



LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

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

To Our St. Nicholas Family,

We thank all of you for your love and support as we traveled one of the most difficult journeys of our lives last week. Whether you were with us from the beginning of Kevin's illness or during the end, we appreciate the prayers, love, and help you gave us. Each of your acts of kindness: food, a word, a hug, or a pat on the back, filled us with the grace to successfully finish our sad journey.

We can only thank you for your assistance and prayers as Kevin joins our beloved ones who have gone before him. May he rest in peace.

Memory Eternal!

Fr. Elias, Kh. Marion, Mark and Jacklyn Mitchell

IOCC – KENTUCKY DISASTER RELIEF TRIP

Monday, March 11– Saturday, March 16

IOCC needs our help! Families are still rebuilding their homes from the 2021 tornadoes that swept through western Kentucky. They continue to need help with minor repairs, restoration of garages and outbuildings, and removal of debris. Our Works of Mercy Team has organized a relief trip to address the need. There are three ways that you can answer the call:

- ♦ **Pray for the team.**
- ♦ **Make a donation** to minimize the individual cost for our St. Nicholas team members. *We all wish that we could participate in these opportunities, but physical limitations, work issues, and/or family priorities prevent us. However, by making a donation, you can support this important effort of those who can be your hands and feet.* Donate via check, cash, or Venmo and include "IOCC—Kentucky" in the memo.
- ♦ **Join the Crew.** Register at stnicholasgr.com/iocc-kentucky/ before March 3. IOCC will provide transportation, housing, and food. Contact Jeanine Heibel at JeaHeib@gmail.com or 616-826-0288 with questions.

REGISTRATION EXTENDED—GRIFFINS HOCKEY

Next Sunday, February 25 @ 5PM

Registration deadline: **Today, February 18.**

Registration and more information: stnicholasgr.com/hockey/.



HOST A COFFEE HOUR

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 25 and March 10, 17 (Cheesefare), and 3/31

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 18

8:50AM—Orthros &
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

* Usher Ministry Training

Tuesday, February 20

6PM—Parish Council
Meeting

Wednesday, February 21

Parish Family Night

6PM—Vespers

6:30PM—Dinner

7PM—Groups

Thursday, February 22

No Bible Study

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

7:30PM—OK Mama: Moms
Night Out—Galentine's

Saturday, February 24

9AM—HOPE & JOY:
Pancakes with Padre

10:30AM—Choir Rehearsal

6PM—Great Vespers
followed by Confession

Sunday, February 25

8:50AM—Orthros &
Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

5PM—Griffins Hockey with
Shepherds of Independence

6PM—Books with Abouna:
Screw Tape Letters,
by C.S. Lewis

THIS WEEK'S TIP ON BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

One of the best ways to get to know people is to get involved in one of the many events at St. Nicholas. **Speed Social** takes place on Saturday, March 2, and is the perfect event to get to know others and build relationships! (See article below for information).

SPEED SOCIAL

March 2 @ 7-9PM

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. All adult women and men 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.

RSVP @ by February 28 - stnicholasgr.com/adult-social

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and of good courage;
do not be afraid, nor be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you
wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9



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

RSVP

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.

Sunday, March 3: Season 2, Episodes 1-3

Sunday, March 17: Season 2, Episodes 4-6

Sunday, March 31: Season 2, 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)



MEALS SPONSORS FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (OCF)

Our West Michigan chapter of OCF is looking for meal sponsors for their meetings on **March 12 and March 19**. Meals should feed 15-20 people and can be either home-cooked or purchased from a restaurant. If you're interested in volunteering, please see Dn. Justin Adolphson, Schuyler Brinks or Emily Cameron.

YES
NORTH + AMERICA

YOUTH EQUIPPED TO SERVE
creates formative opportunities that equip participants to serve each person as the image of Christ. The three core opportunities we offer are YES Trips, Series, and Internships.

YES Day Trips and College Days are experiences of service designed by YES and facilitated by YES leaders for local students and young adults. Participants are exposed to and engaged with the poverty of their own community, and given the training and resources to be consistent servant leaders.

 To set up a Trip, scan here:

"Youth Equipped to Serve has truly equipped me and fellow youth to not only understand how to serve but put it into action. Our youth group had amazing leaders that challenged us and taught us what it looks like to make a difference in our community."
- Anna M., YES Trip participant



 

 The **YES Series** provides a meaningful and intentional community for youth and young adults across the country to dive into important and relevant topics. Led by Steve Christoforou and Katrina Bitar, participants receive practical guidance on living life in Christ and reflect in small groups led by YES Leaders.

The **YES Internship Experience** offers interns the opportunity to identify their values, strengthen their voice, and explore their vocation. Interns will bring the YES mission to their communities through an individualized project designed to meet a local need.



