

April 14, 2024

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America • 2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie - Rector, mobile: 810-247-4265 & Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org Church: 810-744-0070 e-mail: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

Welcome! We are honored that you have joined us in our celebration of the Lord's resurrection this day.

If you are a first-time visitor to our parish, we invite you to sign our guest book in the vestibule. If you have a question, a prayer request, or any need, please speak with Fr. Matthew, Deacon Luke, or with one of the ushers.

For our friends present with us who are not Orthodox Christians, please note that we have specific disciplines regarding receiving Communion. We ask that you refrain from going to Communion until you have spoken with Fr. Matthew after the Liturgy and understand our discipline and piety regarding this sacrament and its implication for responsibility towards and membership in the Orthodox Church. The bread offered at the end of the service is available to all.

If you are an Orthodox Christian from another parish who has prepared in accordance with your discipline, and have a blessing from your home priest to do so, we invite and encourage you to partake of Holy Communion. **Again, welcome!**

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – **Tone 4. St. John of Sinai, "Climacus" (of *The Ladder*). St. Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655). Martyrs Anthony, John, and Eustathius of Vilnius (Lithuania – 1347). Martyr Ardalion the Actor (4th c.). Martyr Azades the Eunuch and 1,000 Martyrs of Persia (ca. 341).**

TROPARIA

Tone 4 When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Tone 1 O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave you strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

Tone 4 In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION Tone 8 O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from ev'ry calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: O Lord, how manifold are Your works; / in wisdom have You made them all. (*Psalms*. 103:26)

v. **Bless the Lord, O my soul. Lord, my God, you magnified yourself greatly.** (*Psalms* 103:1)

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: **Draw and prosper and reign, on account of truth and meekness and righteousness.** (*Psalms* 44:4)

v: **You loved righteousness and hated lawlessness.** (*Psalms* 44:7)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (9:17-31) And one of the crowd answered Jesus, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a mute spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Instead of "It is truly meet ... ,": All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child, our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (*Psalms 148:1*)

Saint John "of the Ladder" ("Climacus") Fourth Sunday of Lent - He is honored by Holy Church as a great ascetic and author of the renowned spiritual book called *The Ladder*, from which he is also called "of the Ladder" (Climacus). John went to Sinai when he was sixteen, submitting to Abba Martyrius as his instructor and guide. After four years, Saint John was tonsured as a monk. Abba Strategios, who was present at Saint John's tonsure, predicted that he would become a great luminary in the Church of Christ.

For nineteen years Saint John progressed in monasticism in obedience to his spiritual Father. After the death of Abba Martyrius, Saint John embarked on a solitary life, settling in a wild place called Thola, where he spent forty years laboring in silence, fasting, prayer, and tears of penitence.

It is not by chance that in *The Ladder* Saint John speaks about tears of repentance: "Just as fire burns and destroys the wood, so pure tears wash away every impurity, both external and internal." His holy prayer was strong and efficacious, as may be seen from an example from the life of the God-pleasing saint.

Saint John ate the food which is permitted by the monastic rule, but only in moderation. He did not sleep very much, only enough to keep up his strength, so that he would not ruin his mind by unceasing vigil. "I do not fast excessively," he said of himself, "nor do I give myself over to intense all-night vigil, nor lay upon the ground, but I restrain myself..., and the Lord soon saved me."

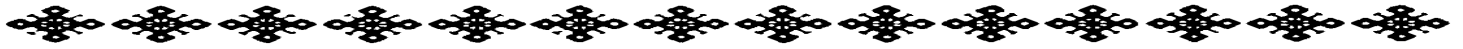
At the request of Saint John, igumen of the Raithu monastery (Commemorated on Cheesefare Saturday), he wrote the incomparable *Ladder*, a book of instruction for monks who wished to attain spiritual perfection. Knowing of the wisdom and spiritual gifts of Saint John of Sinai, the igumen of Raithu requested him to write down whatever was necessary for the salvation of those in the monastic life. Such a book would be "a ladder fixed on the earth" (Gen. 28:12), leading people to the gates of Heaven.

Saint John felt that such a task was beyond his ability, yet out of obedience he fulfilled the request. The saint called his work *The Ladder*, for the book is "a fixed ladder leading from earthly things to the Holy of Holies...." The thirty steps of spiritual perfection correspond to the thirty years of the Lord's age. When we have completed these thirty steps, we will find ourselves with the righteous and will not stumble. *The Ladder* begins with renunciation of the world, and ends with God, Who is love (1 John 4:8).

Although the book was written for monks, any Christian living in the world will find it an unerring guide for ascending to God, and a support in the spiritual life.

The twenty-second step of *The Ladder* deals with various forms of vainglory. Saint John writes: "When I fast, I am vainglorious; and when I permit myself food in order to conceal my fasting from others I am again vainglorious about my prudence." "When you hear that your neighbor or friend has slandered you behind your back, or even to your face, praise and love him. It is not the one who reproaches himself who shows humility, for who will not put up with himself? It is the one who is slandered by another, yet continues to show love for him." From oca.org

April 14, 2024



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

God's blessings & good health for our sons on their birthdays: Chris (Apr. 2) & Tom (Apr. 13) Panoff

mom & dad

Tony Branoff

Eileen & Dennis

Health & blessings for my family

Lucy Hogg

Health & strength for Mira Prusac, Nick George, parish family & Jana Ragnone

Kris & David George

Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Angelo, Joan,

Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Les,

Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted,

Joseph, Marlene, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family

and friends

Joe Tome

Special Intention

Joe Tome

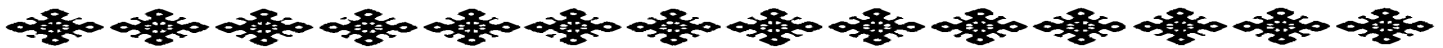
CANDLE INTENETION FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

In loving memory of Mary Abu-Aita

Connie

Jo & Peter Sredich

Kris & David George



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors and those joining us via our YouTube channel: [St Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton](#). If at the time of the divine services you cannot access the livestream, please check out [St. Mary Magdalene Church](#), [St George Church](#) or [Dormition Monastery](#).

