

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Announcements 4/24/22

Please send any NEW announcements to Bulletin@StNicholasAR.org

Agape Vespers & Fellowship Dinner (Sunday, April 24)

We will offer Agape Vespers at 1:00 pm on Sunday April 24th, followed by a Fellowship Meal. We will have some children's activities during the Fellowship Meal including an Egg Hunt. A reminder that Parish Council members and their families are asked to bring large-portion side items, and any parishioner is welcome to bring some desserts and drinks.

NO FASTING During the Paschal Season

There is a general dispensation from fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays during Paschal season until the Feast of the Ascension. Most Orthodox jurisdictions throughout the world observe the Wednesdays and Fridays of the period following Bright Week as days of fasting; however, the Holy Synod of Antioch has directed that the entire 40-day period be completely fast-free, as is the more ancient practice.

Usher/Greeter Ministry

We will be implementing a new ministry of ushers and greeters during our liturgical services, especially on Sundays. We are blessed with many inquirers and guests, and it will be beneficial to our worship experience in having volunteers better equipped to serve in these functions. If interested in this ministry, please contact Fr. Paul.

Liturgical & Church Items Needed – Paschal 2022 Donations

It is a pious custom to make a special offering in thanksgiving for our Lord's saving Resurrection during the Paschal season. If you would like to do so, please consider donating towards some liturgical and church items that we need for our parish community. To learn more and/or offer your contribution, please discuss with Fr. Paul Fuller or Tom Salem.

Holy Water Sprinkler (container): \$150

Holy Chrism vessel (container) used for Sacrament of Chrismation: \$250

Decorative Rugs for the Altar: \$350

Epitaphios (Burial Shroud of our Lord) – embroidered fabric icon (25x36 inches): \$500

Censer: \$550 – DONATED

Chalice Set – used for the distribution of Holy Communion: \$600-900

Bier (Tomb of our Lord) – hand-made wooden structure (cost of materials): \$1,000

A big THANK YOU to Derek Waters for donating his time and labor to build our new Bier in time for Holy Friday this year!

Many thanks and may God continue to bless you and your family! Christ is risen!

Bookstore Update

With the Great Feast of Pascha now upon us, our Church Bookstore is offering a Pascha book for Children:

- *Beautiful Pascha* - Orthodox coloring book for children

Additionally, we only have 1 copy left of *Holy Fire: The Miracle of the Light of the Resurrection at the Tomb of Jesus!* This book includes 70 eyewitness accounts of the appearance of the Holy Fire at the Tomb of Christ.

Our bookstore is also offering the following icons that are related to Pascha:

- *The Myrrh Bearing Women*
- *The Empty Tomb*
- 3 Resurrection-themed icons:
 1. *The Resurrection*
 2. *The Harrowing of Hell*
 3. *Triptych: Resurrection*

Supplies are limited, so stop by our church bookstore today while these items are still in stock!



Parish Directory & Guidebook – PICTURE DAYS

Thank you to everyone who has been participating in our picture days over the last several weeks for our Parish Directory & Guidebook project! We have one picture day left! Please note that all Organizations and Ministry Teams will be taking group pictures on Sunday May 15th. If you missed taking your individual and family picture for our Parish Directory and Guidebook, please contact Scott Strickland (479-365-9719) or Elizabeth Baclic (920-574-0467). Copies of your digital photo will be available upon request via email to Elizabeth Baclic (elizabethsbaclic@gmail.com). We are asking for parishioner donations to help with the expense of printing our directory and guidebook, scan the QR code above to donate – THANK YOU!



Conversation About Strategic Planning Ministry

Many thanks to ALL who joined us for our conversation on Sunday, April 3 – it was a productive and informative conversation! We need to continue to consider the future of our parish community. What will St. Nicholas Church look like in 5 years? In 10 years? In 20 years? In order to do so, we plan to offer some additional informal conversations about a strategic plan. You are invited to participate in these conversations. Join us Sunday, May 22 after Fellowship (Coffee) Hour for another conversation!

