St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Newsletter

Diocese of Toledo-Orthodox Church in America
2143 S. Center Road – Burton, Michigan 48519
Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser
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Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org Church Office: 810-744-0070
Services: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Hours 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Wednesday- adult education 11:15 am
Saturday – 5 pm Vespers followed by Confessions Holydays: Vespers & Liturgy as announced

"May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you." St. Jude 1:1

AUGUST 2026

VESPERS STICHERA FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST (August 6)

Before Your Crucifixion, O Lord, the mountain became as heaven, and like a tabernacle the cloud spread itself out, when You were transfigured, and the Father bore witness to You. Peter was present with James and John, since they were to be with You at the time of Your betrayal, that, having seen Your wondrous works, they might not be afraid of Your sufferings. Grant us to venerate Your sufferings in peace, through Your mercy!

Before Your Crucifixion, O Lord, You took Your Disciples to a high mountain and were transfigured before them, illumining them with bright rays of Your power. From love of man and in Your sovereign might, it was Your desire to show them the splendor of Your Resurrection. In peace count us also worthy of this splendor, O God, in Your mercy and Your love for man!

The mountain that once was veiled in gloom and smoke, is now holy and revered, since Your feet, O Lord, have stood upon it. For by Your dread Transfiguration, the mystery hidden before the ages has been made manifest in the last times to Peter, James, and John. Unable to endure the shining of Your face and the brilliance of Your garments, they fell to the ground upon their faces. Seized with wonder and amazement, they saw Moses and Elijah talking with You about the things that would befall You; and a voice came in testimony from the Father saying: "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him! It is He Who grants the world great mercy!"

When You were transfigured upon a high mountain, O Savior, having with You the chief Disciples, You shone forth in glorious majesty, proving that those who excel in the height of their virtues shall be made worthy of divine glory. Moses and Elijah, talking with Christ, showed that He is Lord of both the living and the dead, the God Who spoke of old through the Law and the Prophets. The voice of the Father testified to Him from the cloud of light, saying: "Listen to Him, Who through the Cross has despoiled hell and has given the dead eternal life!"

Prefiguring Your Resurrection, O Christ our God, You took with You in Your ascent of Mount Tabor Your three Disciples, Peter, James and John. When You were transfigured, O Savior, Mount Tabor was covered with light. Your Disciples, O Word, threw themselves down upon the ground, unable to gaze upon the form that none may see. The Angels ministered in fear and trembling; the heavens shook and the earth quaked, as they beheld on earth the Lord of Glory.

FROM FATHER'S DESK

On the 15th of August, we celebrate the Dormition, or the translation to heaven, of our All Glorious Sovereign Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary. When it pleased Christ our God to call His mother to Him, He sent an angel three days beforehand, to give her this news: Coming to her, the angel said to her who is full of grace: "This is what your Son says: 'The time has come to call My mother to Me.' Do not be afraid at this news, but rather rejoice, for you are going to eternal life." Welcoming this message with great joy, the Mother of God, filled with an ardent desire to rise up to her Son, went to the Mount of Olives to pray there in tranquility, as she often did. An amazing miracle was then wrought: at the moment when the All-Holy reached the top of the hill, the trees planted there bent their branches, bowing down and glorifying the Queen of the world like reason-endowed servants.

After having prayed, the All-Holy returned home to Mount Sion. When she went into the house, it suddenly began to shake. Giving thanks to God, she had, the house-lamps lit and called together her kinsfolk and friends. She herself set everything in order, prepared her deathbed and gave orders that all be made ready for her funeral. To the women who came at her summons, she revealed the news of her departure to heaven and, as proof, gave them the palm branch, the symbol of victory and incorruptibility, that the angel had given her. Still held by the bonds of the world, her companions heard this news with copious tears and groans, begging the Mother of God not to leave them orphaned. She reassured them, saying that she was indeed going to heaven but would nonetheless continue to protect both them and the whole world by her prayers. At these words, the women stopped their weeping and hastened to make the preparations. The All-Holy also told them to give the only two robes that she possessed to two poor widows who were her constant companions and friends.

