

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

St. Nicholas and St. Basil
Byzantine Catholic Parishes
Liturgical Schedule:

Sat.	Mar	22	3 rd All Souls Saturday
			3:30 pm Rosary
			4:00 pm Divine Liturgy (SB), Panachyda
Sun.	Mar	23	3 rd SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
			9:45 am Divine Liturgy (SB)
			11:00 am Rosary
			11:30 am Divine Liturgy (SN) for the Parishioners,
			4:00 pm <u>Healing Service-Anointing (Sacred Heart, Livonia)</u>
Mon.	Mar	24	Zachary-Venerable
			7:00 pm Divine Liturgy (SB)
Tue.	Mar	25	Annunciation of the THEOTOKOS
			7:00 pm Divine Liturgy (SN)
Wed.	Mar	26	Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel
			7:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (SB)
Thurs.	Mar	27	Matrona Venerable
Fri.	Mar	28	Hilary and Stephen Venerable
			7:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (SN)
Sat.	Mar	29	4 th All Souls Saturday
			9:00 am Divine Liturgy (SN) for all souls, Panachyda
			3:30 pm Rosary
			4:00 pm Divine Liturgy (SB), Panachyda
Sun.	Mar	30	4 th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
			9:45 am Divine Liturgy (SB)
			11:00 am Rosary
			11:30 am Divine Liturgy (SN) for the Parishioners,
			4:00 pm <u>Great Vespers (St. Michael, Oregon, OH)</u>

St. Nicholas Parish Weekly Collections 3/16/2025
"My return to the Lord for all His goodness to me"

Offertory	\$ 1197.00	Candles	\$ 20.00
Holy Days	\$ 125.00	E-donations	\$ 381.81
Others	\$ 21.00		

Total: \$ 1744.81

We thank You for Your big generosity!

Propers: Tone 3, page 135, of the Sunday - page 223.

3rd SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

(Mk 8:34-9:1)

The Conditions of Discipleship

He then called the people and his disciples to him and said to them, "Anyone who wishes to follow me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the sake of the gospel will save it. What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his very life? Indeed, what can he give in exchange for his life?"

"If anyone in this adulterous and sinful generation is ashamed of me and of my words, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Then he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

The Sunday of the Holy Cross prepares us for commemoration of the Crucifixion and reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ. As we have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24) and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory

The Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree condemnation has been abolished.

The services of this Sunday almost make no mention of the Cross as being a symbol of suffering, penance, or humiliation, but rather extoll the holy Cross as a symbol of joy, victory and triumph, which are brought to fulness through the glorious Resurrection. This is the true Christian meaning of the Cross. Beyond the Cross the Christian sees the glory of the Resurrection and the joy of everlasting bliss.

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church
23300 King Drive, 48035 Clinton Township, MI
Phone: (586) 791-1052; Email: stnicksbyzantine@yahoo.com

Pastor: Father Mykhailo Solianyuk

Cantors: George Nagrant, Nicholas P. Nagrant, Ann Pawluszka, Steve Terlescki,
John P. Minarish, Richard Baranko and Subdeacon Phillip Dinsmore

Confessions: Before each Divine Liturgy in the sacristy or by appointment

Baptisms: Arrange six weeks in advance

Weddings: Arrange six months in advance. Bride or groom must be a member of the parish

Communion: Monthly for sick and shut-ins. Call the church for scheduling

The Power of Christ's Blood

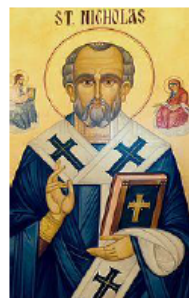
If we wish to understand the power of Christ's blood, we should go back to the ancient account of its prefiguration in Egypt. Sacrifice a lamb without blemish, commanded Moses, and sprinkle its blood on your doors. If we were to ask him what he meant, and how the blood of an irrational beast could possibly save men endowed with reason, his answer would be that the saving power lies not in the blood itself, but in the fact that it is a sign of the Lord's blood. In those days, when the destroying angel saw the blood on the doors he did not dare to enter, so how much less will the devil approach now when he sees, not that figurative blood on the doors, but the true blood on the lips of believers, the doors of the temple of Christ.

