



LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

APRIL 28, 2024

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



HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK PREPARATION

Holy Week is upon us! As we follow Christ to His passion, we encourage you to attend and participate in as many of this week's services as possible. A list of daily services are provided in the righthand column. Planning your week around these services allows us to make this Week truly Holy!

Excuse forms are available on the Holy Week webpage or on the table in the Narthex to allow you to attend services that occur during working/school hours.

Participants are still needed for the following services:

- ♦ Holy Thursday **Foot Washing**
- ♦ **Prayer Vigil** following Holy Friday Lamentations service until the Holy Saturday morning service.
- ♦ Reading the Gospel in another language @ **Agape Vespers**

HOLY WEEK BOOKS

Due to new translations being established by the Archdiocese, your current Holy Week books will have texts that are somewhat different than what you will be hearing from our chanters and choir. Hopefully, new books will be published before next year's Holy Week, but in the meantime we have printed updated booklets with the current translations available for those who want to follow along.

HOLY FRIDAY RETREAT

Services and Retreat

The services of the Royal Hours (20-25 min. each) occur on the hour at Noon, 1PM, 2PM, and 3PM. The time between these services is a time to reflect upon our Lord's love in going to His Cross for us. The entire Church campus (Church, Chapel, gardens/grounds, library, bookstore, hallways, etc.) are available for you to reflect, pray, read, or rest.

Fasting

Wherever you happen to be on Holy Friday, we abstain from ALL food and drink, especially from noon through the afternoon Vespers Service. Of course, the Church recognizes that some people have unique health issues that will alter this fasting guideline.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 28

Palm Sunday

8:50AM—Orthros

Adult Orthodox Education
Classes / Youth & Parents
Special Palm Sunday Activities

10AM—Divine Liturgy

* Procession

* All Parish Picture

* Patriarchate Collection

* Palm Sunday Luncheon

6PM—Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 29

Holy Monday

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy
@ *St. George*

6PM—Bridegroom Matins

Sung by the Youth

Followed by Confession

@ *St. George*

Tuesday, April 30

Holy Tuesday

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy

6PM—Bridegroom Matins

(last day for Confession)

Wednesday, May 1

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy
@ *St. George*

6PM—Holy Unction

Thursday, May 2

Holy Thursday

9AM—Vesper Liturgy of the
Institution of Holy Communion

6PM—Orthros of the Twelve
Passion Gospels



HOLY FRIDAY NIGHT

We commemorate our Lord's entombment in the (7 PM) Holy Friday Lamentation service. Then, we stand vigil at His Tomb all night by taking turns reading from the Holy Scriptures. The experience of being in the near-empty, candlelit Church in the middle of the night and hearing and reading the words of our Lord is not soon forgotten. A Reader's [Sign-up Schedule is available in the Narthex for those desiring to read](#). Even if you do not desire to read, come at any time to be a part of this experience. Our Lord asked His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Can you not watch with me one hour?" Let us answer "Yes" and take our place in the Holy Friday Vigil.

CANDLES

Candles will be used for the Holy Thursday, Holy Friday, and Pascha Services. Please keep candles upright and the protective disc or cup close to the top of the candle to collect the dripping wax. Remember to use caution when holding a lit candle! Also, keep a watchful eye on your older children while they are holding a lit candle. As an easier and safer option, we provide battery operated candles for the children.

CONFESSION BEFORE PASCHA

The last opportunity to have Confession prior to Pascha will be after Bridegroom Matins on the evenings of Palm Sunday, Holy Monday (@St. George), and Holy Tuesday.

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE & CHARITABLE OUTREACH

Pascha is just one week away, so please review your Food For Hungry People giving with your family. You can bring your donations now through May 19. Please count the coins you have collected in the boxes and bring in dollars, write a check or give through Venmo, (stnicholasgr.com). Be sure to note FFHP on the memo line. If you look at the "Giving Thermometer" in the Narthex, you will see that we're a long way from our \$7,500 goal. Discuss why you're giving with your family and please give what you are able.

Prayer of Commitment:

Father God, how do we thank Thee as we ought for Thy goodness to us? We slept in comfortable beds last night between clean sheets. Millions of people in cities and in other parts of the world slept on the streets.

We awakened to a good breakfast this morning, with a promise of more than enough to eat for lunch and dinner. Millions had no breakfast this morning, nor yesterday, nor the day before, and they have no prospect of lunch or dinner in the foreseeable future.

We live in comfortable homes while millions are homeless in refugee camps or worse.

Dear God, forgive us for complaining, for never thanking Thee, for behaving as though we deserve these benefits in contrast to those who are without.

