

Parish Announcements - Sunday, February 26, 2023

Announcement requests may be sent via email to saintnicholasar@gmail.com

Schedule of Liturgical Services & Activities	
TODAY - Sunday, February 26 <i>(Sunday of Forgiveness)</i>	9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy followed by Church School & Fellowship 1:00p Vespers with the Rite of Forgiveness
Monday, February 27 <i>(Beginning of Great Lent)</i>	6:00p Great Compline w/ Canon of Repentance
Tuesday, February 28	6:00p Great Compline w/ Canon of Repentance
Wednesday, March 1	6:00p Presanctified Liturgy & Potluck Meal <i>(Hosted by us - please bring dishes to share)</i>
Thursday, March 2	6:00p Great Compline w/ Canon of Repentance
Friday, March 3	6:00p Akathist (Madayeh) Service to the Theotokos
Saturday, March 4	3:45p Chant Class 5:00p Great Vespers
Sunday, March 5 <i>(Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy - Restoration of Holy Icons)</i>	9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship 5:00p Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Fellowship

Great Lent - Schedule of Liturgical Services

A booklet containing our liturgical service schedule for Great Lent and Holy Week has been mailed to your homes (with copies available at the Church). Please prioritize these services as you participate in a Lenten discipline. We will join together with our sister parish of St. John of Chicago in Rogers for a few services (some hosted here, some hosted by them). Those joint services will include a Potluck Lenten meal, so when we are host, please bring dishes to share!

Vespers with the Rite of Forgiveness TODAY, Sunday, February 26 at 1:00p after Fellowship Hour. This beautiful and humbling practice allows those in attendance to begin the Lenten season properly by seeking and giving forgiveness to those we will journey with during Great Lent, our fellow parishioners, our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy is Sunday, March 5 - we make commemoration of the Restoration of Holy Icons (9th century). We will process with icons (bring an icon from home to carry) both at Divine Liturgy and in the evening as we host a **Pan-Orthodox Vespers and Fellowship at 5:00p** with area Orthodox churches. Please discuss with Kate Salem or Denise King (Hospitality Ministry) to help with the Lenten meal.

Stewardship & Parish Life 2023

Our Stewardship Packet 2023 has been mailed to our homes, with copies available for pick-up at Church. **We ask that you prayerfully consider your financial contribution in 2023 and return the form.** This is a yearly request for ALL who call St. Nicholas Church their home parish!

Orthodox Youth Summer Camp

We have a variety of camping opportunities available for our youth, especially Camp St. Thekla (diocesan camp in South Carolina) and Camp St. Raphael in Oklahoma - both camps have registration currently open and filling up fast. If you have registered your child for an Orthodox Youth Summer Camp, please send the details to Fr. Paul (saintnicholasar@gmail.com) - limited scholarship funds available!

Holy Oblation & Fellowship Hosting

We are in need of parishioners and families to offer the Holy Oblation (holy bread) and host Fellowship (Coffee) Hour after Liturgy on Sundays. Please see Kate Salem (ksalem2@cox.net) to sign up.

Sign-up NOW for Sundays in 2023!

This will be an annual request of our parish family!

2023	Names of Host	Commemoration
February 26 (Fast)	Mackenzie Goff	Forgiveness Sunday; Cheesefare Sunday
March 5 (Fast)	Antiochian Women	Antiochian Women's Month
March 12 (Fast)	IN NEED OF HOST	
March 19 (Fast)	Steve & Tina Rieger, Talitha Lourie	
March 26 (Fast)	Waters Family	Derek & Kota's Birthday
April 2 (Fast)	Baclig Family	Antiochian Men's Month
April 9 (Fast)	Parish Festal Potluck	PALM SUNDAY
April 16 (Fast)	Parish Festal Potluck	PASCHA
April 23	David & Ulli Nelson	
April 30	Todd & Terry Keese	Todd's Birthday

UPDATE - Stewardship 2023 Goal - \$180,000 in financial contributions & 50 forms returned!

As of February 13, 2023 we have received Stewardship & Membership Forms from the following **35 households who have pledged a total amount of \$134,866 towards our goal.** 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 and return to our Church Office.** Many thanks to the following households listed below who have filled out their 2023 Stewardship & Membership Form:

Michael, Elizabeth, & Gretchen Baclig

Vera Belic

William Benoit

Chanse & Victoria Breazzeal

Robert & Nancy Brown

Eric & Elizabeth Carender

Elisabeth Cisneros

Mounir & Montez Farah

Fr. Paul & Ramia Fuller

Mike & Georgeta Galbraith

Mackenzie Goff

Casey & Kiersten Hale

Isaiah & Brea Hale

Adnan & Paula Haydar

Stuart Jackson

Todd & Terry Keese

Steve & Niki Kolokithas

Michael Kravaris

Don & Talitha Lourie

Caleb Mackey

David & Ulli Nelson

Philip & Ciera Nelson

Raphael Nelson

Nick & Megan Paunov

Jim & Vasilia Prater

Steve & Tina Rieger

Tom & Kate Salem

Sean & Carrie Scearce

Kevin & Nancy Scherer

Scott & Janna Strickland

Pat & Madeline Teague

Lindel & SoonMee Townsley

Derek & Gina Waters

Gary & Debra Wheeler

Caleb & Aly Wicker

Parish Council Officers

Many thanks to our dedicated parish council members and officers who continue to offer leadership for our parish community. Parish Council Members - 2023:

Fr. Paul Fuller - Parish Priest	Jeff Jenkins
Michael Baclig - Chairman; Antiochian Men President	Terry Keese
Philip Nelson - Vice Chairman; Sacred Music Rep	Steve Kolokithas
Tom Salem - Treasurer	Lindel Townsley
Ciera Nelson - Co-treasurer	
Elizabeth Baclig - Secretary; Antiochian Women President; Christian Education Rep	

Blessing of Parish Council, Antiochian Men Officers, & Antiochian Women Officers - Sunday, March 12

At the end of Divine Liturgy, we will offer the blessing for new parish ministry leaders; please join us for this blessing! Many thanks to those leading these ministries in 2023!

