

# LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

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

### JANUARY 28, 2024

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

#### THE GREAT FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

All the faithful are encouraged to attend the *Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple* this **Thursday, February 1** with Orthros at 4:50PM followed by Divine Liturgy at 6PM.

Because Christ is the "light to the nations" as proclaimed by St. Simeon when he received Christ into the Temple in His Presentation, **it is customary for people to bring candles to be blessed.** Your family is encouraged to bring candles to this service and place them on the table in front of the Nave. The bookstore will be open prior to the service for those who would like to purchase candles and have them blessed during the service. When the service is over and you come forward to receive a blessing, please take your blessed candles home.

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

#### NEW CHURCH SECRETARY

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that we have hired a new church secretary, Jeri Watson, who will begin her position this Tuesday, January 30. As a reminder, the secretarial position is a part-time position. Jeri will be working Tuesday-Friday from 9AM-3PM.



#### THIS WEEK

**Sunday, January 28**

8:50AM—Orthros &  
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Annual General Assembly  
following Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, January 31**

**Parish Family Night**

6PM—Vespers

6:30PM—Dinner

7PM—Groups

**Thursday, February 1**

10AM—Bible Study

**Great Feast of the  
Presentation of Christ  
in the Temple**

4:50PM—Orthros

6PM—Divine Liturgy

\* Blessing of Candles

**Saturday, February 3**

10AM—Adult & Family  
Retreat: *Divine Liturgy...the  
Greatest Invitation*

5PM—Byzantine Choir  
Practice

6PM—Great Vespers  
followed by Confession

**Sunday, February 4**

8:50AM—Orthros &  
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

\* Teen SOYO

Leadership Meeting

\* Women of St. Nicholas  
Meeting—Heritage Hall

5PM—SOYO Night

8PM—*The Chosen*:  
Season 1/Episode 7-8

## THE CHOSEN DISCUSSION

**Next Sunday, February 4 @ 8PM**

Come and See! If you have not had the chance to "Join the Conversation", it's not too late! On Sunday evenings with Father Michael, we have been discussing the popular TV series, *The Chosen*. Last week we filled the hour by talking about the character arcs of Simon, Jesus, and Mary and how we relate to that in our own lives. We also discussed why some miracles Jesus chose to perform were in private, while others He did publicly.

Next Sunday, we will wrap up Season One with our discussion of Episodes 7 & 8 with Father David. Stay tuned for details regarding Seasons 2 & 3 Zoom dates, as well as the upcoming Season 4, which hits theaters next week! You won't want to miss it!



## 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:** Thursday, February 15.

**Register:** [stnicholasgr.com/hockey/](http://stnicholasgr.com/hockey/).



## FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS MAILBOX



*We received the following message from the IOCC regarding the Christmas concert which raised over \$9,600 to support the IOCC:*

"We are grateful to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church for organizing and hosting the Kaleidoscope Christmas Concert Benefit this past December. The compassion of people like you ensures that families in need receive life-sustaining support. When IOCC was first founded by the hierarchs of the Orthodox Church, we committed ourselves to responding in the spirit of Christ's love to offer emergency relief and development programs. To date, with your help, we have worked in more than sixty countries providing programs that offer emergency relief, agriculture and nutrition, health, education, clean water, and economic opportunity.

It is your generosity and belief in our mission that enables us to perform this work, and we are deeply grateful for your contribution."

## 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:**

**February:** 11, 18, 25    **March:** 17 (Cheesefare)

## DEPARTED IN FEBRUARY

Remember in your prayers the following members who fell asleep in the Lord during the month of February:



2/2/2019	Lloyd Heibel
2/4/1997	Albert Philippi
2/4/2006	Subdn. Joseph Nicola
2/4/2008	Mona Bashara
2/7/2010	Marie Azkoul
2/7/2023	Robert Spicer
2/9/1975	Saleme Ayoub
2/11/1980	Donald Mickel
2/11/2001	Josephine Sickrey
2/11/2007	Mabel Sickrey
2/11/2022	Marjorie Simon
2/12/1944	Joseph Eyd
2/13/1958	Sleyman Abraham
2/14/1962	C. K. Maloley
2/15/1991	Kezma Sayfee
2/16/1944	Assad Maloley
2/17/1986	Ramza Cassis
2/19/1960	Mose Halaley
2/20/1972	Josephine Wawee
2/22/1933	Newman Azkoul
2/22/2001	Helen J. Maloley
2/24/2009	Mary Henry
2/29/1956	Adeeb Nassif