Don't let us lose these blessings to appreciate them. We pray in the name of Him whose heart was with the hungry, the homeless, the naked and oppressed. Amen

Friday, May 3

Holy Friday

10AM—Bier Decorating

12PM—1st Royal Hour

1PM—3rd Royal Hour

2PM—6th Royal Hour

3PM—9th Royal Hour

4PM—Vespers of the Unnailing of Christ

* Vigil at the Tomb

7PM—Orthros of Holy Saturday with Lamentations and Myrrhbearing Procession

* Vigil at the Tomb

Saturday, May 4

Holy Saturday

10AM Vesper Liturgy of Holy Saturday

10PM—Rush, Orthros, & Divine Liturgy followed by Pascha Celebration Meal

Sunday, May 5

Great and Holy Pascha

1PM—Agape Vespers with Pascha (Easter) Egg Hunt





PASCHA CELEBRATION

PASCHA BASKETS

Fr. Michael will bless Pascha baskets during the Paschal Liturgy. When you come for the Paschal Liturgy, place them on the left side of the Solea and then take it with you at the dismissal. For a helpful link on the types of items to place in your Pascha Basket, visit: <https://stnicholasgr.com/holy-week-pascha/>.

PREPARING SMALL CHILDREN FOR THE PASCHA SERVICE

It is perfectly acceptable to dress your children in their pajamas and bring them to the Pascha Service. If you look around, you'll see many sleeping children under the pews! We will provide battery operated candles for the children as an easy and safe option, .

PASCHA BREAKFAST

Everyone is invited to share in this time of celebration of Our Risen Lord. The breakfast is hosted by the Parish Council. **Please bring a side dish for dessert to share.**

PASCHA (EASTER) SUNDAY

Agape Vespers

As you know it is traditional to read the Gospel at Agape Vespers in different languages. If you are able to and would like to read the Gospel in a different language during this service, please sign up at the table in the Narthex or email Fr. David @ dekhorey@gmail.com. Thank you.

Agape Vespers Easter Egg Hunt

We would love for the kids of St. Nicholas to join the annual Easter Egg Hunt immediately following 1 PM Agape Vespers. Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!

PASCHA CELEBRATION

The Lewis Family (Nick, Joanna, and Colette) is throwing their annual Open House to celebrate Pascha, and they'd love for you to join them. They see this as an evangelistic opportunity to celebrate our faith in the greater Grand Rapids community with friends and family from the parish. As part of the festivities, there will be live music by Sam Granger and his band, a whole lamb on a rotisserie in the front yard, lots of good food, and big tents in case the weather does not cooperate. This Open House is potluck-style, so please bring a dish to pass if you're able. They would love for you to join them in their celebration!

When: Sunday, May 5 (Pascha!)

Time: anytime after 3PM

Where: 422 Gladstone Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

VERSE OF THE WEEK

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.

I Peter 3:18



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!



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.

YOUTH IN ACTION

CALLING ALL MYRRHBEARERS

Myrrhbearers will participate in Holy Week in the following ways:

- ◇ **Holy Friday, May 3:** The Holy Friday Procession during the Lamentations service.
- ◇ **Holy 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. If not, please reach out to her ASAP. As a reminder, Myrrhbearers includes all girls and teens.

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. The final practice will take place **tomorrow, April 29 @ 5:15PM** at St. George before the service begins. Click [Bridegroom Matins sheet music](#) to practice with sheet music at home!



DEPARTED IN MAY

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



5/1/1999	Robert Hickerty
5/2/1945	Asa Marod
5/2/1991	Victor Ziton
5/3/1963	Salema Salhaney
5/6/1964	Abraham Yared
5/5/1945	Lilian Sickrey
5/8/2019	Mary Martin
5/9/1979	Sadie Samra
5/12/1997	Fred Bendekgey
5/13/2023	Lorraine Zain
5/15/1986	Sarah Jabara
5/15/2000	Charlotte Cooley
5/16/1970	Jennie Ziton
5/17/2001	David Hanna
5/17/2003	Charles Riley
5/17/1950	Nathalie Collings
5/18/2014	Louise Philippi
5/19/2016	Adele Abraham
5/19/1984	Yesda Fraam
5/20/2022	Shirley Salhaney
5/21/1947	Nicholas Courey
5/21/1959	Mike Joseph
5/23/1959	Charles Bendekgey
5/23/1979	Elias Amash
5/24/1989	Georgette Abraham
5/26/1975	Wadiyah Laham
5/26/1976	James Ayoub
5/27/1960	Bertha Corey
5/27/1982	Abraham Kaleefey
5/31/1999	John Soukar
5/31/2020	Stephen Lewis

**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.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

YOUNG ADULT PASCHA CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 5 @ 6–10PM

The Hultinks have graciously agreed to host the Young Adults at their house (605 Scott View Circle NE Comstock Park, MI 49321) for Pascha! Please stop by to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and relax after a busy Lent and Holy Week. Please bring a dish to share.

