

# LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

## THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

### APRIL 6, 2025

(616) 954-2700 ▪ [info@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:info@stnicholasgr.com) ▪ [stnicholasgr.com](http://stnicholasgr.com)

## GREAT LENT

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

All Orthodox Christians should have their confessions heard during this Lenten season.

#### Scheduled Confessions:

- ◆ Go to [stnicholasgr.com/appointments/](http://stnicholasgr.com/appointments/) or contact the church secretary to schedule your Confession with Fr. Michael.
- ◆ Fr. David is available by appointment only on Wednesday April 9 & 16 from 1-4PM. Please call the office to schedule with Fr. David.

#### Unscheduled Confessions:

- ◆ After any of the following services: Monday Compline, Saturday Vespers, Bridegroom Matins of Palm Sunday evening, Holy Monday, and Holy Tuesday.
- ◆ Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10AM and 1PM with Fr. Elias.

### THIS WEEK

**Sunday, April 6**

**Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt**

8:50AM—Orthros

NO Orthodox Education  
Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

5PM—SOYO Night

**Monday, April 7**

6PM—Great Compline  
followed by Confession

**Wednesday, April 9**

6PM—Presanctified Liturgy  
followed by Lenten Potluck

**Thursday, April 10**

10AM—Bible Study

11AM—St. Xenia's Circle

**Friday, April 11**

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy  
@ St. Nicholas

6PM—Little Compline with  
the Canon of Lazarus

**Saturday, April 12**

**Lazarus Saturday**

9AM—Orthros

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Spring Work Party with  
Breakfast Hosted by  
Women of St. Nicholas

12PM—Liturgical Choir  
Rehearsal

6PM—Great Vespers followed  
by Confession

## SPRING WORK DAY APRIL 12TH

**WE'RE HAVING A PARTY,  
AND YOU ARE INVITED!**

We will join our fellow parishioners in sprucing-up our church! There will be jobs for all ages and skills!

The day begins with Orthros (9 AM) and  
Divine Liturgy (10 AM) followed by a light breakfast.



### HOLY WEEK BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Looking for a great book to read in preparation for Holy Week? Consider *"The Crucifixion of the King of Glory"*, by Dr. Eugenia Constantinou. This masterpiece is a work that goes in depth, in great detail, of the events of Holy Week which lead today's reader "in real time" to Christ's Passion using her expertise as a Biblical scholar. She explains these events to today's reader while firmly adhering to the Orthodox teachings and Tradition of The Early Church. This book comes highly recommended for everyone's Lenten journey even if one doesn't finish it before Pascha! The book is available in the bookstore.

## GREAT LENT (CONTINUED)

### REJOICING ON PALM SUNDAY (NEXT SUNDAY)

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year. Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord.

#### Annual Palm Sunday Parish Picture

We are fortunate to have many senior parishioners. What a blessing it would be if all of them were able to be present for our all-parish Palm Sunday picture. If you have a senior parent, please make it a priority to help them get to church. Even if they can not attend the Liturgy, please arrive at 11:30AM in time for the photo.

#### Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon

After the parish picture, please stay for our annual Palm Sunday Luncheon, hosted by the Parish Council.

### HOLY WEEK PREPARATION

We share a few suggestions on how to prepare:

- ◆ Contact your employer/school for time off for the following services:
  - \* **April 17:** Holy Thursday Vespers Liturgy (9-11AM)
  - \* **April 18:** Holy Friday Royal Hours (Noon-3:30PM) and Vespers of the Unnailing of Christ (4-5:30PM)
- ◆ Sign up to Participate in Holy Week
  - \* Holy Thursday Foot Washing
  - \* Prayer Vigil following Good Friday Lamentations service until the Holy Saturday morning service.
  - \* Read the Gospel in another language @ Agape Vespers

Stop by the Holy Week table in the Narthex where you will find excuse forms, sign up sheets, and other information.

### PASCHA (EASTER) SUNDAY

#### Agape Vespers

As you know it is traditional to read the Gospel at Agape Vespers in different languages. If you are able to and would like to read the Gospel in a different language during this service, please sign up at the table in the Narthex.

