

December 18, 2011

Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

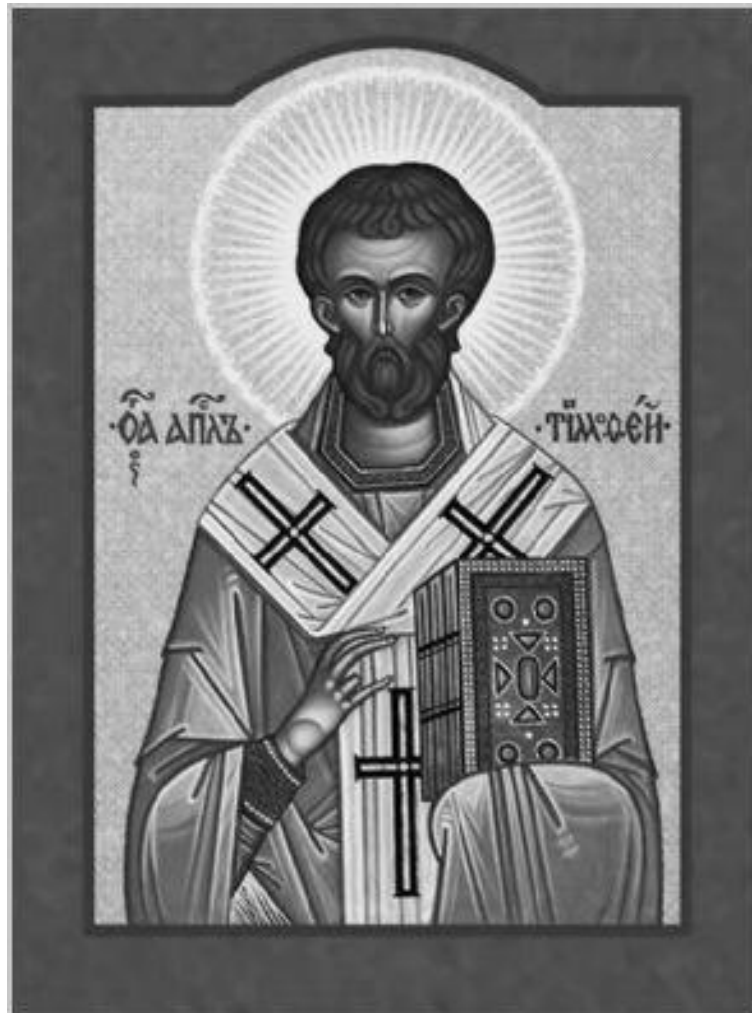
Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

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

Web Page: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Church: 810-744-0070 Fr Matthew: 810-695-2023



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011 27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY. Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions: Martyrs Nicostratus, Zoe, Castorius, Tranquillinus, Marcellinus, Mark, Claudius, Symphorian, Victorinus, Tiburtius, and Castulus (ca. 287). St. Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem (633-4). St. Florus, Bishop of Amisus (7th c.). St. Michael the Confessor at Constantinople (ca. 845).

TROPARIA

(**Tone 2**) When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, / Thou didst destroy hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

(**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**) 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 HEBREWS (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40) **Brethren:** By faith he 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: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

v: For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT 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!

Saint Paul expresses his concern about people being led away from the true faith in 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4. This passage is one of the readings for December 20.

The seriousness of Paul's concern is evident in the way he tells Timothy to "preach the word, be urgent in and out of season, convince, rebuke and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching." Knowing that he himself is destined in the near future to face death for the faith, Paul places this big responsibility on the much younger man.

In the next verses, Paul reveals the reasons for his worry. He warns Timothy that a time is coming when people "will not endure sound teaching." Paul knows that some people will find the challenge of living by Christian teachings too difficult, which is why they will not or cannot endure those teachings. Some Bible translations use the words "put up with" or "tolerate" in place of "endure," but the meaning is the same.

