

August 2, 2015

Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

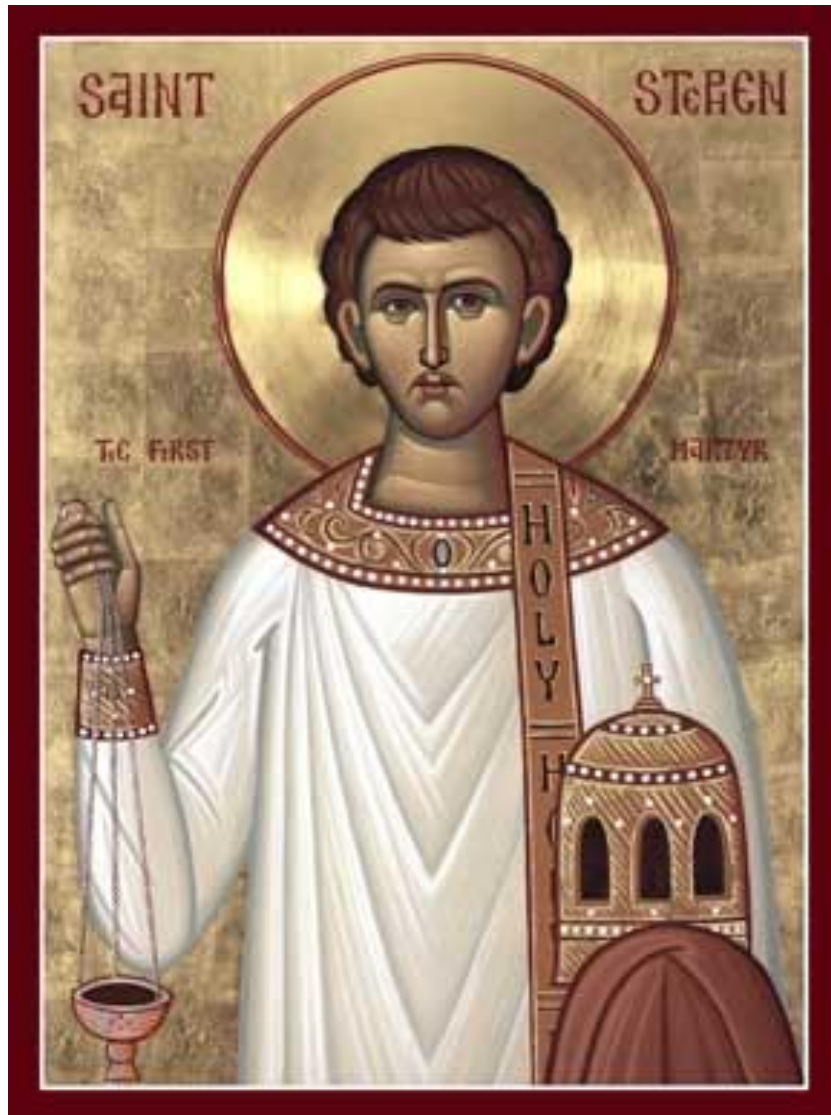
Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

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

Web Page: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Church: 810-744-0070 Fr Matthew: 810-247-4265



SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. Translation of the Relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople (ca. 428), and the finding of the Relics of the Righteous Nicodemus, Gamaliel, and Abibas (ca. 428). Blessed Basil of Moscow, Fool-for-Christ (1552). Bl. Basil of Kubensk (15th c.). Hieromartyr Stephen, Pope of Rome, and those with him (257).

TROPARIA

(Tone 8) Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

(Tone 4) Your relics have risen from the depths of the earth, like a treasury for the immortal life of all of creation. The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them, duteously honors you, Protomartyr Stephen. Preserve us from error and heresy by your intercession!

(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 7) On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the radiance of the Father!

The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth; / and their words to the ends of the universe.

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

THE READING IS FROM THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60) In those days: Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us.” And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. And the high priest said, “Is this so?” And Stephen said: “Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, ‘Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.’ Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, ‘Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?’ You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your father’s persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a

young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

v. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW (14:22-34) At that time Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The holy, glorious, all-laudable **Apostle and Archdeacon Stephen the Protomartyr** was an early Christian convert from among the Hellenistic Jews, one of the original seven deacons ordained by the Apostles, and the first martyr of the Orthodox Church. The Church remembers the martyrdom of St. Stephen on December 27, and the translations of his relics on August 2, as well as commemorating him on June 15 with Ss. Fortunatus and Achaicus.

St. Stephen was a Jew living in the Hellenic provinces, related to the Apostle Paul and one of the first seven deacons ordained by the Apostles to serve the Church in Jerusalem (thus making him an archdeacon).

In the words of Asterias: St Stephen was "the starting point of the martyrs, the instructor of suffering for Christ, the foundation of righteous confession, since Stephen was the first to shed his blood for the Gospel."

The Holy Spirit worked powerfully through his faith, enabling him to perform many miracles and always defeat the Jews who would dispute with him.

The Jews in their hatred of St. Stephen lied about him to the people, but St. Stephen with his face illumined reminded the people of the miracles God had worked through him and even rebuked the Jews for killing the innocent Christ.

The people were enraged by what they thought was blasphemy and 'gnashed their teeth' at Stephen. It was then that he saw his Christ in the heavens and declared it so. Hearing this, the Jews took him outside the city and stoned him to death, with his kinsman Saul (later St. Paul) holding their coats while they did it. Afar off on a hill was the Virgin Mary and St. John the Theologian who witnessed this first martyrdom for the Son of God and prayed for him while he was being stoned. This occurred about a year after the first Pentecost.