She had scarcely spoken these words when the house was shaken once again by a noise like thunder, and it was filled with clouds, bearing the Apostles, assembled from the furthest parts of the world. It was thus that the whole Church, in their persons, was mystically present to celebrate the funeral of its sovereign Lady. To the choir of the Apostles was joined that of the Hierarchs such as Saint Hierotheus (4 Oct.), Saint Dionysius the Areopagite (3 Oct.) and Saint Timothy (22 Jan.). Their eyes full of tears, they said to the Mother of God: "If you were to stay in the world and live among us, we would, of course, have great consolation, O Lady, as it would be as though we saw your Son and our Master. But as it is now according to His will that you are taken to heaven, we are weeping and lamenting as you see. But we rejoice at all that has been arranged for you.' She replied: 'O you disciples and friends of my Son and my God, do not turn my joy to sorrow but bury my body and keep it in the position that I shall take on my deathbed.'"

At these words, Saint Paul, the chosen vessel, arrived in his turn. He threw himself at the feet of the All-Holy to venerate her, and addressed this praise to her: "Rejoice, O Mother of Life and object of my preaching, for although I never saw Christ in the flesh, it is Him, in seeing you, that I believe I behold." After having made her last farewells to all those present, the All Immaculate laid herself down on her deathbed, settling her body as she wished it, and offered ardent prayer to her Son for the preservation of peace in the whole world. Then, having given her blessing to the Apostles and hierarchs, she, with a smile, peacefully gave her soul, white and more resplendent than any light, into the hands of her Son and her God, who had appeared together with the Archangel Michael and a host of angels. Her death came about with no suffering or anguish, as her childbearing had been without pain.

Peter, the leader of the Apostles, then intoned the funeral hymn and his companions took up the bier, preceded by others present who carried torches and accompanied the cortege with their chanting. Saint John the Theologian was at their head, holding the palm of victory in his hand and followed in silence by the crowd of disciples. Angels could also be heard, joining their voices to those of men, so that heaven and earth were entirely filled with this threnody (hymn of lament) in honour of the sovereign Lady of the world. The air was purified by the ascending of her soul, the earth was sanctified by the burial of her body, and many of the sick recovered their health.

Not being able to bear this sight, the leaders of the Jews aroused the people and sent them to overturn the bier bearing the life-giving body. But divine justice forestalled their dark design, and they were all struck

with blindness. One of them, the priest Jephoniah, who, with greater daring, had succeeded in laying hands on the holy bier, also had his hands cut off at the elbow by the sword of divine wrath, and his severed arms hung on the bier, presenting a pitiable sight.

Brought to repentance by the punishment, Jephoniah wholeheartedly embraced the Faith; and, at a word from Peter, he was healed and became for his companions an instrument of salvation and healing. When he was given a branch of the Mother of God's palm, he laid it on the eyes of his companions and healed, at one and the same time, their physical and spiritual blindness.

Arriving in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Apostles buried the most holy body of the Mother of God and remained there for three days, their prayers unceasingly being accompanied by angelic hymns. In conformity with a disposition of divine Providence, one of the Apostles (Thomas, according to some), was not at the funeral.

He only reached Gethsemane on the third day, and was unconsolable at not having a last sight of the deified body of the All-Holy. The Apostles therefore, with one accord, decided to open the tomb in order to let him venerate the holy body. When they raised the stone that closed the entrance, they were all filled with amazement on finding that the body had disappeared and that only the shroud remained, empty and keeping the shape of the body. It was an irrefutable proof of the translation to heaven of the Mother of God: her resurrection and the ascension of her body, united again with her soul, above the skies in the close company of her Son, to be our representative and advocate before God.' Mary, 'daughter of Adam' but having become truly 'Mother of God' and 'Mother of Life' in giving birth to Him who is the Fullness of Life (cf Jn 14:6) thus passed through death. But her death was no dishonour, for, overcome by Christ, Who submitted to it by His own will for our salvation, the condemnation of Adam became a 'lifegiving death' and the principle of a new existence. And the tomb of Gethsemane, as well as the Holy Sepulchre, appeared as a 'bridal chamber' where the wedding feast of incorruptibility is made radiant.

