

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

DECEMBER 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

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 7)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

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 PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY (TONE 3)

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth at the message with the Angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, he who is from eternity God.

EPISTLE

*The Lord will give strength to His people.
Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God,
ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians.

(2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.



GOSPEL



The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.” And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On December 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Patapios of Thebes in Egypt.

Verses

Having patently forsaken the earth's corruptible pathways,
Thou patterest, O Patapios, where the feet of the meek do patter.
On the eighth, O Patapios, thou troddest green pasture.

Patapios abhorred the vanity of this world and withdrew into the wilderness of Egypt. There he devoted himself to a life of asceticism, cleansing his heart of all earthly desires and thoughts for the sake of God's love. However, when his virtues became known among the people, they came to him for solace in their sufferings. Fearing the praise of men, which darkens the minds of men and separates them from God, Patapios fled this wilderness to Constantinople, thinking he could hide himself more easily in a big city; but a light cannot be hidden. A child, blind from birth, was led by God's providence to Patapios. He besought the saint to pray to God that he be given his sight to look upon God's creation and praise Him all the more. Patapios, having compassion on the suffering child, prayed to God, and the child's sight was restored. This miracle revealed God's chosen one, and people rushed to him for healing, comfort and instruction. Patapios performed many other miracles, all through prayer in the name of Christ and by the sign of the Cross. In great old age, he peacefully entered the Heavenly Kingdom in the seventh century.

On this day, we also commemorate the forefeast of the conception of the Theotokos; and Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus.

By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the Handmaiden of God, Wafa Karadsheh, on her 40-day falling asleep in the Lord, offered by her family. May her memory be Eternal!

HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Jordan Joshua (JJ) DeLonge as he was baptized into Orthodoxy yesterday, offered with love and prayers by his parents, Cody and Jennie, his sister Lorelai and brother Cooper, and his Sito Wendie and Jido Sam Bander. God be with him always!

For the Health and Blessings of Jordan Joshua (“JJ”) DeLonge on his baptism into the Orthodox Faith, offered with love by his Godparents, Zach and Samantha Rinvelt. May God grant him many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Zachary and Samantha Rinvelt, as they lend guidance and prayers as godparents of Jordan Joshua (JJ) DeLonge, offered by Sam and Wendie Bander. May God bless them with health and happiness always.

For the Health and Blessings of Carole Kaufman on the occasion of her birthday, offered with love from her family. May God grant her many years!

For the Health and Blessings of Alexandra Ellis, Joseph Ajlouny (father of Joanne Nicola) and Joanne Nicola, offered with love by the Nicola and Ellis Families. God grant them many happy, healthy years!

For the Health and Blessings of Rebekah Kaufman on the occasion of her graduation from Grand Valley State University, offered with love by Dn. John, Carole, Leah and Sarah. May God bless her and grant her many years!

For the Health & Blessings of Zachary Nicholas Rinvelt on his names day, offered by Rob, Beth, Tori, Jake, Jamal, Samantha, Levi, Ellie, and Owen. May God grant him many years of health and happiness.

For the Health and Blessings of Amanda Azkoul as she nears the end of her pregnancy, offered by William. May God strengthen her and give her peace.

For the Health and Blessings of Linda Martin as she undergoes cancer evaluation, offered by Rebecca Palumbo and family. May God grant her many years.

For the children in foster care in Grand Rapids and those who serve them.

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
Archimandrite Jeremy Davis

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

And for the children in foster care in Grand Rapids
and those who serve them.

Jordan Joshua DeLonge	Joe Corey
Zachary Rinvelt	Tillie Sayfie
Samantha Rinvelt	David Corey
Carole Kaufman	Linda Zimmermann
Alexandra Ellis	Kaye Powell
Joseph Ajlouny	Wadih Choueiri
Joanne Nicola	Kathy Corey
Rebekah Kaufman	Randy Heibel
Amanda Azkoul	Matthew Ledford
Linda Martin	Pat Hattem

DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

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

Lois Day
Wafa Farah Karadsheh