

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Announcements 5/2/21

Please send any NEW announcements to Bulletin@StNicholasAR.org

Pascha Agape Pot Luck Dinner



We are having an Agape Pot Luck Dinner at St. Nicholas Church on Sunday 5/2 starting at 6:00 pm to celebrate Pascha as a church community! This will take place at St. Nicholas Church following the Agape Vespers service, which starts at 5:00 pm. If you would like to bring an entree, side dish, dessert, or beverage, please sign up by scanning the QR Code to the left and using the online sign-up form. Be sure to put in the comments what you plan to bring and look at what others have already signed up to bring ahead of time so you don't bring the same thing. We look forward to seeing you there!

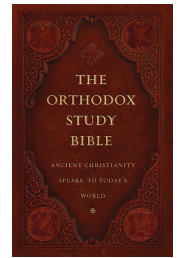
North & South Community Groups

The next North Group meeting will take place on **Monday May 10th starting at 6:00 pm** at the Baclig family's home. This is a new date from what was communicated originally. The address is: **13815 Eastgate Drive, Rogers, AR 72756.**

The next South Group meeting will take place on **Tuesday May 18th 3/22/21 starting at 6:00 pm** at the Strickland family's home. The address is: **122 Northaven Street, Farmington, AR 72730.**

Bookstore Update

Phase 2 of the remodel of our Church bookstore is now complete! Come see our newly expanded assortment of books, icons, devotional items, and much more! We have also re-stocked our supply of Orthodox Study Bibles and they are at a new low price! These Bibles were previously \$50 but are now available for \$35. Stop by our bookstore today to pick up your copy!



Attention Upcoming 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 will be graduating from any level of schooling this year, or know someone who is, please contact Kh. Marilyn at maggielaverne@gmail.com or you can text/call her at (479) 530-3305

Going Away Party for Jesse

Jesse Irwin will be moving away and his last Sunday at St. Nicholas Church will be May 9th. We would all like to express our gratitude for what he has done for our church in the choir, on the Parish Council, and as a member our parish. We are planning a going away party for Jesse following the Divine Liturgy on 5/9. We will also pray for him, have a cake, and there will be a card that everyone can sign. We hope you will decide to join us to show Jesse how much we will miss him and how much we appreciate him!

Antiochian Men

Our next Men's Breakfast fellowship will be next **Saturday 5/8 starting at 8:00 am**. We will be going back to meeting at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Springdale, AR. Our next AMEN Monthly Virtual Bible Study will be on **Thursday 5/20 starting at 6:00 pm**. The Zoom link is available in the AMEN GroupMe and Band groups.

Community Garden Update

With the blessing of Fr. John, **on Sunday, May 16th we will have a garden sale!** This will be open to everyone in the church and all earnings will go toward the church garden. If anybody else would like to add to things being sold such as more plants, seeds, baked goods, or maybe garden crafts, **please contact Ciera Nelson at (409) 256-5685**

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 Orthodox Church.

The Pascha Homily of St. John Chrysostom

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast.
If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord.
If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense.

If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward.
If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast.
If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in no wise be deprived therefore.
If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing.
If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts.
And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering.
Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second.

You rich and poor together, hold high festival.
You sober and you heedless, honor the day.
Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast.
The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously.
The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.
Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.

Let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave.
Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free.
He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive.

He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry:
Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions.
It was embittered, for it was abolished.
It was embittered, for it was mocked.
It was embittered, for it was slain.
It was embittered, for it was overthrown.
It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains.
It took a body, and met God face to face.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?
Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!
Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen, and life reigns!
Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave!
For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.