It 'was fitting, indeed, that, conforming in all things to Christ our Saviour, the most holy Virgin should follow all the paths trodden by Christ to spread sanctification throughout our nature. After having followed Him in His Passion and having 'seen' His Resurrection, she now had the experience of death. As soon as she was parted from the body, her most pure soul found itself united with divine Light; and her body, having lain a short time in the earth, was soon raised by the grace of the risen Christ. This 'Spiritual Body,' was received into heaven as the tabernacle of God-became-Man, as the throne of God. It is the most significant part of the Body of Christ, and had often been likened by the holy Fathers as the Church itself, the dwelling-place of God among men, the first-fruits of our future state and the source of our divinisation. Through the womb of Mary most chaste, the Mother of God, the Kingdom of heaven has been opened to us, and this is why her translation to heaven is a cause of joy for all believers, having thus acquired a guarantee that, in her person, it is the whole of human nature, having become a Christ-bearer, that is called to abide in God. _____

This feast was fixed on 15 August and made obligatory in the whole of the East by Emperor Maurice (582-602). The practice spread widely, thanks to the eulogies given by the holy fathers and great Church orators on this feast: Ss Andrew of Crete, John Damascene, Germanos of Constantinople, Theodore the Studite, Gregory Palamas, etc.

Source: ***The Synaxarion, The Lives of the Saints of the Orthodox Church*** Compiled by Hieromonk Makarios of Simonos Petras Monastery

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER To be transparent in our 5-year vision to a financially secure parish:

2026	May	June
Monthly Offering Income	$ 26,510	$ 14,768
Monthly General Operating Expenses	$ 21,239	$ 19,187
	$ 5,271	$ -4,419

Hours Schedule

August		September		October	
2	Barry	6	Staci	4	Staci
9	Lucy	13	Barry	11	Barry
16	Angelo	20	Lucy	18	Angelo
23	Phil	27	Mike D	25	Lucy
30	Mike D				

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

Reader Schedule

August		September		October	
2	Katherine	6	Barry	4	Katherine
9	Barry	13	Staci	11	Staci
16	Mike D	20	Mike D	18	Mike D
23	Phil	27	Phil	25	Barry
30	Katherine				

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please find a replacement.

Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

August		September		October	
2	Dennis Goodman	6	Dennis Goodman	4	Dennis Goodman
9	Susie Ford	13	Susie Ford	11	Susie Ford
16	Christine Panoff	20	Christine Panoff	18	Christine Panoff
23	Ian & Stephanie P.	27	Ian & Stephanie P.	25	Ian & Stephanie P.
30	Susie Ford				

If you are unable to make your assigned date please find a replacement. Let Susie know of any changes or if you cannot find a replacement (810-407-3016).

HOURS, READERS & CANDLE STAND. Please look at each month's newsletter as the schedule may have changed since the previous publication.

SEMINARIAN **Reader Alexander Gonser**, with the blessing and recommendation of Archbishop Alexander and me, begins classes in the fall at St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY. This is a three year program. This coursework is to meet the academic requirements for ordination to the priesthood.

CONFESSIONS the holy Mystery of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment. Call the parish office 810-744-0070 or e-mail stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com to make an appointment.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on August 6 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom.

