

LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

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

OUR 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thank you to everyone who participated in the General Assembly whether in-person or virtually. We want to especially thank Farouq Karadsheh for organizing the luncheon and Jeri Watson for keeping us supplied with coffee!

Our Parish Council members are as follows:

- * **Executive Committee:** Joe David (Chairman), Mark Ansara (Vice Chairman), Joanna Abud (Secretary), and Melissa Powell (Treasurer)
- * **Other members:** Dan Abraham, Amy Amash, Sarab Hajjar, Farouq Karadsheh, Yuri Kazarov, Brian, La Franboise, and Nick Nicola (alternate)

Please thank each of these people for serving in this capacity.

FOCUS KICK-OFF MEETING

Monday, February 12 @ 6PM

Anyone interested in laying the foundation for a FOCUS hub in Grand Rapids is invited to the kick-off meeting being held at Holy Trinity (330 Lakeside Dr. NE). At the meeting we will review the plan, build the team, and begin the process. Dinner will be served.

RSVP by tomorrow, February 5 to schristoforou@focusna.org.

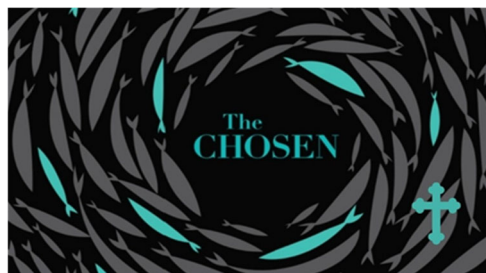
FOCUS is a pan-Orthodox non-profit organization which exists to serve the poor by bringing together Orthodox Christian churches and community partners to provide Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter and other assistance to address the needs of local communities.

THE CHOSEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Tonight @ 8PM

Join us via Zoom to discuss the popular TV series, *The Chosen*, depicting the Gospel and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Tonight, we will wrap up Season 1 with our discussion of Episodes 7 and 8 with Father David. We will talk about one of the most profound scenes in the series, where Jesus and Nicodemus meet in secret at night. You won't want to miss it! Stay tuned for details regarding Seasons 2 and 3 Zoom dates, as well as the upcoming Season Four.



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.

THIS WEEK

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* Discussion Group

Season 1/Episodes 7-8

Tuesday, February 6

7PM—Works of Mercy Leadership Meeting

Wednesday, February 7

Parish Family Night

6PM—Vespers

6:30PM—Dinner

7PM—Groups

Thursday, February 8

10AM—Bible Study

10:30AM—St. Xenia's Circle @ Gabby's Café

Friday, February 9

10AM—OK Mama: Moms & Kids Sledding @ Holy Cross



The Discussion Group Zoom link is posted on the church calendar. Invite a friend!



GRIFFINS HOCKEY W/ SHEPHERD OF INDEPENDENCE

Sunday, February 25 @ 5PM

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.

Ticket Prices:

\$25 for members of St. Nicholas.

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

Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 15.

Register: stnicholasgr.com/hockey/.



MINISTRY TEAM NEEDS

Ushers

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.

Bookstore Assistants

We are looking for volunteers to staff the Church Bookstore after each Sunday Divine Liturgy. Volunteers would work one or two times per month. The duties are super easy: be on duty for approximately 20 minutes, be friendly, and swipe a credit card. Please talk with Leo Olson or email him at rleoolson@gmail.com.

Health Ministry Chair

We are still in need of a chair for our Health Ministry. The chairperson is responsible for communicating within the team, organizing monthly blood pressure checks, overseeing the stocking of first aid kits, and verifying the operation of our AED. Please contact Keith if you are interested.

TIPS ON BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

This week's tip: **Be the first to say "hello".** When you see someone at church, greet them. Even if you can't remember their name, at least say "hello", "good morning", or "nice to see you". Let's continue to create a warm and friendly environment at our church.



PARISH FAMILY NIGHT

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

- ⇒ 6PM - Vespers
- ⇒ 6:30PM - Spaghetti Dinner
- ⇒ 7PM - Groups

Saturday, February 10

10:30AM—Choir Rehearsal

5PM—Byzantine Choir Practice

6PM—Great Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday, February 11

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

* Hospitality Team Meeting

1PM—SOYO Ice Skating @ Patterson Ice Center

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
- ⇒ Sunday Night *Screwtape Letters* Discussion Group
- ⇒ Sunday Night *The Chosen* Discussion Group

CHURCH SECRETARY

Last week, we welcomed Jeri Watson, our new church secretary. Jeri can be contacted Tuesday-Friday between 9-3PM. Email her at secretary@stnicholasgr.com.

CHRISMATION

After religious instruction and faithful church attendance as a Catechumen, Katelyn Kars was chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Church. Please join us in congratulating her.



VERSE OF THE WEEK

*Now this is the confidence
that we have in Him,
that if we ask anything according
to His will, He hears us.*

1 John 5:14

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Venerating Icons

Our Faith teaches us that it is proper to venerate icons, which we can do by kissing or with simply a bow. We do not kiss icons on the face, but either on the hands or feet, or the scroll, the Gospel book, or cross the person is holding. Please NEVER kiss an icon, while wearing any lipstick or lip balm.

Arriving to Church

Each family at St. Nicholas is making a commitment to arrive at services early or at least on time. We all understand that "life" happens and sometimes hinders punctuality. Please remember that if you arrive 15 minutes after the posted start time of a Divine Liturgy to use Entrances A (main front doors) or Entrance B (west facing glass door) if you are parking in the front of the church, or Entrance J (east facing glass door located between the buildings) if you park in the back of the church.

A House of Prayer

Did you know that our church chapel is open weekdays, Tuesday-Friday, from 9AM-5PM for those who desire to stop by and pray? When you arrive, use Entrance G (office entrance) and let a staff member know of your arrival before heading to the Nave to pray.

Please Join Our SPEED SOCIAL

MARCH 2ND
7-9 PM

All adult women and men of St. Nicholas are invited for a fun night of camaraderie and games! You will get a chance to make new friends and get to know others better!

Snacks and beverages will be provided.
Feel free to bring your adult beverage of choice!

Please RSVP by February 28, 2024
<https://stnicholasgr.com/adult-social/>



YOUTH IN ACTION

TEEN SOYO ICE SKATING

Next Sunday, February 11 @ 1-3PM

All members of Teen SOYO (Grades 7-12) are invited to join us at Patterson Ice Center (2550 Patterson Ave. SE 49546) for open skating!

Lunch will be provided during Coffee Hour for any teen who's coming.
Cost: \$10 per teen (includes ice skates)



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 for questions or updates.

WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Meeting

Today, February 4 following Divine Liturgy

Women of St. Nicholas (meaning all women 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 at gmlambert@att.net or 616-648-0469 with any questions.

FORERUNNERS

Bowling Tournament

Thursday, February 15 @ Noon

Back by popular demand! Join us at Clique Lanes (533 Stocking NW, Grand Rapids) for our bowling tournament. Games and shoe rental are \$3 each. Lunch baskets will be paid for by the Forerunners. Contact Eileen (eadolphson47@gmail.com) if you have questions.

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.