

LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

JANUARY 14, 2024

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

FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY

This Tuesday, January 16 @ 6PM @ St. George

Bishop ANTHONY will preside over the Vespers-Liturgy at St. George for the Feast of St. Anthony this Tuesday. Following the service, everyone is invited to their Banquet Center for a celebratory meal. Please arrive at St. George by 5:45 pm so that you can be prepared to welcome His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY.

St. Nicholas Church
Presents:

BOOKS WITH ABOUNA

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS
BY C.S. LEWIS

Read at a leisurely pace

MODERATED DISCUSSION
Study this work through lens of Orthodoxy

Join us at: St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
RSVP: stnicholasgr.com/books

6 pm until.....
January 14, 2023 (Kickoff and Intro)
February 11 & March 10, 2024

BOOKS WITH ABOUNA

Group Discussion #1
Sunday, January 14
@ 6PM (RSVP)

Everyone is invited to join us for the first of three discussions on the book *The Screwtape Letters*. We hope that everyone can join in-person, but for those who can't, please join us on Zoom. Christine Elias is preparing food for those attending in-person.

Registration: stnicholas.com/books/

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 14

8:50AM—Orthros &
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Hospitality Team Meeting

6PM—Books with Abouna

Discussion #1 of

The Screwtape Letters

Tuesday, January 16

6PM—Vespers-Liturgy for
the Feast of St. Anthony

@ St. George

Wednesday, January 17

Family Night

6PM—Vespers

6:30PM—Dinner

7PM—Groups

Thursday, January 18

10AM—Bible Study

12PM—Forerunners Lunch/
White Elephant Exchange

6PM—Stewardship

Leadership Meeting

7:30PM—Moms Night Out

Saturday, January 20

9:30AM—Women of St.
Nicholas Retreat

6PM—Great Vespers
followed by Confession

Sunday, January 21

8:50AM—Orthros &
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Trivia/Battle of Knowledge
during Coffee Hour

8PM—*The Chosen* Group
Discussion #2 on Zoom

BATTLE OF KNOWLEDGE

Sunday, January 21

@ Coffee Hour

Everyone is invited to participate in this trivia-based fun-filled competition. Don't miss out on the comradery! Want to play? Sign up at stnicholasgr.com/battle. Pizza lunch provided.

JEOPARDY GAME

BATTLE OF KNOWLEDGE

JANUARY 21
during Coffee Hour

There are 2 ways to play

- Form your own team or
- Sign up & you will be placed on a team

REGISTER AT
STNICHOLASGR.COM/BATTLE

DISPOSING OF ICONS

Each year, questions arise regarding what to do with printed materials containing icons, such as calendars, obituary cards, newsletters, etc. We should never throw any icon in the trash, regardless of the material on which it is seen. We should dispose of unwanted printed materials containing icons in one of the following ways:

- ⇒ Burn the icon and place the ashes under a tree, bush, or other place where it won't be trampled.
- ⇒ Bring **only the pages** containing the printed icons to the church and place them in the "ICON" bin outside the church offices. We will burn the icons for you.

VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY PARTICIPATION

Our Annual Parish General Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, January 28 following the Divine Liturgy. We encourage everyone to attend in-person but are allowing physically absent members to attend via Zoom if they are classified in one of the following categories: shut-in/homebound, illness/hardship, or greater than 100 miles from St. Nicholas.

Those who are eligible to attend virtually must agree to the following:

- ◇ Complete the online registration form at stnicholasgr.com/general-assembly by Wednesday, January 24 @ noon
- ◇ Will read all emailed documents for meeting prior to attendance.
- ◇ Will login to Zoom no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting and update their screen name to read as follows: Last name, first name of all participants sharing that device's screen.
- ◇ Will have their camera running and be present in view for the entire meeting (exception restroom breaks). Note: Zoom attendees will be on the video screen for everyone to see.
- ◇ Will use the Chat function (ONLY) in Zoom for all questions and/or comments. (No verbal communication will be allowed on Zoom, only chat.)
- ◇ Will be muted the entire time and will not call or ask for proxy communication.
- ◇ Voting link will be sent in Chat along with all communication. Virtual attendees will have 10 minutes to vote.
- ◇ If not able to join due to technical support, leaving meeting early, or not being visibly present the entire time, will be considered a non-attendee.