POSTURE & ETIQUETTE AT DIVINE SERVICES

Posture

The traditional posture for prayer and worship in the Orthodox Church is standing. In the Orthodox "old countries", there are usually no pews in the churches. Chairs or benches on the side walls are usually reserved for the elderly and infirm. In North America, we have tended to build our churches with pews, and since we have them, we stand and sit. It is fully acceptable to stand for the entire service.

When should we stand? Always during these times:

- The beginning of Liturgy & Great Litany
- The Little Entrance with the Gospel book
- The Epistle Reading
- The Gospel Reading

- The Cherubic Hymn
- The Great Entrance with the gifts
- The Anaphora through to Holy Communion and to the final blessing
- Whenever the priest or bishop gives a blessing

If health or a medical condition makes it difficult to stand for the entire Liturgy, then we can be seated for a time.

Attire
Dress should be modest, neither drawing attention to oneself nor reflecting fads and practices found in the culture.
Men, including boys seven years and older, should wear long pants at all times.
Women, at all times tops must be modest: neither low cut nor revealing.

Cell phones
Please turn off or mute all cell phones during the divine services. If you need to answer, please go to the fellowship hall, not in the narthex or nave. Please stow away your cell phones during the divine services, i.e. do not use them in church.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING is August 11 at 6:30 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE – JULY Meeting began with prayer led by Father Matthew. *Present:* Christopher Taylor, Eileen Branoff, Stephanie Price, Staci Shank, Bill Economou, Dennis Jernigan, Connie Maxim, Bruce Watson. *Absent:* Lena Bakousidis. Minutes approved as received. *financial report* regular income $18,291.73, regular expenses $19,187.04. Incrementally the parish finances are improving. *budget* we are in-line for our budget. *endowment fund:* June report has not yet arrived in the mail. *rector's report:* Matode "Mike" Branoff fell asleep in the Lord on 7 June 2026 and was buried from church on 12 June 2026 at Sunset Hills Cemetery by Swartz Funeral Home. Fifteen catechumens and eight inquirers. Shrine feast Liturgy in church henceforth. *church school:* Stephanie and Father Matthew will meet in August to set up the calendar for 2026-2027. Two potential teachers/aides. *community outreach & fundraising:* Friday, July 24 at 8 pm outdoor movie night, a family movie. August 16 - picnic which is both fundraiser and outreach. September bonfire. *charity ministries:* North End Soup Kitchen, Thursday, August 6 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. *church building and grounds:* Bill Economou took care of the electrical box out front. Deadbolt lock will be purchased for the garage and installed. Fire inspector approved everything in the building complex. Bill Economou picked up safety glasses and ear-plugs for the lawnmower. Working on a frame for a new posterboard for newer parish members. Dennis Jernigan changed the filters on the air conditioning units. North side a/c units at the church need to be fenced off to protect the refrigerant lines which had been stepped on (approx. $500). Need to trim brush between north side and Lagarda Security so there is more visibility for their cameras. Need a can of freon (approx. $300) for a/c. All units take the same freon. Dennis Jernigan cleaned up the wax at the metal candlestands in church near the narthex. Driveway sealing: some cracks were sealed, not all. We haven't heard from them. Church Mutual Insurance said it will $70 more per year for coverage on the lawnmower. Monthly zero interest payments on the lawnmower are better than taking money from money market (which would lose interest that would be made on the money being taken out from it). Dennis Jernigan will sign over the lawnmower to the church via a document and the church will reimburse Dennis by monthly payments. Several volunteers have stepped up to mow the lawn. New playscape: Stephanie Price is still looking at units and professional installation. It will be $5,000 to $10,000 including installation. Stephanie will come back with prices. The present one is settling because it is on grass, not on a foundation. The outdoor light poles in the driveway out front need to be painted and the lights can be upgraded to LEDs which will save on the electrical bill. The shrine needs repair, much of the trim board is rotted. Replaced parts will need to be painted. Christopher Taylor and

