



LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

MAY 5, 2024

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

CHRIST IS RISEN!

PASCHA (EASTER) SUNDAY

Agape Vespers Easter Egg Hunt

Kids of St. Nicholas are invited to join the annual Easter Egg Hunt immediately following 1PM Agape Vespers. Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!

PASCHA CELEBRATION

Today anytime after 3PM

Nick and Joanna Lewis are throwing their annual Open House Pascha celebration. 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. Their home is located at *422 Gladstone Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506*.

BRIGHT WEEK PRAYERS

We replace our normal Morning and Evening Prayers this week with the Paschal Office, inserted into this bulletin. These beautiful, Paschal prayers help us maintain the joy of the Feast of Feasts. Because they are so short, it's a great time to reestablish a regular rule of prayer!

NEWLY-ILLUMINED

Congratulations to our newly-illuminated members. Please welcome each one of them. Pictured from left to right: Adam Piotrowski, Mary Torres, Nathan Schimeck, Royce Lloyd, Manny Torres.

We look forward to welcoming more of our Catechumens through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism around the Feast of Pentecost.



THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 5

Great and Holy Pascha

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

3PM—Pascha Celebration at Nick & Joanna Lewis's

6PM—Young Adult Pascha Celebration at the Hultink's

Monday, May 6

@ St. George

The Patronal

Feast of St. George

9AM—Orthros

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Friday, May 10

10AM—OK Mama: Moms & Kids Morning

Saturday, May 11

9AM—Women of St. Nicholas Breakfast

6PM—Great Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday, May 12

Thomas Sunday

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, June 22

Saturday of Souls

9AM—Orthros

10AM—Divine Liturgy

5PM—Vespers at Holy Trinity

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE & CHARITABLE OUTREACH

It's time to bring in boxes and make a donation (through May 19).

Christ is Risen, Truly He is Risen!

The Vision of FFHP&CO is to:

- ⇒ Bring additional awareness concerning hunger.
- ⇒ Increase the funds we raise.
- ⇒ Assist more communities in need.
- ⇒ Incorporate donations to our program such as wills and trust funds.

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to help the hungry, the homeless, the afflicted, and the oppressed for five decades. Thank you for allowing us to care for the needs of those less fortunate, internationally, nationally, and locally, including \$30,000 to charities right here in Grand Rapids.

If you look at the "Giving Thermometer" in the Narthex, you will see that we're a long way from our \$7,500 goal. Please give what you are able as you discuss with your family the reason you're giving.

- ◇ Place your giving box on the FFHP table in the Narthex.
- ◇ Give electronically and please note FFHP in the memo line.
stnicholasgr.com/contributions/

"The merciful person is he who gives to others what he himself received from God, whether it be money, or food, or strength, a helpful word, a prayer, or anything else he has through which he can express his compassion for those in need." St. Peter of Damascus

PROJECT GR

Registration Deadline Fast Approaching: This Friday, May 10

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. It will be on **Saturday, May 18th** from 8:30AM to 4PM. The day will begin with a morning kick-off meeting at ICCF Headquarters (415 MLK St. SE). 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 with adults. **St. Nicholas Teens (7th-12th grade) will be assigned their own location.**



8:30: Kick off meeting @ ICCF headquarters. This includes a presentation by our Teens with a \$2000 check to ICCF.

9:30AM: Drive to nearby work sites

12:30-1PM: 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. <https://iccf.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/panorthodox/>

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.

2024 DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

June 26-29



Attend the Parish Life Conference

All Saints in Chicago and Holy Transfiguration in Warrenville are excited to welcome everyone to the Parish Life Conference this summer in June. We have a full schedule with activities for everyone. Read on to find the details of the hotel, event registration, and list of speakers.



Register for the conference using the QR code here.

EVENT DETAILS

Date

Wednesday, June 26 to
Saturday, June 29

Hotel

Chicago Marriott Oak Brook
1401 W 22nd St, Oak Brook, IL

RESERVE
YOUR HOTEL
ROOM HERE



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Nathan Hoppe
OCMC Missionary to
Albania



Fr. Gabriel Nassif
Author and Pastor of Holy
Transfiguration Church,
Warrenville

SPEAKERS



Christian Education
Bob Snyder



Teen Speaker
Gabriella Hoppe



Sacred Music
Dr. Zhanna Lehmann

toledopl.org

tolplc@antiochianevents.com

VERSE OF THE WEEK

But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

Matthew 28: 5-7

PLC TALENT SHOW

The Diocesan Talent Showcase will be the highlight of the last evening of the PLC! We are looking for well-prepared and highly-entertaining performances of all kinds: music, comedy, magic, drama, etc. The Talent Showcase is for entertainment purposes only, and not a competition. We invite individuals or groups from Antiochian Orthodox Parishes in the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest to submit this form to Paul Cline (officehtaoc@gmail.com) by **Saturday, June 1**. The contact person will be notified no later than June 6th confirming their participation in the Talent Showcase!

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! **A date for an information meeting coming soon.**

BLESSING OF GRAVES

Memorial Day (Monday, May 27)

A wonderful Orthodox tradition is to have the graves of our departed loved ones blessed. Fr. Michael will be meeting families and blessing graves at the cemeteries listed below. If you would like to have your loved one's grave blessed, please meet him at the designated location at the cemetery.

