

April 19, 2015 Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

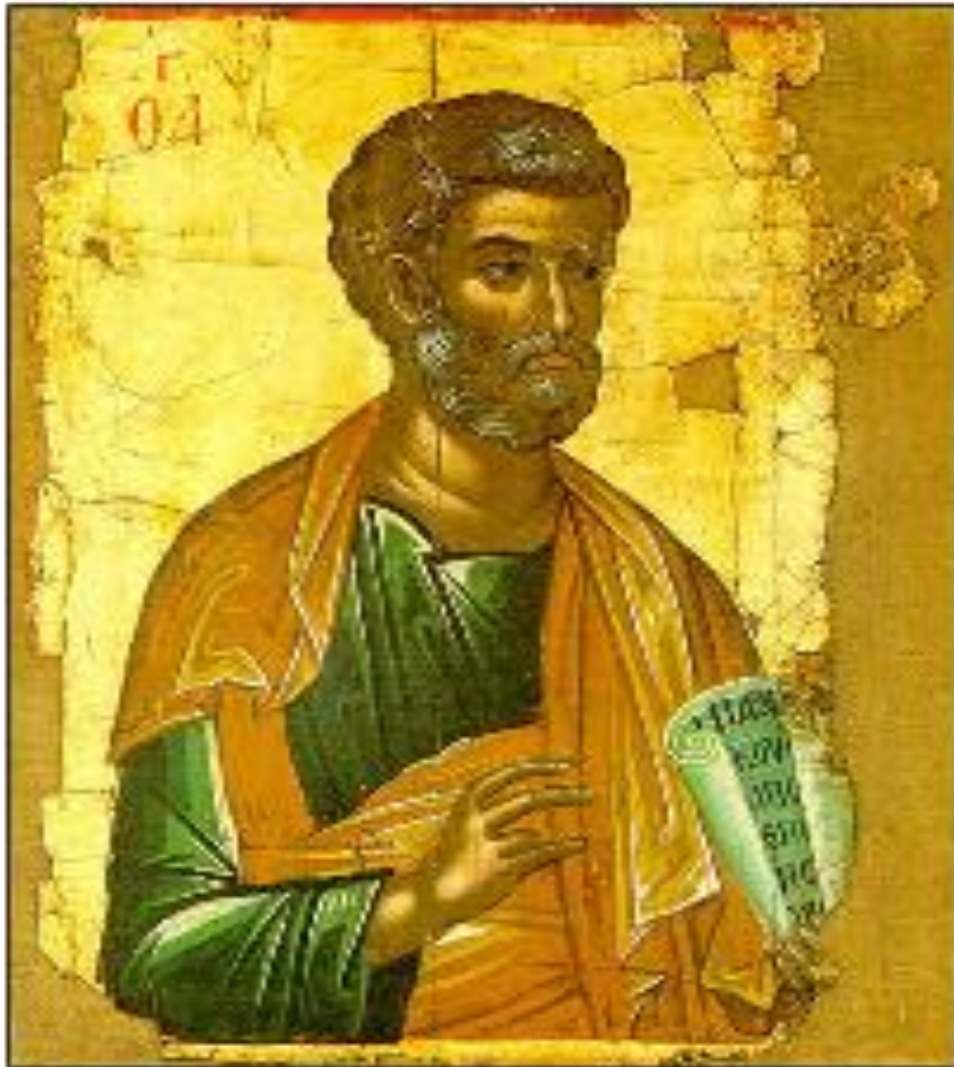
Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Rector Deacon Kerry Luke Gonser

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St. Thomas

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2015. ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 1. St. Thomas Sunday. Ven. John of the Ancient Caves in Palestine (8th c.). Martyrs Christopher, Theonas, and Anthony, at Rome (303). Hieromartyr Paphnutius of Jerusalem. St. George the Confessor, Bishop of Antioch in Pisidia (9th c.). St. Tryphon, Patriarch of Constantinople (933). Ven. Nicephorus, Abbot of Catabad. Monk Martyr Agathangelos of Esphigmenou (Mt. Athos—1819). Ven. Simeon of Philotheou (Mt. Athos—16th c.).

FIRST ANTIPHON

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to His praise! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Say to God: How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thy enemies cringe before Thee! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy name, O Most High! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

SECOND ANTIPHON

God be bountiful to us and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us! **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations! **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to Thee! **O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

TROPARION

(Tone 7) From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth O Life! Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ God! Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

KONTAKION

(Tone 8) Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when Thou didst come to Thy apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God!

The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone: Great is our Lord and abundant in power / His understanding is beyond measure!

✠: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God.

THE READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (5:12-20) *In those days:* many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Alleluia, Tone 8

✠: Come; let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

✠: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth!

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

The Angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin! Again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead! Rejoice, all ye people! Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The Glory of the Lord has shone on you! Exult now and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

IN PLACE OF “WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT...”

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

WHAT IS THE ARTOS?