## YOUTH IN ACTION

### RESCHEDULED PANCAKES WITH PADRE

**Saturday, February 24 @ 9-10:30AM**  
HOPE and JOY—Don't miss out on this very special time with Fr. Michael!





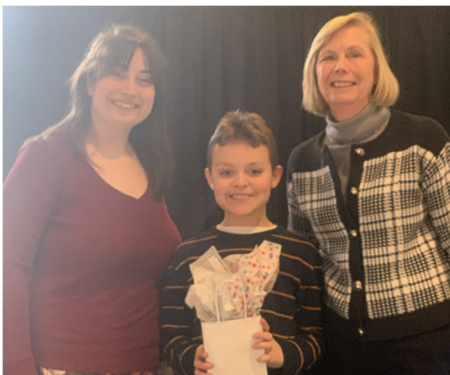
### WHO ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE?

Have you ever looked around the Nave during Divine Liturgy and wondered: "Who are all of these people? I see them most Sundays, but I have no idea who they are." If we are honest, most of us have felt this way. For those who haven't thought this, you are probably saying, "I love attending St. Nicholas each Sunday, but I wish I knew more of the people here."

Well, we have just the event for all of us to get to know each other better...**SAVE THE DATE!** More details to come!

### BATTLE OF KNOWLEDGE

Thank you to all participants to Battle of Knowledge! Our parishioners love trivia! Thank you to Christopher de Morrow, and his son, Aiden, for their efforts on putting together challenging questions. Thank you to Donna Gurk for the logistics (getting the pizza, cookies, pop, setting up the coffee and for putting the prizes together!)



And, lastly, thank you to all parishioners who joyfully participated and had a good time. Congratulations to team St. Mary (Khorey family and Elena) who came in first place. Fun was had by all! This event was sponsored by the Ministry of Fun.

### VERSE OF THE WEEK

*And you will seek Me and find Me,  
when you search for Me  
with all your heart.*

Jeremiah 29:13

### ADULT OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN YOUR FAITH

We encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities available to grow in Christ:

- ⇒ Wednesday Parish Family Night
- ⇒ Thursday Bible Study
- ⇒ Sunday Morning Adult Class
- ⇒ Adult & Family Retreat
- ⇒ Sunday Night *Screwtape Letters* Discussion Group
- ⇒ Sunday Night *The Chosen* Discussion Group

### USHERS NEEDED

The ushering ministry is still looking for volunteers. Training for ushering is mandatory before you can perform this duty. Training will be offered on February 18 following Divine Liturgy. If you'd like to join us, please gather in the cry room 10 minutes after services end.



### 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



## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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



### OK MAMA

**Friday, February 9 @ 10am**

Moms & Kids - Sledding and Hot Chocolate!

Kids, tell your mama that you want to go sledding! We are meeting at Holy Cross Orthodox Church (2828 Richmond St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504). That's right, Moms (Dads, Grandparents), we are going sledding on that magnificent hill at Holy Cross. And having hot chocolate- yum! What a fun way to enjoy this season with our Pan Orthodox friends. We hope you can come! Please note that this is a weather dependent activity, so you may want to check out our FB page (group page- search OK Mama) for any updates OR please contact Hannah Seeley @ [hrseeley@gmail.com](mailto:hrseeley@gmail.com) for questions or updates.

### WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Meeting

**Sunday February 4** following Divine Liturgy

Women of St. Nicholas (this means you if you are a woman attending St. Nicholas aged 18+), please join us for a brief meeting in Heritage Hall, which is the seating area located in the SW corner of the building just outside the Cultural Center. Come and find out about upcoming events and give us your ideas about things we could do and speakers you would be interested in!

Women's Breakfast

**Saturday, February 17 @ 9AM**

Join the Women of St Nicholas for fellowship at our monthly breakfast. Sheryl VanderWagen, St. George parishioner and President of the National Antiochian Women's Group, will be attending to tell us about the plans and initiatives of the National Women's Group.

**9AM:** Breakfast

**9:45AM:** Program begins

Contact Marian Lambert @ [gmlambert@att.net](mailto:gmlambert@att.net) or 616-648-0469 with any questions.

### WOMEN'S RETREAT RECAP

We had a wonderful retreat last weekend with over 35 women in attendance. Fr. Michael inspired and challenged us as he spoke on the topic of "Finding Our Purpose". Thank you to all of the ladies who brought the delicious soups, salads, and desserts. And a special thank you for the committee who organized this successful event.