Apr 14 CANDLESTAND: Susie Ford

HOURS: Alexander Gonser

READER: Phil Wiles

Apr 21 CANDLESTAND: Christine Panoff

HOURS: Angelo Panoff

READER: Katherine Gonser

COFFEE SOCIAL Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome. There is a signup sheet next to the service window for those who would like to donate and/or serve in the coming weeks.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS led by Reader Alexander Gonser after the Divine Liturgy. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith.

ADULT EDUCATION class schedule during Lent:

- **Friday, April 19** - 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy followed by class
- **Friday, April 26** - 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy followed by class

CHURCH SCHOOL - [1 Peter - the Cornerstone](#)



CHURCH GROUNDS SPRING CLEAN UP April 20th starting at 10 am. There will be something for everyone to do no matter your age or ability. Lunch will be provided. Bring your yard & garden tools & gloves. Please sign up in the fellowship hall or call the office so Dennis Jernigan can coordinate the jobs beforehand. He will have everything needed for the painting projects.

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE is April 28. **The deadline for orders is this week, April 17.** Order forms are available in the parish hall & at the candle stand. Please give them to Joe Tome.

ALL PARISHIONERS Your help will be needed as we get closer to Pascha. Your help will also be needed twice on Great and Holy Friday. First, after the morning Royal Hours your help will be needed to set up the Tomb of our Lord for Vespers and then decorate it after Vespers. Second, after the Lamentations that evening your help will be needed to change over all the candles from purple to white.

YOUTH NEEDED TO ASSIST ON GOOD FRIDAY We look to the children and young adults to assist Father during the Vespers Service (3 pm) and at the Lamentations Service (6 pm). As Father removes the image of the body of Christ from the Crucifix at Vespers, the children help by holding the winding sheet and covering the icon for Father. And, at the evening service, the young ladies of the parish (as well as family and friends), are invited to join in by sprinkling the Tomb with rose water during the Lamentations. After, the girls help lead the procession by scattering flower petals before the Tomb and our other young people are invited to join in by bearing various instruments of the Passion.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE please see the calendar in the newsletter and note that services and times are subject to change.

VIGIL AT THE TOMB OF THE LORD It is traditional to keep a vigil at the Tomb of our Lord from Great Friday evening until the Great Saturday's Liturgy and then until the midnight service. The Vigil is from Friday, May 3 at 9 pm until Saturday, May 4 at 10 am and then from 1 pm until 10:30 pm. If you are interested, please email stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com, signup in parish hall or call the office.

ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER has asked Father Matthew to drive him from Thursday, April 11 to Sunday, April 14 to Saint Athanasius Church, Nicholasville, KY (Diocese of the South).
Father Robert Royer will serve Trisagion and Vespers on Saturday, April 13 and Liturgy on Sunday, April 14. The diocese will cover the honoraria for Fr Robert.

IN EMERGENCY ONLY April 11-15 contact Father Gabriel Bilas at 810-750-1401 or Father Peter Bistolarides at 810-771-4611.

FLOWERS FOR PASCHA & ITEMS FOR LENT donations this year are not specified by a certain item & amount. Give as you are able to. Please fill out the form & return it to the office. Sponsors will be listed in the newsletter.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH THROUGH GIVELIFY Go to our website www.saintnicholasburton.org and click on the box [Give now with Givelify](#); this is a secure site. (2.9% + \$0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify as a fee). *Please consider adding the extra fee we are charged to your donation. If you do not wish to donate online, you may write a check to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and send it to the parish address: 2143 S Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519.

COIN BOXES Each Lent, we collect coins to help support the Orthodox missions here in the US and around the world through the Orthodox Christians Mission Center (OCMC). Boxes are found on the tables in the church hall. Please be generous!

YOUTUBE CHANNEL subscribe to our YouTube channel [Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton](#) to receive notifications of upcoming livestreams for services. Livestreams begin at 9:30 with Hours.

OFFICE HOURS are Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9-3.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Monday, April 15 *Father in Toledo*
[6 pm](#) [Great Compline at St. George](#)

Wednesday, April 17
9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
No Adult education
7 pm Matins & Canon of St. Andrew at Dormition Monastery

Thursday, April 18
8:15 am Presanctified Liturgy at Dormition Monastery

Friday, April 19
9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
11:15 am adult education

Saturday, April 20 **Akathistos Saturday**
[9:30 am](#) [10 am Liturgy & Akathist-live-streamed](#)
10 am Church clean-up
[5 pm](#) [Vespers - live-streamed](#) *Confessions*

Sunday, April 21 **5th Sunday of Lent - Saint Mary of Egypt**
[9:30 am](#) [Hours & 10 am Divine Liturgy-live-streamed](#)
Church School - **Confessions**

Offerings for the week April 7, 2024

Weekly Offerings	\$ 3,128.75
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 4,100.00
	\$ - 971.25

62 persons in attendance on April 7