

LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

APRIL 7, 2024

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

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

An indispensable part of our preparation for Holy Week and Pascha is the offering of our Confession. Below are several opportunities being offered:

Unscheduled Confession with Fr. David

Tuesdays from 9AM - 4PM

Unscheduled Confession with Fr. Michael & Fr. David

Mondays following Compline

Saturdays following Great Vespers

You may also schedule an appointment with Fr. Michael at the following link: stnicholasgr.com/appointments. If none of these times work for you, please call the church office. The last opportunity to have Confession prior to Pascha will be Holy Tuesday following Bridegroom Matins. Please do your best to plan ahead.

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. Even if you didn't attend Part 1, you can still register for Part 2.



10AM - Continental Breakfast

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

Noon - Lunch

12:30PM - *God Comes In Love*

REGISTER: stnicholasgr.com/retreat

JOIN THE CHOSEN CONVERSATION

Come and See!

Tonight & Next Sunday, April 14 @ 8-9PM

Calling all Chosen fans! We have completed two full seasons of discussion with Father Michael and are moving on to Season 3. Since Lent is a busy time in the Church year, we are only planning on two Zoom sessions for Season 3. Join in the conversation tonight on Zoom for a discussion of Season 3, episodes 1-4. Our final discussion of episodes 5-8 will be **next Sunday, April 14**. You don't want to miss our talk about the portrayal of the Sermon on the Mount, the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and Jesus Walking on Water! Even if you've haven't participated in the past, please join us for Season 3.



THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 7

Sunday of the Holy Cross

8:50AM—Orthros

Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Teen SOYO Leadership Meeting

5PM—SOYO Night

8PM—*The Chosen* Discussion via Zoom

Monday, April 8

6PM—Great Compline followed by Confession

Wednesday, April 10

6PM—Presanctified Liturgy followed by Lenten Potluck

Thursday, April 11

10AM—Bible Study

11AM—St. Xenia's Circle

Friday, April 12

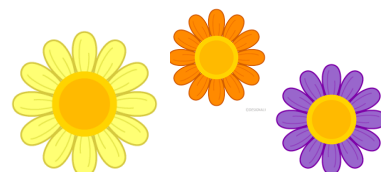
9AM—Presanctified Liturgy @ St. George

10:45AM—OK Mama @ St. George

6PM—Akathist Hymn @ Holy Trinity

**Friday, April 12—
Sunday, April 14**

Teen SOYO Lenten Retreat



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.

VENMO CHANGES

We had to make some changes to our Venmo account for potential tax implications on a personal Venmo account and created a non-profit charity Venmo account. Unfortunately, this does mean changes for you when using Venmo.

1. You will need to search the new Venmo charity profile using the instructions below.

- ⇒ Log in to the Venmo app.
- ⇒ Click "pay/request"
- ⇒ Type in **St-NicholasGR**
- ⇒ Scroll under "Charities"
- ⇒ Look for our profile (the picture is the Nave of our church)

2. Venmo will take out 1.9% + \$0.10 for every transaction. This means the church will only be receiving your donation minus 1.9% + \$0.10 per transaction (and that is what will show up on your statement). If you want the church to receive the full amount, please add the additional amount to your donation.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your support always. We are looking into other electronic giving services for reduced fees. Please connect with Melissa Powell (treasurer@stnicholasgr.com) for any questions or help using this new Venmo account.



- ◇ Are you interested in learning or have experience in IT/AV systems? Our Tech ministry is looking for volunteers to learn our systems and help out!
- ◇ Save the date for the Midwest Golf Outing fundraiser for the Mission Fund, hosted here in GR! **August 25.**
- ◇ Save the date for the Midwest Fall Gathering, here at St. Nicholas! **October 17-19.**

Email parishcouncil@stnicholasgr.com if you have questions.