The YES Program aims to present to young people, the one true Way of life- living for the sake of the other. Our prayer for the students that come through our program is that they embrace life in Christ themselves and are empowered to live it!

To support these programs and give a gift to YES, scan here:
or visit yesnorthamerica.org



OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED

With so many so new to our Orthodox Faith, we are making an effort to educate everyone on some of the small "t" traditions of living out our faith in Christ in our parish. One of these important traditions is supporting our brothers and sisters as they mourn the loss of loved ones.

Meals of Mercy, Coffee Hours or Other Meals

On these occasions, the family of the Departed hosts a meal for the visitors, thanking those who have come for their love and support. Guests at these meals should make a point to personally thank the family for their hospitality, once again offering their condolences.

PARISH FAMILY NIGHT RESUMES



Everyone is welcome to attend any of the remaining Wednesday evenings of the winter session: 2/21, 2/28, 3/6. Registration is not required. The schedule is as follows:

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



"THE GREATEST INVITATION" COURSEBOOK AND VIDEOS

If anyone is interested in the coursebook from our February 3 parish retreat on the Divine Liturgy, copies are now available in the library. Access to the videos is also available. See Dn. Justin Adolphson if you're interested. Keep an eye out for information on Part 2.

SAVE THE DATE

2024 DIOCESE OF TOLEDO
PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

 ROMANS 8:28

All Saints and Holy Transfiguration invite you to join us for a few days of Christian fellowship, prayer, and fun for all ages. Whether you are new to the Diocese or have been attending PLCs for many years, we welcome each of you and your families. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know you at the Toledo Diocese Parish Life Conference in Chicago-Land in June 2024!

DATE	LOCATION
June 26-29 Wednesday - Saturday	Chicago Marriott Oak Brook 1401 W 22nd St, Oak Brook, IL 60523



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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



WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Educational Grant

Each year the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America awards grants in the minimum amount of \$500 to help women with the cost of education or training. To qualify for the grant one must:

- * be a female 26 years of age or older.
- * be a member in good standing of their Antiochian parish.
- * be actively involved in the worship, service and social life of her parish.
- * be applying for or registered in an academic or trade study program (seminars and workshops are not covered).
- * demonstrate financial need.

The Grant Committee must receive applications by June 1. Applications can be found at: <https://stnicholasgr.com/scholarships/>.

Ethnic Dining over Lunch or Dinner?

Interest has been expressed by several women in the parish in getting together for lunch or dinner and exploring a variety of ethnic dining options throughout the Grand Rapids area. If you are interested in joining other women in the parish in dining out occasionally in a variety of different restaurants, please send an email or text to Marian Lambert letting her know of your interest. Based on interest, we will make plans for an outing! gmlambert@att.net (616) 648-0469.

Save the Date: Women's Paint Night with Nathan Adolphson

Thursday, March 14 @ 6:30PM

More details coming soon!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 9 @ 9:00-10:30AM

Join us for the men's monthly breakfast in the Gathering Room. Our guest speaker will be (tentatively) Father Joshua from Holy Trinity. He will speak on how to prepare for Lent in your life.

YOUTH IN ACTION

HOPE/JOY: PANCAKES WITH PADRE

Rescheduled: This Saturday, February 24 @ 9-10:30AM

Don't miss out on this very special time with Fr. Michael!

Register at: stnicholasgr.com/youth.



SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION NEEDED!

If your child or teen is registered for Antiochian Village Summer camp *or* is on the waiting list, please contact Dn. Justin Adolphson or Gretchen Zahn so we can arrange transportation.



If you are seeking a camp scholarship from St. Nicholas, please see Dn. Justin Adolphson ASAP! **Scholarship requests are due March 3!**

OK MAMA

Join us for Mom's Night Out and Moms & Kids outings:

Contact: Hannah Seeley @ hrseeley@gmail.com

or visit our

Facebook group: O.K. Mama

Moms Night Out: "Galentine's"

This Thursday, February 22

@ 7:30PM

Happy "Gal"entines, Mamas! We are meeting at Emily Campbell's home (3271 Hidden Hills Ct SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546) for a party! What are we celebrating? Christ's love and the gift of friendship, of course! Please come, and bring a friend or two. We are an all-welcoming group of Pan Orthodox Mamas, and we can't wait to see you!

Moms and Kids Morning: Butterflies!

Friday, March 1 @ 10AM

Who loves spring and warm sunny days? Good! Meet us at Frederik Meijer Gardens (1000 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525). It may not be sunny, but it will be warm as we visit the "Butterflies are Blooming" exhibit! What a special outing with our Pan-Orthodox friends! We do hope you can come! There is more information at the website: <https://www.meijergardens.org>. Please note that there is a cost for admission to the gardens (\$20 for adults, \$10 for 3-13 yr. old's, free for 2 and under).