

LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

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

BEGINNING A NEW ECCLESIASTICAL (CHURCH) YEAR

Our Ecclesiastical (Church) Year begins today. This year let's resolve to do the following:

COMMIT: To strengthening our spiritual lives by attending services, Bible Studies, and other spiritually enriching opportunities as often as we are able:

- Great Vespers
- Orthros
- Divine Liturgy (Sundays & Special Feast Days)
- Orthodox Education Classes (Church School & Adult Class)
- Wednesday Night Parish Night
- Thursday Bible Study
- Other events sponsored by our parish

CONNECT: With our fellow parishioners by participating in the ministry opportunities that St. Nicholas has to offer:

- Fellowship Groups
- Liturgical Ministries
- Orthodox Education
- Outreach
- Parish Support
- Youth Programming

It has been said that a family that prays together and plays together stays together. Let's do this together as we continue to be all that God has called us to be!

**May God bless your efforts
in the days, weeks, and months ahead!**

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 1

8:50AM—Orthros

10AM—Divine Liturgy
followed by Doxology for the
New Ecclesiastical Year

Monday, September 2

5PM—All-Parish Bonfire @
Legacy Icons sponsored by
Young Adults

Tuesday, September 3

No Office Hours

Saturday, September 7

9AM—A-MEN Breakfast

10AM—Choir Rehearsal

5PM—Byzantine
Choir Rehearsal

6PM—Festal Vespers
of the Forefeast of the
Nativity of the Theotokos
followed by Confession

Sunday, September 8

8:50AM—Orthros &

First Day of
Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Teacher & Student
Prayer of Blessing

Women's Ministry & SOYO
Leadership Swearing-in &
Prayer of Blessing

Prayer Trail Dedication

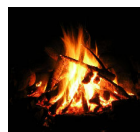
Middle Eastern Dinner
Kickoff

Teen SOYO Night

PARISH COOKOUT/BONFIRE AT LEGACY ICONS

Tomorrow, September 2 @ 6PM

The **entire parish** is invited to a cookout and bonfire, sponsored by the St. Nicholas Young Adults, at Legacy Icons (3496 76th Ave Zeeland, MI 49464). The evening includes playing yard games, eating burgers and making S'mores! Come join the fun!



Sunday Morning Orthodox Education

Beginning Next Sunday, September 8 @ 8:50AM

Church School

Parents, please visit this link today to get your children registered.

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

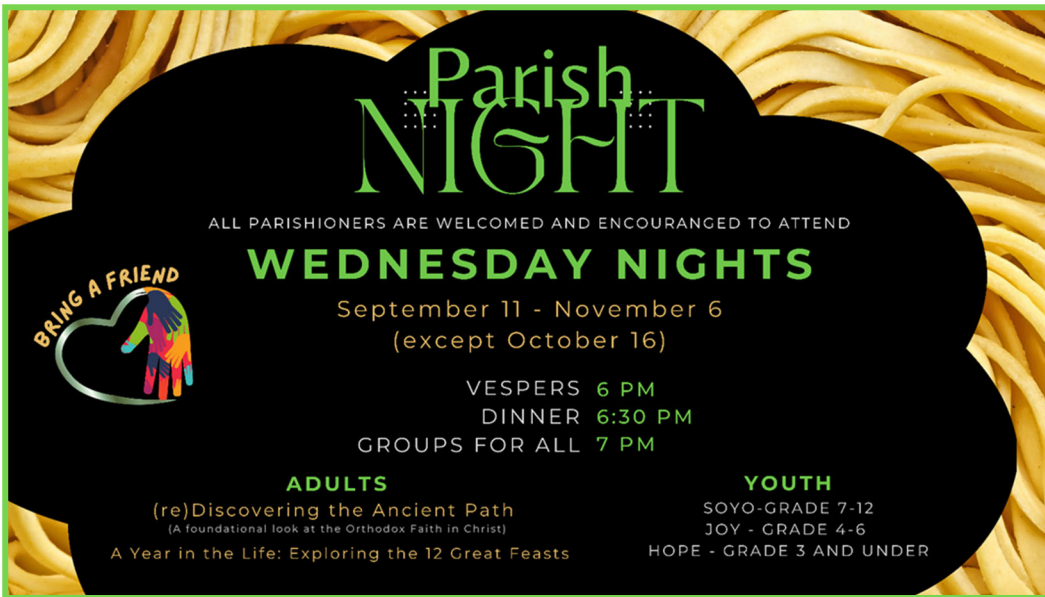
Adult Sunday Class

Dr. Charlie Makhoul's Adult Class will discuss the topic "Let us give thanks unto the Lord": A Study of the Divine Liturgy. The class will take place in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend.

