

November 15, 2015

Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

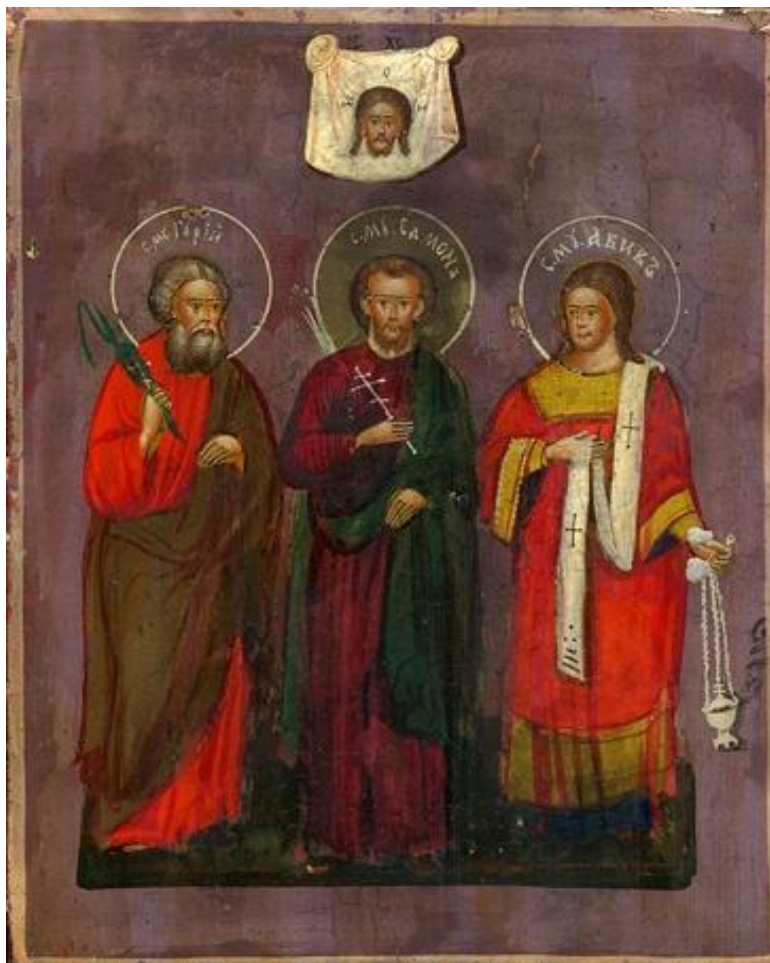
Orthodox Church in America

2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

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

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Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2015 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa (299-306). Martyrs Elpidius, Marcellus, and Eustochius, who suffered under Julian the Apostate (4th c.). Martyr Demetrius of Thrace (ca. 307). Ven. Paisii (Paisius) Velichkovsky (1794).

TROPARIA

(Tone 7) By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death. To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the myrrhbearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy. And Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

(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 4) The Most Pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the House of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. Truly this woman is the abode of heaven!

The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: The Lord shall give strength to His people! / The Lord shall bless His people with peace!

v. Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS (2:14-22) *Brethren:* Christ Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Alleluia, Tone 7

v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.

v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE (10:25-37) At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

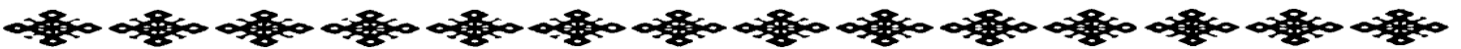
“Facing Forward” Part 2: Personal considerations in Orthodox Evangelization (continued from two weeks ago)

7. Avoiding manipulation and the “hard sell.” Orthodox Christian evangelization has nothing in common with the all-too-familiar “hard sell” evangelization tactics often encountered today. We are *not* talking about going door to door or putting leaflets on car windows or driving a bus sporting our parish logo through a neighborhood or offering free car washes. While these things are appropriate to “Church marketing”—yet are often unsuccessful—evangelization is not “marketing.” Avoid manipulative routines based on emotional appeals, carefully prepared questions, high pressure tactics, or the dreaded “guilt trip,” to which many people have a natural allergy. On no occasion did our Lord use guilt as a means of drawing people to the Kingdom. As is often said, He “loved them into His Kingdom.” So, “let love be your greatest aim” [1 Corinthians 14:1].

8. Evangelization is not an interrogation, argument or conquest. Saint Isaac the Syrian warns us to be wary of over-zealousness. We often hear of Christians “winning” converts, as if evangelization were a game or a conquest. [Curiously, one of the sins of the Pharisees was traversing land and see to “win” a single convert, only to make him or her “twice as fit for hell” as they themselves were. Their goal was not rooted in love for the other, nor in the Gospel, but in “closing the deal”—a goal more commonly expected of a used car salesman. Read Matthew 23:15.] Avoid bombarding others with questions, and never be argumentative. Remember that everyone is in a unique “place,” so to speak—not everyone is open to receiving the Gospel, at least at the present time. Add patience to the list of virtues you will need to evangelize so that you might best discern when to “move forward” and when to “back off.”

