



LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

JANUARY 21, 2024

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday, January 28 following Divine Liturgy

We encourage every member of the parish to make a priority to attend next Sunday's General Assembly. This annual meeting affords everyone the opportunity to participate in the business of the parish. A printed version of the General Assembly booklet will be distributed after the Divine Liturgy today. An electronic version is accessible at the following link: stnicholasgr.com/general-assembly. We encourage everyone to read the booklet in preparation for the annual meeting and to direct questions prior to the meeting to the appropriate person as indicated in the booklet. Childcare and lunch will be provided.

We encourage everyone to attend in-person, but we are allowing 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.

The deadline to complete the online registration form so that you can attend the meeting via Zoom is **this Wednesday, January 24 @ noon**. To register go to stnicholasgr.com/general-assembly.

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH-WIDE ADULT & FAMILY RETREAT

Saturday, February 3 @ 10AM-2PM

Being present and focused during the Liturgy can be difficult, but we were made for a deep connection with God, not a passive one! This film series by Faithtree Resources was created to help us better experience the peace God offers us in the Divine Liturgy.

All Adults and High School Students will participate in The Greatest Invitation film series led by Fr. Michael, Fr. David and Dn. Justin. Learning & activities also for Grades Pre/K - 8th!

Schedule:

10AM - Continental Breakfast

10:30AM- Session 1: The Liturgy Mindset

Noon - Lunch

12:45PM - Session 2: The Power of Community

Be sure to RSVP for The Greatest Invitation! Register at stnicholasgr.com/retreat/



THIS WEEK

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

Wednesday, January 24

Family Night

6PM—Vespers

6:30PM—Dinner

7PM—Groups

Thursday, January 25

10AM—Bible Study

11AM—St. Xenia's Circle

Noon—Forerunners Lunch
& Event

Friday, January 26

10AM—OK Mama: Moms &
Kids Play Date

Saturday, January 27

10:30AM—Icon Decorations

5:30PM—Chrismations

6PM—Great Vespers
followed by Confession

Sunday, January 28

8:50AM—Orthros &
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Annual General Assembly
following Divine Liturgy

THE CHOSEN DISCUSSION

Tonight @ 8PM

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

Tonight is our second of three discussions which will cover Season 1, Episodes 4-6. Fr. Michael will lead each discussion from an Orthodox Christian perspective. Go to stnicholasgr.com/the-chosen/ to sign-up to receive the Discussion Group Zoom link. Invite a friend!



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)

BIBLE STUDY IN YOUR CAR

It's never too late to come to Bible Study each Thursday morning at 10AM. For those of you who have work or other conflicts and are unable to attend, please consider listening to the weekly lessons driving to and/or from work on the Bible Study podcast at stnicholasgr.com/podcasts/.

INCLIMATE WEATHER

During inclement weather, please remember to always use wisdom and caution when coming to church. Although no one prefers to remain at home during Liturgical services, especially the Divine Liturgy, there are times when the weather prevents us from attending. During these times, we encourage the faithful to watch the livestream from home. When doing so, visit our website (stnicholasgr.com) and click on the "Watch Live" button located in the ribbon at the top of the page. Additionally, be reminded that when cancellations occur, we will post the information on WOOD TV and in most cases send out a text noting the cancellation.

GRIFFINS HOCKEY W/ SHEPHERD OF INDEPENDENCE

We are again hosting the Shepherds of Independence residents to a Grand Rapids Griffins Hockey Game. ***All*** parishioners are invited to attend. Even if you can't come, please consider sponsoring a ticket for a Shepherd's Resident!

Tickets Prices:

\$25 for members of St. Nicholas.

\$40 for Shepherd's residents (includes concessions)

Registration deadline is Thursday, February 15.

Information can be found at stnicholasgr.com/hockey/.



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 will now be 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.



DISPOSING OF ICONS

As we begin the new 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.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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



FORERUNNERS

Rescheduled: Thursday, January 25 @ Noon

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. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Eileen Adolphson (eadolphson@outlook.com) or Barbara Thomas (bat47@wmis.net).

OK MAMA

Mom's & Kid's Play Date

This Friday January 26, @ 10AM

Ok Mamas (caregivers, etc), Hannah Nelson, from St George, has graciously invited us to her home (4531 Orchard Creek Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546) for a playdate! 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 (hrseeley@gmail.com) is the one to ask, or visit our FB group: O.K. Mama! We can't wait to see you there!

PARISH FAMILY NIGHT

Everyone is welcome to attend any and every Wednesday evening for the next six weeks. Registration is not required. The schedule is as follows:

- ⇒ 6PM - Vespers
- ⇒ 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)



VERSE OF THE WEEK

*Commit your work to the Lord,
and your plans will be established.*
Proverbs 16:3

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 pickup. Volunteers can commit a month at a time. Contact Greg Storey if you are interested in volunteering at 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>.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR WINTER CAMP!

Antiochian Village Winter Camp is for teens in 7th-12th grade. Transportation provided and tuition assistance offered through St. Nicholas. Please contact Dn. Justin Adolphson if you're interested in going. More information and Registration at avcamp.org/programs/winter-camp/

PANCAKES WITH PADRE

Saturday, February 24 @ 9-10:30AM

Due to last weekend's winter storm, Pancakes with Padre, for HOPE and JOY youth, has been rescheduled.



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.