ST, NICHOLAS VS. ST. GEORGE SOFTBALL

Sunday, September 15 following Divine Liturgy

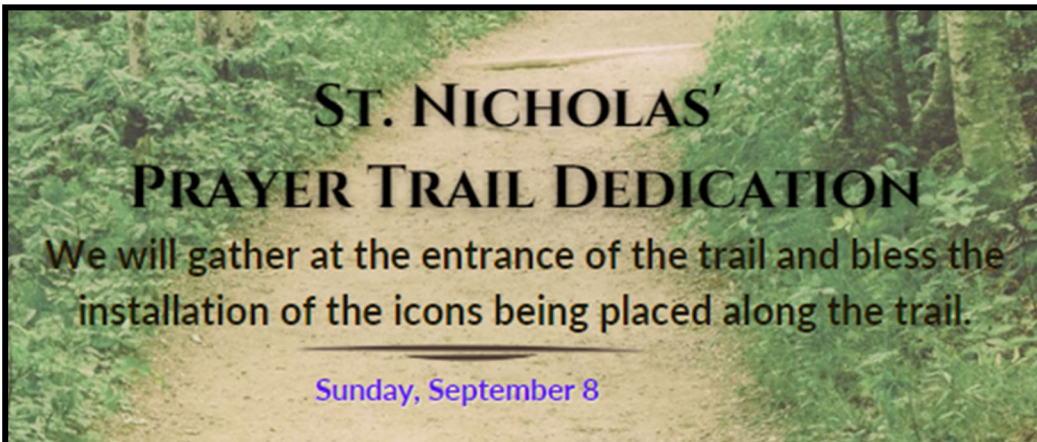
The softball game vs. St. George is just around the corner! The festivities will begin with lunch following Liturgy (approximately noon) at Manhattan Park (331 Cascade Rd SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506). Hot dogs/burgers/chips/drinks will be provided. The game will begin immediately following lunch (typically around 1PM, or sooner). Please come to play or to cheer on St. Nicholas! (No experience or glove required). Please contact Scott Storey if you have questions or are interested in playing. You can also sign up using <https://stnicholasgr.com/softball/>



Parish NIGHT
ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
September 11 - November 6
(except October 16)
VESPERS 6 PM
DINNER 6:30 PM
GROUPS FOR ALL 7 PM

BRING A FRIEND

ADULTS (re)Discovering the Ancient Path (A foundational look at the Orthodox Faith in Christ) A Year in the Life: Exploring the 12 Great Feasts	YOUTH SOYO- GRADE 7-12 JOY - GRADE 4-6 HOPE - GRADE 3 AND UNDER
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ST. NICHOLAS'
PRAYER TRAIL DEDICATION
We will gather at the entrance of the trail and bless the installation of the icons being placed along the trail.
Sunday, September 8

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, September 11
6PM—Parish Night Begins

Friday, September 13
Elevation of the Holy Cross with Procession

5PM—Orthros
6PM—Divine Liturgy

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

Sunday, September 22
Ministry Engagement
Celebration Sunday

**Friday, September 20 -
Monday, September 23**
Adult AV Camp

Tuesday, October 15
Middle Eastern Dinner

Friday-Sunday, October 18-20
Fall Gathering

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*From the rising
of the sun
to its going down
The LORD's name
is to be praised.*

Psalm 113:3

MIDDLE EASTERN DINNER NEWS

Tuesday, October 15

ONLINE AND PRINTED TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

Have you started promoting our Middle Eastern Dinner? Tell your friends, co-workers, and family members! The ticket link is available on our St. Nicholas website [stnicholasgr.com/dinner] for you and your friends to use to purchase tickets. Be certain to send the link to your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. A table will be set up during Coffee Hour to pick-up tickets to sell.



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



St. Nicholas
Middle Eastern
Dinner

BAKING SCHEDULE

A table is set up during Coffee Hour for all parishioners to sign-up and work for each of the baking sessions.

NOTE: Please do not wear open-toe shoes when you come to bake.

Tuesday, September 10

Cheese Bread

9 AM-Dough Balls

10 AM-Baking Begins

Saturday, September 14

Meat Balls

8 AM—1 PM

Tuesday, September 17

Cheese Bread

9 AM-Dough Balls

10 AM-Baking Begins

Monday, September 23

Baklava

10 AM



SHEPHERDS OF INDEPENDENCE ANNUAL BBQ

Saturday, Sept. 21, @ 11:30AM-1:30PM

St. Nicholas will again sponsor a BBQ for the residents of Shepherds of Independence (1400 Morgan St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504). Please come join us as we play yard games, hang-out and eat some great smoked pork and brisket. It is a wonderful opportunity to “show mercy with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:8). Please register at <https://stnicholasgr.com/shepherds/>.

