

LIFE AT ST. NICHOLAS

THE SUNDAY BULLETIN OF ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

APRIL 13, 2025

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



HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK IS UPON US!

As we follow Christ to His passion, we encourage you to attend and participate in as many of this week's services as possible. A list of daily services are provided in the righthand column. Planning your week around these services allows us to make this Week truly Holy!

Excuse forms are available on the Holy Week webpage or on the table in the Narthex to allow you to attend services that occur during working/school hours.

Sign up at the table in the Narthex if you would like to participate in any of the following services:

- * Holy Thursday **Foot Washing**
- * **Prayer Vigil** following Holy Friday Lamentations service until the Holy Saturday morning service
- * Reading the Gospel in another language @ **Agape Vespers**

HOLY WEEK BOOKS

Booklets are available for each of the Holy Week services and Pascha for those who desire to follow along with the service. The Archdiocese has announced that Holy Week books may be published and available for purchase in 2026.

HOLY FRIDAY RETREAT

Services and Retreat

The three Royal Hours services (20-25 minutes each) occur on the hour at Noon, 1PM, 2PM, and 3PM. The time between these services is a time to reflect upon our Lord's love in going to His Cross for us. The entire Church campus (Church, Chapel, gardens/grounds, library, bookstore, hallways, etc.) are available for reflection, prayer, reading, or rest.

Fasting

Wherever you happen to be on Holy Friday, we abstain from ALL food and drink, especially from noon through the afternoon Vespers Service. Of course, the Church recognizes that some people have unique health issues that will alter this fasting guideline.

THIS WEEK

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

Holy Monday, April 14

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy

@ *St. George*

6PM—Bridegroom Services

@ *St. George*

Holy Tuesday, April 15

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy

6PM—Bridegroom Matins
sung by the Youth

Holy Wednesday, April 16

9AM—Presanctified Liturgy

6PM—Holy Unction

Holy Thursday, April 17

9AM—Vespers Liturgy of the
Institution of

Holy Communion with
Washing of the Feet

followed by breakfast
hosted by A-Men

6PM—Orthros with the
12 Passion Gospels

HOLY FRIDAY NIGHT

We commemorate our Lord's entombment in the (7PM) Holy Friday Lamentation service. Then, we stand vigil at His Tomb all night by taking turns reading from the Holy Scriptures. The experience of being in the near-empty, candlelit Church in the middle of the night and hearing and reading the words of our Lord is not soon forgotten. A Reader's **Sign-up Schedule is available in the Narthex for those desiring to read.** Even if you do not desire to read, come at any time to be a part of this experience. Our Lord asked His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Can you not watch with me one hour?" Let us answer "Yes" and take our place in the Holy Friday Vigil.

CANDLES

Candles will be used for the Holy Thursday, Holy Friday, and Pascha Services. Please keep candles upright and the protective disc or cup close to the top of the candle to collect the dripping wax. Remember to use caution when holding a lit candle! Also, keep a watchful eye on your children while they are holding a lit candle. As an easier and safer option, we provide battery operated candles for the children.

CONFESSION BEFORE PASCHA

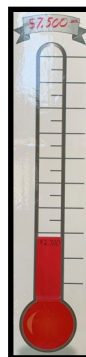
The last opportunity to have Confession prior to Pascha will be after Bridegroom Matins tonight, tomorrow, and Holy Tuesday.

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE & CHARITABLE OUTREACH

"The Price of the Kingdom is the food you give to those in need."
St. Leo the Great

We are grateful to those who have already participated in this year's Food for Hungry People & Charitable Outreach (FFHP&CO) drive. So far, we have collected just over \$2,700 which puts us in a great position to reach our \$7,500 goal. As a reminder, an average gift of \$40 from each parish family will get us to our goal.

On April 27 (the Sunday after Pascha) we will hold a Food for Hungry People & Charitable Outreach Coffee Hour. This gives everyone an opportunity to bring in or electronically submit their final donations.



Holy Friday, April 18

12PM—1st Royal Hour

1PM—3rd Royal Hour

2PM—6th Royal Hour

3PM—9th Royal Hour

4PM—Vespers of the
Un-nailing of Christ

5:15PM—Vigil at
the Tomb of Christ

7PM—Orthros with Lamentations

9:30PM—Vigil at the Tomb of Christ

Holy Saturday, April 19

10AM—Vespers Liturgy

Followed by Rolls & Wine
Hosted by Forerunners

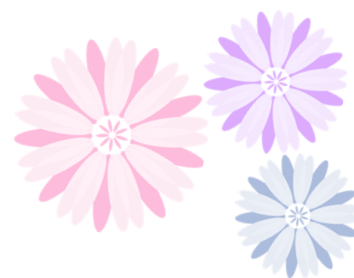
10PM—Rush, Orthros & Pascha

Sunday, April 20

Great and Holy Pascha

1PM—Agape Vespers
followed by Easter Egg Hunt

3PM and after—Pascha Open House
at the Lewis Family's home



Young Adults monthly gathering at Vespers
with guest speaker Dn. Justin

A-MEN monthly breakfast
with guest speaker Elizabeth Ayoub





PASCHA CELEBRATION

PASCHA BASKETS

Fr. Michael will bless Pascha baskets during the Paschal Liturgy. For those bringing a Paschal Basket, place them on the left side of the Solea when you come in for the Paschal Liturgy and then take it with you at the dismissal. For a helpful link on the types of items to place in your Pascha Basket, visit: stnicholasgr.com/holyweek/

PREPARING SMALL CHILDREN FOR THE PASCHA SERVICE

It is perfectly acceptable to dress your children in their pajamas for the Pascha Service. If you look around, you'll see many sleeping children under the pews! We provide battery operated candles for the children as an easy and safe option so they can participate in the Liturgy.

