

LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

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

NEXT SUNDAY DURING COFFEE HOUR!



Our annual Ministry Fair had been a highlight of our parish fall calendar, but it's now evolving in the MINISTRY ENGAGEMENT CELEBRATION! We celebrate all the great ministry being done in our 35 Fellowship Groups and Ministry Teams, with great food (authentic street tacos!) and lots of fun and games. Our groups will be inviting new involvement throughout the year, and we encourage each member to reevaluate his/her involvement in the ministries we offer at St. Nicholas. Use the *Time and Talent* link to indicate the ministries you desire to participate in. stnicholasgr.com/timeandtalent.

SHEPHERDS OF INDEPENDENCE ANNUAL BBQ

Next 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). Please 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 which provides housing and food for some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

REGISTER FOR THE 2024 FAMILY FALL GATHERING!

St. Nicholas members, register at stnicholasgr.com/fall-gathering/

- * Live Music
- * Trivia/Game Night
- * Activities for Kids
- * Campfire
- * Offsite Teen Service Project
- * Best Practice Sessions
- * Young Adult Pickleball!



THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 15

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

St. Nicholas vs St. George Softball Game @ Manhattan Park

Tuesday, September 17

Cheese Bread Baking

9AM—Dough Balls
10AM—Baking

6PM—Parish Council Meeting

6:30PM—Liturgical Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 18

Parish Night

6PM—Vespers
6:30PM—Spaghetti Dinner
7PM—Classes & Activities

Thursday, September 19

10AM—Bible Study

4PM—Forerunners Luncheon with Hope Network

6PM—Baklava Prep

Friday, September 20

10AM—OK Mama New Church Year Playdate

Friday, September 20 - Monday, September 23

Adult AV Camp

FRIENDLY FACES NEEDED

As we start the new Ecclesiastical Year, we want to invite you to be a Sunday morning greeter. This opportunity involves standing in the stained-glass hallway and saying “good morning” to everyone as they pass by. One of the biggest rewards of greeting is becoming familiar with those who attend the Divine Liturgy each week. Another added benefit is being a friendly face while displaying the love of Christ! If you are interested, click the link below to sign-up! No experience necessary. All you need to be able to do is say "Good morning!" <https://stnicholasgr.com/goodmorning/>.

“LUNCH BUDDIES” FOR RIDGE PARK CHARTER ACADEMY

As the school year begins, we are once again partnering with our neighbor, Ridge Park Charter Academy, to provide extra support to their students. This year we are looking for “lunch buddies” --people who are able to spend a half hour a week with a student during their lunch time talking, playing games and generally being a trusted adult in their lives. If you have the desire to help and the time to give, please contact Jenny Khorey for more information.

PARISH NIGHT—WEEK 1

Our first Parish Night of the new Ecclesiastical Year was a huge success with over 65 people in attendance! If you were not able to attend, it is not too late! The following schedule takes place each Wednesday evening:

- * 6PM—Vespers
- * 6:30PM—Dinner
- * 7PM—Classes and activities

Adult Sessions

- ⇒ A Year in the Life: Exploring the 12 Great Feasts with Fr. David
- ⇒ (re)Discovering the Ancient Path: A foundational look at the Orthodox Faith in Christ with Fr. Michael

Youth Activities: Teen SOYO, JOY and HOPE (Pre-K –grade 3)

- ⇒ HOPE Kids will focus on a saint and/or Feast Days along with a story and activity.

Saturday, September 21

11:30AM—Shepherds of Independence BBQ

6PM—Great Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday, September 22

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Ministry Engagement Celebration

5PM—St. Nicholas AV Night

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, October 15

Middle Eastern Dinner

Friday-Sunday, October 18-20

Fall Gathering

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:6-8



MIDDLE EASTERN DINNER NEWS

Tuesday, October 15

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

We are counting on your cooperation to help make this dinner a success! Please start to sell tickets, and remember to purchase your own as well.

- ◆ Tickets can be purchased online using Venmo or credit card @ <https://stnicholasgr.com/dinner/>.
- ◆ Printed tickets are available during Coffee Hour as well as in the church office during office hours.
- ◆ Ticket prices are as follows:
 - ◇ Cash/check: \$22.00
 - ◇ Venmo: \$22.50
 - ◇ Credit Card: \$22.66



A few helpful tips to get you started on selling tickets.