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 13

9AM—Creation Care Work Day
(reminder: park in the chiropractic lot north of Grand Rapids)

6PM—Great Vespers
followed by Confession

Sunday, April 14

Sunday of St. John Climacus

8:50AM—Orthros

No Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

⇒ Soup Sunday Coffee Hour

8PM—*The Chosen* Discussion
via Zoom



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

TEEN SOYO LENTEN RETREAT

Friday, April 12 - Sunday, April 14

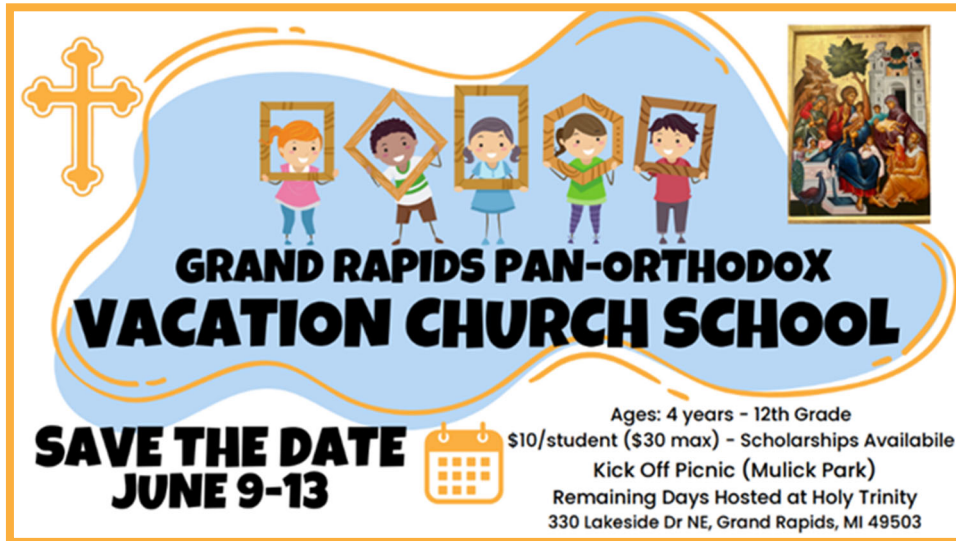
All St. Nicholas teens are invited to a SOYO Lenten retreat at Grace Adventures Retreat Center near Silver Lake State Park. Group transportation provided to and from the retreat.

Departing St. Nicholas: 4:30PM

Guest Speaker: Fr. Michael

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

Register: stnicholasgr.com/youth



**GRAND RAPIDS PAN-ORTHODOX
VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL**

**SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 9-13**

Ages: 4 years - 12th Grade
\$10/student (\$30 max) - Scholarships Available
Kick Off Picnic (Mulick Park)
Remaining Days Hosted at Holy Trinity
330 Lakeside Dr NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



**Calling all
St. Nicholas Graduates**

Congratulations! You did it!

Submit your form for our
Graduation Booklet by April 28.

stnicholasgr.com/graduates

Don't forget some photos of yourself!

We are honoring your hard work
Sunday, May 19th.

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. **For more information, including scholarships and registration, go to crossroadinstitute.org.**

CHOIR REHEARSAL

The following dates for upcoming Choir rehearsal are tentative:

Thursday, April 25 @ 6:30PM

Saturday, April 27 after the
Lazarus Saturday Liturgy
and breakfast.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

There are many scholarship opportunities available. Please head to our website for details: stnicholasgr.com/scholarships/.

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. 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. The event will be held at Van Noord Arena at Calvin University.

THE CULTURAL CENTER IS HIRING

With the continued booking of the Cultural Center to our Grand Rapids community, we are looking to hire additional set-up, re-set, and staff personnel. If you or someone you know is interested in knowing more about this flexible, part-time opportunity, please contact Janet Ansara or Keith.



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

Scan the QR code to donate and help us unlock \$45,000 in matching grants to support this new FOCUS Center!