Shepherds of Independence is a supportive care facility in Grand Rapids which provides housing and food for some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Servant of God, Jordan Joshua, was born Thursday, August 22, weighing 6lbs 14oz and stretching to a length of 20.5 inches. Congratulations to parents, Cody and Jennie DeLonge, big sister Lorelai, and big brother Cooper, on the birth of their newest family member!



Servant of God, Jesse Andrew, was born Saturday, August 24, weighing 7lbs 9oz and stretching to a length of 20.5 inches. Congratulations to parents, Fr. Mykel and Kh. Sarah Giannakakos and big brother Ashton on the birth of their newest family member!





During the month of September, we encourage each member to reevaluate his/her involvement in the ministries we offer at St. Nicholas. Visit the Time and Talent Link or QR code to the following link to indicate the ministries you desire to participate in. <https://stnicholasgr.com/timeandtalent>



YOUTH IN ACTION

FIRST DAY OF CHURCH SCHOOL 2024-25

Next Sunday, September 8 @ 8:50 AM

All youth from Pre-school through Grade 12 are invited to participate in our St. Nicholas Church School Program. Students and teachers will gather in the Atrium for our first morning assembly at 8:50AM sharp! If you have not yet registered your youth for Church School, you may do so at stnicholasgr.com/youth.

TEEN SOYO NIGHT: WELCOMING NEW TEENS!

Sunday, September 8 @ 5-7PM

Join us for our first Teen Night of the new Ecclesiastical Year next Sunday. As always, we'll share in food, fellowship, and lots of fun. (Especially if Dn. Justin & Tanner can get the 9-Square game assembled in time!). All teens from 7th-12th grade are welcome. New 7th Graders: the teens will be reaching out to you individually to invite you to come. Be sure to join us!

ST.NICHOLAS AV NIGHT

Sunday, September 22 @ 6-8PM

All camp-aged kids (8-17 next summer) and their parents are invited to AV Night! Come enjoy dinner, camp games, and learn about the Antiochian Village Summer Camp. We will watch the AV Camp video and hear from our own campers about their experience!

Please register at: stnicholasgr.com/youth/.

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/holyoblation/
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.

The Ministry Leaders and Committee members gathered for an all day retreat last Saturday. The group worked hard, learning how to better serve our parish and others, and finished the day by having our 2024-2025 schedule of ministry and outreach events and meetings completed. Akram Karadsheh of Euro Bistro donated a delicious salmon and chicken lunch. Everyone had a great time!





Midwest Diocese
FAMILY FALL
Gathering

October 18-20, 2024
Clergy: October 17-19

HOSTED BY
ST. NICHOLAS - GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Registration Now Open!

stnicholasgr.com/fall-gathering
\$50 - Adults / \$30 - Kids 12 & under

Great Room Rates!
1 King Bed Suite: \$109 / 2 Queen Beds Suite: \$119

Keynote Speaker
Deacon Gabriel Otte
"Stillness in the Storm: Orthodoxy on Conquering Anxiety".



First, he created Freenome, a biotech company that develops blood tests for early detection of cancer. When he retired as CEO, he was ordained a deacon and serves at St. Stephen Orthodox Church in Campbell, CA. With a Masters of Theology from The Antiochian House of Studies in conjunction with the University of Balamand in Lebanon, Dn. Gabriel combines his calling as a clergyman, business adviser, and philanthropist.





REQUEST FOR RETURNABLE CANS & BOTTLES

My name is Olivia Adolphson and I am raising money for a school trip to France next Spring! If anyone has returnable cans or bottles they'd be willing to offer, I'd be happy to take them off your hands. I can come pick them up at your home, or you can bring them to church. Please let me or my parents, Dn. Justin & Melissa, know if you can help.

LOOKING BACK AT A WONDERFUL VISIT WITH METROPOLITAN SABA



Vespers at St. Nicholas followed by dinner and time with the Parish Councils of our West Michigan Antiochian Parishes.



Time with the Youth

Kids of all ages greeted Metropolitan SABA and clergy as they enter St. George Church for time together.



A Sunday evening reception for the members of the Order of St. Ignatius and those interested in becoming members.



Metropolitan SABA presented a gift to Dan Abraham for his many years of service in the Archdiocese.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis)



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

Archiepiscopal Vicar for
Toledo and the Midwest

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

August 26, 2024

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Midwest,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This Sunday, September 1, we will celebrate the Beginning of the Indiction, also known as the Church New Year. On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Saba, I wish you much joy!

Unlike the civil calendar, our ecclesiastical reckoning of months begins with September. Historically, this goes back to how the Roman emperors organized the payment of yearly taxes, which were correlated with the fall harvest. Liturgically, however, it is tied to the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, September 8, which is the first of all the Twelve Great Feasts if we put them in chronological order. The birth of Mary (who would give birth to Christ) “hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe” (in the words of the apolytikion), for it began that blessed chain of events through which Christ would abolish death and grant us life everlasting.