- ◇ Send the online ticket link to your family and friends.
- ◇ Take printed tickets to sell to family and friends who would enjoy delicious dinner and collect money from them for the tickets.
- ◇ All unsold tickets and money from purchases must be turned in by Sunday, October 6!

TWO BAKING DAYS REMAINING!

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 17

Cheese Bread

9AM-Dough Balls

10AM-Baking Begins

Monday, September 23

Baklava

10AM



SPREAD THE WORD!

Have you seen the photos of our wonderful chefs on social media? Make sure you share these photos, and our Middle Eastern Dinner flyer on your social media to promote this delicious event! Remember, St. Nicholas is on Facebook and Instagram so share, share, share! Let's make this the most successful dinner yet!



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

FORERUNNERS

This Thursday, September 19 @ 4PM

Our first event of the new Ecclesiastical Church Year is with our neighbors at Hope Network. We are hosting a picnic for them at their facility (4222 Burton SE) next to our property. Last year, we had great participation and had a lot of fun! Those who are able, please meet at church at 3PM to help gather supplies. We will be grilling hot dogs and serving picnic sides. Please RSVP to Eileen Adolphson, Barbara Thomas, or Subdn. Nicholas. For those who are not familiar with our Hope Network neighbors, they are an adult foster care facility for those with physical or cognitive disabilities.

OK MAMA

This Friday, September 20 @ 10-11:30AM

OK Mama is a Pan-Orthodox group of moms, grandmas, nannies, former moms, hopeful moms and anyone else who shares in the work of raising children in the Orthodox faith. If you fit this description, come join us for our first gathering of the Ecclesiastical Year at the home of Emily Campbell (3271 Hidden Hills Ct SE 49546). Join us for children-friendly prayer time, play time, and fellowship! For more information, contact Hannah Seeley or Teresa Cramer.

WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

Saturday, September 28 @ 9AM

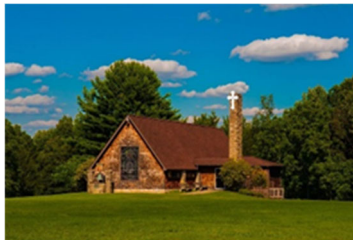
Join us as we begin our new church year with breakfast, fellowship and an opportunity to learn more about the wives of our clergy. Our clergy wives will participate in a panel and let us know about their backgrounds and journeys to Orthodoxy. Please contact Angela Boyer if you did not receive an invite in your email.

YOUTH IN ACTION

GRAND RAPIDS AREA AV NIGHT

Sunday, September 22 @ 5-7PM

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/.



FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS MAILBOX

Dear Clergy & St. Nicholas Family,

It is with immense gratitude and love that we would like to thank you all for the tremendous support we have received from each of you during our mother's health decline. The countless visits, phone calls, prayers, cards, and all the love preceding & after her passing will remain forever in our hearts.

With love,

Dan, Kim & The Hoodhood family

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.

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ST. NICHOLAS!



The men enjoy a hearty breakfast together



Church School room blessing procession

Church School General Assembly



For the homily, Dn. Justin talked with the children about the Nativity of the Theotokos.



Blessing of officers of the Women of St. Nicholas and Teen SOYO for the upcoming year



Prayer of Blessing for the Church School Staff and Students upon the new Church School year



Teen SOYO Teen Night Kick-Off



FOCUS

✦ GRAND RAPIDS ✦



DINNER TO SERVE

For the benefit of our new
FOCUS Center in Grand Rapids.

September 30, 2024 | 4 PM to 9 PM
Euro Bistro (6080 28th Street Southeast)
(616) 719-2017

Join us to enjoy a delicious meal. All proceeds from your dinner (excluding tips) will be donated to the development of this vital new ministry.

FOCUS North America is a national nonprofit with eleven operating divisions across the country. Join us as we develop a new FOCUS Center right here in Grand Rapids.

Call ahead to make your reservation. Space is limited.

More information at focusna.org/GrandRapids.