### PASCHA OPEN HOUSE

#### **Sunday, April 20 after 3PM**

The Lewis Family is throwing their annual Open House to celebrate Pascha, and they'd love for you to join them. As part of the festivities there will be the traditional whole lamb rotisserie. This Open House is potluck-style, so please bring a dish to pass if you're able. They would love for you to join them in their celebration!

**Sunday, April 13**

#### **Palm Sunday**

8:50AM—Orthros

Orthodox Education Classes

10AM—Divine Liturgy

Collection for the Patriarchate

Coffee Hour Luncheon

Hosted by Parish Council

6PM—Bridegroom Matins

### LENTEN CHALLENGES

If you haven't completed your Lenten challenges yet, don't worry, there is still time!

- Change the Spirit of the Situation. Think of one instance in the past where you had prideful arrogance or insecurity how can you bring a different spirit to these situations, one to where God is present?
- Find at least one way to use the power of the Cross. In a situation where you could be tempted to act in an overpowering way or the opposite: not engaging at all, find a way that invites God to be your only power, as we act in obedience and submission to Him.
- Silence & Prayer: Set a goal to build up to at least 10 minutes of silence each day while meditating on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Reach out to church members who you haven't seen in a while.

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

#### **Next Sunday, April 13**

We have the privilege to financially contribute to support the suffering people of our Patriarchate in the Middle East. Please give generously.

As always, you can give electronically through our St. Nicholas donation page, Venmo, or by check, **through Pascha (April 20)**. Please note "Patriarchate" when making your donation.



## FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE & CHARITABLE OUTREACH

As we enter the 5th week of Lent, we encourage you to continue to remember in prayer those less fortunate than ourselves and to help them by giving to this wonderful organization. Just \$40 per family will bring us to our goal of \$7,500.

*“If you continue your almsgiving, offering to the poor out of the little that you have, not only will you not be in want, but the Lord will bless and increase what you have. And for the few things which you will give here, in this temporary life, you will receive a thousand fold, more in the eternal life; and you will hear the Lord saying to you: “I was hungry, and you gave me food.” And when you say to Him: “Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You?”, He shall say: “Yes you did not see me, but you did see my poor brethren, the hungry. The bread which you gave them, it is the same as if you gave it to me. So now I grant unto you the eternal Heavenly Kingdom: and whatever goods I have, you shall have also and all those who fed the poor, the hungry, and showed mercy unto them.”* St. Arsenios of Paros

## ADULT BIBLE BOWL

St. Nicholas is a large congregation with highly gifted individuals. We are looking for two of our adult members to represent our parish at this year’s 2025 PLC Bible Bowl on **Thursday night, June 19** in Louisville, KY. If you’re interested in representing St. Nicholas on the Adult Team, please see Dn. Justin or Chris Khorey.

## FUNDRAISER THANK YOU

On Sunday March 30, the Women wrapped up their raffle to raise funds for the Widowed Clergy Wives Endowment. The winners of the baskets were: Doug Khorey, Alex Ellis, Sonia Ellis, Judy Welch and Mariam Hajjar!



## VERSE OF THE WEEK

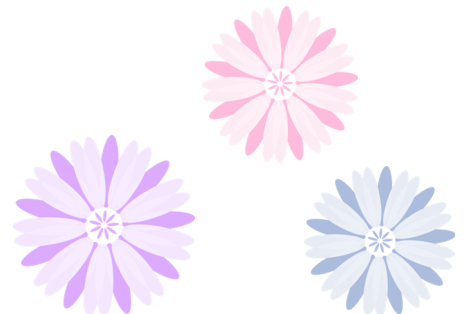
*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

Philippians 2:3

## PROJECT GR ORTHODOX WORKDAY 2025

**Saturday, May 17**  
@ 8:30AM - 4PM

The Project GR Orthodox Workday, in partnership with ICCF Community Homes, is a dedicated day of work rehabilitating several homes and apartments in the city of Grand Rapids. The day will begin with a morning kick-off meeting at ICCF headquarters. Volunteer groups will be assigned and given directions to various locations where they will work on projects including raking, mulching, pruning, painting, minor carpentry, and cleaning. It will be a great day of fellowship and hard work for those in need! Workers who are 14 years old and up can participate. To register, go to [stnicholasgr.com/mercy/](http://stnicholasgr.com/mercy/).



## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

### OK MAMA

#### Moms Night Out

**This Thursday, April 10 @ 7:30PM**

Ladies, we have a special opportunity to dedicate some time to our church for April's Mom's Night out. Join us at St. Nicholas to decorate the Icon for Palm Sunday. What a joy and gift we have in this little service for our church. Join in! You are welcome, you are invited, and no skills required. We only want to see you and share this time together. Find us on FaceBook or talk to Teresa or Hannah for more information!



#### Spring Work Day

**Saturday, April 12**

You're also invited to breakfast and the Spring Work Day Party on Lazarus Saturday! Join us for a fun time or sprucing up the church and spending time together! There will be tasks the kids can do as well giving them a sense of pride and accomplishment!

### WOMEN OF ST. NICHOLAS

#### Spring Work Day

**Saturday, April 12**

You're invited to breakfast and the Spring Work Day Party on Lazarus Saturday! Join us for a fun time of sprucing up the church and spending time together! Let this be the year we make our mothers smile by doing it to their standards!

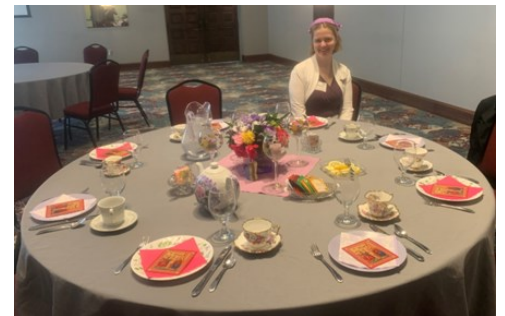
#### Girl's Night Out (GNO)

**Monday, May 5**

Join us at Noco Provisions for our next GNO! Mark your calendar and plan to be there. More details to come.

#### Annunciation Tea

Many thanks to all of the women who made our Annunciation Tea such a special event, starting with Kh. Vicky Nasser who chaired the event. Thank you to the table hosts for their beautiful and thoughtful table settings: Kh. Vicky, Lynn Simon/Elaine Lewis, Debra Taylor-Weiss/Irina Nadrau, Joanna Abud, Hannah Seeley, Christine Elias and Ivetta Kazarov. Thank you to Carolyn Rock for her enlightening presentation, "Just Say Yes", on the Theotokos and the Annunciation. Thank you to Suzi Merpi for her beautiful job with the presentation of the food tables. And thank you to all of the women who attended and who contributed to the amazing selection of foods.



### YOUNG ADULTS

#### Spring Work Day

**Saturday, April 12**

Take advantage of your youth and ability to do physical labor without feeling like a giant beat you up the day after! Climb a ladder without your knees cracking and know you're truly helping the church. You're invited to the Spring Work Day Party on Lazarus Saturday!

### A-MEN

#### Spring Work Day

**Saturday, April 12**

This is the perfect excuse to get out of the "honey-do" list on Lazarus Saturday. There will be exciting manly things like power washing, reaching high-up places, using tools, and being pleasing to God!





Our Forerunners gathered in March for a meal, and a Lenten discussion lead by Dn. John.



**CREATION CARE MINISTRY  
Prayer Trail Dedication**

**Sunday, April 27**

(following Divine Liturgy)

Join Fr. Michael and fellow parishioners as we process along the new Prayer Trail and place the icons in the shrines along the path. Hear about the unique and diverse natural environment that the trail passes through.

Want to build a birdhouse, a Leopold bench or an Icon shrine like the ones out on the prayer trail? We have all the measurements and directions for assembling - Ask a Creation Care team member for a copy.

**PRAYER TRAIL PLANTING DAY**

**Saturday, May 3 (9 AM—Noon)**

Join us as we plant trees, shrubs, and groundcover in the St. Nicholas woods. Bring gloves, sun and bug protection, shovels and rakes. We will provide water and snacks. Contact Kiara Abuaita if you plan to come or have questions.