Mike Donigan went to the cemetery and got it all cleaned up. Dennis Jernigan took photos of graves with flowers to see if we can contact families to send them an envelope for donations to the cemetery. *old business:* anniversary ideas: catered meal after Liturgy on Sunday, October 4, 2026. Photo directory. Have the YouTube videos of parish history that can be shown on the hall television, historical photos around, order a cake. Any parishioners have ideas for the anniversary or photos of family members who were members of Saint Nicholas in the past. A scanner needed for the office (approx. $130), motioned, seconded, unanimous. *new business:* Meijer cards: increase in people coming for Meijer gift cards. From January to June we have given out Meijer cards totaling $3,190. Please be generous in your charitable donations, particularly the charity plate at the end of the Liturgy to sustain this ministry which helps those in need, especially our neighbors at Lockwood and Burton Place. Our diocese matches up to $1,000. *adjournment:* at 8:19 pm. *closing prayer:* at 8:20 pm.

CHARITY PLATE Please be generous in your charitable donations, particularly the charity plate at the end of the Liturgy to sustain our monthly Meijer gift card ministry ($10 cards) which helps those in need, especially our neighbors at Lockwood and Burton Place. The charity plate is near the bowl of antidoron you pass by on your way out of the temple. You can also make your charitable donation in your weekly envelope.

SHRINE FEAST & DANCE Sunday, August 16. **Dinners are Pre-sale Only**. The menu for lunch is lamb/chicken, rice, coleslaw, vegetable, & dessert. Dinner will be served in the fellowship hall after the Liturgy in church. Tickets are $20 adult & $10 children 12 & under. Please purchase them from Sharon Jernigan by August 13. We are looking for donors for the lambs we'll be cooking! Please consider donating the cost of a whole lamb or making a partial donation. There is a sign up sheet in the parish hall.
Live Music and Dancing with the Skimos Band who will play from 1 to 5 pm.

SHRINE FEAST LITURGY on Sunday, August 16 will be in the church led by our Archbishop and father Alexander who will serve simply, not a pontifical Liturgy. The shrine will be open during the picnic and a short moleben to the Mother of God will be served at the shrine during a band break.

DONATIONS for the coffee social. Please be generous with your offerings for coffee and donuts on Sundays so that we can cover the cost of both. Previously there was a set cost for a cup of coffee and a donut. The free-will offerings are not covering the cost for coffee and donuts.

TRAVELING? Find an Orthodox church to attend here: https://orthodoxyinamerica.org/ The Macedonian Orthodox Church is not yet included in this helpful tool for finding an Orthodox parish to attend while travelling. If you would like to receive Holy Communion while travelling, Father Matthew advises contacting the parish priest in advance of your visit.

TITHES during the summer months, please keep up with your financial stewardship as the bills remain constant even while parishioners travel in summer.

CATECHUMENS Please remember in prayer all sixteen of our catechumens: Calum, Rebekah, Faith, Isla, Harrison, Nathanael, Scott, Jacob, Willow, John-Paul, Megan, Basil, Randy, Angela, Ryder, William.

LIBRARY PROJECT We are reorganizing the library. This will include removing outdated items and adding new books. If you would like to donate your time or resources, please contact Staci Shank (269-352-4309). If there are particular books or authors you would like to see in the library, let us know.

LAWN MOWING & PLANT WATERING there are sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall for lawn mowing and plant watering. We need your help to keep our grounds as beautiful as they are!

MEMORY ETERNAL

Seraphim Watson, son of Rebecca Lazar and Bruce Watson, fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, July 19. You may read his obituary **HERE**. Temrowski Funeral Home is took care of the funeral arrangements which all take place on Wednesday, July 22 at church with burial at Halsey Cemetery (South Grand Blanc Cemetery) on Halsey Road, south of Baldwin Road.

Kosta Tasevski, husband of Nancy Tasevski, fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, July 29. You may read his obituary **HERE**. Swartz Funeral Home took care of the funeral arrangements with burial from church at Evergreen Cemetery on Saturday, August 1.