It is these people who are described by Paul as having "itching ears." They want to hear something novel, and will seek teachers who "suit their own likings." These teachers will let them "turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths."

In the verse that follows this day's reading, Paul tells Timothy to "be steady" and "endure suffering." If a person stays steadily on the course of Christian truth, Paul is saying, suffering will inevitably follow. There are many with "itching ears" who reject, ridicule and persecute both the truth and the teachers who profess it.

On December 21 we read the final verses of this second letter to Timothy (4: 9-22). Here Paul describes a person who gave in to the temptation of "itching ears." He writes about Demas, who had been his companion and fellow worker. Now Paul must sadly admit that "Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica." Though we don't know the details of Demas' work with Paul, he must have been a valued helper who had once been attracted by the Gospel. But its requirements were too much for him, and he listened to other voices that promised an easier, less demanding path. He was willing to abandon the way of life that he had shared with Paul and those who worked with him.

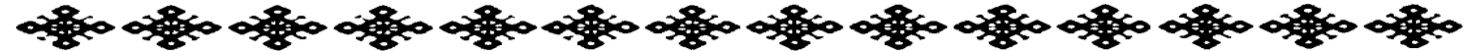
The end of the letter shows how much Paul valued companionship, and how painful a desertion like that of Demas must have been. He asks Timothy twice to join him, and to make sure he arrives before winter. He affectionately names faithful believers who have supported him. To hearten Timothy, he includes greetings from specific people and from "all the brethren."

Kontakion - Tone 4

The Church ever sees you as a shining star, O apostle Timothy,
Your miracles have manifested great enlightenment.
Therefore we cry out to Christ:
"Save those who with faith honor Your apostle, O Most Merciful One."

Paul is well aware that these brethren, like Demas, could be tempted by "itching ears" to listen to false teachers promising a pleasant life. So he places all his friends in God's care with his final words: "The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you."

December 18, 2011



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH & BLESSINGS OF

Health & God’s blessings Bosa Kantar, Gloria & John Zelenko.....	Adam, Eli, Kara, Kris & David
Special Intention	Dennis & Sharon Jernigan
Health & Blessings for Kara on her gotcha Day.....	Love Mom & Dad
Safe trip home for Robert & Richard Elieff.....	Mom
Health & God’s blessings Bosa Kantar & Helen Ethington	Peter & Jo Sredich
Special Intention Diane, Arthur Zambito & Family, Nancy, Ken & Maggie Laycock, Pat Miculka, Helen & Doug Phillips, Gloria & John Zelenko, Gladys Edwards, Anne Smith.....	Anne Smith
Health & Blessings Allison Borkovich & Family, Congratulations Kristin & Jim Hart on their wedding	Bosa Kantar
Special Intention Congratulations to my Great Nephew Nicholas Branoff graduate of MSU.....	Anna Branoff

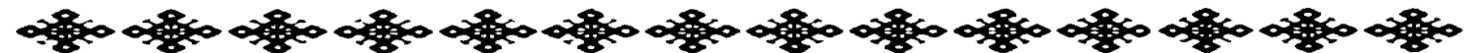
Health & God’s blessings Kuma Bosa Kantar.....	Kumovi Stojan & Mira
Special Intention	J. Tome
Happy Birthday & God’s blessings Christine Brucksch, Mary Harrison, Jason Carns, Larry Bladecki	Anne Smith
Health & Blessings of Gonser, Adams, Panoff, Kuslusi Families.....	Gonser Family
Health & God’s blessings Bosa Kantar & Helen Ethington	Rosemary Vuckovich
Health & God’s blessings John & Gloria Zelenko	Peter & Jo Sredich
Health & God’s blessings Olga Haw & Family, Carol & Jerry Smith, Fred Oginsky, Families of Oginsky, Kuptz & Miculka, Sick & shut-ins of St. Nicholas.....	Anne Smith
Deacon Anthony, David, Dora Lee, Anna, Reggie, Allen, Deborah, Elaine, John & Gloria, Mary, Michael, Alex, Fr. David, My family & friends	J. Tome
Health & God’s blessings John & Gloria Zelenko	Rosemary Vuckovich
Health & God’s blessings Helen Ethington	Dennis & Sharon Jernigan
<u>ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR</u>	
Health & Blessing for John & Gloria Zelenko.....	John & Gloria Zelenko

