

# Parish Announcements - Sunday, March 5, 2023

Announcement requests may be sent via email to [saintnicholasar@gmail.com](mailto:saintnicholasar@gmail.com)

<b>Schedule of Liturgical Services &amp; Activities</b>	
TODAY - 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
Monday, March 6	6:00p Great Compline 7:00p Parish Council Mtg
Wednesday, March 8	6:00p Presanctified Liturgy & Potluck Meal <i>(Hosted at St. John Church - 1740 9<sup>th</sup> St. in Rogers)</i>
Friday, March 10	6:00p Akathist (Madayeh) Service to the Theotokos
Saturday, March 11	3:30p Ladies' Book Club  5:00p Great Vespers
Sunday, March 12 <i>(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent - St. Gregory Palamas)</i>	9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy followed by Church School & Fellowship

**Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy is TODAY, Sunday, March 5** - we make commemoration of the Restoration of Holy Icons (9<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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

Michael Baclig - Chairman; Antiochian Men President

Philip Nelson - Vice Chairman; Sacred Music Rep

Tom Salem - Treasurer

Ciera Nelson - Co-treasurer

Elizabeth Baclig - Secretary; Antiochian Women President; Christian Education Rep

Jeff Jenkins

Terry Keese

Steve Kolokithas

Lindel Townsley

### 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.

## 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 [saintnicholasar@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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
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 Keesee	Todd's Birthday

## IS YOUR NAME LISTED BELOW?

## DO YOU CALL ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH YOUR HOME PARISH?

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

As of February 26, 2023 we have received Stewardship & Membership Forms from the following **38 households who have pledged a total amount of \$136,166 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

Zachary Fitton

Fr. Paul & Ramia Fuller

Mike & Georgeta Galbraith

Mackenzie Goff

Casey & Kiersten Hale

Isaiah & Brea Hale

Adnan & Paula Haydar

Stuart Jackson

Todd & Terry Keesee

Ronald & Beverly Koehler

Steve & Niki Kolokithas

Michael Kravaris

Chase & Joana Lossing

Don & Talitha Lourie

Caleb Mackey

David & Ulli Nelson

Philip & Ciera Nelson

Raphael Nelson

Nick & Megan Paunov

Jim & Vasilias Prater

Steve & Tina Rieger

Tom & Kate Salem

Sean & Carrie Scarce

Kevin & Nancy Scherer

Scott & Janna Strickland

Pat & Madeline Teague

Lindel & SoonMee Townsley

Derek & Gina Waters

Gary & Debra Wheeler

Caleb & Aly Wicker

### **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.

### **Church School UPDATE**

Our Church School classes for our youth will be on Sundays, March 12 & 26 after Liturgy and will continue every other week throughout May 2023. During the month of March, we will emphasize the Creative Arts Festival that is sponsored by our diocese. Please have your children work on these projects AT HOME! Your active participation is greatly appreciated!

### **Special Collections (Earthquake Relief Fund) - THANK YOU!**

Throughout the month of February, we took collections to help financially support those greatly suffering from the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. **Many thanks for your generosity; we have collected \$2,657!** You may still contribute electronically, please use the QR code to do so.



### **Bookstore UPDATE**

Do you have an icon of our patron saint St Nicholas in your prayer corner at home? The bookstore is featuring four different versions. Stop by to check them out. Also now in the bookstore is the icon of Noah's Ark, perfect for a child's room.

### **Church Etiquette Reminder of the Month - Making the Sign of the Cross**

It is always appropriate to cross oneself (make the sign of the cross over your body) at the mention of the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Also, it is appropriate to cross oneself at the following instances: when entering and leaving the Church Sanctuary, when passing in front of the altar, when venerating an icon or the Gospel, and of course, at any time of personal piety. However, it is not necessary to cross oneself when the priest is offering the blessing ("Peace be unto all") or censuring the congregation. Instead, one should simply bow and receive the blessing.

# ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: PV075/2023

**The Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 5, 2023**

**To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.**

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful,

Greetings to you in the Name of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

Each year we ask for your support of our archdiocesan seminarians on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, as we celebrate those who have defended and preserved the Orthodox Faith over the centuries. The Church continues and prospers from generation to generation because of those who answer God's call and dedicate their lives to His service. In particular, its life and growth depend on men and their families responding when God calls them to the holy priesthood, so that they might care for the souls of the faithful and lead our parishes in worship and outreach.

The ability of these men to fulfill their calling depends on their being properly prepared. In the sacred scriptures, the Prophet Samuel needed Eli's help to recognize the Lord's voice calling him. The Prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah needed to experience divine grace touching their lips before they could proclaim the word of God. The holy apostles needed to spend years with our Lord Jesus Christ – following Him, listening to Him, and observing Him – before they received the Spirit and went forth to preach. Likewise, those called to the priesthood need an opportunity to step away from worldly responsibilities and immerse themselves in the Church's worship, ethos, and teaching at seminary.

To do this, they need your financial help. When they come to seminary in order to prepare to serve you – to bring the grace of God into your parish, your family, and your soul – they leave behind the secular work that supports them and their families. As an archdiocese, we have always come together to shoulder the financial burden of this preparation by providing scholarships and housing aid. Your generous gifts today will thus make their future service possible.

With prayers for all of you as we continue along the life-giving path of the Great Fast toward the glorious day of Pascha, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Metropolitan ANTONIOS  
Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek, and Dependencies  
Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America