Lawrence A. Gingras, maternal uncle of Matushka Lisa, fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, July 28. You may read his obituary **HERE**. His funeral is in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on August 4 & 5. Because of work obligations Matushka Lisa is unable to attend. God-willing, Father Matthew plans to attend the funeral.

Please remember **Seraphim, Kosta,** and **Lawrence** in your prayers that they rest in the light of Christ's Face. And pray that the same merciful Lord Jesus sustain their families in their grief. Christ is risen! Bog da prosti! God forgives! Memory eternal!

DORMITION FAST begins on August 1 and continues to August 14. As is the custom at our parish, the Moleben to the Mother of God will be served in her shrine on Sundays after Liturgy beginning on August 2 and continuing to August 16. Take the time to come before her icon at the shrine and ask her intercession for your and your family's needs.

38th ANNUAL DORMITION MONASTERY PILGRIMAGE August 14-15. Mark the dates!

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN we serve on Thursday, August 6 from 9 to 12:30 pm.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting razors & shaving cream/lotion for the month of August. Place the items in a bag and then put 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.

HOPE IN A BOX

Aug	Razors & Shaving Cream/Lotion
Sept	Bar & Hand Soap
Oct	Toothpaste/Toothbrushes

August Coffee Social Sponsors	
2	
9	
16	**Bring desserts for picnic**
23	20 years – Fr Raphael Biernacki
30	Archbishop Alexander's namesday

PAYPAL You can use PayPal for your financial stewardship! Go to our website **www.saintnicholasburton.org** and click on the box **Give now with PayPal**; this is a secure site. (1.99% + $0.49 of your donation goes to PayPal as a fee). ***Please consider adding a little extra to your donation to cover the fee we are charged.** 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 PayPal will send an email to the church to let us know a donation was received for St. Nicholas Church, the amount, and the giver.

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD is celebrated on August 6. On Mount Tabor Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. "'He was transfigured,' Saint John Damascene assures us, 'not by assuming what He was not, but in revealing to His disciples what He was, opening their blind eyes and making them see.' Christ opened the eyes of His disciples, and it was with sight transfigured by the power of the Holy Spirit that they saw the divine Light indissolubly united to His body. There were therefore transformed themselves and it was in prayer that they were able to see and understand the change that has taken place in our nature through its union with the Word (St. Gregory Palamas)…[The} feast is therefore that of the divinization of our human nature and the participation of our corruptible body in those eternal blessings that are beyond nature. Even before accomplishing our salvation through His Passion, the Saviour showed that the goal of His Incarnation was precisely to lead the whole of mankind to the contemplation of His divine glory." ***The Synaxarion*** by Hieromonk Makarios of Simonos Petra, Volume 6, pg 392, 394

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Dat Gerzevske
Julie Conover
Sophia Todorovsky
5 Paul Brayan
6 Diana Broadfoot
8 Maria Green
9 Katelyn Price
Steven Spankie
12 Janja Beslach
18 Lisa Russell
Tom Krigner
19 Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie
20 Quinn Gerzevske
22 Michael Borkovich
24 Philip Wiles
25 Sophia Batzos
26 Christine Panoff
27 Katherine Gonser
Tom Batzos
28 Christopher Goad
30 Cortney Batzos
Lydia Nicoloff

ANNIVERSARIES

9 Rachel & Tim Wiles (2017)
19 Luai & Amani Helal (1993)
21 Bill & Cindy Economou (1992)
24 Adam & Kassandra Lang (2024)
26 Steven & Sharon Krych (1995)