Guests Parking Spots

We now have reserved parking spots in our parking lot for our guests joining us. Please keep these spots available.

Antiochian Women Book Club - Saturday, March 11

Join us as we read through "Welcoming Gifts," available for purchase in the bookstore. We will meet at 3:30p prior to Great Vespers at 5:00p on Saturday, March 11.

Antiochian Men Lenten Retreat - Saturday, March 18

Be sure to pick up your copy of the book "Ask for the Ancient Paths" by Fr. James Guirguis in our Church bookstore while supplies last! This book will be the focus of our 4th Annual AMEN Lenten Retreat on March 18th. You can purchase your copy of the book via our online bookstore.

Antiochian Women Lenten Retreat - Saturday, April 1

All ladies are invited to join at the Church at 9:00a on Saturday, April 1 for a Lenten Retreat, which is being hosted virtually across the Diocese. Please RSVP to Elizabeth Baclig.

Bookstore UPDATE

New in bookstore...Just released! We have received copies of the newest book in the series of graphic novels on the lives of the saints. Entitled Sands of Salvation it tells the story of St Moses the Strong. Great Lent is rapidly approaching! In anticipation, the bookstore has been restocked with a yearly favorite - Love at Lent. Each boxed set contains 50 activity cards to encourage family participation in special Lenten events.

Church School UPDATE

Our Church School classes for our youth will continue TODAY after Liturgy and will continue every other week throughout May 2023. Your active participation is greatly appreciated!

Chant Class - Saturday, March 4

Reader David Nelson continues to offer these sessions, being offered on the 1st Saturday of each month at 3:45p, prior to Great Vespers at 5:00p. This is open to all; learn about Reading of Psalms, basic tones, hymns, and responses of the Church, and how to put the liturgical services together.

Church Etiquette Reminder of the Month - Keeping Focus In Worship

Too often we become easily distracted, whether at home, work, out and about, and especially in Church. With any desired goal or skill, patience and discipline are required and greatly helpful. We should be focused and attentive during prayer and worship. The clergy often recite this command liturgically: "Let us attend!" or "Stand upright!" Surely, the movement of others during services will entice us to glance in one direction or another, but we can try to limit that glance across the Church, and certainly, not letting that glance turn into a stare! Together, we can work on being less distracted and not distracting others if we keep focus during worship!

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America Provides Relief to Earthquake Survivors

The clergy and laity continuously offer prayers and precious dollars to save lives in Turkey and Syria.

On the morning of Feb. 6, 2023, two earthquakes of magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.5 rocked southern Turkey and northern Syria. To date, the death toll has surpassed 41,000 people in both countries and tens of thousands of people are homeless. Countless homes and houses of worship have been destroyed.

Heeding the distress call of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East, His Eminence Metropolitan Antonios, Patriarchal Vicar, and the clergy and laity of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America immediately mobilized to express their love, firstly by lifting their prayers for the repose of the souls of the victims, the health of the survivors, and to save those who are trapped in the rubble. The following litany was offered to the divine service: "For the preservation of all victims of the recent natural disaster in Syria and Turkey, and for the souls of all who have perished, let us pray to the Lord."

The Archdiocese of North America wired an initial contribution of \$250,000 to the Patriarchate to aid in the relief efforts in Syria and Turkey that provide food, clothing, counseling, temporary shelter, hygiene kits, diapers, medicine and medical supplies to earthquake survivors, some of whom are staying in Antiochian churches and halls. On Feb. 14, a delegation from by His Beatitude arrived in Adana, Turkey to assess the urgent needs and to coordinate relief efforts on the ground.

Complementing the relief efforts, the Archdiocese of North America established an online donation portal at Antiochian.org/earthquake. To date, more than \$292,000 has been raised here, with generous donors often paying transaction fees to ensure 100% of their donations will reach earthquake survivors. Additionally, anonymous donors set up a matching grant of \$150,000 for online donations which has now been matched. Therefore, online donations have reached more than \$442,000 at this point.

Furthermore, the churches of the Archdiocese of North America are taking special collections (trays) for earthquake victims on Sundays, Feb. 12, 19 and 26. As this money reaches the Archdiocesan headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey, along with the online and other private donations, it will be wired regularly to the Patriarchate to sponsor relief efforts on the ground.

The Archdiocese of North America ensures that every dollar collected through its mechanisms will reach relief efforts without transactional delays.

Additionally, the Archdiocese of North America applauds the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury for easing sanctions on Syria, authorizing all transactions related to earthquake and humanitarian relief that would otherwise be hindered under the existing sanctions regulations for 180 days. This is good news in the short term that will hopefully raise awareness about the humanitarian and economic crises that have now plagued Syria for over a decade. The Archdiocese stands ready to help the U.S. government find long-term, peaceful solutions.

Keep up with the latest news on the Archdiocese of North America's relief efforts on its online platforms. And please keep giving generously to help our suffering brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria.

Special Collections (Earthquake Relief Fund) - THANK YOU!



As requested by our Archdiocese, this past Sunday we began a collection **throughout the month of February** (along with all Antiochian parishes across the Archdiocese) to help financially support those greatly suffering from the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Many thanks for your generosity; **thus far, we have collected \$2,086!** Please continue this generous spirit and awareness throughout the month of February. If you'd like to contribute electronically, use the QR code to do so.