



LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

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

FOCUS FUNDRAISER DINNER

Tomorrow, September 30 @ 4-9PM

Invite your friends to dinner at Euro Bistro. (6080 28th St. SE). All proceeds (excluding tips) will be donated to the development of our FOCUS Grand Rapids Center. Call ahead to make your reservation. Space is limited.

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.



REGISTER FOR THE 2024 FAMILY FALL GATHERING!

Come meet other Orthodox Christians from throughout the Midwest and enjoy a weekend of inspiration and great times as we host the 2024 Family Fall Gathering.

Three Opportunities Offering Something for Everyone:

- ⇒ Pray together at worship services and help with our teen service project
- ⇒ Play together at trivia night & young adult pickleball and join our live music party
- ⇒ Stay together in growing our Orthodox Churches and sharing our best practices

Many volunteers are needed to help with this special weekend. To sign up, please visit the following link: stnicholasgr.com/volunteer/.

For more information, including the schedule and registration, go to stnicholasgr.com/fall-gathering/.

OCTOBER COFFEE HOUR HOST NEEDED

We currently do not have hosts for Coffee Hour on the following dates:

- ◆ October 13
- ◆ November 10, 17, 24

If you have not hosted Coffee Hour yet this year, you can help make Coffee Hour a reality! We strongly encourage all families to host at least one Coffee Hour each year, even by partnering with two, three or more families. Please sign up @ stnicholasgr.com/coffeehour.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 29

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Altar Boys: Pizza & Training

Monday, September 30

4-9PM—FOCUS Fundraiser Dinner @ Euro Bistro

Wednesday, October 2

Parish Night

6PM—Vespers

6:30PM—Spaghetti Dinner

7PM—Classes & Activities

Thursday, October 3

10AM—Bible Study

1PM—Forerunners Leadership Meeting

Friday, October 4

10AM—OK Mama: Moms & Kids Playdate

Saturday, October 5

8:30AM—A-Men Breakfast

10AM—Liturgical Choir Rehearsal

5PM—Byzantine Choir Rehearsal

6PM—Great Vespers followed by Confession

Midwest Diocese
FAMILY FALL
Gathering

October 18-20, 2024
Clergy: October 17-19
HOSTED BY
ST. NICHOLAS - GRAND RAPIDS, MI

COME JOIN THE FUN!

- Live Music!
- Activities for Kids!
- Offsite Teen Service Project!
- Trivia/Game Night!
- Campfire!
- Young Adult Pickleball!
- Tailgate-Style Lunch after Liturgy!

REGISTER TODAY!

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

Great Room Rates through September 25!
Home2 Suites by Hilton / Grand Rapids Airport

1 King Bed Suite: \$109 / 2 Queen Beds Suite: \$119

WORKS OF MERCY 2024 PARTICIPATION METRICS

As a part of our parish Strategic Plan, for the last two years, our Works of Mercy ministry has benchmarked our participation rate as a parish (parishioners and guest/avg Sunday attendance). In the 2023 Liturgical year, 161 individuals participated in a parish sponsored Works of Mercy event. That resulted in an 84% participation rate.

In the 2024 Liturgical year, participation was up 38% with 222 individuals participating in Works of Mercy events as the parish grew in attendance by 19%. Our final participation rate in Works of Mercy events as a church was an amazing 93%.

One of the questions the strategic plan asked us to address was “would your community notice if you no longer existed?” Due to your generosity, the answer to that question is they would! Thank you for participating in the Works of Mercy events as together we “seek and share Christ’s love so that all will find eternal life in Him.”

BBQ at Shepherds of Independence



Ministry Engagement Celebration



Fr. Michael... and those who dunked him! (Nice throws everyone!)



Tug of War victors



We learned to dabke.



Pinata fun for kids



Service with a smile!



The parish would like to thank Paul & Cindy La Franboise and their kitchen team for all of their hard work in preparing the delicious taco luncheon we enjoyed Sunday.

Sunday, October 6

8:50AM—Orthros & Orthodox Education

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Return money & unsold dinner tickets during Coffee Hour

5-7PM—October Teen Night @ at the home of Fr. Michael

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, October 13

Special Collection for the three Seminaries in the Archdiocese

Tuesday, October 15

Middle Eastern Dinner

Friday-Sunday, October 18-20

Fall Gathering

Friday, October 25

Vigil for St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer @ Holy Trinity

Sunday, October 27

Special Collection for Special Olympics

Trunk or Treat @ Holy Trinity

MIDDLE EASTERN DINNER NEWS

Tuesday, October 15 @ 4-7PM

TWO WEEKS TO GO!