NAMESDAYS

11 Susan Oginsky
Susan Popoff
15 Linda Marie Branoff
Maria (Papalazarou) Green
Marie Todorovsky
Marika Karayanis
Marilyn Branoff
Mary Batzos
Mary Anna (Marie Anna) Kilbourne
May Kokaly (Mary)
Sharon Jernigan (Theotokos)
Sharon George
Sharon Krych
18 Laurie (Florinka) Brock
21 Cameron Stevens
Dat Gerzevske
26 Adriane Grossi (St. Adrian)
Natasha Oginsky
27 Monica Mitevski
30 Alexander Gonser
Alex Branoff
Archbishop Alexander
Saśo Pirkovic

If your name is missing or has the incorrect information in the birthday, anniversary or namesday list please call the office: 810-744-0070

DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

VISITATION TO THE SICK If you would like Fr. Matthew to make a visit to home, hospital, or nursing home, please contact the office 810-744-0070.

DAILY INTERCESSION FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

The following are our brothers and sisters of St. Nicholas who are currently homebound, suffering from chronic illness, in recovery or in need of special prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and reach out to them with a card, a phone call or a visit!

Deacon John Bocek	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Bill Tadrick
Paul Ellis	Mary Karayanis	Helen Popoff	Wendy Tadrick
Joan Gajewski	Nick Karayanis	Ron Salhany	Dave Vuckovich

To aid in your outreach, here is a listing of the addresses and phone numbers of our Homebound:

Jeanette Brayan @ Serene Gardens	1481 E Hill Rd room MC-6	Grand Blanc, MI 48439	
Paul Ellis @ Flat Rock Manor of Goodrich N	7280 S. State Rd.	Goodrich, MI 48438 *New address	
Mary & Nick Karayanis	2238 Old Hickory	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-1169
Helen Popoff	2221 Bellemeade Dr.	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-3867
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd	Swartz Creek, MI 48473	810-348-4733 (Barb)
Diane Todorovsky	14182 Moffett Dr	Fenton, MI 48430	810-750-7860

Aug 14 **Dormition of our Lady Vespers at Assumption at 6 pm**
Aug 15 **Dormition of our Lady Liturgy at Assumption at 10 am**
Aug 16 **St. Nicholas' Parish Picnic & Dance (signup sheet to help is in parish hall)**
Aug 17 **Elias D. Chinonis Golf Classic @ Pine Knob**

FALL 2026 CATECHESIS CLASS

Father Silviu Bunta, a former student of our Archbishop Alexander and a priest of our diocese, is offering a four-month course on old world Orthodoxy with weekly sessions. Father Silviu grew up as an Orthodox Christian in Romania – a country where Christianity began to be spread already in the first century. Father Silviu has valuable insights in our life in Christ. Sign up here: https://www.skool.com/old-world-orthodoxy/about The class is limited to 100 persons. Those living in the same household may sign up once, e.g., Father Matthew & Matushka Lisa signed up as one person (household) for the class.

Catechumens and inquirers: this class is the instructional class for fall 2026 and replaces our Sunday in-person class and Wednesday Google Meet class from September 1 to December 18. Please sign up! Father Silviu will keep attendance. The cost is $25 per month. If you need financial assistance, please see Father Matthew. The fee covers all the work that Father Silviu puts in to preparing class materials and his time with the questions and answers, in the same way the diaconal and catechist class is tuition-based. If you would like to donate as a sponsorship for someone to attend, please see Father Matthew. The flyer is on the next page with details.

A NEW SKOOL PLATFORM:

OLD WORLD ORTHODOXY

WITH FR. SILVIU BUNTA

FIRST COURSE:

OLD WORLD ORTHODOXY: AN INTRODUCTION

September-December 2026

See Orthodox Christianity in a surprising and refreshing way, as it looks from the Old World! There is a rare fragrance to it! It is an Orthodoxy of the bones, *needful but unsearching, growing but unmeasuring, intentional but peaceful.* Orthodoxy in America has made great strides, but it has not yet captured *this* fully.

"I want to experience the breakthrough Orthodoxy promises me."

"Keep your focus on Christ, Who is at the bottom of your heart, with patience."

