



LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

JUNE 9, 2024

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CHRIST IS RISEN!

THE GREAT FEAST OF OUR LORD'S ASCENSION

This Wednesday, June 12 @ Holy Trinity

5PM—Orthros

6PM—Divine Liturgy

The Ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, where Jesus ascended into heaven to be glorified at the right hand of God, will be celebrated at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.

This Feast is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ's life. When Christ ascends from Earth to Heaven, He takes our humanity with Him and seats our humanity at the right hand of His Father. Come and be renewed into the blessedness of God's presence.

Those planning on receiving Holy Communion should observe a complete fast after an early afternoon lunch.

O LORD, I LOVE THE BEAUTY OF THY HOUSE!

What a blessing to walk into church this morning, inspired by the new Iconography in the Inner Narthex. Each icon invites us to enter into worship with the qualities needed to encounter the Living God.

"The Publican and the Pharisee" (Luke 18: 9-14): We enter worship, not with the pride of the Pharisee, but with the HUMILITY shown by the Publican, who could not even lift up his eyes toward Heaven, and leaves worship justified by God.

"The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15: 11-32): We enter the church in the same REPENTENCE shown by the son, who returns home to the embrace of the Father's love as he welcomes back his wayward son.

"The Widow and the Two Mites" (Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4): We enter the church, bringing our offering to God in the way that Jesus teaches us. We join the disciples at the entrance to the Temple as He teaches us that true giving does not come from giving of our abundance, but instead—in His Words: *"This poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."* Our Collection Box has been incorporated directly into the Icon to regularly reminded us of the beauty of true Christian stewardship, with which we are called to foster each time we enter into the worship of the Church.

PILGRIMAGE

For those who are interested in the pilgrimage to Greece, please click the link below to submit your name to be notified of an upcoming informational meeting about the trip.

<https://stnicholasgr.com/pilgrimage/>

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 9

Sunday of the Blind Man

8:50AM—Orthros

10AM—Divine Liturgy

1PM—Vacation Church School
@ Mulick Park

4:30PM—Choir/Chanter Party

Monday, June 10

6PM—Vacation Church School
@ Holy Trinity

Tuesday, June 11

6PM—Vacation Church School
@ Holy Trinity

Wednesday, June 12

Feast of the Ascension

5PM—Orthros

6PM—Divine Liturgy
@ Holy Trinity

Thursday, June 13

10AM—St. Xenia's Circle

6PM—Vacation Church School
@ Holy Trinity

Saturday, June 15

9:30AM—Parish Council
Retreat

10AM—Women of St. Nicholas
Brunch @
Marian Lambert's Home

3PM—Ushering Ministry Party
@ David Tappan's Home

6PM—Great Vespers
Followed by Confession

Sunday, June 16

Father's Day

8:50AM—Orthros

10AM—Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY OF SOULS

Saturday, June 22

9 AM Orthros & 10 AM Divine Liturgy

The “Saturday of the Souls” service is a Memorial Services devoted to remembering and praying for our loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord. In the Narthex, there will be a sheet of paper where you can list the names of your loved ones to be remembered by name during this service.

GIFT OF ST. NICHOLAS NOMINATIONS

If your Ministry Group or Church School Class have engaged with, or you as a parish member benefitted from a local charitable organization, it may qualify for consideration to receive the Gift of St. Nicholas this year. The \$10,000 gift is given annually at our St. Nicholas' Patronal Feast. Please contact Greg Storey gregorystorey1@gmail.com if you have a nomination.

Gift of St. Nicholas Criteria:

- ⇒ Gift should be given to an organization focused on caring for those in need locally.
- ⇒ St. Nicholas, it's members or immediate neighborhood should have experience with or directly benefited from the work of the organization.
- ⇒ The gift should be given to the organization where it can have the greatest proportional impact.
- ⇒ Must have 501c3 status.

NO COFFEE AFTER CHURCH?

Right now, we have no Coffee Hour hosts for most of the summer.

- ◇ June 30
- ◇ July 7, 14, 21, 28
- ◇ August 4, 11, 25

All families are encouraged to host or co-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.

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.**

NEW CHURCH FAMILY MEMBER

Saturday, June 1 was a very special day for St. Nicholas, as we enrolled John Way, our latest Catechumen, at Vespers. John now begins his official period of preparation for becoming an Orthodox Christian. Please congratulate, welcome, and get better acquainted with John.



LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, June 22

Saturday of Souls

9AM—Orthros

10AM—Divine Liturgy

@ St. Nicholas

5PM—Vespers @ Holy Trinity

Sunday, June 23

Feast of Pentecost

Vespers with the Kneeling Prayers following Divine Liturgy

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*Enter into His gates
with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him,
and bless His name.
For the Lord is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures
to all generations.*

Psalms 100:4-5

YOU ARE INVITED TO

HOLY TRINITY'S FEAST DAY

Apolytikion of Pentecost: "Blessed are You O Christ our God. You sent down the Holy Spirit into the fishermen and You gave them knowledge and wisdom in everything; and through them, as in a net You caught the whole world. O Lord who loves humanity, glory to You."