### 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.

## CATECHUMEN WELCOME

Last Sunday, we had the joy to enroll and introduce to the parish nine new Catechumens! We are blessed that each of these people have chosen to make St. Nicholas their church home. In the weeks ahead, we encourage everyone to get to know these wonderful people – sit with them at Coffee Hour, chat with them after a service, invite them to attend an upcoming ministry event, and/or invite them over to your house for fellowship. Let's continue to extend the love of Christ!



Jeremy Carlisle



Ben & Iris Fynan



Caden Hembrough



Tony Passaniti



Adam Piotrowski



Nathan Schimeck



Manny Torres



Mary Torres

## CHRISMATIONS

After religious instruction and faithful church attendance as Catechumens, Amanda Azkoul and Sandy Tasma were chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Church. Please join us in congratulating both of these ladies.





# FEBRUARY 2024

St. Nicholas  
Orthodox Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Our Mission – What We Do</b> St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is a worshipping community living and sharing the Faith Christ gave to the Apostles.</p> <p><b>Why We Exist</b> St. Nicholas Orthodox Church exists to seek and share Christ's love so that all will find Eternal Life in Him.</p>				<p><b>1</b> <b>Great Feast of the Presentation of Christ</b></p> <p><u>10 am</u> – Bible Study <u>4:50 pm</u> – Orthros <u>6 pm</u> – Divine Liturgy *Blessing of Candles</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> <u>10 am</u> – <b>Adult &amp; Family Retreat</b> <u>5 pm</u> – Byzantine Choir Rehearsal <u>6 pm</u> – Great Vespers followed by Confession</p>
<p><b>4</b> <u>8:50 am</u> – Orthros &amp; Orthodox Education <u>10 am</u> – Divine Liturgy *Women of St. Nicholas meeting *SOYO Leadership meeting <u>5 pm</u> – SOYO Night <u>7 pm</u> – <i>The Chosen</i> Discussion Group</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> <u>7 pm</u> – Works of Mercy Leadership Meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>Parish Family Night</b> <u>6 pm</u> – Vespers <u>6:30 pm</u> – Spaghetti Supper <u>7 pm</u> – Group Meetings</p>	<p><b>8</b> NO Bible Study <u>10:30 am</u> – @Gabby's Café St. Xenia's Circle</p>	<p><b>9</b> <u>10 am</u> – @ Holy Cross Moms &amp; Kids Sledding</p>	<p><b>10</b> <u>10:30 am</u> – Choir Rehearsal <u>6 pm</u> – Great Vespers followed by Confession</p>
<p><b>11</b> <u>8:50 am</u> – Orthros &amp; Orthodox Education <u>10 am</u> – Divine Liturgy *Hospitality Team meeting <u>1 pm</u> – @ Patterson Ice Center SOYO Ice Skating</p>	<p><b>12</b> <u>6 pm</u> – @Holy Trinity FOCUS Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>No Parish Family Night</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> <u>10 am</u> – Bible Study <u>Noon</u> – @ Clique Lanes Forerunners Bowling <u>6 pm</u> – Stewardship Leadership meeting</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> <u>9 am</u> – Women of St. Nicholas Breakfast <u>6 pm</u> – Great Vespers followed by Confession</p>
<p><b>18</b> <u>8:50 am</u> – Orthros &amp; Orthodox Education <u>10 am</u> – Divine Liturgy *Usher Training</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> <u>6 pm</u> – Parish Council meeting</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>Parish Family Night</b> <u>6 pm</u> – Vespers <u>6:30 pm</u> – Spaghetti Supper <u>7 pm</u> – Group Meetings</p>	<p><b>22</b> <u>10 am</u> – Bible Study <u>11 am</u> – St. Xenia's Circle <u>7:30 pm</u> – Mom's Night Out</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> <u>9 am</u> – HOPE &amp; JOY Pancakes with Padre <u>10:30 am</u> – Choir Rehearsal <u>6 pm</u> – Great Vespers followed by Confession</p>
<p><b>25</b> <u>8:50 am</u> – Orthros &amp; Orthodox Education <u>10 am</u> – Divine Liturgy <u>5 pm</u> – Griffins Hockey Game with Shepherds of Independence <u>6 pm</u> – <i>Screwtape Letters</i> Discussion Group</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>Parish Family Night</b> <u>6 pm</u> – Vespers <u>6:30 pm</u> – Spaghetti Supper <u>7 pm</u> – Group Meetings</p>	<p><b>29</b> <u>10 am</u> – Bible Study</p>	<p>O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; For thou hast done wonderful things. Isaiah 25:1</p>	