



LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

MARCH 24, 2024

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

THE JOYOUS FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

We encourage you to take advantage of each of the beautiful services celebrating the Annunciation, where archangel Gabriel came to the Virgin Mary and delivered the message of Salvation.

Tonight (5 pm) - Vespers followed by a festal meal
Annunciation Orthodox Church
185 E. Pontaluna Rd. Muskegon 49444

Tomorrow, Monday, March 25 (6PM) - Vesperal Liturgy
followed by a fish taco dinner @ St. Nicholas

ST. NICHOLAS TO HOST AKATHIST

This Friday, March 29

St. Nicholas is hosting the Akathist service this Friday. Each family is asked to bring a Lenten dessert, appetizer, or fruit tray. Please have the Lenten food items that you bring ready to be served. Because this is a Pan-Orthodox event, many people will be attending, so we encourage everyone to participate.

THE GREATEST INVITATION: ROUND 2!

Saturday, April 20

All Adults and High School Students are invited to participate in Part 2 of the Divine Liturgy film series led by Fr. Michael, Fr. David, and Dn. Justin. Grades Pre/K - 8th will be involved in learning & activities centered on the Divine Liturgy also.



10:00AM - Continental Breakfast
10:30AM - What Only God Can Do
Noon - Lunch
12:30PM - God Comes In Love

REGISTER: stnicholasgr.com/retreat

OCF MOVIE SHOWING: *MAN OF GOD*

Tuesday, March 26 @ 6:30PM

Grand Rapids Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is hosting a free showing of the film: *Man of God*. Invite your family and friends! Free-will donations will support the Grand Rapids OCF.

REGISTER:



Address

The Richard M. DeVos Center
401 West Fulton Street, 49504
Room: EV 122E - Loosemore Auditorium

Parking:

505 Fulton St W, 49504

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 24

Sunday of Orthodoxy

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox
Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy with
Icon Procession

Coffee Hour/

Lenten Pancake Breakfast &
Silent Auction

**Great Feast of the
Annunciation**

5PM—Vespers

followed by a festal meal
@ Annunciation Orthodox
Church

185 E. Pontaluna Rd. Muskegon
49444

Monday, March 25

**Great Feast of the
Annunciation**

6PM—Vesperal Liturgy
@ St. Nicholas

followed by fish taco dinner

Tuesday, March 26

6PM—Parish Council Meeting

6:30PM—*Man of God* movie
@ GVSU

Wednesday, March 27

6PM—Presanctified Liturgy
followed by Lenten Potluck

Thursday, March 28

10AM—Bible Study

11AM—St. Xenia's Circle

THE PRAYER of ST. EPHRAIM

O Lord and master of my life!
Take from me the spirit of sloth,
meddling, lust of power & idle talk
But give rather the spirit of chastity,
humility, patience, and love to thy servant:
Yea, O Lord and King!
Grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother.
For Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen

HELP US FEED the HUNGRY

What a privilege it is to serve Christ Himself in the needy! In fact, every one of us is in need of the mercy of God. Christ identified Himself with the weak, the poor, and the miserable and with those who could not provide themselves with the necessities of life, so it is Him we serve in every human being, and it is Him who, in us, serves those who need to be served. This is how we live our "Royal Priesthood," delivering our lives to Him so that we may experience the mystery of His sacrifice, for Christ Himself is "*He that offereth and is offered, that accepteth and is distributed*" (The Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn).

You may have received a Food For Hungry packet in the mail from the Archdiocese containing good information and a blue card, *A Gift From The Heart*. It says you can make your FFHP in the name of a Baptism, Anniversary, etc. This is a nice way to give, but please be sure to submit the card and your donation to St Nicholas, not directly to the Archdiocese. Thank you.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

An indispensable part of our preparation for Holy Week and Pascha is the offering of our Confession. The last opportunity to have Confession prior to Pascha will be Holy Tuesday following Bridegroom Matins. The wait time for Confessions will only grow longer the closer we get to Holy Tuesday. Don't delay! Contact Fr. Michael directly to make an appointment. Time is limited.

As a reminder: Confessions are heard year-round without an appointment following Great Vespers on Saturday evening or by appointment Tuesdays through Fridays.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

Thank you to everybody who was able to help us and support our annual cheesecake fundraiser, with your help we were able to raise almost a thousand dollars, this money combined with the grant from the archdiocese is going to be used to purchase materials, for a service project in which our teens will be helping IOCC, to restore homes to provide housing for people who need it. In Christ, Teen SOYO



Friday, March 29

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy
@ St. George

6PM—Akathist Hymn
@ St. Nicholas

Saturday, March 30

6PM—Great Vespers
followed by Confession

Sunday, March 31

Sunday of St. Gregory of Palamas

8:50AM—Orthros

No Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

8PM—The Chosen Discussion
via Zoom



PREPARING FOR LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Let's all plan to make our schedules available for the services of Lent and Holy Week by looking ahead on our parish calendar at stnicholasgr.com/calendar/ and at stnicholasgr.com/lent

Fasting Guidelines: During Lent we abstain from meat, dairy, eggs, fish, olive oil, and wine.