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Walter Borkovich.....	Bosa Kantar
Walter Borkovich.....	Helen Ethington & Family
Carl Smith & our son, Olga Elasiovich, Lazar Polonic, Walter Borkovich- Memory Eternal, Douglas Oginsky, Kenneth King.....	Anna Smith
Walter Borkovich.....	Kumovi David, Kris, Adam, Eli & Kara
Walter Borkovich.....	Angelo & Christine Panoff
Repose of the soul of Charles Jernigan.....	Dennis & Sharon Jernigan
Walter Borkovich.....	St. Catherine’s League
Repose of the soul of Walter Borkovich	Dennis & Sharon Jernigan
Lewis Elieff- Memory Eternal	Evanka & Family
Walter Borkovich-Blessed Repose.....	Anna Branoff
Walter you are in good hands in the Lord.....	John & Gloria
Walter Borkovich.....	J. Tome

ETERNAL LIGHT

Walter Borkovich.....	Daisy Marvosh
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas. Please join us for our coffee social following the veneration of the cross.

North End Soup Kitchen Director, Jon Manse welcome to St. Nicholas we are honored to have you with us today.

Parish Council meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30pm. All new parish council members are invited/encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend this meeting please call the parish office.

Christmas Basket Raffle Congratulations to all of our winners. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the raffle you helped raise \$562.00 for the Church School children’s summer trip.

Advent Charity Drive continues through January 8. You may bring in any non-perishable food items (please check the expiration dates), toiletries or cash donations. Please place the items in front of the icon of St. George. Any cash donations may be given to Debbie. These items will then be given to Catholic Charities when the food van makes its visit to St. Nicholas.

The Catholic Charities Food Van will be at our church today until 1 pm. The food and the personal items that are donated are used by Catholic Charities to provide meals for the hungry and to help those in need, through their various area ministries. We at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church can make a difference in people’s lives by donating these items and encouraging our friends to stop by to drop off their donations of food and supplies next weekend.

Christmas Flowers We have 5-Poinsettias, 1- 12 inch wreath and 2 - 50 foot Garlands available. Please see Debbie if you would like to purchase any of the items mentioned above.

Schedule of services and events for the week of December 18, 2011

<u>Tuesday, December 20</u>	<u>St. Ignatios of Antioch</u>
9:00 am	Divine Liturgy
6:30 pm	Parish Council Meeting

Friday, December 23
6:30 pm

Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord **at St. George**

Saturday, December 24
4:00 pm

EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Great Vespers for Christmas

Sunday, December 25
9:30 am
10:00 am

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Christmas Carols
Divine Liturgy

Sunday Offerings for December 11, 2011

Weekly Income	
Weekly Offering Envelope	\$1,471.00
Children’s Offering	\$ 0.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$ 16.00
Charity Envelope	\$ 26.00
Diocesan Support	\$ 11.00
OCA Envelope Charities	\$ 25.00
Candle Fund	\$ 212.00
Kitchen/Coffee	\$ 54.00
Seminarian Fund	\$ 1.00
Loose Offering	\$ 7.00
Kiosk	\$ 12.00
St. Nicholas Day	\$ 30.00
Christmas Offering	\$170.00
Total Income	\$2,023.00
Avg. Weekly Budget	\$3,753.03
+/- Budget	-\$1,730.03

Income to date	\$ 188,776.04
Expense to date	\$ 193,400.91
+/- to date	- \$4,624.87

80 People were in attendance on Sunday.