If you desire further proof of the power of this blood, remember where it came from, how it ran down from the cross, flowing from the Master's side. The gospel records that when Christ was dead, but still hung on the cross, a soldier came and pierced His side with a lance and immediately there poured

out water and blood. Now the water was a symbol of Baptism and the blood, of the Holy Eucharist. The soldier pierced the Lord's side, he breached the wall of the sacred temple, and I have found the treasure and made it my own. So also with the lamb: the Jews sacrificed the victim and I have been saved by it.

There flowed from His side water and blood. Beloved, do not pass over this mystery without thought; it has yet another hidden meaning, which I will explain to you. I said that water and blood symbolized Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. From these two sacraments the Church is born: from Baptism, the cleansing water that gives rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit, and from the Holy Eucharist. Since the symbols of Baptism and the Eucharist flowed from His side, it was from His side that Christ fashioned the Church, as He had fashioned Eve from the side of Adam.

St. John Chrysostom



St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church

Clinton Township, MI

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Слава Исусу Христу! Слава на вѣки!

Announcements for Sunday, March 23, 2025

Welcome, Fr. Marton Egressy and Family! This Sunday we welcome from the Mukachevo Eparchy, Fr. Marton Egressy, his wife Natalia, and their two daughters, Abigel and Olivia! Fr. Marton and his family have come to the United States recently with the help of the Hungarian Society of Toledo, and are temporarily living close to St. Michael's Parish in Oregon, OH. Abigel must have three surgeries soon. The second and third of these surgeries will be in the hospital in Columbus, OH, and there are funds available for those. Unfortunately, they don't have any funds for the first surgery and without the first, they cannot schedule the other two. The total cost of the first surgery is \$9,000! We can help! Please, donate for that purpose if you can! Any donations are important and would be greatly appreciated! Please use the yellow box that is placed in the church, near the cross that is across from the cantor stand.

Sunday, March 23rd: Join our ECF students in praying the Rosary! This Sunday, March 23, at ~10:45am, please come and join our ECF students who will be leading a special Rosary prayer before Liturgy. All are welcome!

Austin Catholic High School Presentation today: This Sunday we also welcome some students and staff members from Austin Catholic High School to St. Nicholas Parish. They will have an information table for us, in an effort to promote Catholic education to the families of local parishes. Please, and especially for families that have school-aged children, talk to them, ask questions, and receive some valuable information (and some fun swag) to take home.

Stational Vespers on the Sunday Evenings of the Great Fast- for the Great Lakes Protopresbyterate: Like last year, on each Sunday evening of the Great Fast at 4:00pm, we will celebrate Vespers at a different parish of the Great Lakes Protopresbyterate (aka Deanery). A different priest will serve and preach a brief sermon at each Vespers, and the hosting parish will provide a simple Lenten meal after the service. All deanery parishioners are encouraged to participate. In addition to being an opportunity for prayer and repentance during the Great Fast, this is also a chance for us to visit the other parishes of our region and for us to all be together and get to know each other better. The remaining schedule is as follows:

March 23	3 rd Sunday of Lent- Veneration of the Holy Cross
March 30	4 th Sunday of Lent- Holy Fr. John Climacus
April 6	5 th Sunday of Lent- Holy Mother Mary of Egypt
April 13	Palm Sunday

Sacred Heart, Livonia – <u>HEALING SERVICE, not Vespers</u>
St. Michael, Oregon, OH
St. Basil, Sterling Heights
St. Michael, Flushing

Friendly Spiritual Reminder! Per our last adult enrichment session a few weeks ago, pertaining to our Jubilee Year and especially about confession, please remember: **IF YOUR LAST PERSONAL CONFESSION WITH A PRIEST WAS MORE THAN ONE YEAR AGO, PLEASE DO NOT GO TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION! Do your confession, and then receive the Holy Communion!**