The body of the holy Protomartyr Stephen, was left at the foothill of the city for two days to be eaten by dogs. But on the second night, Gamaliel— teacher of the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Barnabas— along with his son, secretly came and took the body to his own estate, in Capharganda, to be buried.

Nicodemus, who died while weeping at this grave, was also buried there along with Gamaliel's godson Abibus and Gamaliel himself upon his repose.

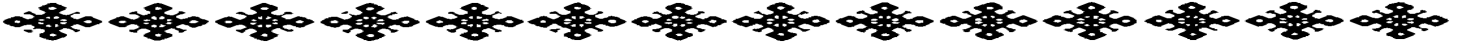
After many years the memory of St. Stephen's burial place had left the minds of men, until 415 when Gamaliel appeared three times to Father Lucian, priest at Capharganda. He revealed to Fr. Lucian the place of his burial and

everything about it. Fr. Lucian received the blessing of the Patriarch to exhume the saints from their grave where a strong, sweet fragrance filled the cave.

St. Stephen's relics were translated to Zion and honorably buried, and many of the sick were healed by his relics. The other three relics were placed inside a church atop the cave on a hill. Eventually, his relics were translated to Constantinople.

Today, you will find his whole right arm at *The Holy Trinity of St. Sergius Lavra*, established by St. Sergius of Radonezh in 1345, at Sergiyev Posad, Russia

August 2, 2015



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Special Intention	Joe Tome
Safe Canadian fishing trip for Dennis, Bob, Tom and Ken	John & Rose Goodman
Happy Anniversary to mom and dad	Jana, Mara, Kris & Families

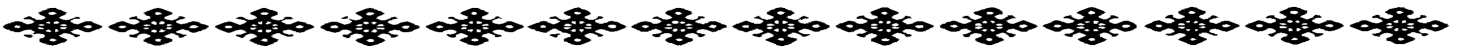
Fr. Joe, Fr. Moses, Fr. Lavrenty, Deacon Anthony, Reader Peter, Aaron, John, John, Laurie, Anne, Walt & Zina, Joseph, Reggie, Stojan & Mira, Jo Ann, Bosa, Helen, Helen, Ted & Marlene, Fr. David, Gladys, my family & friends	Joe Tome
Anna Branoff	Alex & Magda Popoff

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Peter Popoff	Alex & Magda Popoff
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ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

Charles Jernigan-Memory Eternal.....	His Family
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Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas. Please join us for fellowship, coffee and donuts in our parish hall.

We are in need of volunteers to serve coffee and donuts this morning.

CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX for the month of August is Diapers. 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 A list of food items is located next to the Hope in a Box.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN as a parish we will be serving our brothers and sisters in need a hot meal on the first Thursday of the month from 9 am to 1 pm. **We serve Thursday, August 6.** The soup kitchen is located at 735 E. Stewart Ave, Flint.

PARISH DINNERS Sunday, August 9: Fresh Lake Superior White Fish Dinner including; cole slaw, potatoes, bread, dessert and drinks. *NOTE: THIS IS A FASTING PERIOD. NO MEAT WILL BE SERVED. All tickets must be purchased in advance, deadline is today August, 2.* **Sunday, August 23:** Rib & Chicken Dinner including; cole slaw, baked beans, bread, dessert and drinks. *All tickets must be purchase in advance, deadline is August, 16.* Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 10 and under for both dinners. To purchase your tickets see Sharon Jernigan or Matushka Lisa. If you would like to help with and/or make a dessert for both or one of the dinners please call or see Sharon Jernigan 810-877-1766.

The Orthodox Book Club will hold it's next meeting on Monday, 9/21 at 6:00 at St. George. We will continue reading in the book "The Orthodox Veneration of Mary", Homilies by St. John Maximovich. Interested person may contact me at 989-725-2753 or frdnmike@gmail.com. This is an easy book to jump into - we welcome all!

NEW OFFICE FURNITURE Father and Debbie are in need of some new furniture for their offices. We are in need of six chairs total for both offices a bookcase and file cabinet for Debbie's office. See Debbie if you would like to donate towards the purchase of the new furniture. Thank you for your generosity.

2015 MACEDONIAN OPEN The Macedonian Open Committee would like to extend their sincere THANK YOU to all of this year's Participants, Volunteers, Sponsors, and Donors for making the 35th Macedonian Open Golf Outing such a success. We are proud to announce that this was the most successful Macedonian Open in our history as we raised \$19,008.79 for the Church! Thank You to each and every one of you who helped make that possible.

Schedule of services and events for the week of August 2:

<u>Tuesday, August 4</u>	Father in Toledo
<u>Wednesday, August 5</u>	Eve of the Transfiguration of our Lord
9:00 am	Divine Liturgy
11:00 am	Adult Education
6:00 pm	Vesperal Liturgy at St. George for Transfiguration
<u>Thursday, August 6</u>	
9 am-1pm	North End Soup Kitchen
<u>Friday, August 7</u>	Debbie will be out of the office
<u>Saturday, August 8</u>	
4:30 pm	Vespers
<u>Sunday, August 9</u>	
9:30 am	Third Hour
10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
	Fish Dinner

Offerings for the week July 26, 2015

Weekly Offerings	\$1,253.00
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$3,634.49
	-\$2,381.49

85 people were in attendance on
Sunday, July 26, 2015

"Beware of practicing your piety before men in order

to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." **Matthew 6:1-4**