- ◇ **Graceland @ 10AM:** meet at Mausoleum parking lot
- ◇ **Woodlawn @ 11:15PM:** meet at cemetery office parking lot (East side of Kalamazoo Ave)
- ◇ **Oakhill @ 12:30PM:** meet at cemetery office parking lot (North side of Hall St)
- ◇ **Chapel Hill @ 1:45PM:** meet at cemetery office

If you would like the grave of your loved one blessed on a different day or at a different cemetery, please contact Fr. Michael.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

YOUNG ADULT PASCHA CELEBRATION

Today, May 5 @ 6–10PM

The Hultinks will graciously be hosting the Young Adults at their home (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!

WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Widowed Clergy Wives Project Update.

A generous donor has provided matching funds, up to \$150,000, for all donations made to this year's project. That means that our \$1895 donation has doubled! Thank you to all those who donated. Anyone still wishing to donate, please see Barbara Thomas or Marian Lambert.

Breakfast/Vegetable Container Gardening

This Saturday, May 11 @ 9AM

Join us for fellowship, breakfast and to learn from fellow parishioner, Ana Bosma, about vegetable container gardening. Now that it's finally time to get our gardens started, here's a chance to get some gardening tips and your questions answered.

You should have received an Evite for this event; please respond to the Evite to let us know that you'll be joining us. Please note, all Soyo-aged girls are invited to attend!

YOUTH IN ACTION



**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

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.

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

This Friday, May 10 @ 10AM

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

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](#) Facebook group

FORERUNNERS

stnicholasgr.com/forerunners

YOUNG ADULTS

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

YOUTH

stnicholasgr.com/youth

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan Saba

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Toledo and
The Midwest

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Great and Holy Pascha 2024: the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Midwest Diocese,

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

المسيح قام! حيا نورا

"God created man in His own Image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27) Our Lord Jesus Christ "is the image of the invisible God." We were created in Him (Colossians 1:15-16a) and through Him (Hebrews 1:2).

We received from Adam, the first created man, a humanity that was damaged and weakened by corruption that came from Adam's sin.

The created image of God, mankind, needed to be remade, refashioned in order to resume the path laid out by God in the beginning, to be perfect and immortal. *"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."*

(1 Corinthians 15:22)

By His birth from the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, He healed this crippled and disabled humanity. In His Holy Resurrection, He revealed the resurgent, rebuilt human nature both in soul and body, *"for as by a man came death, by a man (the God-Man, Jesus) has come also the resurrection of the dead."* (1 Corinthians 15:21)

In our baptism, we were given this new human nature. We were re-created in Christ, the Image of God the Father: *"We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."* (Romans 6:4) As Saint Paul says, just as a little toddler, a little child, learns to walk after being born in this world, we must learn to walk in the newness of life. Born and raised "in the flesh" we are also, now, reborn and raised in the Spirit: *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* (John 3:6)

Raised brand new by Christ's Resurrection, we are taught to live the new life by the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments, prayers, practices, and disciplines of His Holy Church. Resurrection in Christ! Rehabilitation in the Holy Spirit! Reception into God's Kingdom when our Lord returns at the Second Coming!

As a patient takes the skilled hands of the physical therapist and starts to walk again until regaining full strength, let us take the hands of Christ, our Spiritual Therapist, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in His Church, and learn to walk again in the absolute joy and fullness of the Resurrected life!

Yours in our Risen Lord,

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY
Bishop of Toledo
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

Midwest Diocesan Chancery
5549 Ginger Tree
Toledo, OH 43623

THE PASCHAL OFFICE

The following is read or sung during the entire Bright Week in place of the Hours, Compline, Midnight Office and Morning and Evening Prayers.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. **(Thrice)**

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy Cross do we adore, O Christ, and Thy holy Resurrection we praise and glorify; for Thou art our God, and we know no other beside Thee; we call upon Thy Name. O come all you faithful, let us adore Christ's holy Resurrection. For lo, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His Resurrection. In that He endured the Cross He destroyed death by death. **(Thrice)**

HYPAKOE: Before the dawn Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They heard the angelic voice: Why do you seek among the dead as a man, the One Who is everlasting light? Behold the clothes in the grave; go and proclaim to the world the Lord is risen; He has slain death; as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.

KONTAKION: O Christ God, though Thou didst descend into the grave, yet didst Thou overthrow the power of Hades; and rise as an immortal conqueror. Thou didst greet the myrrh-bearing women with joy and to Thine Apostles, thou didst send Thy peace and to the fallen, O Lord, didst bring Resurrection.

TOPARION: In the grave with the body but in hades with the soul as God; in Paradise with the thief, and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit was Thou O Christ filling all things, thyself uncircumscribed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As life-bearing, as more splendid than Paradise, and more radiant than any royal chamber, O Christ, is shown forth Thy tomb, the fountain of our resurrection.

Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice O thou hallowed, divine abode of the Most High. For through thee, O Theotokos, was joy given unto those who cry aloud unto thee: Blessed art thou among women, O all-undefiled Lady.

Lord, have mercy. (40 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim; thou who without stain bearest God the Word; and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (Thrice)

(For Evening Prayers, the following is also said): Blessed are You, O Almighty Master, Who enlightened the day with the light of the sun and illumined the night by the rays of fire, Who deemed us worthy to pass through the length of the day and draw nigh to the beginning of the night. Hearken unto Our supplication, and that of all Your people. Forgive all of us our sins, voluntary and involuntary, accept our evening entreaties, and send down the multitude of Your mercy and compassions upon Your inheritance. Encompass us with Your holy Angels; arm us with the armor of Your righteousness; surround us with Your truth; protect us by Your might; deliver us from every grievous circumstance and from every conspiracy of the adversary. And grant unto us that this evening together with the coming night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without stumbling and vain imaginings; by the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the Saints who, from ages past, have been well-pleasing unto You. Amen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (Thrice)

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.