

**SUNDAY BEFORE
THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

**ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2250 East Paris Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-954-2700 ▪ info@stnicholasgr.com ▪ stnicholasgr.com



CLERGY

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

The Right Reverend Jeremy Davis
Archiepiscopal Vicar 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 2)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (TONE 4)

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS (TONE 4)

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.



EPISTLE



*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.*

**The Reading from the
Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians**

6:11-18

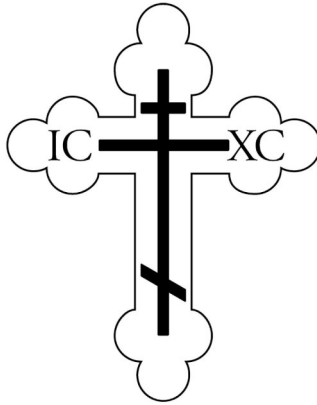
Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

3:13-17

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”



SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On September 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Nativity of our Most-holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

Verses

Truly, O Anna, thou surpasses all mothers,
Until that day thy daughter shall become a mother.
On the eighth Anna brought God's Mother into the light.

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams; for He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. She was Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, and the Fount of virginity and purity.

Through the intercessions of Thy Mother, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Dn. Justin as he completes his first year in the role of Youth Director. May God continue to give him wisdom as he leads the Youth and grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Rick Powell and Brooke Powell on the occasion of their birthday, offered with love from Dad, Mom, Giddo, Sitti, Melissa, Aunt Me, Lexy, Maci, and Melanie. May God Bless them and keep them safe.

For the Health and Blessings of Aleksandr de Morrow while he is home on leave from the Marines. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of our precious Ellison Marie on the occasion of her 2nd birthday. May God shine His glorious light upon her for many years. We love you BB & Opa.

For the Health and Blessings of Asti as she spends the academic year living with us and attending school, offered by Tyler & Leslie.

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 Abud
Dn. Justin Adolphson

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

Rick Powell
Brooke Powell
Aleksandr de Morrow
Ellison Marie Rinvelt
Asti
Joe Corey
David Corey
Tillie Sayfie
Wadih Choueiri
Kaye Powell
Jaredt Hultink
Christianna Hultink

DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

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

Ann Hoodhood