“Artos” is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. The Artos is blessed on Pascha after the Ambon Prayer which is said at the end of the Liturgy. The prayer used in the blessing of the Artos is as follows: “We bless and sanctify this bread on this Paschal day, for the honor, praise and memory of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we are released, freed ... We further ask Almighty God to bless this bread and that all who partake of it may share in His Heavenly gifts and be free of all pain and sickness, and be granted salvation of soul and health of body.” During Bright Week, the blessed bread, covered with an icon of the Resurrection, remains in the church to be kissed until the Sunday after Pascha (Saint Thomas Sunday), when the Artos is distributed to the faithful. According to the old custom, the Artos was distributed on the Saturday of Bright Week after the Holy Liturgy with the prayer, “this bread may be for the health and sanctification of the soul of him who eats of it.” In the former centuries the faithful would preserve little pieces of bread for those who were seriously ill or in danger of death and unable to receive Holy Communion. They would be given a piece of Artos as a substitute for Holy Communion. Presently, the Artos is generally broken and distributed on Thomas Sunday so that as many of the faithful as possible can partake of this blessing. The Artos reminds us of the occasion when our Lord at the Last Supper, on Holy Thursday, with His Disciples present, instituted the Holy Eucharist. It recalls to our minds that He is permanently among us. It also reminds us of His appearance to the Disciples after the Resurrection, when He blessed the food and did eat of it with them. Again we are reminded of His words to Cleophas and Lucas on their way to the village of Emmaus when He interpreted the Scriptures in regard to things referring to Himself, and they did recognize Him when He reclined at the table with them, and He took bread and blessed, and broke and began handing it to them. (Luke 24:27-35) According to the oldest tradition, the Apostles, after the Ascension of Our Lord, placed bread on the table (altar) each time during the services, for the Divine Master. This they did for their Master, confessing or believing in His invisible presence among them. At the end of the services they took the bread and lifted it up with the words: “Glory be to You, O Christ, Our God, Glory be to You. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.” The Apostles, after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day, went to preach the Gospel throughout the world and, according to tradition, left a loaf of bread on the altar in remembrance of His Glorious Resurrection. As the unleavened bread had a great significance to the Jews in the Old Testament, so the Artos has for us in the New Testament. As bishop, Saint Cyril, the great writer and preacher, writes: “As the Jews in Egypt were preparing unleavened bread for their big journey through the Red Sea, and after crossing the Sea they did eat the bread, so we, Christians, saved through the Resurrection of our Savior from sin, lift up the Artos, which is exposed on the table during Bright Week and eat it on Saturday, the last day of Bright Week. As the unleavened bread was eaten for the health of the people who ate it, so is this bread given for the health and sanctification of our soul and body.”

During the week of Thomas Sunday, April 19th, we read Acts 4: 13 to 5: 33 in sections. These verses are filled with wonderful evidence of the power of love in the young Church.

The first verses describe the "boldness" of the apostles Peter and John, who preach to growing crowds that there is "salvation in no one else" except Jesus Christ. When the chief priests and elders warn them to stop, their response shows that they are not the same fearful men who hid away when Christ was crucified. They are compelled, they answer, to share the truth they have seen and heard.

The two apostles return to their friends, and everyone prays together that God will look upon the threats made against them, and "grant to Thy servants to speak Thy word with all boldness." The place where they are gathered is "shaken" and they are filled with the Holy Spirit. There will be hostile enemies trying to instill fear in them, but the Spirit will strengthen them to overcome it with love.

The next verses describe the practical results of the love God has enabled them to share. "Great grace" is upon them all, and there "is not a needy person among them." Everyone gives their property or money, laying it at the apostles' feet to be used for the common good.

But the Book of Acts is not a naive description of idealized human behavior. So the very next verses tell us of a married couple, Ananias and Sapphira, who succumb to temptation and betray this communal trust and love. They sell their property and bring what they claim is the total of the proceeds, while actually keeping back some.

Peter says solemn words to Ananias: "You have not lied to men but to God." He is not pronouncing judgment, but seems to be saying that in the atmosphere of love, deceit cannot survive. Ananias falls dead on the spot. When his wife Sapphira continues to lie to Peter about the price of their property, she too dies immediately.

Following both deaths, we read that "great fear" fell upon those who heard about them, and indeed upon the whole church. But even this fear is overcome by God's love, the love uniting His people. The next verses tell us that "more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women..."

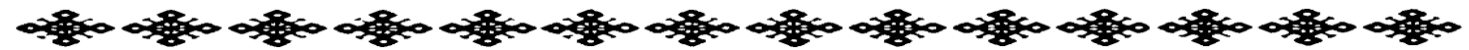
On April 22nd the Church commemorates the Holy Martyr Leonidas, the father of the prominent theologian Origen. Leonidas, a brilliant Christian philosopher, was imprisoned during one of the third-century persecutions of Christians. His wife and seven children, of whom Origen was the oldest, were terrified, especially when all their possessions were confiscated by imperial decree, leaving them in abject poverty.

Yet Leonidas had nurtured in his eldest son a deep love for God. Origen wrote to his father in prison: "Do not worry about us, and do not flee from martyrdom on our account." He was one more person who knew that love centered in God can always overcome fear.

April 19, 2015

Christ is Risen!

Indeed He is Risen!

