

December 24, 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

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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 24, 2023 29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4. Eve of the Nativity of Christ . Sunday before the Nativity. Nun-martyr Eugenia of Rome, and with her Martyrs Philip, her father, Protus, Hyacinth, Basilla, and Claudia (ca. 262). Ven. Nicholas the Monk, of Bulgaria (9th c.).

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 2 Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4 Mary was of David's seed, / so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem. / She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man. / The time for the birth was at hand. / Since there was no room at the inn, / the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen. / Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

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! (*v. 4*)

THE READING IS FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40) Brethren: by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named." He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his burial. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers proclaimed to us. (Psalm 43:1a)

v: For you saved us from the ones who afflict us, and the ones who hate us you put to shame. (Psalm 43:8)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (1:1-25) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD remembers the forefathers of our Lord. In addition to those named in the Gospel today we remember Adam and Eve (the first-created), the righteous Abel, son of Adam, the righteous Seth, son of Adam, the righteous Enos, son of Seth, the righteous Kenan, son of Enos, the righteous Mehaliel (Maleleim), son of Kenan, the righteous Jared, son of Mehaliel, the righteous Enoch, son of Jared, the righteous Methuselah, son of Enoch, the righteous Lamech, son of Methuselah, the righteous Noah, son of Lamech, the righteous Shem, son of Noah, the righteous Japheth, son of Noah, the righteous Arphachshad, son of Shem, the righteous Canaan, son of Arphachshad (in some versions of the OT, Canaan is called the son of Ham), the righteous Shelah, son of Canaan (some versions of the OT call Shelah the son of Arphachshad), the righteous Eber (from whom the Hebrews take their name), son of Shelah, the righteous Peleg, son of Eber, the righteous Ragab (Reu), son of Peleg, the righteous Serug, son of Ragab, the righteous Nahor, son of Serug, the righteous Terah, son of Serug.

The righteous Patriarch Reuben, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Simeon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Levi, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Judah (Christ was of this tribe), the righteous Patriarch Zebulon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Issachar, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Dan, son of Jacob and Bilhah (Rachel's maid), the righteous Patriarch Gad, son of Jacob and Zilpah (Leah's maid), the righteous Patriarch Asher, son of Jacob and Zilpah, the righteous Patriarch Naphthali, son of Jacob and Bilhah, the righteous Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, the righteous Patriarch Benjamin, son of Jacob and Rachel.

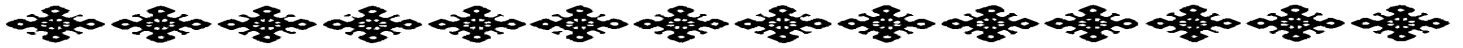
St Joseph the Betrothed, son of Jacob.

The righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem, the righteous Job, the holy Prophet Moses, the priests Hur and Aaron, Joshua, son of Nun.

The holy prophet Samuel, the holy prophet Nathan, the holy prophet Daniel, the three holy youths Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

The righteous Sarah, wife of Abraham, the righteous Rebecca, wife of Isaac, the righteous Leah, first wife of Jacob, the righteous Rachel, second wife of Jacob, the righteous Asineth, wife of Patriarch Joseph the all-comely, the righteous Miriam, sister of Moses, the righteous Deborah, Judge of Israel and prophetess, the righteous Ruth, wife of Boaz, the righteous woman of Zarephath, to whom Elias was sent (3 Kings 17), the righteous woman of Shunem, who was hospitable to Elisha (4 Kings 4), the righteous Judith, slayer of Holofernes, the righteous Esther, who delivered Israel from death, the righteous Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, the righteous Susanna. from oca.org

December 24, 2023



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Merry Christmas & a blessed New Year to everyone at St. Nicholas
Special intensions for Vladimir Akkerman
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
Special Intention

Bosa Kantar
Akkerman family

Joe Tome
Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTION FOR THE BLESSED REPOSE OF

Memory Eternal Alexandria Waskerwitz Dec. 28

the grandchildren



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 24 **CANDLESTAND:** Ian & Stephanie Price **HOURS:** Phil Wiles **READER:** Katherine Gonser
Dec 31 **CANDLESTAND:** Susie Ford **HOURS:** Alexander Gonser **READER:** Phil Wiles

COFFEE SOCIAL Please join us after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome. There is a sign up 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 for registrations & questions. Please write checks out to Dormition Monastery.**