HELP US DEVELOP A NEW FOCUS CENTER IN GRAND RAPIDS

Interested in joining our team?
EMAIL
SCHRISTOFOROU@FOCUSNA.ORG
TO JOIN OUR EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

FOCUS
+ GRAND RAPIDS +

HOST A COFFEE HOUR

All families are encouraged to host at least one Coffee Hour each year. Feel free to invite other families or individuals to partner with you if you prefer. When selecting a Coffee Hour date, take into account significant events such as memorials, anniversaries, names day, significant birthdays, etc.

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. **We are currently in need of hosts following Pascha.**

As a reminder, Coffee Hour does not have to be elaborate. It can be as simple as coffee and bagels. **If you are serving anything that contains nuts, please make certain to place a tent card "Contains Nuts" by that dish.**

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Officer Elections

Sunday, June 2

A meeting for the annual election of officers for the Women of St. Nicholas ministry will occur following Liturgy on Sunday, June 2.

Any woman over 18 who is a member of St. Nicholas is automatically a member of the Women of St. Nicholas Ministry and, if in good standing in the church, eligible to run for any of the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

For more information regarding officer elections and Women Ministry activities, visit: www.stnicholasgr.com/women.

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



HELP US FEED THE HUNGRY

On this Sunday of the Holy Cross, please be sure to discuss *Food For Hungry People & Charitable Outreach* with your family. Are you filling up your boxes, or are you planning on giving a lump sum at the end of the giving? Either is fine. As long as you keep the reason you're giving in mind, you're helping to feed hungry and needy families. You can give by check, cash, or Venmo (be sure to note Food For Hungry People). As you walk through the church halls this Sunday, notice the signs you will pass with the beautiful verses on them.

"Share what you have, lest you lose what you have. Spend what you possess on the needs of others in order to keep what you possess."
St. John Chrysostom

ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITY

Personal Care Drive

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

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:2

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

FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS MAILBOX

First, I would like to apologize for disrupting the service on Sunday, March 24. Then, I want to very sincerely thank all of you who came to my aid when I fell in the choir loft. I had no idea that we had so many medical personnel in our congregation. I really appreciate the care and attention that you gave me. I was fortunate in that no fractures were discovered at the ER. I also appreciate the calls, cards, and offers of food. I am recovering, but slowly.

Again, I say a sincere thank you to all.

Kathy Corey

SPRING WORK DAY

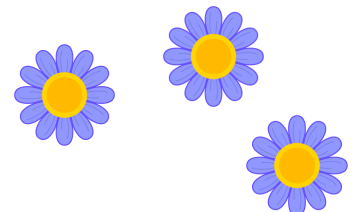
APRIL 27TH

**WE'RE HAVING A PARTY,
AND YOU ARE INVITED!**

We will join our fellow parishioners in sprucing-up our church!

There will be jobs for all ages and skills!

The day begins with Orthros (9 AM) and Divine Liturgy (10 AM) followed by a light breakfast.



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 sign up at stnicholasgr.com/women. We are looking forward to sampling delicious soups, fruit and bread to help us along our Lenten Journey.

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.

PROJECT GR PAN-ORTHODOX WORKDAY 2024

Saturday, May 18 8:30AM - 4PM

Stop by our table during Coffee Hour

Project GR Pan-Orthodox Workday, in partnership with ICCF Community Homes, is a dedicated day of work rehabilitating several homes and apartments in the city of Grand Rapids. The day will begin with a morning kick-off meeting at ICCF headquarters. Volunteer groups will be assigned and given directions to various locations where they will work on projects including raking, mulching, pruning, painting, minor carpentry, and cleaning. It will be a great day of fellowship and hard work for those in need! Workers 14 years old and up can participate. **Signup cutoff: Friday, May 10** For more information, go to: <https://iccf.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/panorthodox/>



Workday Schedule:

- 8:30-9:30AM: Kick off meeting @ ICCF headquarters (415 MLK St. SE)
- 9:30AM: Drive to nearby work sites
- 12:30-1:00 PM Lunch at site (bring a sack lunch)
- 4PM: Clean up/Departure from worksite

The day is sponsored by St. George, Holy Cross and St. Nicholas.

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.