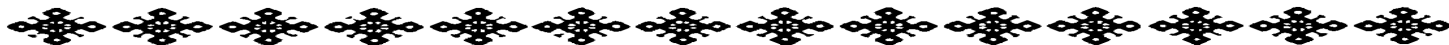


CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

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|--|-----------------------|
| Special Intention | John Tome |
| God's Blessings for Freda Farone | Dorothy & Family |
| Fr. Michael, Moses, Fr. Joe, Fr. Lavrenty, Deacon Anthony, John, John, John, Laurie, Anne, Joseph, Reggie, Stojan & Mira, Jo Ann, Evanka, Dorothy, Walt & Zina, Bosa, John & Gloria, Les, Peter & Olga, Jeanette, Elaine, Helen, Ted & Marlene, Fr. David, Gladys, Stephanie, my family & friends | John Tome |
| God's Blessing for Paul Nikoloff | Angelo & Helen Popoff |

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

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|---|----------------------|
| Tronda, Mitre, Boris, Kosta, Eleni | Alex & Menka Nedanis |
| Blessed Repose Tula Nastos-Memory Eternal | John Tome |
| Blessed Repose Tula Nastos-Memory Eternal | Sredich Family |
| Blessed Repose Tula Nastos-Memory Eternal | Dorothy & Family |



Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas. Please join us for fellowship, coffee and breakfast in our parish hall.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST will be held following the veneration of the cross. The breakfast is sponsored by our church school students. It is free will offering, please be generous.

EASTER EGG HUNT Following the pancake breakfast there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of our parish, followed by a visit from the Pascha Bunny.

CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX for the month of April is Deodorant. Please place the items in the blue Hope in a Box container located in the parish hall. They will be distributed by Catholic Charities Community Closet.

FOOD DRIVE Our next pick up is Monday, April 20. A list of food items is located next to the Hope in a Box.

FLOWERS FOR DONATION We still have plenty of flowers available for donation. Available are; 6 Lilies at \$30 each, 4 Hyacinths at \$20 each, 5 Daffodils at \$15 each and 2 Ferns at \$30 each. Please see Debbie or fill out the Flowers for Great Friday & Pascha form located in the parish hall.

PARISHIONER UPDATE Evanka Elieff has a new address: 5130 Baldwin Rd #B3, Holly, MI 48442

John & Gloria Zelenko will have a new address as of April, 16: 5201 Woodhaven Ct. #722, Flint, MI 48532

KROGER REWARDS you must re-enroll your Kroger card between April 1st and May 1st for St. Nicholas to earn reward dollars. To re-enroll go to krogercommunityrewards.com, click "sign-in", enter your email and password, click "enroll now", put in our organization number or type in St. Nicholas, check the correct group, click enroll. This is a quick and easy way for our parish to earn extra money for church activities.

SPRING BUS TRIP TO DORMITION MONASTERY on Saturday, May 30. We will have a tour of the Monastery and lunch with the community. The cost for the bus trip is \$30 per person. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

MEMORY ETERNAL +Tula Nastos fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, April 16. +Tula is the wife of John Nastos, sister of Sophie Stavridis and Alex Karatza, and the daughter of Vasilka Karatza. The arrangements are as follows:

Today

1-8 Visitation at Swartz Funeral Home
7 pm Parastas

Monday, April 20

10 am Viewing in Church
11 am Funeral followed by interment at Evergreen Cemetery

Schedule of services and events for the week of April 19:

Monday, April 20

10 am Visitation for +Tula Nastos
11 am Funeral followed by interment at Evergreen Cemetery
6-8 Book Club @ St. George

Wednesday, April 22

9:00 am Divine Liturgy
11:00 am Adult Education

Saturday, April 25

10:00 am Consecration of St. Mary Magdalene
5:00 pm Vespers at Assumption

Sunday, April 26

9:30 am **Myrrhbearing Women**
10:00 am Third Hour
Divine Liturgy
Parastas for the repose of +Harold Brock & +Evdokia Naumoff

Sunday Offerings for April 12, 2015

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|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Weekly Offering Envelope</i> | <i>\$505.00</i> |
| <i>Children's Offering</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Cemetery Maintenance</i> | <i>\$10.00</i> |
| <i>Charity Envelope</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Love Inc</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Diocesan Support</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>OCA Envelope</i> | |
| <i>Charities</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Missions</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Candle Fund</i> | <i>\$485.00</i> |
| <i>Coffee Hour</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Seminarian Fund</i> | <i>\$30.00</i> |
| <i>Loose Offering</i> | <i>\$62.00</i> |
| <i>Kiosk</i> | <i>\$0.00</i> |
| <i>Pascha Offering</i> | <i>\$976.00</i> |
| <i>Total Sunday Income April 12, 2015</i> | <i>\$2,068.00</i> |
| <i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i> | <i>\$3,634.49</i> |

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Actual Income</i> | <i>\$60,596.61</i> |
| <i>Actual Expense</i> | <i>\$54,202.26</i> |
| <i>+/- to date</i> | <i>\$6,394.35</i> |

*129 people were in attendance
on Sunday, April 5, 2015*