We strongly encourage every member of St. Nicholas to actively participate in the Middle Eastern Dinner in any or all of the following:

- ◆ sell tickets (and purchase your own)
- ◆ help with packaging after Liturgy next Sunday
- ◆ help on the night of the event.

TICKETS

- ◆ Tickets can be purchased online using Venmo or credit card @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
- ◆ All unsold tickets and money from all sold tickets must be turned in by next Sunday, October 6!



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



HELP NEEDED

We still need help on the day of the Dinner:

- * Dining room wait staff—Contact Keith McAdams
- * Clean up in kitchen—Contact Bruce Nicola

REMINDERS

- ⇒ Distribute promotional cards
- ⇒ Distribute Dinner posters
- ⇒ Share photos of our Dinner poster on social media and our bakers at work
- ⇒ **Sell Tickets!**
- ⇒ St. Nicholas is on Facebook and Instagram so share, share, share! Let's make this the most successful dinner yet!

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!

GIVING BOARD!

All parishioners are encouraged to make a donation to help underwrite the ingredients and supplies associated with the Middle Eastern Dinner. **Pull off a giving card from the board located in the Atrium and make your donation.**

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12



DEPARTED IN OCTOBER

Remember in your prayers the following members who fell asleep in the Lord during the month of October:

10/1/2002	Mary Wawee	10/9/1968	Salem Bashara
10/1/1974	Fedwa Khaleefey	10/12/2019	Dolores Bander
10/1/2004	Alice Bendekgey	10/13/1996	James McAllister
10/2/2008	Eugenia Dudkin	10/15/1994	Adam Kitolski
10/2/1985	Mary David	10/20/2014	Suzi Maloley Franklin
10/3/2009	Nonna Tsaturova	10/22/1988	Oscar Sears
10/3/1993	James Maloley	10/25/1964	Rose Joseph
10/5/2015	Rosemary Sears	10/27/1972	Lilly Sickrey
10/5/2012	Margaret Abraham	10/28/1963	Nazera Sayfee
10/6/2011	Virginia Bander	10/29/1959	Leo Derwich
		10/19/2023	Doris Sullivan



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

A-MEN

Saturday, October 5 @ 9-11AM

Please join the Men of St. Nicholas for our monthly breakfast in the Cultural Center. As always, bring a friend!

YOUTH IN ACTION

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Today, September 29 during Coffee Hour

All young men, ages 8-18, please stay after Divine Liturgy for lunch and a 30-minute training session with Subdn. Nicholas and our Altar Server Captains. We'll enjoy some pizza together in the Teen Room, then head to the church for training!

YOUTH MONTH USHERING SIGN-UP

October is Youth Month in our Archdiocese. During October, our Teens are recognized for their excellent service to the church and take turns ushering and reading the Epistle. We still need some teens to usher. To sign up, please write your name on the poster hanging on the wall in the Teen Room, or tell Tanner or Dn. Justin which Sunday in October you can help.

OCTOBER TEEN NIGHT

Sunday, October 6 @ 5-7 PM

We're taking October's Teen Night on the road! Parents are invited to join their Teens to enjoy an evening at Fr. Michael and Vicky's home (*1055 Dogwood Meadows Dr. SE / Ada, MI 49301*). The teens, advisors and Fr. Michael will roast hot-dogs over the campfire while the parents meet with Dn. Justin.



AV Night



GROW IN THE FAITH

An important part of being an Orthodox Christian is growing in our Faith. For those who cannot attend the Sunday morning Adult Education Class, Wednesday Parish Nights, or Thursday morning Bible Study, you can still grow by connecting to each class online: stnicholasgr.com/podcasts/.

FIND YOUR FIT

Throughout the month of September, we have encouraged everyone to reconsider their engagement in the ministries of St. Nicholas. Today, as we celebrate everyone's participation, we continue to encourage each member of the parish to reflect upon how they connect to the life of the parish. Please review the "Find Your Fit: Ministry Guide" booklet and complete the commitment form located at the following link: stnicholasgr.com/timeandtalent.

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.