Because transformation is from Christ. The question is where He waits for you, stably. If you go there, then He can change you, bit by bit. This is the "one needful thing" (Luke 10:42). It is what spiritual life is made of, from its beginning to its "endless end."

Fr. Silviu has spent almost three decades translating this principle for many in the New World—as a Priest, Father Confessor, Professor, and public speaker. Fr. Silviu's Skool platform will give you a window into this life. Simply. Practically. In your day to day living. Be part of this community!

Those who sign up before 9/1/26 will get access to an "appetizer" course. Among the topics discussed will be how it applies to prayer and its problems. Worship participation and its preparation. Spiritual struggle. Repentance. Despair. Thoughts and feelings. Education of children. Maturation. Married life. Suffering. Death.

Each week there will be a pre-shared 30-minute lecture on the topic assigned to that week. It will be followed by a 1-hour live QA meeting on Thursday between 7:00-8:00 pm CST (Sep 3 through Dec 17). These are also recorded and shared with everyone enrolled. You can either join the sessions live. Or, watch the recordings. Whichever you prefer.

STAY CONNECTED BEYOND THIS COURSE! After this first course, the conversation will continue on the same platform, through other courses, through webinars, etc.

$25 A MONTH

Join our community here:

https://www.skool.com/old-world-orthodoxy

There is no need for a big commitment. You can sign up for one month, enjoy the course, and, if you don't like it, simply write in before the end of the month and you will be refunded before canceling your subscription altogether.

Live Music by the Skimos Band

August 16th, 2026

1pm – 5pm

Dancing

Bounce House

Food and drinks available for purchase

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 S. Center Road, Burton, MI 48519
Phone: (810) 744-0070
e-mail: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

PARISH PICNIC & Dance

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th

Following Sunday Liturgy

Menu:
Lamb, Chicken, Rice, Coleslaw, Vegetable
Please bring a dessert to share
Tickets $20 adult - $10 children

Skimos Band will play from 1pm-5pm
Bring any outdoor games to play. Let's have FUN!

We need volunteers to help for the dinner on Sunday as well as for the picnic. Please lend a hand!

St Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 S Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519

AUGUST 2026

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 S. Center Rd. Burton, MI 48519
810-744-0070
stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
‡ Fast — Fish Permitted — Wine & Oil Permitted						**1 Dormition Fast Begins** 5 pm Vespers *Confessions*
2 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy Moleben to the Theotokos	**3** ‡	**4** ‡	**5** ‡	**6** **Transfiguration** 10 am Liturgy at Assumption Church *Office Closed*	**7** ‡	**8** 5 pm Vespers *Confessions*
9 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy Moleben to the Theotokos	**10** ‡ *Fr Matthew with Archbishop Alexander*	**11** ‡ 6:30 pm parish council	**12** ‡ 9:30 am Liturgy	**13** ‡ *Office Closed*	**14** ‡ 6 pm Vespers @ Assumption **Pilgrimage to Dormition Monastery**	**15 Dormition** 10 am Liturgy at Assumption 5 pm Vespers
16 Picnic & Dance 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy 1 to 5 pm Skimos Band/food/drink	**17** *Fr Matthew with Archbishop Alexander*	**18**	19 ‡ 9:30 am Liturgy	**20** *Office Closed*	**21** ‡	**22** 5 pm Vespers *Confessions*
23 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy	**24** *Fr Matthew with Archbishop Alexander*	**25**	**26** ‡ 9:30 am Liturgy	**27** *Office Closed*	**28** ‡	**29 Beheading of John the Baptist** ‡ 5 pm Vespers *Confessions*
30 9:30 Hours 10 am Liturgy	**31** *Fr Matthew with Archbishop Alexander*	**September 1** ***Church New Year***	**2** ‡ 9:30 am Liturgy	**3** *Office Closed*	***Fish permitted*** ***Wine & oil permitted*** ***Fast day***	