

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Announcements 4/11/21

Please send any NEW announcements to Bulletin@StNicholasAR.org

Holy Friday / Holy Saturday Overnight Vigil

After some discussion with Fr. John, we decided to reach out to our parish community about holding the Vigil at the Tomb of Christ overnight on the evening of Holy Friday into the morning of Holy Saturday. As some of you may recall from your time as being Orthodox, this is one of many traditions that Orthodoxy holds close. After our Lord was crucified, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sat opposite the tomb watching as Christ was buried. The Church over the centuries has joined these two women in keeping watch over the Lord's tomb, and this operates as an opportunity for us to watch over His body as He descends into Hades to loosen the bonds of death. What better way to understand death and resurrection of Christ than to participate in the Vigil by His tomb? Beginning at 8 PM after The Lamentations and going until 8 AM on Holy Saturday, the Faithful read the Psalms and the Gospels while guarding the tomb. Last year, during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, The DOMSE Diocesan Ministry Council (DMC), with the blessing of His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, organized a reading of the Psalms and the Gospels via zoom that saw us successfully complete the Vigil with parishioners from all over the southeast reading in half-hour increments for the duration of the night. Several of our parishioners from St. Nicholas Church participated. With Father's blessing, and with your interest, we believe we can participate in the Vigil at the Tomb of Christ at St. Nicholas Church this year. Some logistical things:

- No one will have to stay up for the whole night. If you would like, you may show up for your time to read and leave after if you need to get some rest.
- Michael Baclig has offered up his camper to provide beds for those who would like to stay the whole night but will need rest at some point.
- We will provide Lenten snacks in the evening for those present.
- We will start with one-hour reading blocks, but if enough people show interest, we may cut them down to half-hour reading blocks.

If you have any questions, you can call or text Bryce Kirk at 801-793-3050. A poll has been sent out to everyone on the parish mailing list via e-mail. Please respond to that poll and indicate whether you are interested in participating!

COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted

We have received exciting news from the Archdiocese! St. Nicholas is now open to 100% capacity and we are now permitted to have food (i.e. buffet line style) after services. We will resume regular coffee hour following Divine Liturgies on Sundays. We will also resume our Lenten Pot Luck Dinners after Presanctified Divine Liturgies for the remainder of Great Lent (including 4/14 & 4/21). See the letter on the reverse side of this page for more details. This letter was sent to all of the clergy from His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH to all of the clergy in our Archdiocese this past week!

Attention Upcoming College Graduates!

We would like to recognize and pray for all of our college graduates from our parish at our Agape Vespers and Lamb feast on Pascha! If you are a college graduate, or know someone who is, please contact Kh. Marilyn at maggielaverne@gmail.com or you can text/call her at (479) 530-3305

Antiochian Men:

Our next Men's Breakfast fellowship will be on 4/17. It will take place at the church and will be a pot luck. Please only bring Lenten food options (Bagels with hummus, fruit, Keurig Coffee pods, etc.). **April is Antiochian Men month in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast!** If any men in the church would like to volunteer to help with the collection plate, ushering, or reading the Epistle, please speak to Fr. John or Subdeacon Tom Salem.

Antiochian Women

The Antiochian Women will also be having a Lenten Virtual Retreat. It is scheduled for Saturday April 17th, 2021. Go to <http://tiny.cc/AWLenten2021> to register. You MUST register to receive the Zoom meeting link!

Holy Communion Reminders

Please remember to state your name when you approach the chalice for Holy Communion. Be sure to say your name loud enough for Fr. John to hear it. Also, since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. We do invite any non-Orthodox, however, to approach the chalice for a blessing from Fr. John and to partake of the blessed bread, which is also distributed at the dismissal. Please see our Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member of St. Nicholas Church.