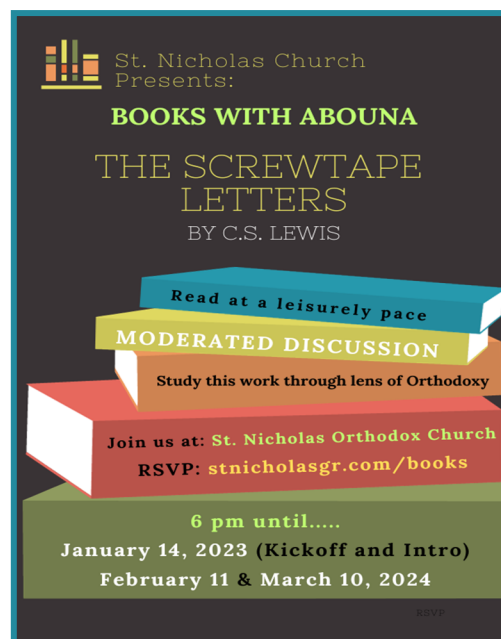
**Sunday, January 14**

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

12PM—Hospitality Team Meeting

6PM—Books with Abouna Discussion #1 of The Screwtape Letters



### THANK YOU

On behalf of the Susan Mast ALS Foundation, I would like to thank St. Nicholas Orthodox Church for your very generous Gift of St. Nicholas donation. Your contributions helps us to continue our mission of providing excellent support to ALS patients, families, and caregivers living in West Michigan. Thank you again for your Support!

Sincerely,  
Julie Snelling  
Executive Director  
Susan Mast ALS Foundation

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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



## OK MAMA

### Mom's & Kid's Play Date

**Friday January 12 @ 10AM**

Welcome to the new year and our first play date of 2024! We will see you at the East Grand Rapids Public Library (746 Lakeside Dr SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506). Moms and Kiddos, we will have a lovely time seeing each other after the Nativity festivities and what a great time to get a few books! This is a pan-Orthodox event so feel free to bring a friend...the more the merrier! Please reach out with any questions, Hannah is happy to help- or find us on FB (search O.K. Mama). See you soon!

### Mom's Night Out

**Thursday, January 18 @ 7:30PM**

Mom's Night out! Yay! We are meeting at the Gravity Taphouse Grill (3210 Deposit Dr NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546) for fellowship, food and drinks! Doesn't that sound lovely? A beautiful time to meet up with our Pan-Orthodox sisters and reconnect! We can't wait to see you there! Please bring a friend, a smile or just yourself. Ask Hannah Seeley or visit our FB group (O.K. Mama) if you have any questions!

## FORERUNNERS

**Thursday, January 18 @ Noon**

Happy New Year! We always kick off the New Year with our fun-filled White Elephant Gift Exchange. Join us at noon for lunch followed by this amusing event. Bring a "gift" of your choice and a secret poem will lead you to your heart's desire...or not! Please bring an appetizer or salad.

## YOUNG ADULTS

**Wednesday, January 10**

We'll be prepping and cooking the meal for Family Night, then taking down the Christmas Tree following Family Night. Please plan to help as many hands make light work!

**Saturday, January 13**

following Vespers

We'll be getting together for a winter bonfire at the farm of Scott Storey (10840 Midway Rd. Clarksville, MI 48815). If you want to carpool from Vespers, please see Ethan DeJonge. Please bring snacks, drinks, or food to make over the fire. We will keep the fire warm, but make sure you bundle up!

## 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:**

January 7, 21

February 11, 18, 25

March 17 (Cheesefare)

## 12TH ANNUAL DINNER FOR HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY

**Thursday, January 18**

5-8:30PM @

St. George Orthodox Church  
(5191 Lennon Rd., Flint, MI 48507)

You may attend in person or via livestream. For more information, to make a donation, and to register online, go to: [saintgeorgeflint.org](http://saintgeorgeflint.org).



## 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 later than Sunday, December 24, to allow time for the vetting and application process prior to the General Assembly.

## YOUTH IN ACTION

### HOPE & JOY PANCAKES WITH PADRE!

Next Saturday, January 13 @ 9:30-11:00 AM

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! Please sign up at: [stnicholasgr.com/youth/](http://stnicholasgr.com/youth/)



## 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.

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

## 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

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

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