

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Announcements 5/16/21

Please send any NEW announcements to Bulletin@StNicholasAR.org

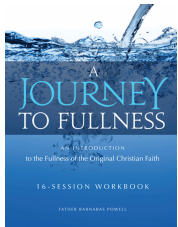
Welcome Fr. Elias Khouri!

With Fr. John on vacation this week and with the blessing of both Bishop NICHOLAS and Bishop BASIL, Fr. Elias Khouri is serving at St. Nicholas Church this morning and we would like to welcome him! Fr. Elias Khouri is Assistant Priest at St. Elijah Antiochian Orthodox Church in Oklahoma City, OK. Fr. Elias was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. His family moved to Los Angeles in 1965 where he attended St. Nicholas Cathedral. He served in the Navy and is a Vietnam Veteran. Fr. Elias holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine and Applied Arts and has worked as a Technical Illustrator and Elementary School Teacher. Fr. Elias married his bride Irene in 1978. Together they ran the parish youth camp at Holy Virgin Mary in Los Angeles. He and Khouria Irene have raised three children: Juliana, Christian, and Michael, all now grown. He attended St. Vladimir's Seminary starting in 1994. He was ordained to the holy diaconate on March 10, 1996 and ordained to the holy priesthood on January 30, 1997. Fr. Elias served parishes in the OCA and Antiochian Archdiocese, St. Raphael Church in Iowa City and now St. Elijah Church in Oklahoma City.

Plant Sale Today!

With the blessing of Fr. John, our Community Garden team is holding a plant sale after Divine Liturgy today! This will be open to everyone in the church and all earnings will go toward covering the costs of our Community Garden at St. Nicholas Church. We'll have tomatoes, herbs, flowers, tree saplings, raspberries, olive oil infusions, pinecone bird feeders and more! After the plant sale, you are welcome to help in our church garden, so feel free to bring something to plant as well! Please remember: (1) nothing spicier than a jalapeno, (2) nothing poisonous, (3) consider our climate when choosing a plant. Thanks in advance for your support!

North & South Community Groups



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

The next **North Group** meeting will take place on **Monday June 7th starting at 6:00 pm** at the Baclig family's home. The address is: **13815 Eastgate Drive, Rogers, AR 72756.**

Both groups will be continuing to go through the *A Journey To Fullness* series. Remember to bring your workbook with you! If you don't have a workbook and would like to purchase one, they can be purchased through our St. Nicholas Church Bookstore for \$10 each.

Antiochian Men

Our next Men's Breakfast fellowship will be next **Saturday 5/22 starting at 9:00 am. We will be meeting at St. Nicholas Church and it will be a potluck breakfast.** 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.

Reader's Vespers This Wednesday

With Fr. John on vacation through the end of this coming week, we plan to have a Reader's Vespers on Wednesday 5/19. We hope you will decide to join us! We expect Fr. John to be back from vacation next weekend and to serve Great Vespers on 5/22 as well as Orthros and Divine Liturgy on 5/23.

Aidan Wilson Is Born!

Diana Wilson sent the below announcement and requested that we share it with the entire parish:

Aidan was finally born on Pascha 05/02/21 @ 7:40am. He weighed 9lbs 3 oz and 21 inch in length, and boy do I have one of the best birth stories! I was induced Saturday morning via prostaglandin and by the grace of God only needed 3 out of the 4 dosages and no further intervention. Janessa Craig (Amazing Doula), Seth, and I were able to watch all the Pascha Service which at the same time my contractions started. I went from 1.5 cm to 7.5 cm within a 3 hour check after the service! This miraculous progress allowed me to continue labor without the use of pitocine! Aidan was born within roughly 7-8 hours of when I started contracting. Thank you everyone for keeping us in your thoughts and for all the prayers! The prayers were definitely felt throughout this whole experience!

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. Elias 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.