9. Evangelization is not about “me.” There’s an old saying, “you have not converted a man because you have silenced him.” Evangelization, no matter how well intentioned, that smacks of “I’m utterly blessed to be Orthodox, and you’re utterly wrong” is likely to silence others and shut down communication—and, ultimately, communion with Christ and His People. Likewise, evangelization should never be undertaken as a means to subliminally justify your personal faith choices by seeking endorsements from others. Keep the “personal journey” stories to a minimum, focusing instead on the One Whom one discovers at the end of one’s “journey to faith.”

November 15, 2015



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Fr. Joe, Fr. Moses, Fr. Lavrenty, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, John, Gloria, Laurie, Anne,
Walt & Zina, Dorothy, Anna, Jeanette, Reggie, Stojan & Mira, Bosa, Joseph,
Helen, Ted & Marlene, Fr. David, Gladys, my family & friends Joe Tome
Congratulations & God’s Blessings Kathleen & Bob Killian and their families..... Dorothy & Family
Health & God’s Blessings for Father Matthew & Matushka Lisa on their Anniversary..... Stojan & Mira Prusac
Special Intention Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Evgeniy, Olga, Taniya, Nina, Stepan, Anna, Alexander Natasha
George Johnson-11 yrs Blessed Repose Dorothy & Family



Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas! Please join us for fellowship, coffee and donuts in our parish hall. Volunteers are needed to serve coffee and donuts this morning.

CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX Dish Soap for November. Place the soap in the Blue Hope In a Box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

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

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN We serve **Thursday, December 3 from 9 am to 1 pm**. Even if you can spare only 30 minutes, your volunteering serves our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in need. Please use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand to volunteer. The soup kitchen is located at 735 E. Stewart Ave, Flint.

ANGEL TREE in the parish hall for our Advent fast in helping those in need. 40 children's names are on the tree. Gifts do not need to be wrapped but include the child's names and code number on the gifts. Gift range is between \$20 and \$30. Please return the gifts by December 13. If there are any questions, please see Jo Ann Havens or Deborah Gonser-Adams.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS there has been a change to the November calendar. On Saturday, November 21, Liturgy was scheduled for 10:30 am at Assumption as a combined service for the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. **THIS HAS BEEN CHANGED** we will now host the combined Liturgy here at St. Nicholas at 10 am on Saturday, November 21. We will be greeting the Bishop on Saturday morning as he will be ordaining Esteban Julio Vázquez to the Diaconate. Friday, November 20 at 6 pm we will celebrate Vespers with Litya for the feast.

2016 PLEDGE CARDS have been mailed out. Please fill out and sign your pledge card, remember in order to be considered a member at St. Nicholas you must return a signed pledge card. One hundred and forty (140) pledge cards were mailed out. We would like for them to be returned by December, 1. 41 signed pledge cards have been returned.

PARISH MEETING FOR ELECTIONS RESULTS The parish meeting for elections of parish council and auditors was held on Sunday, November 8, 2015. The following were elected; Parish Council: Jacob Abu-Aita, Tom Batzos and Kathy Gonser. Auditor: Michael Stikovich and Arlene Timma for 1yr term, and Reader Joseph Tome for a 3yr term

ST. NICHOLAS DAY LUNCHEON and visit from St. Nicholas will be held on Sunday, December 6 following the Divine Liturgy. The luncheon will be potluck; sign-up sheets are in the parish hall. There are sign-up sheets for Salads, Entrées, and Desserts, please write your name and the item you will be bringing. There is also a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up.

PROSPHORA BAKERS We are in need of loaves of prospora for the Divine Liturgy. If you are able, please bake a few loaves and bring them to church. God bless you for making the bread we offer that becomes for us the Body of Christ.

FIRE UP YOUR OVENS St. Catherine's will hold their annual *Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 12 from 10 am – 1pm* (Flyers were included in your November bulletins). Your baked goods are needed to make this a success. Any cookie will do, holiday and ethnic cookies are the best sellers. You may bring your baked goods to the church on Friday, December 11 from 9 am – 5 pm or on Saturday, December 12 **before** 9 am. When you are baking for home for the holidays bake a few extra dozen for church. Your baked goods are always appreciated.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO READ? We have a church library where you may take out books to read.

Schedule of services and events for the week of November, 15:

Monday, November 16

6-8 pm Orthodox Book Club @ St. George

Tuesday, November 17

Fr. out of office

Wednesday, November 18

9:00 am Divine Liturgy
11:00 am Adult Education

Thursday November 19

Fr. in Toledo

Friday, November 20

6:00 pm Vespers with Litya

Saturday, November 21

10:00 am **Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**
Pontifical Divine Liturgy w/ordination of Esteban Julio Vázquez
Luncheon following Liturgy

Please call the office 744-0070 or email stnicholas1916@att.net to RSVP for the luncheon

5:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, November 22

9:30 am Third Hour
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School

Offerings for the week November 8, 2015

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$1,199.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$3,634.49
	- \$2,435.49

*88 people were in attendance on
Sunday, November 8, 2015*

“Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.”
Luke 11:42