**DIOCESE OF TOLEDO  
2025  
PARISH LIFE  
CONFERENCE**



**LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY  
JUNE 18-22, 2025**

**HOLIDAY INN LOUISVILLE EAST**

1325 S. HURSTBOURNE PKWY.  
LOUISVILLE, KY 40222

**FEATURED SPEAKERS**

**Fr. Joseph Lucas**

RECTOR, CHRIST THE SAVIOUR  
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
MIAMI LAKES, FL

**Jennie Gelles**

ICONOGRAPHER

**Fr. Seraphim Ramos**

ASSOC. PASTOR, ST. MICHAEL  
LOUISVILLE, KY

**Robert Synder**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MIDWEST  
DIOCESE COORDINATOR

**Dn. Marek Simon**

OCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Kris Howard**

SACRED MUSIC COORDINATOR,  
THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO AND  
THE MIDWEST

PLUS

- Antiochian Women & Men Fellowship
- Young Adult Gathering
- Kids Church Camp
- Iconography Lectures
- TEEN SOYO
- Bible Bowl
- Oratorical Contest
- & Much More!



**REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN!**



[www.antiochianevents.com/toledo](http://www.antiochianevents.com/toledo)

## YOUTH IN ACTION

### YOUTH HOLY WEEK SIGN-UP

There are multiple opportunities for our youth to read or light candles during Holy Week:

- ◆ April 16: Holy Wednesday evening Unction Service
- ◆ April 17: Holy Thursday evening Service of the 12 Passion Gospels

Please note that any youth who signs up for reading a Psalm or Epistle should be in 6th grade or above and be able to read aloud fluently, and any youth signing up to light a candle who is under 4' tall should be accompanied by a parent. Sign up @ [stnicholasgr.com/youth/](http://stnicholasgr.com/youth/).

Also, if you're interested in reading the Gospel in another language at the Agape Vespers (April 20 @ 1PM), please contact Dn. Justin.

### CALLING ALL MYRRHBEARERS

Holy Week is just around the corner and that means we have work to do!

- ⇒ **This Friday, April 11** from 4-5:30PM: Baking Lazarakia bread in the church kitchen.
- ⇒ **Friday, April 18:** Participating in the Holy Friday Procession during the Lamentations service.
- ⇒ **Saturday, April 19:** Changing the liturgical colors during the Vespers Liturgy of Holy Saturday.

You should have received an email from Amy Amash with all the details and to RSVP. If not, please reach out to her ASAP. As a reminder, Myrrhbearers includes all girls and teens.

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ANTIOCHIAN STUDENTS

In addition to the Anthony Bashir Scholarship, the Antiochian Archdiocese has a list of scholarships available to our students. Go to [stnicholasgr.com/youth](http://stnicholasgr.com/youth) for a link to the Archdiocese website!

### TIME WELL SPENT TOGETHER

Last weekend, the teens held their annual Teen Lenten Retreat at Grace Adventures near Spring Lake State Park. Fr. Michael, Dn. Justin, and our Teen Advisors joined the teens in prayer, discussion, volleyball, foosball, ping-pong, team-builders, hiking in the dunes and more! They also had time to discuss their Lenten teams' progress and give their confessions before Pascha. These retreats are a great time for our teens and a positive spiritual experience for everyone involved.



### APRIL TEEN NIGHT

**Today, April 6 @ 5-7:30 PM**

Teens, come join in the fun for April's Teen Night. We'll have dinner and some fun together! Topics for discussion include our Lenten journey and upcoming Holy Friday Overnighter. See Tanner or Dn. Justin with any questions. See you there!



### YOUTH CHOIR

The combined youth from St. Nicholas, St. George, and Holy Cross will sing the Bridegroom Orthros on Holy Monday evening at 6PM at St. Nicholas.

Rehearsals are as follows:

**Saturday, April 12** during the Lazarus Saturday Spring Cleaning Party/Breakfast

**Tuesday, April 15** at St. Nicholas. Rehearsal at 5:15PM before the service begins at 6PM.

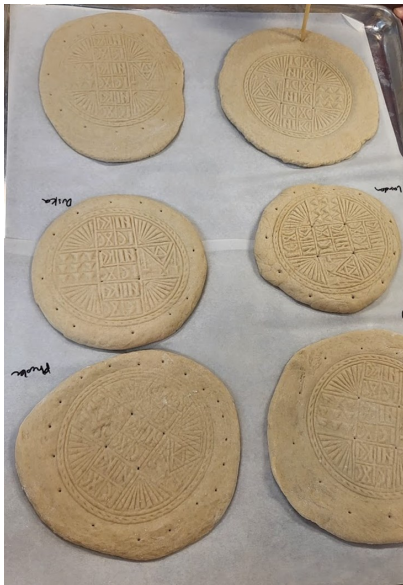
Click [Bridegroom Matins sheet music](#) to practice with sheet music at home!