Saturday, June 22
Pan-Orthodox Pentecost Vespers 5:00 PM
Reception 6:00 PM

*Holy Trinity Parishioners: Please bring a dish to share

DEEP DIVES INTO THE BIBLE

This summer is a great time to catch up on Fr. Michael's Bible Study series. You can find the study on our website stnicholasgr.com/podcasts or wherever you listen to podcasts.

ST. XENIA'S CIRCLE

This Thursday June 13 @ 10AM (Schedule Change)

St. Xenia's Circle, a very special support group, invites you to join them at their next meeting being held at church. The Circle is for all who are struggling with loss and the grief that often occurs with it. Loss of a loved one, a friendship, a job or a special furry friend can cause us to feel that sense of loss. In addition to sharing thoughts and feelings during their time together, they will be reading the book: "Memory Eternal" which is available in the bookstore and our library.

FOCUS GRAND RAPIDS

FOCUS exists to serve the poor by bringing together Orthodox churches and community partners to provide for the community's needs. The Exploratory Committee has made a lot of progress over the past few months and has prepared an update. Go to <https://stnicholasgr.com/focus-gr>. Our clergy deserve special thanks for their participation and encouragement through this process. Witnessing how the parishes come together in Grand Rapids under their leadership has been a blessing. We have no doubt that the Center we're establishing in Grand Rapids is going to make a very positive difference, not just for our neighbors in need, but for our faithful as we come together to serve in the Lord's name.

Steven Christoforou, Director of Operations & Community Engagement
FOCUS North America

YOUTH IN ACTION

VCS SIGN-UP

The Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School is taking place at Holy Trinity. To register your child go to: stnicholasgr.com/vcs/.



**KIDS' FOOD BASKET
& FARM DAYS 2024
SUMMER FUN!**

PLANT, WEED, AND/OR HARVEST FOOD
AT KIDS' FOOD BASKET 8:30-10:30 AM

**THEN ENJOY A FUN
SUMMER ACTIVITY!**

TUESDAY JUNE 18	FRIDAY JULY 19	TUESDAY AUGUST 6
PICNIC, PLAY & SPLASH PAD AT WILCOX PARK 10:30- 12:30PM	LAKE DAY AT THE LAMBERTS' 10:30-4PM	POOL PARTY AT THE SIROTKOS' 10:30-4PM

PARENTS: WATCH YOUR EMAIL THROUGHOUT THE
SUMMER FOR DETAILS AND THE KFB SIGNUP LINK!

ETIQUETTE CORNER: BE A MARTHA: DO YOUR PART

Visitors often stand in awe at the beauty of our church. Can you blame them? God has blessed us with a facility that brings honor to His Name. As parishioners, we have been entrusted with taking care of this wonderful gift. One area that we need to improve upon is cleanliness. We encourage everyone to follow these simple stewardship practices:

- ◆ If your toddler needs a snack during the Divine Liturgy, please take him/her to the Cry Room. No snacks, regardless of type, should be eaten in the Nave.
- ◆ If you happen to find trash on the floor, whether in the hallways, classrooms, or restrooms, pick it up and place it in a trash can.
- ◆ Refrain from eating Coffee Hour foods in the Atrium or Heritage Hall. All food should remain in the Cultural Center.
- ◆ At the end of Coffee Hour, please look around your table before leaving it to pick up food on the floor around your table area.

Thank you in advance for being good stewards of our beautiful church.



Sign Up Here



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

**SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 9-13** ✝

Ages: 4 years - 12th Grade
Kick Off Picnic (Mulick Park)
Remaining Days Hosted at Holy Trinity
330 Lakeside Dr NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

WHITECAPS WIN BY 1!

We spent a beautiful summer evening enjoying a cook-out and Whitecaps game with our friends from Shepherds of Independence! The Whitecaps got the win, and we got the blessing of the residents' fellowship! Thanks to all the parishioners who donated to purchase the residents' tickets and to all who came to the game!



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Saturday Morning Brunch

June 15 @ 10AM

Join the Women of St Nicholas for brunch at the Lambert's home. Please bring some fruit, baked good (no bagels, we will have those) or dessert to share. Contact Marian Lambert with questions. Please RSVP to Marian via the Evite for this event or via the above contact information. *Address: 13825 W Point Drive, Gowen, 49326*

FORERUNNERS

Salute to the 4th

Tuesday, June 18 @ 12PM

Our annual Salute to the 4th will be held at St. Nicholas in the Gathering Room. Everyone is encouraged to wear red, white and blue! Please bring a dish for the potluck – if you are creative, bring something red or white or blue or just patriotic! Please arrive at noon. We will eat and enjoy music by Elaine and Linda Audy as well as a sing-along. Anyone who would like to share his/her talent, don't hesitate! Please contact Barbara Thomas.

YOUNG ADULTS

The St. Nicholas Young Adults gathered at Scott Storey's farm for a fun night of fellowship and a bonfire! If you're 18-35 and are not yet involved in this group, be sure to see Ethan DeJonge and check the calendar for events.



SAVE THE DATE

Annual St. Nicholas vs.
St George Softball Game
Sunday, September 15
following Divine Liturgy

Please contact Scott Storey
for details.

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