2022 Stewardship & Membership Form Update

As of March 3, 2022, we have received Stewardship & Membership Forms from the following 41 parishioners & families who have pledged a total amount of \$154,706.00. All members are asked to fill out this form each year, as they allow us to update contact information, as well as budget and plan for future needs, charities, and projects of our parish community. Please fill out YOUR Stewardship & Membership Form if you haven't already and return to our Church Office. **We have set NEW goals for 2022 of \$170,000 in pledged funds and 50 forms returned!** Many thanks to these parishioners listed below who have filled out their 2022 Stewardship & Membership Form:

Michael, Elizabeth & Gretchen Baclic

Vera Belic

William Benoit

Nancy & Robert Brown

Matt & Sandra Buja

Eric & Elizabeth Carender

Janessa Craig

Dawn DeLong

Mounir & Montez Farah

Steven & Brittany Fenner

Fr. Paul & Ramia Fuller

Georgeta & Mike Galbraith

Lauren Goff

Mackenzie Goff

Shawn Guthrie

Casey & Kiersten Hale

Adnan & Paula Haydar

Colton & Claire Holland

Jeff Jenkins

Todd & Terry Keese

Mark & Denise King

Steve & Niki Kolokithas

Don & Talitha Lourie

Caleb Mackey

Trevor Nakamura

David & Ulli Nelson

Philip & Ciera Nelson

Andrew & Alexis Powers

Richard & Samantha Ratliff

Turnip Rea

Steve & Tina Rieger

Tom & Kate Salem

Kevin & Nancy Scherer

Scott & Janna Strickland

Lily Tippet

Jared & Marianna Townsley

Lindel & Soon-Mee Townsley

Cory & Rebecca Troy

Derek & Gina Waters

Seth & Diana Wilson

Alan & Candy Wolff

Antiochian Men

A big THANK YOU to Derek Waters for building a new bier (Tomb of Christ) for our church to use on Holy Friday! Our next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday April 30th at the Blue House. This will be a FAST FREE potluck breakfast! Our next AMEN Bible Study hosted by Fr. Stephen De Young will take place on Thursday, May 19. The Zoom meeting link will be available in our AMEN groups in the GroupMe and Band Apps. Contact Michael Baclic (479-372-7097) to be added to these groups if you haven't yet joined them!

Church School Reminder

Listed below are the remaining dates for Church School leading up to the summer break. Please note that we will have back-to-back weeks of Church School in May. **Remaining Church School dates are May 8th & 15th.**

Baby Shower for Lindsay Cate

Attention Ladies of St. Nicholas! We are planning a Baby Shower for Lindsay Cate on Saturday May 14th starting at 4:00 pm at the church. We hope to see you there!

Holy Oblation & Fellowship Hour Hosting

We are in need of families to host the holy oblation (holy bread) and Fellowship (Coffee) Hour after Liturgy on Sundays. Those who offer the holy oblation will also host Fellowship Hour on the same Sunday. Please see Kate Salem (ksalem2@cox.net) to sign up and see the upcoming dates available in the sign-up schedule below!

Date	Name	Commemoration
April 24 (Pascha)	Nichole Lourie	Evelyn – Elizabeth the Wonderworker
May 1	Tom & Kate Salem	
May 8	Baclic/Holland Family	
May 15	AVAILABLE	
May 22	The Carender Family	
May 29	AVAILABLE	
June 5	AVAILABLE	
June 12	HOLD	
June 19	AVAILABLE	
June 26	AVAILABLE	
July 3	Mackenzie & Lauren Goff	
July 10	AVAILABLE	
July 17	AVAILABLE	
July 24	AVAILABLE	

Community Garden Sale

SAVE THE DATE: Our annual Spring Garden Sale will be Sunday, May 8th (Mother's Day)! We will be selling plant starts, garden-related crafts, and edible goods! All earnings will be used towards maintaining the community garden.

2022 DOMSE Parish Life Conference & Bible Bowl

St. Nicholas Church has an adult Bible Bowl Team! Our parish will be represented by Michael Baclig, Bryce Kirk, and Colton Holland at the 2022 DOMSE PLC! **Registration is still open** for our next Parish Life Conference (PLC)! It is scheduled for June 15-18, 2022, in Memphis, TN. The location of the PLC rotates each year, and this will be one of the closest locations possible for us to attend one of these events! We hope that you will choose to participate in this wonderful and important diocesan event this coming summer! Visit <https://domse.org/event/domse-plc2022/> to register for the PLC or scan the QR code to the right.



The Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom

(Read by the priest on Pascha. Customary responses by the faithful are included below in red)

If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival. If anyone is a wise servant, let him, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord. If anyone has wearied himself in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If anyone has labored from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let him keep the feast. If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; for he shall suffer no loss. If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near without hesitation. If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his delay. For the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first; he gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first. He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one he gives, and to the other he is gracious. He both honors the work and praises the intention.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and whether first or last, receive your reward. O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy! O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day! You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today! The table is rich-laden; feast royally, all of you! The calf is fatted; let no one go forth hungry! Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness. Let no one lament his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn his transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was taken by death has annihilated it! He descended into hades and took hades captive! He embittered it when it tasted his flesh! And anticipating this Isaiah exclaimed, "Hades was embittered when it encountered thee in the lower regions."

