

December 17, 2023

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 Father Robert, 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, DECEMBER 17, 2023 28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. Sunday of the Forefathers. Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael (600 B.C.). Ven. Daniel the Confessor, in schema Stephen, of Spain and Egypt (10th c.).

TROPARIA

Tone 3 Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Tone 2 Through faith You justified the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore You without seed. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

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 3 The Virgin comes today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word Eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message, with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He Who is from eternity God.

The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: Blessed are You, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Your name forever! (*Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3*)

v: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (*Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 4*)

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

(3:4-11) Brethren, when Christ who is our Life appears, and then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v. Moses and Aaron within his priests, and Samuel within the ones who call upon His name.

(Psalm 98:6)

v. They called upon the Lord, and he heard them. *(Psalm 98:6)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (14:16-24) At that time Jesus said, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses.

The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

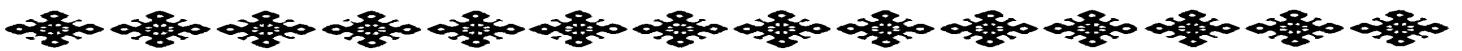
COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Psalms 148:1*)

The holy Gospel according to Luke 24:36-53 (6th Matins Gospel)

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, "In your seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3, 22:18). from oca.org

December 17, 2023



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health & blessings for my family	Lucy Hogg
David, Sally, Karen, Peter, Barbara & Gary, suffering the loss of Mark Huebler	Dcn. Kerry
Oleg, Galina, Nikolay, Nikolay, Andrey & Irina	Irina Sivergina
Health & blessings for Elynn Serra	Ian & Stephanie Price
Fr. Don, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Robert, Milica, Calvin, Angelo, Joan, Peggy, Bob, Angelo, Christine, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Luba, Kosta, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Kathryn, David, Taras, Ted, Joseph, Marlene, Mary, all the parishioners of St. Nicholas, my family and friends	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENENTION FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

Adelaïda & Feodosiy	Irina Sivergina
Milton, Violet & JoAnn Economou, Bill Gogas & Ray Hancock	Bill & Cindy Economou
Mark Huebler who fell asleep in the Lord December 4	Dcn. Kerry



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](#).

Dec 17 CANDLESTAND: Susie Ford

HOURS: Calvin Conrad READER: Alexander Gonser

Dec 24 CANDLESTAND: Ian & Stephanie Price

HOURS: Phil Wiles

READER: Katherine Gonser

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 ED CLASS resumes in January.

CHURCH SCHOOL Lesson - [1 Corinthians - Run the Race](#)

COFFEE SOCIAL is provided today by Connie Maxim in memory of her husband Nicholas' birthday. 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.



THEOPHANY DINNER and outdoor blessing of water January 14th. Tickets can be purchased from Sharon Jernigan. Adults \$18, children under 12 free.

12th ANNUAL DORMITION FUNDRAISER DINNER will be held at the *newly renovated* St. George Banquet Center on January 18th from 5 pm – 8:30 pm. Register, volunteer or donate by Sunday, January 7th. There are 4 ways to register: online at www.saintgeorgeflint.org, the QR code to the right and found on the registration form, by paper (fill out form and give to Katherine Gonser) or by phone (810-732-0720). Forms are in the parish hall. **Our parish is to prepare the main course for the event. Katherine Gonser is our contact person.**



PARISH COUNCIL meets on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 pm. Last week's meeting was re-scheduled to this date.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the narthex. If there are boxes for family who have not been attending whom you will be seeing, please deliver them to help save on postage costs (\$5 per box of envelopes). Please let Marcia know if you haven't received envelopes and would like to have them. Using envelopes is very helpful to those who count the stewardship collection & for the auditors.

PROSFORA bread for the Divine Liturgy is needed. If you can make some, please bring it to church during office hours or at the divine services. God bless you!

2024 CALENDARS are in the narthex. Thank you to Swartz Funeral Home for sponsoring them again.

OFFICE HOURS this week are Monday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9-3. ***Closed Friday, December 22***

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). 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.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS While Father Matthew is assisting Archbishop Alexander during his recovery from surgery, please contact **only for emergencies** Father Gabriel Bilas 810-750-1401, Father Peter Bistolarides 810-771-4611, or Father Joe Abud 810-732-0720.

Well-wishes for Archbishop Alexander may be sent to

Archbishop Alexander
519 Brynhaven Dr
Oregon, OH 43616-2809

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Today Installation of newly elected parish council members

Tuesday, December 19

6:30 pm parish council meeting (re-scheduled from last week)

Wednesday, December 20

No Divine Liturgy

No adult education class - classes resume in January

Friday, December 22 *Office closed*

6 pm Royal Hours for the Nativity at St George Church

6 pm Royal Hours for the Nativity at St Mary Magdalene Church

Saturday, December 23

5 pm Vespers No Confessions

Sunday, December 24 EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:30 am Hours - live-streamed

10 am Divine Liturgy- live- streamed Church School - 1 Corinthians - Sharing & Caring

6 pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of our Lord - live- streamed

Monday, December 25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:30 am Hours & Carols- live- streamed

10 am Divine Liturgy- live- streamed

Offerings for the week December 10, 2023

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 2,835.09
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,100.00
	\$ - 1,264.91

69 persons in attendance on December 10

SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Schedule at the other Orthodox churches of Genesee County:

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5 pm Nativity Vespers at Assumption Church

4:50 pm Nativity Matins at St George Church

6 pm Nativity Divine Liturgy at St George Church

7 pm Nativity Vigil at St Mary Magdalene Church

Monday, December 25 - NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

8:50 am Orthros at Assumption Church

10 am Liturgy at Assumption Church

9:40 am Hours & Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church

Tuesday, December 26 - Synaxis of the Theotokos

9:40 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church