

LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

MARCH 31, 2024

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

THE GREATEST INVITATION: ROUND 2!

Saturday, April 20 @ 10AM

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.

10AM - Continental Breakfast

10:30AM - *What Only God Can Do*

Noon - Lunch

12:30PM - *God Comes In Love*

REGISTER: stnicholasgr.com/retreat



HELP US FEED the HUNGRY

In Christ's teachings, almsgiving goes together with fasting and prayer. When one prays and fasts, one must show love through active generosity to others. Giving alms should be a sacrificial act if it has any worth. One cannot give merely what is left over when all his or her own needs are satisfied. One must take from oneself and give to others. In the spiritual tradition of the Church, it is the teaching that what one saves through fasting and abstinence (for example, during the special Lenten season) should not be kept for other times but should be given away to the poor.

Keep talking with your family about how and why we give to this worthy cause. We encourage you to give generously, so that we can reach our \$7,500 goal!

ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITY

Personal Care Drive

The Camelot Community food & neighborhood care pantry is in need of **personal care items**. We are once again having a Lenten drive through **April 21** to help meet this need. There will be drop off areas outside the Cultural Center and in the Narthex for your donations. Please pick a few extra personal care items on your next shopping trip to help our neighbors in need.

The following items needed:

- ◇ toilet paper
- ◇ bar soap
- ◇ toothpaste
- ◇ deodorant
- ◇ shampoo
- ◇ conditioner
- ◇ dish liquid soap
- ◇ laundry detergent
- ◇ Kleenex
- ◇ dental floss
- ◇ body lotion
- ◇ baby wipes
- ◇ small Band-Aid packages
- ◇ men's disposable razors
- ◇ men's shaving cream
- ◇ disposable diapers
and pull-ups –all sizes
- ◇ women's personal products
(pads only/no tampons)

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, April 1

6PM—Great Compline followed
by Confession

Tuesday, April 2

7PM—Works of Mercy: Project
GR Work Day Meeting

Wednesday, April 3

6PM—Presanctified Liturgy
followed by Lenten Potluck

Thursday, April 4

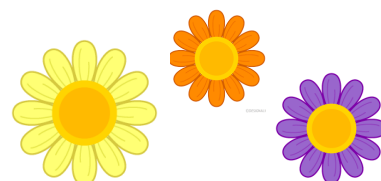
No Bible Study

Friday, April 5

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy
@ St. Nicholas

6PM—Akathist Hymn @
Annunciation Romanian

(Everyone is encouraged to
attend and show support for
our Romanian brothers and
sisters in Christ).



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

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT TO 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

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

An indispensable part of our preparation for Holy Week and Pascha is the offering of our Confession. Unscheduled Confessions with Fr. David can be heard on Tuesdays from 9AM-4PM beginning April 9. They can also be heard after Monday's Compline and Saturday evening Vespers. If you would like to schedule a Confession, please contact Fr. Michael or Fr. David directly to make an appointment. The last opportunity to have Confession prior to Pascha will be Holy Tuesday following Bridegroom Matins. Please do your best to plan ahead.

ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY PARISH PICTURE

Sunday, April 28 following Divine Liturgy

We are fortunate to have many senior parishioners. What a blessing it would be if all of them were able to be present for our all-parish Palm Sunday picture. If you have a senior parent, please make it a priority to help them get to church. Even if they can not attend the Liturgy, please arrive at 11:30AM in time for the photo.

NEW ICON MURAL TO BE INSTALLED

The final phase of the Chapel mural project is scheduled for this week. 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 Prosopon 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.

EATING ETIQUETTE

We want to encourage everyone to better care for our facility by being more diligent in cleaning up after yourself and your family when eating in the Cultural Center. Throwing away used disposable plates, cups, napkins, & utensils, picking up food and trash dropped on the floor, and wiping down your table are helpful ways to do your part as a parishioner.

Saturday, April 6

9AM—Women of St. Nicholas:
Breakfast w/guest speaker
Fr. David
10:30AM—Choir Rehearsal
1PM—Men's Retreat
@ St. George
5PM—Byzantine Choir Practice
6PM—Great Vespers
followed by Confession

Sunday, April 7

Sunday of the Holy Cross

8:50AM—Orthros
No Orthodox Education Classes
10AM—Divine Liturgy
Teen SOYO Leadership Meeting
5PM—SOYO Night

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

YOUTH IN ACTION

YOUTH STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

The Stewardship Ministry and the Youth Program have teamed up to create Youth Stewardship Envelopes for each child and teen in the parish. PARENTS, be sure to pick up the envelopes for your kids, located in the Narthex.