CREATION CARE UPDATE

A small group of Calvin College biology seniors completed a plant inventory of the church property this past fall semester for their senior project. In their study they found that the quantity of native plants was unexpectedly high



compared to the non-native plants. They did still find some invasive species on the property and presented us with suggestions on how to remove them. It was a joy to see the students' passion for caring for our land!

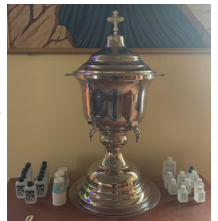
COFFEE HOUR HOST SIGN UP ONLINE

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:**

February 11, 18, 25
March 17 (Cheesefare)

HOLY WATER AVAILABLE

The water blessed at the Feast of Theophany is available year round for anyone who wants to refill their Holy Water containers. The Holy Water font can be found in the chapel and all are encouraged to take of this blessed gift of God.



THE CHOSEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Next Sunday @ 8PM

The first group discussion of the series *The Chosen* had over 20 people participating! Next Sunday we will discuss Season 1/Episodes 4-6. You can still register to participate at stnicholasgr.com/the-chosen/. You will find information there for the zoom link.



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.

January 7: Season 1, Episodes 1-3
January 21: Season 1, Episodes 4-6
February 4: Season 1, 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!
(This event is sponsored by the Films with Father Ministry)

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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



FORERUNNERS

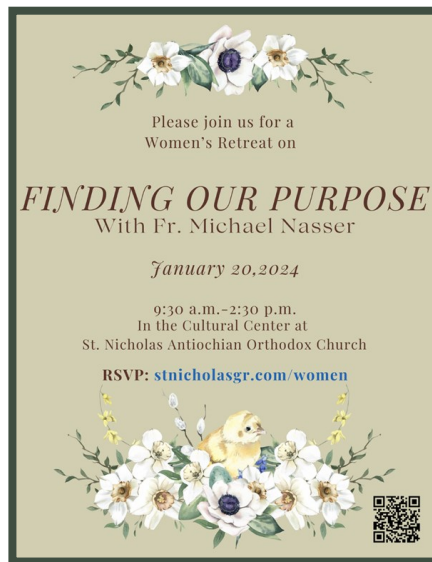
Thursday, January 18 @ Noon

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.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, January 20

Ladies, you are invited to attend the upcoming retreat "Finding Our Purpose" with guest speaker Fr. Michael Nasser.



The schedule is as follows:

- 9:30AM - Continental Breakfast & Mingling
- 10AM - Akathist Service
- 10:45AM - Session One
- 11:45AM - Lunch
- 12:45PM - Session Two
- 1:45PM - Q&A
- 2:30PM - Dismissal

Register at: stnicholasgr.com/women.

Don't miss this opportunity to come together as Christian women to grow in the Orthodox Faith.

SUDS WITH PADRE

A-MEN (Men's Group) enjoyed a great time of fellowship last week Saturday after Vespers with 26 men in attendance!

We encourage every man to engage with their brothers in Christ by attending future Men's activities. Watch your email and the church bulletin for details.



O.K. MAMA

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 (OK Mama) if you have any questions!

Mom's & Kid's Play Date

Friday January 26, @ 10AM

O.K. Mamas (caregivers, etc), Hannah Nelson (St George) has graciously invited us to her home for a playdate! We will be meeting on . (Nelson home 4531 Orchard Creek Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546) We will gather our kiddos for some Pan-Orthodox, informal relationship building (ie-playtime) to strengthen our community (sounds good right?! Need more info? Have questions? Hannah Seeley is the one to ask, or visit our FB group: O.K. Mama! We can't wait to see you there!



FAMILY (PARISH) NIGHT

Week one of Family Night was a success, and everyone is welcome to attend any and every Wednesday evening for the next seven weeks.

Registration is not required. The schedule is as follows:

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

Adult Groups

- ⇒ The Great Journey to Pascha
- ⇒ The Mystical Life

Youth Groups

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

- ⇒ SOYO (grades 7-12)
- ⇒ JOY (grades 4-6)
- ⇒ HOPE (grades 3 & younger)



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

STRATEGIC PLANNING

For updated information go to: stnicholasgr.com/parishioners

SUBMISSION REMINDERS

Announcements and Holy Oblations are due by noon each Wednesday.

Submit Announcements:

announcements@stnicholasgr.com

Submit Holy Oblations:

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 and do so directly online.