The beginning of a new church year is a time to take stock, give thanks, and recommit ourselves to the gospel. This year, for us in the Midwest, it also marks a changing of the guard, so to speak. His Grace Bishop Anthony is beginning a new ministry in the West—the largest diocese in our archdiocese—while I have been called to fill his very big shoes here in the Midwest. I arrived at the chancery in Toledo a couple of weeks ago. Since then, I have made pastoral visits to three of our Chicago-area churches and accompanied His Eminence Metropolitan Saba during his visit to Grand Rapids. I look forward to seeing all of our communities—over fifty!—in the next twelve months, and to that end, I have already scheduled many visits through the end of March. I feel very blessed to have received this diocese in such excellent shape, as a result of Bishop Anthony’s faithful labors. And I offer myself to the Lord to make whatever contribution I can to continuing that work.

With prayers that the Lord would bless all our parishes and missions with spiritual prosperity and growth in grace, throughout the coming year, I am,

Yours in the Service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. Jeremy Davis".

Archimandrite Jeremy
Archiepiscopal Vicar

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



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><u>8:50 am</u> - Orthros</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Divine Liturgy followed by Doxology for the New Ecclesiastical Year</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Labor Day No Office Hours</p> <p><u>5 pm</u> - All Parish Bonfire @Lecacy Icons Hosted by the Young Adults</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p><u>9 am</u> - A-Men Breakfast</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Liturgical Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>5 pm</u> - Byzantine Choir Practice</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Festal Vespers of the forfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos followed by Confession</p>
<p>8</p> <p><u>8:50 am</u> - Orthros & Orthodox Education</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Divine Liturgy with Youth Homily followed by Teacher & Student Prayer Blessing, Women of St. Nicholas & SOYO Leadership Dedication, Middle Eastern Dinner Kick Off</p> <p><u>5:00 pm</u> - Teen SOYO Night</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Baking Day</p> <p><u>8 am</u> - Cheese Bread Dough Balls</p> <p><u>9 am</u> - Cheese Bread Baking</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> - WIG 1 Team Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Parish Night</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Vespers</p> <p><u>6:30 pm</u> - Spaghetti Supper</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> - Classes and Activities</p>	<p>12</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Bible Study</p> <p><u>11 am</u> - St. Xenia's Circle</p>	<p>13</p> <p><u>5 pm</u> - Orthros for the Elevation of the Holy Cross</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Divine Liturgy with Procession</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Elevation of the Holy Cross</p> <p>Baking Day</p> <p><u>8 am</u> - Meatballs</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Great Vespers followed by Confession</p>
<p>15</p> <p><u>8:50 am</u> - Orthros & Orthodox Education</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Divine Liturgy</p> <p>*Softball Game (St. George vs. St. Nicholas at Manhattan Park)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Baking Day</p> <p><u>8 am</u> - Cheese Bread Dough Balls</p> <p><u>9 am</u> - Cheese Bread baking</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p><u>6:30 pm</u> - Liturgical Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Parish Night</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Vespers</p> <p><u>6:30 pm</u> - Spaghetti Supper</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> - Classes and Activities</p>	<p>19</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Bible Study</p> <p><u>4 pm</u> - Forerunners' Luncheon with Hope Network</p> <p>Baking Day</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Baklava Syrup & Nuts Prep</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><u>11:30 am</u> - Shepards of Independence BBQ</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Great Vespers followed by Confession</p>
<p>22</p> <p><u>8:50 am</u> - Orthros & Orthodox Education</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Divine Liturgy</p> <p>* Ministry Engagement Celebration</p> <p><u>6:00 pm</u> - AV Night</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Baking Day</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Baklava Baking</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Parish Night</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Vespers</p> <p><u>6:30 pm</u> - Spaghetti Supper</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> - Classes and</p>	<p>26</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Bible Study</p> <p><u>11 am</u> - St. Xenia's Circle</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - Middle Eastern Dinner Midway Leadership Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><u>9 am</u> - Women of St. Nicholas Breakfast</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> - @St. George Great Vespers</p>
<p>29</p> <p><u>8:50 am</u> - Orthros & Orthodox Education</p> <p><u>10 am</u> - Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>30</p>	<p align="center">OUR MISSION – WHAT WE DO</p> <p align="center">St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is a worshipping community living and sharing the Faith given by Christ to the Apostles.</p> <p align="center">WHY WE EXIST</p> <p align="center">St. Nicholas Orthodox Church exists to seek and share Christ's love so that all will find Eternal Life in Him.</p>				