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS BREAKFAST

Guest Speaker Fr. David Khorey
Saturday April 6
9AM

MEN'S RETREAT HOSTED BY ST. GEORGE

Saturday April 6
RSVP

franthonygilbert@gmail.com

CREATION CARE WORKDAY

Saturday, April 13
9:00AM – 12:30PM

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Officer Elections: June 2

Women are needed to fill the Vice-President and Secretary positions, so please begin prayerfully considering if you or someone else would be willing to serve. Contact Marian Lambert with any questions.

Breakfast: Saturday April 6 at 9AM,

Join us for breakfast and guest speaker Fr. David.

YOUTH IN ACTION

TEEN SOYO LENTEN RETREAT

Friday, April 12

All St. Nicholas teens are invited to join Fr. Michael, Dn. Justin, Tanner and Cece for a SOYO Lenten retreat at Grace Adventures Retreat Center near Silver Lake State Park.

Group transportation provided to and from the retreat.

Departing St. Nicholas: 4:30PM

Arriving back at St. Nicholas: Sunday, April 14 @ 2:00PM.

REGISTER: stnicholasgr.com/youth



CROSSROAD SUMMER PROGRAM

CrossRoad is a 10 day academic summer institute that prepares high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and invites them to connect with the Orthodox Christian tradition in a deep and meaningful way.

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE
CHICAGO AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
SESSIONS THIS SUMMER!

More information and Registration can be found at
crossroadinstitute.org



STAY IN THE FELLOWSHIP LOOP!

Stay up to date with your fellowship group by checking the links for upcoming information:

MEN

stnicholasgr.com/men

WOMEN

stnicholasgr.com/women

OK MAMA

[O.K. Mama](#) Facebook group

FORERUNNERS

stnicholasgr.com/forerunners

YOUNG ADULTS

Ethan DeJonge or Dn. Justin for the **GroupMe** app invitation.

YOUTH

stnicholasgr.com/youth

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God

Romans 5:1-2



PLANNING FOR HOLY WEEK

Plan your work and school schedule to fully participate in Holy Week.

Excuse forms can be found at

stnicholas.com/lent/.

Saturday, April 27

Lazarus Saturday

9AM—Orthros

10AM Divine Liturgy

* Breakfast & Spring Work Party to follow

Thursday, May 2

9AM—Vesper Liturgy of the Institution of Holy Communion

Friday, May 3

8:30AM—Bier Decorating

12PM—1st Royal Hour

1PM—2nd Royal Hour

2PM—3rd Royal Hour

3PM—4th Royal Hour

4PM—Vespers of the Unnailing

5:30PM—Vigil at the Tomb

7PM—Orthros of Holy Saturday

with Lamentations and

Myrrhbearing Procession

9:30PM—Vigil at the Tomb

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF A PILGRIMAGE

Traditionally, a pilgrimage is defined as a journey — often a long one — made to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion. The destination, although important, is not the most significant part of a pilgrimage.; it is drawing closer to God. Throughout the walk, pilgrims often reflect upon God’s goodness and power; they listen to scripture, pray, and work at being silent.

NEW ICON MURAL TO BE INSTALLED

The final phase of the Chapel mural project is scheduled for April 1-6, 2024. A mural of *The Parable of the Wedding Feast* (Matthew 22:1-14) will be painted on the northwest wall by experienced students enrolled in the Prosoyon School of Iconography. Iconographers Tatiana and Dmitrii Berestov, who led last year’s project of the *Parable of the Wise Virgins*, will again lead this installation.

Would you be interested in helping to provide a lunch for our Iconographers? Lunch can be a Lenten soup and salad lunch for seven people. Lunch needs to be served at 12 pm each day. Please note there are allergies to: dairy, mushrooms, and seafood. Check out the [sign up](#) or contact the church office.

CALLING for SOUPS!

Sunday, April 14

Soup Sunday Coffee Hour is back! We are looking for fast-friendly Lenten Soups, in a crock pot, brought to the church kitchen before Liturgy, along with their recipes, on that morning. Cleaned and ready fruit may also be brought.

If you can donate a crock pot of soup or fruit, please email Debra Taylor-Weiss. We are looking forward to sampling delicious soups, fruit and bread to help us along our Lenten Journey.



NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

- ◆ There has been a delay in the supply chain for our new sound system. We are still waiting on an install date, likely after Pascha - stay tuned!
- ◆ Are you interested in learning or have experience in IT/AV systems? Looking for volunteers to learn our systems and help out!
- ◆ Save the date for the Midwest Fall Gathering, here at St. Nicholas! October 17-19.

Send questions to: parishcouncil@stnicholasgr.com



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.