

LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

APRIL 21, 2024

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

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGE

September 26-October 7

This fall we are taking our first overseas pilgrimage as we walk in the footsteps of St. Paul. Good Shepherd Travel has arranged the pilgrimage. They are the same company that arranges pilgrimages for the Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia. Packets are available in the Atrium for those who are interested. We are planning another pilgrimage in 2026 to the Holy Land!

JOURNEYING TO PASCHA

REJOICING ON PALM SUNDAY (NEXT SUNDAY)

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year. Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord.

Annual Palm Sunday Parish Picture

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.

Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon

After the parish picture, please stay for our annual Palm Sunday Luncheon, sponsored by the Parish Council.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

The last opportunity to have Confession prior to Pascha will be Holy Tuesday following Bridegroom Matins. Below are several opportunities being offered:

Confession with Fr. David

This Monday following Compline

This Tuesday from 9AM - 4PM

Unscheduled Confession with Fr. Michael

Saturday following Great Vespers

Scheduled Confessions with Fr. Michael

This Tuesday and Thursday, Fr. Michael has 15-minute and 45-minute time slots available. Go to stnicholasgr.com/appointments to schedule.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 21

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

8:50AM—Orthros

Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Monday, April 22

6PM—Great Compline followed
by Confession

Wednesday, April 24

6PM—Presanctified Liturgy
followed by Lenten Potluck

Thursday, April 25

10AM—Bible Study

11AM—St. Xenia's Circle

Friday, April 26

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy
@ St. George

10:45AM—OK Mama
@ St. George

6PM—Little Compline
with the Canon of Lazarus

Saturday, April 27

Lazarus Saturday

9AM Orthros

10AM Divine Liturgy

11:30AM-2PM—Spring
Work Party

6PM—Great Vespers
followed by Confession





JOURNEYING TO PASCHA

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE & CHARITABLE OUTREACH

Every year our *Food For Hungry People and Charitable Outreach* program encourages the participation of entire families, adults and children alike through prayer, fasting and alms giving during Great Lent. More than ever before, we are experiencing devastating hunger at home and around the world, and our Church families are committed to alleviating this unnecessary and painful heartache. For 50 years we have raised funds to help feed our hungry brothers and sisters. Please do your part, make this a dinner table conversation, and please give generously this Pascha. You may give with cash, check, Venmo, or by credit card @ stnicholasgr.com. Be sure to note FFHP in the memo line.

A poor man, when he reaches out to you, does not beg, but offers you the kingdom of God. + Elder Arsenie Papacioc of Romania

HOLY WEEK & PASCHA OFFERINGS

Every family is invited to contribute toward the liturgical items needed for Holy Week and Pascha (Palms, Oil, Bay Leaves, Decorations and Flowers) — for “the health of loved ones” or “in memory of departed loved ones”. **Each name will be remembered at one of the services you selected on the form: Palm Sunday, Holy Saturday, or Pascha.** Forms and envelopes are on the Parishioners’ table as well as on our website: stnicholasgr.com/parishioners. **The last day to submit forms is Wednesday, April 24.**

HOLY WEEK PREPARATION

We share a few suggestions on how to prepare:

- ◇ Contact your employer/school for time off for the following services:
 - May 2:** Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy (9-11AM)
 - May 3:** Holy Friday Royal Hours (Noon-3:30PM) and Vespers of the Unnailing of Christ (4-5:30PM)
- ◇ Sign up to Participate in Holy Week
 - ◆ Holy Thursday Foot Washing
 - ◆ Prayer Vigil following Good Friday Lamentations service until the Holy Saturday morning service.
 - ◆ Read the Gospel in another language @ Agape Vespers

Stop by the Holy Week table in the Narthex where you will find excuse forms, sign up sheets, and other information.

Sunday, April 28

Palm Sunday

8:50AM—Orthros

Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

- * Patriarchate Collection
 - * All Parish Annual Picture
 - * Palm Sunday Luncheon
- 6PM—Bridegroom Matins

VERSE OF THE WEEK

I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who live,
but Christ lives in me;
and the *life* which I now live
in the flesh I live by faith in the
Son of God, who loved me
and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS

We desire that our children participate in worship. This takes training and patience. Remember...

The best seats: Children can learn and participate the best when they can see. Consider sitting in the front of the nave.

Food in Church: Infants and toddlers may have a tidy snack in the pews, but kids 5 and up can learn to make it through service just fine, especially with a bite in the car before coming in.

Books are best: Please do your best to leave toys in the car.

Know when to fold ‘em: Sometimes a child can’t be quieted, and that’s OK – but for the sake of others, don’t feel bad about taking them out to the Cry Room.

Moving around: Kids are quick, but young children should not leave the pews on their own.

Blessed Bread: Assist your children in only taking 1 piece of antidoron (Blessed Bread).

Adapted by St. George

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.



REGISTRATION DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING

Friday, May 10 is the last opportunity to sign up to participate in this summer's Project GR 2024 workday being held on Saturday, May 18. For all of the details and to register, visit: stnicholasgr.com/projectgr.

This will be a wonderful day of fellowship with our brothers and sisters from St. George, Holy Cross, and Holy Trinity as we work together to do much needed yard work and various indoor projects such as painting, minor carpentry, and general cleaning. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend!



SOUP SUNDAY RECAP

Thank you to all who brought in such a wonderful collection of delicious soups! Thank you also to all those who helped set up before and clean up afterwards. We are grateful to all of you. For those who brought in soups, it would be greatly appreciated to receive copies of your recipes for a future collection of fast friendly recipes from our parish.

UPCOMING CHOIR REHEARSALS

Thursday, April 25 @ 6:30PM

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

Council Corner

PC UPDATES

- ⇒ Please pick up your First Quarter Statement in the Atrium this Sunday.
- ⇒ Venmo is back! Please use **St-NicholasGR** (note the dash) for our new account name.

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 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.


YOUTH IN ACTION

CALLING ALL MYRRHBEARERS

Holy Week is just around the corner, and that means we have work to do!

- ◇ **Friday, April 26** from 4-5:30PM: Baking Lazarakia bread in the church kitchen.
- ◇ **Friday, May 3:** Participating in the Holy Friday Procession during the Lamentations service.
- ◇ **Saturday, May 4:** Changing the liturgical colors during the Vespers Liturgy of Holy Saturday.

You should have received an email from Amy Amash with all the details and to RSVP this past week. If not, please reach out to her ASAP. As a reminder, Myrrhbearers includes all girls and teens.



**GRAND RAPIDS PAN-ORTHOX
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

SOYO RETREAT RECAP

Last weekend, our Teen SOYO attended a Lenten retreat at Grace Adventures with Fr. Michael, Dn. Justin, Tanner, and Cece. Our teens spent the weekend together praying, climbing the Lake Michigan dunes, sharing meals & laughs, playing basketball and 9-square, ziplining, roasting marshmallows, and connecting with one another on a level they hadn't before. Cece and Tanner led excellent discussions on Lent and the Sermon on the Mount, and Fr. Michael answered questions for over an hour at our Saturday night "Fire on Father". For more photos, go to the St. Nicholas Facebook page.



YOUTH CHOIR

The combined youth from St. Nicholas, St. George, and Holy Cross will sing the Bridegroom Orthros on Holy Monday evening at 6PM at St. George.

Rehearsals are as follows:

- ◆ **Sunday, April 21:** Following Communion, (youth will be excused first so they can meet in the chapel with JoAnn Abraham).
- ◆ **Monday, April 29:** At St. George @ 5:15 PM before the service begins.

Click [Bridegroom Matins sheet music](#) to practice with sheet music at home!

