

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)

MARCH 17, 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 8)

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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.

KONTAKION FOR FORGIVENESS SUNDAY (TONE 6)

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

EPISTLE

*Make your vows unto the Lord and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans 13:11-14:4

Brethren, now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. But as for the one who is weak in faith, receive him, but not for disputes over opinions. For one believes he may eat anything; but the weak person eats herbs. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to be the judge over the servant of a stranger? To his own master he either stands or falls; but he will be made to stand; for God is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

SYNAXARION

(Lives of the Saints of the Day)

On March 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Venerable Alexios the 'Man of God;' and Patrick, bishop of Armagh and enlightener of Ireland.

On this day, we make remembrance of the exile of the first-fashioned, Adam, from the Paradise of delight.

Verses

Let the world mourn bitterly along with ages past;
As, by sweet eating, it hath fallen along with those who had fallen.

It is the Sunday of Forgiveness, known also as Cheese Fare Sunday. Today's lesson from the Holy Gospel teaches us about forgiveness and fasting, and how both are crucial to our own return to Paradise. The divine Fathers also set the anniversary of the exile of Adam from the Paradise of bliss on this day, at the entrance of Great Lent, to show us by deed as well as word how great is the benefit that accrues to man from fasting and repenting; and, on the contrary, how great the harm that comes from destructive gluttony and from disobedience to the divine commandments. The sin of gluttony resulted in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise, because they disobeyed God by eating from the tree which He had forbidden them. The Church reminds us of this event to encourage us to return to that ancient glory and primeval happiness by means of fasting and obedience to God and His commandments.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us worthy of the delight of Paradise and have mercy on us, as Thou art alone the Lover of mankind. Amen.

WELCOME

Welcome Fr. Jim and Kh. Audrey King and their family as they worship with us today. Fr. Jim serves at the Basilica of St. Mary, Livonia.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of His Eminence, Metropolitan PHILIP of thrice-blessed memory, on the 10th anniversary of his repose. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory of the Servant of God, Kevin Mitchell, on his 40-day falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Fr. Elias, Kh. Marion, Mark and Jackie Mitchell. May his memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Alison Khorey on her birthday offered by Fr David and Jenny Khorey. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Stefan Mijatovic, on his birthday offered with love by Dad and Duska. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of William McCloskey, on his 7th birthday offered by Pat, Lindsey, and Luke. May God grant him many years! "*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*" Philippians 4:19

For the Health and Blessings of Fredric Stanford, as he recovers from surgery, offered by Maria Stanford. God grant him many years!

Remembering the servant of God, Rick Olson Sr. on the two-year anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by his children and grandchildren. May his 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, Haiti, Ohio,
and throughout the world

For Hector, and all teachers, students and staff at our neighbor
Ridge Park Academy and those who serve them.

Alison Khorey	Dan Abraham	Michael Ellis
Stefan Mijatovic	MaryAnn Maloley	Len Lenhart
William McCloskey	Audrey Nicoloff	Tillie Sayfie
Fredric Stanford	Joe Corey	Lexy Powell
John Turner	David Corey	



DEPARTED

Metropolitan PHILIP

NEWLY DEPARTED

Kevin Mitchell
Jim Miller

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

DEPARTED

Rick Olson