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE Barry Cavett was installed to parish council at the beginning of the meeting. Sharon Jernigan thanked Shari Nicoloff and Ellyn Serra who fulfilled three years on parish council and welcomed Barry Cavett, Connie Maxim, and Stephanie Price who were elected in November. ***Financial report*** Financial reports are on their way to being prepared for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024. ***Endowment fund*** no report. ***Rector's report*** highlights - Mira Prusac is at Wellbridge Grand Blanc, Mary Abu-Aita is presently in Arizona, Janja Beslach is recuperating at home after surgery, Sonny Louise Bailey will be baptized on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 12:30 pm. ***Youth ministry/church school*** Saint Nicholas bags were prepared by Stephanie Price and took into account allergies. ***Community outreach.*** A full schedule has been prepared for 2024. Meatfare Saturday, March 9 dance/vecherinka. Meatfare Sunday, March 10 - turkey dinner - 4 turkeys in freezer. ***Fundraising*** Theophany dinner on Sunday, January 14. Cost \$18 adults. Palm Sunday bake sale by pre-order. ***Cookie Walk*** took in \$5,000 (expenses need to be deducted). Thank you to Lucy Hogg for chairing. ***August picnic*** - enough funds have been raised for Skimos Band for the August picnic. ***Charity ministry*** January 4, 2024 North End Soup Kitchen 9 am to 12:30 pm. Thanks to Eileen Branoff who chaired and the parishioners who sponsored all 50 children. ***Building and grounds*** church saved \$2,000 on heating and electricity. The pavilion needs some work on the concrete flooring before the dance in August. ***Old business*** suggestion of portable dishwasher and to use re-usable coffee cups for the kitchen. At this time, parish council will not move on this. ***Cookie Walk*** cookies leftover after Sunday sales - what to do with them? This year they were donated to Carriage Town Ministries and they really appreciated the donation for those in need. Parish council agrees to donate cookies that remain after Sunday sales. ***New business*** our parish is responsible for the main course at the Dormition Fundraising dinner on Thursday, January 18 at St George banquet center. Sharon Jernigan is making contacts with people about preparing the meal. Kathy Gonser is parish contact for registrations. Annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

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.

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 - Sharing & Caring](#)

POINSETTIAS A group of volunteers is needed to water the poinsettias so that they stay fresh for the Nativity season. **To volunteers, please sign-up at the sheet in the fellowship hall, email stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com or call the office.** Calvin & Ruth Conrad have cared for the poinsettias since December 2 but will be away after Christmas.

Watering tips

- Best to be watered every 2 to 3 days. The tallest poinsettias are dry and dropping many leaves.
- Plants are checked for dryness by wilting, leaves dropping and putting finger into soil. Each will need varying amounts of water.
- 6 - 8 gallons of water per watering for all of the poinsettias.
- Water can and gallons of water are kept in the nursery (cry room).
- Use a bus cart to place the water on and bring a small trashcan to pick up dead leaves.
- There is a manual sweeper in the narthex closet to pick up any debris.
- It takes about 45 minutes each time. That includes refilling the water containers.

OFFICE HOURS this week are Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 9-3. ***Closed Monday, December 25***

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, please contact **only for emergencies** Fr Gabriel Bilas 810-750-1401 or Fr Peter Bistolarides 810-771-4611.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Today [6 pm Nativity Great Vespers- live- streamed](#)

Monday, December 25 NATIVITY OF CHRIST - Office closed

[9:30 am](#) [Hours & Carols- live- streamed](#) Hours: Alexander Gonser

[10 am](#) [Divine Liturgy- live- streamed](#)

Tuesday, December 26 Synaxis of the Theotokos - Office open

9:40 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church

Wednesday, December 27

No Divine Liturgy or Adult education

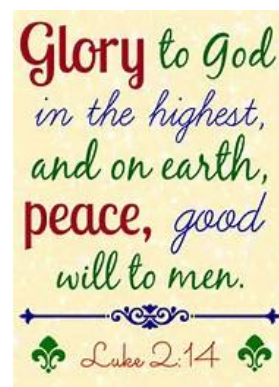
Saturday, December 30

[5 pm](#) [Vespers](#) *No Confessions*

Sunday, December 31

[9:30 am](#) [Hours & 10 am Divine Liturgy- live- streamed](#)

Church School - [1 John - God is Love](#)



Offerings for the week December 17, 2023

Weekly Offerings	\$ 7,985.79
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 4,100.00
	\$ 3,885.79

68 persons in attendance on December 17

SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Schedule at the other Orthodox churches:

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5 pm Vespers at Assumption Church

4:50 pm Matins at St George Church

6 pm Divine Liturgy at St George Church

7 pm 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

