

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW
HIEROMARTYR BLAISE, BISHOP OF SEBASTIA,
AND COMPANIONS**

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

**ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2250 East Paris Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-954-2700 ▪ info@stnicholasgr.com ▪ stnicholasgr.com



CLERGY

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA
Archbishop of New York & Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

Very Reverend Michael Nasser
Pastor ▪ 616-216-3537 ▪ frmichael@stnicholasgr.com

Reverend David Khorey
Associate Pastor ▪ 616-450-7539 ▪ frdavid@stnicholasgr.com

V. Rev. Elias Mitchell
Rev. Theodore Sirotko
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff
Rev. Deacon John Kaufman
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book and taking a visitor's packet both located on the table in the Narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us for refreshments & fellowship in the Cultural Center.

We believe **Holy Communion** to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, & regular confession are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

WHO WE ARE

St. Nicholas Church is a worshipping community, living and sharing the Faith Christ gave to the Apostles.

Our parish exists to seek and share Christ's love so that all will find eternal life in Him.

We would love to share more about our Orthodox Faith with you. Our website and our bookstore are great resources to assist you in learning more about us and what we believe! Also, feel free to make an appointment with our pastor.

We trust that you will experience Christ's presence as you worship with us today.



HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

HYMNS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. BLAISE (TONE 4)

By choosing the Apostles' way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Holy Martyr among bishops Blaise. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)

Thy work of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness richness. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our soul.

ORDINARY KONTAKION (TONE 2)

O undisputed intercessor of Christians. The mediatrix who is unrejected by the Creator. Turn not away from the voice of our petitions, although we are sinners. Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith. For thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos. Who dost ever intercede for those who honor Thee.

EPISTLE

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.
Clap your hands, all ye peoples.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians 6:1-10

Brethren, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 8:8

The Lord spoke this parable: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying: "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying: "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying: "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." As Jesus said these things He cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

SYNAXARION

(Lives of the Saints of the Day)

On February 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Hieromartyr Blaise, bishop of Sebastia, and his companions.

Verses

Since the throat of Blaise was with the sword clean severed,
From ailing throats he averteth harmful humors.

On the eleventh, unyielding bronze cut the neck of Blaise.

Born in Cappadocia, Blaise (Vlassios) was meek and God-fearing from early childhood. During a period of violent persecution of Christians, Blaise encouraged his flock and visited the martyrs in prison, among them the famous Eustratius. Later in life, Blaise retired to the mountain of Argeos and lived there in a cave. Ferocious wild beasts, recognizing a holy man, came to him and he gently tamed them. Persecutors sent by the emperor Licinius found the saint in that hidden spot and took him for trial. On the way there, Blaise healed a boy who had a bone stuck in his throat and, at the petition of a poor widow, made the wolf that had taken her pig return it to her. The dark judges tortured him, flogging him terribly. By his steadfastness, Blaise brought many unbelievers to the Christian Faith. Seven women and two children were thrown into prison with him. Together, they suffered and were glorified on this day in 316. Blaise's prayers are sought for the health and well-being of domestic animals and for protection from wild beasts. He is also invoked against ailing and sore throats.

On this day, we also commemorate Theodora the empress; and New-martyr George of Serbia.

By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

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TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of Semman and Olga Sarah on the one-year anniversary of their falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Victor, Sarab, Eli, Joseph, and Mariam. May their memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Chris Khorey on his birthday, offered by Fr David and Jenny Khorey. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Cody and Jennifer DeLonge on the occasion of their February 26 birthdays, offered by Sam and Wendie Bander. May God grant them many years!

For the Health and Blessings of all of those born in February, offered by Sam and Wendie Bander. *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9.

In memory of Marjorie Simon on the second anniversary of her falling asleep in our Lord, offered by Glenn and Linda Zimmerman. May her memory be Eternal!

REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*Names are added to the Prayer List
for one week by offering Holy Oblation
or for up to 40 days in the case of an ongoing serious illness.*

LIVING

Metropolitan PAUL
Archbishop JOHN

For all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty
in the Middle East, Armenia, Ukraine, Sudan
and throughout the world

For the residents of Shepherds of Independence
and those who serve them

For those who were born in the month of February

Chris Khorey	Joe Corey
Cody DeLonge	David Corey
Jennifer DeLonge	Michael Ellis
Dan Abraham	Len Lenhart
MaryAnn Maloley	Tillie Sayfie
Audrey Nicoloff	Andrew Martin



DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Kevin Mitchell

All the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty
in the Middle East, Armenia, Ukraine, Sudan
and throughout the world

DEPARTED

Semman Sarah
Olga Sarah
Marjorie Simon