### JOY MAGAZINE 2025

The first issue of 2025 is heading to the printer and is scheduled for distribution next month. This is a blessing to introduce and engage our children with the Holy Orthodox faith. To find out more about Joy, go to [Joy Magazine](#). Subscriptions can now be made [online](#). The magazine makes for a great Pascha gift to fill our children's Easter baskets.



Last week JOY learned how to make Prospora bread with Christine Elias, they were able to do the process start to finish and were able to take home their loaves.



### PARISH COUNCIL

Please use the following email address when communicating with the Parish Council:

[parishcouncil@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:parishcouncil@stnicholasgr.com)

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

For updated information go to:  
[stnicholasgr.com/parishioners](http://stnicholasgr.com/parishioners)

### 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.

### SCHEDULING 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](http://stnicholasgr.com/appointments) and do so directly online.

### SUBMISSION REMINDERS

Announcements and Holy Oblations are due by noon each Wednesday.

Submit Announcements:

[announcements@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:announcements@stnicholasgr.com)

Submit Holy Oblations:

[stnicholasgr.com/holyoblation/](http://stnicholasgr.com/holyoblation/)  
or by completing an envelope located on the Parishioner's Table in the Narthex.

**GRAND RAPIDS PAN-ORTHODOX  
VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL**

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!  
- Psalm 133:1

**SAVE THE DATE  
JUNE 8-12  
MON-THURS 6PM-8PM**

Ages: 4 years - 8th Grade  
\$10/student (\$30 max) - Scholarships Available  
Sunday Kick Off Picnic (Mulick Park)  
Remaining Days Hosted at Holy Cross  
2828 Richmond St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504





On Monday March 24, our clergy and parishioners made a short pilgrimage to Annunciation in Muskegon to celebrate the Feast.

## DIGITAL MEDIA 4-DAY WORKSHOP

July 17-21

Ages 18-23

Ancient Faith's Lampstand Institute is an introductory media training forum for Orthodox Christians who are interested in learning skills in digital media and applying them to the service of the Church.

Students will learn the essentials of podcasting and video production and the "why" and "how" of Orthodox media ministry. Students will execute their own digital media projects under the direction of Ancient Faith's staff and network. Upon the program's conclusion, participants will leave with foundational ministry experience, technical and creative skills, and career mentors. The weekend will include sessions on podcasting, audio production, live radio, video making, marketing, and media ministry, plus open work sessions for recording radio material, refining a personal project, and preparing a live radio broadcast.

This opportunity is for those . For more information and registration go to: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2386>.

## ALASKA TRIP FOR SERVICE & ADVENTURE

July 29-August 7

Ages 18-35

Looking for a trip of a lifetime? We will adventure in Alaska as [St. Herman Church](#) in Wasilla is opening its doors for service trips that promise rewarding work as well as amazing wildlife viewing. This is the first of two trip. The second trip is scheduled for May, 2026.

<https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2385>

## PERSONAL CARE DRIVE THANK YOU

Thank you for your generosity in donating personal care products to the Camelot Pantry at Church of the Servant. There is such a great need that these items are difficult to keep in stock. Your generosity will help many families! A special thanks to Allison Manica for packing them all up and delivering them to the Pantry.



## COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP

Coffee Hour sign ups are now exclusively online! If you need assistance signing up online, please contact the office.



Coffee Hour dates through the end of July have now been posted. Use the QR code or go to the link: [stnicholasgr.com/coffeehour](http://stnicholasgr.com/coffeehour)

## PHOTO UPDATES NEEDED

It's is time to update your directory photo. We are in the process of updating our directory.

Please help us by sending an updated photo of your household. It's also a great chance to let your graduated, over 18 child shine as they will be listed separately from you!