Friday Fish Fry Fundraiser: Our Lenten Fish Fry fundraiser has started and will continue every Friday throughout Lent, **from 5:00-6:45pm in the Church Hall.** All are welcome! If you would like to help out as a volunteer cooking, serving, or setting/cleaning up— or if you would be interested in donating a dessert from time to time for us to sell—please see George Nagrant. The Fish Fry is co-sponsored by the GCU (Greek Catholic Union), and is a “matching funds” fundraiser (up to \$3,000) to raise money for our parish. Donations by cash or check are also accepted.

Next Sunday, March 30th: Help pack lunches for the homeless— Next Sunday, March 30th, we will be packing 100 bag lunches to deliver to the homeless shelter at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in St. Clair Shores. This year, we would appreciate help from our adults before Liturgy (while our students are in class) to assemble and bag the sandwiches, and to help set up the “assembly line”. Then, after Liturgy, we would like to have our ECF students and any other children do the main assembly of the bag lunches, with help only as needed from our adults. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this.

Sunday, April 6th: Day of Reflection, and Liturgy time change— On Sunday, April 6th, we will host a Lenten Day of Reflection. We will start the day with **Divine Liturgy at 11:00am**, followed by lunch and special presentations/talks led by Fr. Deacon Paul Latcha. There is no cost for this event. All are invited!

Reminder: Presanctified Liturgies are split between St. Nicholas and St. Basil locations this year (7:00pm): As usual during Lent, we continue to have the special *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* every Wednesday and Friday evening at 7:00pm. However, please note that each Wednesday the Liturgy is being celebrated at St. Basil Church in Sterling Heights, and each Friday the Liturgy is being celebrated here at St. Nicholas Church. We invite you to include these Liturgies, and also other prayer and celebration in our church, as part of your Lenten observations this year.

Reminder: Contribution Statements for your 2024 donations are available in the vestibule. Please pick yours up at your convenience. We thank you for your generous donations of time, talent, and treasure to St. Nicholas Church!

Non-perishable Food Collection: To assist those in need within our own community, including anyone from our parish that may be in need of assistance, we are accepting donations of canned and other non-perishable foods. Please place any donations in, on, or next to the black plastic bin that is located in the vestibule. Thank you!

Eparchy of Parma Stewardship Appeal 2024-25 (Parish Goal: \$7,950; Status as of 03/03/25: \$3,667.88): This year's Stewardship Appeal will support the following important needs in the Eparchy: Mission and Outreach; Development of Parishes; Retreats, Renewals, and Family Camp; Works of the Apostolate; Clergy Benevolence Fund; and Support for our Retired and Active Priests. Please visit <https://parma.org/stewardship-appeal> for more information and to make secure, one-time or monthly donations through the website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign. The overall Stewardship Appeal campaign goal is \$320,000. Thank you for your generosity!!!

From elsewhere within the Eparchy of Parma:

Saturday, April 5th: Young Adult “Pilgrimage of Hope” at Sacred Heart Church-- On Saturday, April 5th, there will be a special Pilgrimage of Hope geared specifically for our young adults at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia, MI. The event will begin at 10:30am, and will feature opportunities for prayer, a Relic tour, and plenty of food and socializing. For more information please visit: byzantineyoungadults.com.

Save the Date (July 16-20, 2025): The 4th Byzantine Assembly will take place July 16-20, 2025, at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, in Whiting, IN, under the name and calling, “Come let us worship and bow before Christ.” The goal of the Assembly is to together discern ways to live our worship of Christ today in a real and practical manner while learning from the past and looking to the future. The Assembly will include formal presentations, interviews, panel discussion and roundtable exercises. More information will be published later, in our bulletins and online at the Assembly website: byzantineassembly.org.

For more info: Please see our bulletin, LIKE us on Facebook or visit our website: stnicksdetroit.com