It was embittered (it was embittered!), for it was abolished!
It was embittered (it was embittered!), for it was mocked!
It was embittered (it was embittered!), for it was purged!
It was embittered (it was embittered!), for it was despoiled!
It was embittered (it was embittered!), for it was bound in chains!

It took a body, and face to face, met God! It took earth and encountered heaven! It took what it saw but crumbled before what it had not seen! "O death, where is thy sting? O hades, where is thy victory?"

Christ is risen (truly He is risen!), and you are overthrown!
Christ is risen (truly He is risen!), and the demons are fallen!
Christ is risen (truly He is risen!), and the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen (truly He is risen!), and life reigns!
Christ is risen (truly He is risen!), and not one dead remains in a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First fruits of them that slept. To him be glory and might unto ages of ages. Amen.

Schedule of Liturgical Services & Activities		Greeting	Response
Tuesday, April 26	6:00p Paschal Vespers	English: Christ is risen!	Truly He is risen!
Thursday, April 28	6:00p Paschal Vespers	Greek: Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Saturday, April 30	9:00a Men's Breakfast at the blue house	Russian: Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
	6:00p Great Vespers	Romanian: Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a înviat!
Sunday, May 1	9:00a Orthros	Arabic: El Messieh Qam!	Haqqen Qam!
	10:00a Divine Liturgy		

Sign Up to Offer the Holy Oblation and Host Fellowship Hour!



Guidelines for Holy Oblation:

- For Orthodox members of St. Nicholas
- Don't bake? Arrange for someone else to bake for you!
- Fr. Paul has preferred size/style of bread stamp, should you need to borrow
- Quantity: 3-5 small to medium-sized loaves
- Deliver no later than Saturday evening, or bring on Wednesday—place in freezer, marked with your name & date

Please e-mail your prayer list to Fr. Paul (saintnicholasar@gmail.com) by Wednesday, formatting list into 2 columns (Living/Departed), and noting which names are Orthodox.

Guidelines for Hosting Fellowship Hour:

- Catechumens, inquirers, and visitors are welcome to assist in hosting fellowship hour, by bringing food and/or contributing to coffee hour fund (basket for collection is on front table in church hall)
- If need be, feel free to host with another family or parishioner
- Come early Sunday morning to set up; may also deliver food items during the week
- Coffee is made prior to Orthros; furnishing additional beverages is optional
- Set out the food before or at conclusion of Divine Liturgy, however please wait until after post-Communion prayers for serving to begin
- Assistance is available for set up; please plan on remaining after to assist with clean up
- Kitchen supply donations (plates, bowls, etc.) or coffee donations always appreciated



Food options & ideas for hosting:

- 1) Light luncheon fare such as casseroles, meat dishes, soups, salads, sandwiches, etc.
Please inform us if you are furnishing a luncheon, and the meal will be blessed at conclusion of Divine Liturgy.
- 2) Snacks or finger food such as veggies & dip, fruit trays, cookies, muffins & pastries, meat & cheese trays with crackers, chip & dip, etc.

Fasting Seasons:

Please offer lenten foods, such as vegetables, fruits, pasta, and bread.

For questions or to sign up: Kate Salem, ksalem2@cox.net, (402) 430-9989

Barbecue, Blues, and Beatitudes



The 2022 Parish Life Conference for the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

Hosted by St. John Orthodox Church
at the beautiful Hilton Memphis

Memphis, Tennessee
June 15–18, 2022



Join us in Memphis, Tennessee – the home of the Blues and the birthplace of Rock ‘n’ Roll – as we share fellowship with members from all corners of our Diocese. **Highlights of the in-person PLC include:**

- Keynote Speaker: Fr. Stephen Freeman
- Oratorical Festival
- Bible Bowl
- ...and much more!

The city of Memphis also has much to offer, including:

- Historic Beale Street
- Graceland (the home of Elvis Presley)
- National Civil Rights Museum
- The world’s largest Bass Pro Shop
- Big River Crossing over the majestic Mississippi River
- ...and much more!



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Great and Holy Pascha 2022

As we sing the hymn of victory, let us cleanse our senses and we will see
Christ shining like lightning with the unapproachable light of the
Resurrection and clearly saying, Rejoice!

First Ode of the Paschal Canon

Beloved in Christ,

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

Amidst the darkness of this world, the divine Light has arisen for our
sakes. Let us open the eyes of our hearts so that we might behold Him!
He shines with true and lasting joy, hope, love, and peace. Let us gaze upon
Him so that we might take in the fullness of all these blessings!

Praying that Paschal joy will blaze forth in your hearts, I remain,

Yours in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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