

December 17, 2017

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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The Gospel according to Saint 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, DECEMBER 17, 2017 **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 Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a noble fruit: / she who without seed did bear Thee. // By their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls!

(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 cometh 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 art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever.

v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

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 were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His name.

v. They cried to the Lord and He heard them.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT 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!

"I know from experience that in this life people are divided in two categories. A third category does not exist; people either belong to one of the other. The first one resembles the fly. The main characteristic of the fly is that it is attracted by dirt. For example, when a fly is found in a garden full of flowers with beautiful fragrances, it will ignore them and will go sit on top of some dirt found on the ground. It will start messing around with it and feel comfortable with the bad smell. If the fly could talk, and you asked it to show you a rose in the garden, it would answer: 'I don't even know what a rose looks like. I only know where to find garbage, toilets, and dirt.' There are some people who resemble the fly. People belonging to this category have learned to think negatively, and always look for the bad things in life, ignoring and refusing the presence of good.

The other category is like the bee whose main characteristic is to always look for something sweet and nice to sit on. When a bee is found in a room full of dirt and there is a small piece of sweet in a corner, it will ignore the dirt and will go to sit on top of the sweet. Now, if we ask the bee to show us where the garbage is, it will answer: 'I don't know. I can only tell you where to find flowers, sweets, honey and sugar;' it only knows the good things in life and is ignorant of all evil. This is the second category of people

who have a positive way of thinking, and see only the good side of things. They always try to cover up the evil in order to protect their fellow men; on the contrary, people in the first category try to expose the evil and bring it to the surface.

When someone comes to me and starts accusing other people, and puts me in a difficult situation, I tell him the above example. Then, I ask him to decide to which category he wishes to belong, so he may find people of the same kind to socialize with.

St. Paisios of Mount Athos

December 17, 2017



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health ~ Hailey Paul	Gabriel Paul
Fr. Tom, Fr. Gabriel, Deacon Anthony, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, Joann, Gloria, Luba, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, David, Helen, Anna, Walt, Zina, Nicolai, Dorothy, Michael, Nicolai, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Nicholas, Margaret, Joseph, Gladys, my family and friends	Joe Tome Joe Tome
Special Intention God's Blessings for Good Health to all the Panoffs, Gonsers, Tsotsos & Aleksoffs on St. Nicholas Day	Angelo & Christine Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Popoff
Health & Blessings Alex Popoff & Eleni Servinis	

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Sam & Vera Chorenko~Memory Eternal	Evanenko
My beloved brother Charles Gates, God keep you in His loving care Nanny	Connie Maxim

ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR

Memory Eternal! Joe Gonser Dec. 18 th (17 yr. anniversary)~Blessed Repose	Deborah Gonser-Adams & family
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WELCOME to all our friends and visitors. Please join us for our luncheon in our fellowship hall.

COFFEE HOUR  Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and donuts for the month of January. Please see the sign-up sheet outside of the kitchen. Call or email the parish office as well as signing up, if you'd like to sponsor the donuts and/or coffee.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting **TOWELS, TOILETRIES & NEW TOYS** for the month of December. Place the items in the blue box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for those fallen asleep. The forms are in the parish hall & must be turned into the office by December 18th. There are also envelopes available if you would like to just give a donation.

PRAYER LISTING On the table in the hall is a booklet with the names of all the living and fallen asleep members of Saint Nicholas parish. This is the booklet Fr. Matthew uses to remember our parishioner at the preparation of the bread and wine for Liturgy. Please use the red pencil on the table to make any corrections or additions. The hope is to print out a copy of this booklet to each parish family so that you may remember in prayer all of our fellow parishioners.

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL AND AUDITORS will be held on Sunday, December 24, please be in attendance. Parish council members should receive Confession in preparation for their installation and receive Holy Communion on December 24. Confessions should be heard prior to the feast of the Nativity.

2018 CALENDARS have arrived and are located in the narthex. One calendar per family, please.

2018 PLEDGE CARDS Please fill out and sign your pledge card even if you don't know the amount of your pledge yet. Remember in order to be considered a member here at St. Nicholas you must return a signed pledge card. DO NOT send your 2018 pledge back with the card or it will be credited to 2017.

THANK YOU to all of you who helped with the cookie walk. Your generosity made it a great success.

6th ANNUAL PAN ORTHODOX WINTER DINNER to support the Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery will be held on Thursday, January 18 at Assumption. The event will start at 5:30 with Vespers sung by the Mothers of Dormition Monastery, social time, dinner at 7:00 & the benediction at 8:30. Donations are requested at \$35 per adult and \$25 per student. Reservations need to be made by Sunday, January 14th. You may contact Deborah Gonser-Adams at (810) 695-2464 for more information and to make your reservation(s).

BOOK CLUB will start meeting again January 2nd. Our plans are to read "The Jesus Prayer: The Ancient Desert Prayer that Tunes the Heart to God by Frederica Mathewes-Green and we will be ordering soon! Please let Father Deacon Michael know if you plan on coming or would like a book (frdnmike@gmail.com).

THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER will be held on Sunday, January 7th following the Divine Liturgy. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather. The menu will consist of Lamb, Rice, Vegetables, Bread & Butter, Salad, Dessert and Drinks. There will be sign-up sheets in the parish hall for volunteers for set-up and clean-up, also for those that would like to make a dessert. Adults \$12, children 12 and under \$6.

DOVES FOR THEOPHANY we are in need of an individual(s) to donate toward the cost of two white doves for the outdoor blessing of the water next Sunday. The cost is \$59 each. If you would like to donate one or both of the doves, please call the parish office.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT THE ORTHODOX PARISHES OF FLINT

	<u>Our Parish</u>	<u>St. Mary Magdalene</u>	<u>St. George</u>	<u>Assumption</u>
Friday, Dec. 22 Royal Hours	6:30 pm		6 pm	
Sunday, Dec. 24	12:30 pm Vespers	7 pm Vigil	7:50 pm Matins 9 pm Liturgy	6 pm
Monday, Dec. 25	10 am Liturgy	10 am Liturgy	no services	10 am Liturgy

Weekly Schedule:

Monday, Dec 18 Communion calls in Bay City & Caro

Tuesday, Dec. 19 Fr. Matthew in Toledo

Wednesday, Dec. 20
 9:30 am *Divine Liturgy (NOTE TIME CHANGE)*
 11 am – 1 pm No Adult Ed – Classes resume January 3
 6 pm Assumption at Center for Hope
 Advent Service at St. George



Thursday, Dec. 21 Office Open

Friday, Dec. 22
 6:30 pm Office Closed
 Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday, Dec. 23
 5 pm Vespers

Sunday, Dec 24
 9:30 am Third Hour
 10 am Divine Liturgy
 Church School
 Installation of the new Parish Council members & Auditors
 12:30 am Vespers for the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Offerings for the week December 10, 2017

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$1,833.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$4,034.03
	-\$2,201.03

*80 people were in attendance on
Sunday, December 10, 2017*

Amma Theodora said that neither asceticism, nor vigils nor any kind of suffering are able to save, only true humility can do that. There was a hermit who was able to banish the demons; and he asked them, ‘What makes you go away? Is it fasting?’ They replied, ‘we do not eat or drink.’ ‘Is it vigils?’ They replied, ‘We do not sleep.’ ‘Is it separation from the world?’ ‘We live in the deserts.’ ‘What power sends you away then?’ They said, ‘Nothing can overcome us, but only humility.’ Do you see how humility is victorious over the demons?