TEEN SOYO LENTEN RETREAT

Friday, April 12 - Sunday, April 14

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.

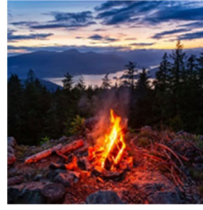
Departing St. Nicholas: 4:30PM

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

Register: stnicholasgr.com/youth



CROSSROAD
ORTHODOX YOUTH TAKE THE CHALLENGE



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.**

PROCESSION PRACTICE

Last Sunday, one of our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes learned about Orthodoxy Sunday. They carried icons and liturgical items as they sang, processing from their classroom down to the stained-glass hallway and back. Thank you to all our CGS teachers for their work with our kids!



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Breakfast: Saturday April 6 @ 9AM

Join us for breakfast and guest speaker Fr. David.

A-MEN (MEN OF ST. NICHOLAS)

Saturday, April 6 @ 1PM

You are invited to a men's retreat hosted by St. George, with guest speaker Dcn Dr. Sampson Ryan Nash, MD. The theme is *What does the Lord require of thee?: Struggles in Contemporary Culture*. The retreat ends with Vespers at 5PM.

YOUNG ADULTS

Friday, April 19 @ 7:30PM

At the midway point of Lent, we will be heading out for food and fellowship following the Akathist Service at St George. We are gathering at Pind Indian Cuisine for a meal. We will be joined by Fr David who will be giving a short message about the diversity of experiences in the church. Everyone is on their own for their food and beverages. Reach out to Gresham Olson with questions.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Matthew 6:3-4



Thank you to our chefs, Mike Sirotko, Paul & Cindy La Franboise, and Fr. Michael who prepared fish tacos, rice, and beans after the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation last Monday evening.

LOOKING FOR ORTHODOX BOOKS?

April 11-13 @ 9AM-5PM

Eighth Day Books, from Wichita, KS, will be selling books at the Calvin Festival of Faith and Writing at Calvin University. Since 1988, Eighth Day has been selling a curated selection of Classics in literature, religion, history, and one of the finest selections on the planet of Orthodox books, and writings of the Church Fathers. You're welcome to come by and take a look.



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

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

Sunday, March 31: Season 2, Episodes 7-8

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.

SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

The Women of St. Nicholas would like to thank all those who helped with the Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction last Sunday. A special thank you to all ladies who worked hard putting together both events.



We also want to offer a special thank you to all those who donated to "*The Establishment of an Endowment Fund for the Widowed Clergy Wives*" project. Thanks to your generosity, \$1,714 was raised! Donations can still be made in cash or check, payable to St. Nicholas Ladies, see Barbara Thomas. Again, thank you for your support.



CREATION CARE WORKDAY

Saturday, April 13, 9AM – 12:30PM

Come join your fellow parishioners for a morning of activities in the St. Nicholas woods. We will be starting to build the prayer trail around the woods and need a whole team of willing hands – young and not so young.

Trail crew leaders will provide direction and training for each group of volunteers. Bring rakes, bow saws, long handled lopping shears, and shovels, if you have them. Everyone will want to have a pair of gloves and appropriate clothing to be in the woods. We'll provide water and snacks. No RSVP needed, just show up. Families are welcome!

NOTE: Do not park at the church. Park in the chiropractic parking lots just north of St. Nicholas (2172 E Paris Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546) and walk to the church property. There is another event taking place at the Cultural Center, so no parking is available at the church.

DEPARTED IN APRIL

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

4/4/2007 Alem Bereih	4/22/1972 Kh. Mary Salhany
4/7/2015 Margaret Salhaney	4/23/1981 Minerva Bashara
4/10/1968 Albert Yared	4/24/1978 Elizabeth Thomas
4/12/1981 Alexander Koory	4/25/1971 Louis Simon
4/12/2012 Jodi Longstreet	4/25/2015 Wade Abraham
4/13/1957 Jennie Bander	4/26/2009 Martha Mickel
4/14/2009 James Abraham	4/28/1959 Mansour Simon
4/15/2003 Nicolas Wawee	4/30/1964 V. Rev. John Mickel
4/17/1947 Saide Bohysic	4/30/1980 George Amash
4/18/2010 Josephine Orange	4/30/1989 Edward David



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.