FORERUNNERS LUNCH

Thursday, May 16 @ Noon

Join the Forerunners for a delightful lunch at Schesco next to Celebration Cinema. Each person is responsible for his/her meal. Contact Barbara Thomas or Eileen Adolphson, with your attendance. Looking forward to a fun-filled afternoon!

PROJECT GR

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 10

Pan-Orthodox Workday

Saturday, May 18th

In partnership with ICCF, we'll rehab houses in GR doing minor carpentry, painting, cleaning, & yard work making them ready for those in need of affordable housing.



MEET AT ICCF: 415 MLK JR. ST. SE

- 8:30 AM - Prayer & Assignments
- 9:00 AM - Work Session
- 12:30 PM - Lunch (Bring a sack lunch)
- 1:00 PM - Work Session
- 4:00 PM - Clean-up

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

iccf.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/panorthodox/



SPONSORS

Holy Cross
St. George
St. Nicholas

OK MAMA

The following are the final OK Mama events until next fall, so we'd love to see you at either or both! Let Hannah Seeley know if you have any questions, or you can find us on FaceBook (search "OK Mama").

Moms & Kids Morning

Friday, May 10 @ 10AM

Hey Mamas and Kids! What do you say to a little Pascha ice cream celebration? Let's meet at Jersey Junction (652 Croswell Ave SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506) for some ice cream and a visit to the near by John Collins Park! Ice cream purchases are up to you. This is a great opportunity for kids of all ages and their moms, grandparents, caregivers to gather! Bring your kids, bring a friend and let's celebrate the Resurrection with our Pan-Orthodox friends!

Mom's Night Out

Thursday, May 16 @ 7:30PM

OK Mamas, after all of Lent and Pascha delights, we should meet for a Mom's Night Out! Right? Right! We are meeting outside at The Green Well (924 Cherry St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506). Come and get some food and drinks, or just come and enjoy the company of our Pan-Orthodox mamas!

STAY IN THE 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](https://www.facebook.com/OK.Mama) Facebook group

FORERUNNERS

stnicholasgr.com/forerunners

YOUNG ADULTS

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

YOUTH

stnicholasgr.com/youth

A LOOK BACK AT RECENT ACTIVITIES

CREATION CARE WORKDAY

- Twenty one people came out to begin to build a prayer trail and continue to clean the woodlot of old farm debris.
- A 1/8 mile loop prayer trail that circles the woodlot was roughed in .

Work on the prayer trail will continue throughout the summer with two bridges being built and a second longer trail that circles the church building and the entire property will be added.



PERSONAL CARE DRIVE



Thank you for your generosity in donating personal care products to the Camelot Pantry at Church of the Servant. There is such a great need that these items are difficult to keep in stock. Your generosity will help many refugee families! A special thanks to Allison Manica for packing them all up and delivering them to the Pantry.

GREATEST INVITATION

On April 20, Fr. Michael, Fr. David and Dn. Justin lead 50 adults and teens through the last two sessions of The Greatest Invitation film series. Activities were held for our younger kids also, including rehearsal for singing during the Bridegroom Matins and decorating lunch bags for Kids Food Basket. Thank you to our clergy for guiding us through the information and to JoAnn Abraham & our youth workers for their help with our kids!



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.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 157/2024

Palm Sunday
April 28, 2024

To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful of this Archdiocese,

May you have much joy on this glorious feast of Palm Sunday!

Today we see Christ riding triumphantly into the Holy City of Jerusalem and the crowds welcoming Him with praise and loving service, as they shout “Hosanna!” and lay down palm branches and even their own clothes as a carpet for His entrance. Let us likewise open our hearts to Him and welcome Him into our lives. Let us praise Him not just with hymns at church but also by confessing His goodness in our daily prayers and in our conversations with others. Let us lay down for Him a welcoming carpet of generous deeds toward our neighbors and faithful obedience toward Him. May we thus receive Him to rule in our hearts as our delivering King, and may we remain loyal to Him in word and deed—not betraying and abandoning Him, like the crowds in Jerusalem long ago.

As is our custom in this archdiocese, today we also remember our Father in Christ, His Beatitude Patriarch John X, and all our brothers and sisters of the Patriarchate of Antioch in its historic homeland of the Middle East. As we proclaim this ancient Faith in the New World, they are keeping it alive in the apostolic and historic places of its beginnings. Yet many of them continue to suffer from the aftermath of wars, disasters, and economic collapse. For this reason, we invite you to contribute today toward the patriarchate and its humanitarian work. Through your donations you can provide some comfort to our brothers and sisters in need, showing solidarity with them as one Body in Christ. Please give generously.

Wishing you all a deeply meaningful Holy Week and a glorious Pascha, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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