PASCHA BREAKFAST

Everyone is invited to share in this time of celebration of Our Risen Lord. The breakfast is hosted by the Parish Council. **Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.**

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 or email Fr. David @ dekhorey@gmail.com. Thank you.

Agape Vespers Easter Egg Hunt

We would love for the kids of St. Nicholas to join the annual Easter Egg Hunt immediately following 1PM Agape Vespers. Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!

PASCHA CELEBRATION

When: Sunday, April 20 (Pascha!)

Time: anytime after 3PM

Where: 422 Gladstone Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

The Lewis Family (Nick, Joanna, Elaine, Colette, and Penelope) is throwing their annual Open House to celebrate Pascha, and they'd love for you to join them. They see this as an evangelistic opportunity to celebrate our faith in the greater Grand Rapids community with friends and family from the parish. As part of the festivities, there will be the traditional whole lamb rotisserie in the front yard, lots of good food, and some tents in case the weather does not cooperate. 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!

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*Rejoice greatly,
O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is
coming to you;
righteous and having
salvation is he,
humble and
mounted on a donkey.*

Zechariah 9:9

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.



FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS MAILBOX

I wish to thank everyone for your prayers, text messages, and phone calls. From the first responders, Sonia Nicola, Christiana Hultink, Dr. William Azkoul (who literally saved my life), and Dr. Hajjar for his assistance...to Elizabeth Ayoub who stayed with me in the ER until my family arrived. The outpouring of love is immeasurable.

Sincerely,
Julie Karris

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.



PROJECT GR ORTHODOX WORKDAY

Saturday, May 17

Join your Orthodox brothers and sisters on as we partner with ICCF to rehab houses in Grand Rapids. This is a richly rewarding experience helping our neighbors. For the full schedule and registration link, visit stnicholasgr.com/mercy/.

Orthodox Workday

Saturday, May 17th

In partnership with ICCF, we'll rehab houses in GR doing minor carpentry, painting, cleaning, & yard work making them ready for those in need of affordable housing.

MEET AT ICCF: 415 MLK JR. ST. SE

- 8:30 AM - Prayer & Assignments
- 9:00 AM - Work Session
- 12:30 PM - Lunch (Bring a sack lunch)
- 1:00 PM - Work Session
- 4:00 PM - Clean-up



VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

<https://vhub.at/922AA7/>



SPONSORS

Holy Cross
Holy Trinity
St. George
St. Nicholas

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
MAY 11

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

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 and do so directly online.

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.

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/.

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!

- ⇒ **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.

TEEN SOYO HOLY FRIDAY VIGIL

Holy Friday, April 18

Teens, come to the Lamentations Service on Holy Friday evening, then stay to have some time with Fr. Michael & Dn. Justin, share a Lenten meal (one of the last ones!) and keep vigil at the Tomb of Christ.

*Be sure to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, appropriate pajamas and clothing for the Holy Saturday Liturgy at 10AM.



YOUTH CHOIR

The combined youth from St. Nicholas, St. George, and Holy Cross will sing the Bridegroom Orthros on Holy Tuesday 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!

**Calling all
St. Nicholas Graduates**

Congratulations! You did it!

Submit your form for our
Graduation Booklet by April 27.

stnicholasgr.com/graduates

Don't forget some photos of yourself!

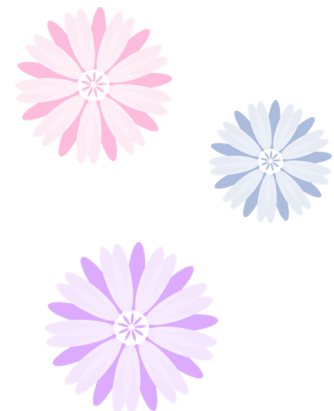
We are honoring your hard work
Sunday, May 18th.

**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



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 145/2025

Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025

To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy and Christ-loving Faithful of this Archdiocese,

Greetings to you and your families on this Great Feast of the Church. As we complete the forty-day fast and prepare to enter into the most solemn week of the Church year, we pause this weekend to celebrate the raising of Lazarus and our Lord's triumphant and radiant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem.

Today, as we celebrate this feast, we also take time to remember our beloved Mother Church, headed by our Father in Christ, His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X. For more than a decade, the lands of the Patriarchate have endured immense hardship, marked by war, displacement, economic collapse, and social instability. In recent months, these trials have deepened, and the remaining Christian communities throughout the region continue to experience heightened vulnerability, uncertainty, and fear. Let us fervently pray for His Beatitude, the hierarchs, clergy, and all the faithful of the entire region as they endure ongoing suffering with steadfastness and faith.

Each year on this special day, we appeal to you—the faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese—for an offering of love to be sent to His Beatitude from his spiritual children across North America. Amid the ongoing difficulties, His Beatitude is burdened with the sacred responsibility of sustaining the life and witness of the Church in conditions of great instability. Our spiritual brothers and sisters are in need—many are hungry, without heat, and lacking opportunities for work. While we lift them up in prayer, let us also offer material support as an expression of solidarity and love.

Wishing you a prayerful Holy Week and a most joyous and radiant Pascha, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Saba". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive script.

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F