

**SUNDAY OF  
THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ASCENSION  
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF  
THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

**JUNE 16, 2024**

**ST. NICHOLAS  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2250 East Paris Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
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**CLERGY**

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA  
*Archbishop of New York & Metropolitan of all North America*

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY  
*Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*

Very Reverend Michael Nasser  
*Pastor*

Reverend David Khorey  
*Associate Pastor*

V. Rev. Elias Mitchell  
Rev. Theodore Sirotko  
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff  
Rev. Deacon John Kaufman  
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



## WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book and taking a visitor's packet both located on the table in the Narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us for refreshments & fellowship in the Cultural Center.

We believe **Holy Communion** to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, & regular confession are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

## WHO WE ARE

St. Nicholas Church is a worshipping community living and sharing the Faith Christ gave to the Apostles.

Our parish exists to seek and share Christ's love so that all will find eternal life in Him.

We would love to share more about our Orthodox Faith with you. Our website and our bookstore are great resources to assist you in learning more about us and what we believe! Also, feel free to make an appointment with our pastor.

We trust that you will experience Christ's presence as you worship with us today.



## HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

### HYMNS

#### ***RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 6)***

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

#### ***APOLYTIKION OF THE ASCENSION (TONE 4)***

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

#### ***APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS (TONE 8)***

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

#### ***APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)***

Thy work of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness richness. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our soul.

#### ***KONTAKION OF THE ASCENSION (TONE 6)***

When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting the terrestrials with the celestials, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved: I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

## EPISTLE

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.  
For Thou art just in all Thou hast done to us.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

20:16-18, 28-36

In those days, Paul was determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if possible, to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the priests of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, to shepherd the church of the Lord and God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will enter among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, remain watchful, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish every one, night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by such laboring we ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down on his knees with them all, and prayed.



## GOSPEL



### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John**

17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

## SYNAXARION

*(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)*

On June 16 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Tikhon the wonderworker, bishop of Amathos in Cyprus; Venerable Tikhon of Kaluga; and Venerable Tikhon of Likh.

On this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the first Ecumenical Council of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, which took place in Nicaea in Bithynia.

### Verses

O ye light-bearing stars of the spiritual firmament, enlighten my mind with your rays.

### Verses Against Arius

Calling the Son a stranger to the Father's essence, Arius proved to be a stranger to God's glory.

Arius, the notorious heretic, began to blaspheme against God and His Son the Word, saying that the latter was not God consubstantial with the Father, but that He was created as a stranger to the Substance of the Father and His glory. Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, tried to constrain Arius from disturbing the faithful with this teaching; even though Alexander excommunicated him, Arius did not cease his blasphemy, which spread throughout the Church in all nations. Thus, Emperor Constantine the Great called the First Ecumenical Council, which gathered bishops and teachers in the Church from all lands. They all proclaimed, as by one mouth, the equality of the Son of God with the Father in Substance, thus laying down the noble Confession of Faith, The Creed, which we Orthodox Christians recite to this day. The Church regards these divine Fathers as preachers of the Faith next to the holy Apostles.

By the intercessions of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

## HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Archpriest Joseph and Kh. Leslee on their 40th wedding anniversary, offered by Joanna Abud. May God grant them many more years!

For the arrival of our newest angel, Owen Robert Rinvelt, and for Zack, Samantha, Levi and Ellison. May God continue to bless and keep them safe under His most watchful care. With all our love, Opa, Opa, BB, Auntie Tori, Uncle Jake, and Auntie Jamal.

For the Health and Blessings of Gregory Lambert on his birthday and Father's Day, offered by his loving family. May God grant him many blessed years!

For the Health and Blessings of Roger David, Joe David, and Rob Rinvelt on Father's Day, offered by Sara, Mary, and Lily David. May God grant them many years! We love you!

For the Health & Blessings of Lois Rogowyi on her birthday, offered by her family. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Lily Kate David on her 17th birthday, offered by Dad, Mom, Sara and Mary. May God grant her many years! We love you!

For the Health and Blessings of Cooper Samuel on his first birthday, offered by Jennie, Cody and Lorelai. May God grant him many years!

For the Faith, Health, and Blessings of Rick Merpi on his birthday and for all the fathers and Godfathers in our family, offered by your wives, children, grandchildren, and Godchildren.

For the Faith, Health, and Blessings of: Rick and Suzi Merpi; Ricky, Julia, Lou, Eddie, and Alberta Merpi; Aubrey, Michael, Evy and Declan Merpi Stewart; Oscar and Mal Merpi Fuentes; Spencer, Kaitlin, Ryan, Luke, and Eloise Merpi, offered by Nonno and Sitti.

In memory of the Servant of God, David Vaillancourt, on the five-year anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Dan & Kathy, Pat & Diane, Linda, Mark & Janet and families. May his memory be Eternal!

In memory and for the forgiveness and eternal life of Edward, Josephine, Dennis, Stephen, Gary George, and Henry Geha, Giulio, Beatrice, and Anthony Merpi, offered by the Geha Merpi Family.

For the Health and Blessings of all Fathers, Grandfathers, and Godfathers, and in remembrance of all these Servants of God who have departed. Happy Father's Day!

# REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*Names are added to the Prayer List  
for one week by offering Holy Oblation  
or for up to 40 days in the case of an ongoing serious illness.*

## LIVING

Metropolitan PAUL  
Archbishop JOHN  
Archpriest Joseph

For all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty  
in the Middle East, Ukraine, and throughout the world.

And for all Fathers, Grandfathers, and Godfathers

|                           |                       |                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Kh. Leslee Abud           | Cooper DeLonge        | Mal Merpi Fuentes |
| JoAnn Abraham &<br>family | Rick Merpi            | Spencer Merpi     |
| Owen Rinvelt              | Suzi Merpi            | Kaitlin Merpi     |
| Zack Rinvelt              | Ricky Merpi           | Ryan Merpi        |
| Samantha Rinvelt          | Julia Merpi           | Luke Merpi        |
| Levi Rinvelt              | Lou Merpi             | Eloise Merpi      |
| Ellison Rinvelt           | Eddie Merpi           | Joe Corey         |
| Greg Lambert              | Alberta Merpi         | David Corey       |
| Roger David               | Aubrey Merpi Stewart  | Kathy Corey       |
| Joe David                 | Michael Merpi Stewart | Tillie Sayfie     |
| Rob Rinvelt               | Evy Merpi Stewart     | Ann Hoodhood      |
| Lois Rogowyi              | Declan Merpi Stewart  | Angela Sirotko    |
| Lily David                | Oscar Merpi Fuentes   | Marc Catto        |



## NEWLY DEPARTED

For the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty  
in the Middle East, Ukraine, and throughout the world.

MaryAnn Maloley

## DEPARTED

|                    |                |                |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| David Vaillancourt | Stephen George | Giulio Merpi   |
| Edward George      | Gary George    | Beatrice Merpi |
| Josephine George   | Henry Geha     | Anthony Merpi  |
| Dennis George      |                |                |

For all Fathers, Grandfathers, and Godfathers