

*December 23, 2018*

*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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**The Holy Gospel according to John**

**20:11-18 (8th Matins Gospel)**

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018 30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity. Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete: Theodulus, Saturninus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompeius, Agathopus, Basilides & Evaristus (3rd c.). Martyr Euporus (3rd c.). Repose of St. Theoctist of Novgorod (1310). St. Niphon of Cyprus (4th c.). St. Paul, Bishop of Neo-Cæsarea (4th c.).**

**TROPARIA (Tone 5)** Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

**(Tone 4)** Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the tree of life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning!

**(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 EPISTLE OF 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: 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 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!

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST 2018

Beloved in the Lord,

One of the hymns that we sing on the feast of our Lord's Nativity proclaims that through Christ's birth, "the dividing wall has been destroyed." No longer are we strangers to God, but call him "Abba, Father!" (Romans 8:15) Once again humanity may enter into Paradise, once again we may partake of the Tree of Life.

Soon after God created us he declared that "it is not good for man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18) Our "natural environment" is community, gathered together by the grace and love of God. "Behold, how good it is when brothers live together in unity." (Psalm 132:1)

A popular modern Christmas song expresses the hope that, "I'll be home for Christmas." This reflects a belief common among many Christian cultures that it is not good to be away from our loved ones on the feast of our Savior's birth.

The most fitting way to honor the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ is by striving to "break down the walls of division" in our lives. Perhaps we have relationships that have gone cold through negligence or some long forgotten difference of opinion. Maybe we struggle with an acute sense of division within ourselves, joining St. Paul in his honest confession of frustration: "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do." (Romans 7:15) In all cases, the grace of the one who "draws all men to himself" (John 12:32) is sufficient to help us find integration in a world so fragmented by sin.

With one voice let us join the angels of heaven, together with that great cloud of witnesses--the saints, and sing: "Glory of God in the highest, on earth peace, Good Will to men!"

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

With love in the newborn King,

+Alexander

*Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese – Orthodox Church in America*

December 23, 2018



### **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF**

Nik Evanenko

Helen Ethington & Angelo Panoff

Alex & Mary

Helen Ethington

Peace & health during these hard days to Tom, Christy, Ellie & Anna

God grant healing & good recovery for Nik Evanenko. God bless

Health of Numko Angelo

Feodosiy, Oleg, Nikolay, Irina, Galina & Nikolay

Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Angelo, Aaron, Reggie, John, Alex, Rimi, Allen,

Deborah, JoAnn, Susan, Luba, Kosta, David, Anna, Walt, Vladimir, Dorothy, Michael,

Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Christopher, Ted, Marlene, Joseph, Nicholas,

Margaret, Gladys, my family & friends

Special Intention

Dorothy Goodman

Allison Borkovich

Alex & Magda Popoff

Dorothy Goodman

Angelo & Christine

Evanenko family

Gonser family

Irina Sivergina

Joe Tome

Joe Tome

## **CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**

All the deceased of the Gonser & Panoff families  
Vasil Chokreff (16 yrs.) Blessed Repose~Memory Eternal  
My loving husband, Nicholas Maxim, on his birthday December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Our sweet grandson Andrew  
Memory Eternal for Sam Chorenko  
Adelaida, Vitaliy, Vasiliy, Andrey, Galina & Nikolay  
Peter Popoff & John Naum  
Nicholas Chizewsky Blessed Repose~Memory Eternal

Gonser family  
Dorothy & family  
Connie Maxim  
Angelo & Christine  
Evanenko family  
Irina Sivergina  
Alex & Magda Popoff  
Dorothy Goodman & family

## **ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR**

Evdokia & Ivan Ponomarenko~Blessed Repose

Lucy Hogg



**WELCOME** to all our friends and visitors.

**DONUTS** are provided today by Connie Maxim in memory of Nicholas Maxim's birthday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**PLEDGE CARDS** If you haven't turned in your pledge card for 2019 please do so today. To be considered a member in good standing you must receive Confession and Holy Communion and sign a pledge card.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are ready to be picked up in the parish hall. Please don't forget to use them in the New Year.

**2019 CALENDARS** are in the parish hall. One per family please.



**KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS** You can register for Community rewards online or at the store's services desk. After doing so, they will send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend.

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting **towels, toiletries & new toys** for the month of December. Place the items in the blue box in the Parish Hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

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

**WINTER WARM UP** Catholic Charities is in need of hats, gloves, scarves, socks, boots, coats & other warm winter gear. For more information call 810-265-7025.

**MEMORY ETERNAL – CHRIST IS RISEN** On December 23 Ponte Brown fell asleep in the Lord. He is the husband of Linda, father of Michelle and Monica and brother of George. His funeral arrangements are in the Weekly Schedule. God grant his newly fallen asleep servant Ponte rest among the saints. Bog da prosti! Christ is risen!



**January 6<sup>th</sup>**, Theophany blessing of water & banquet

**January 17<sup>th</sup>**, Dormition Winter Dinner at St. George

**January 20<sup>th</sup>**, Annual Meeting

## **Weekly Schedule:**

**Today**  
6:30 pm Installation of New Parish Council members & auditors  
**Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord**

**Monday, Dec 24**  
6 pm **Office Closed**  
Christmas Eve Vespers with Liturgy

**Tuesday, Dec 25**  
10 am **Nativity of Christ**  
Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, Dec 26** No Adult Ed class  
 10 am Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene

**Friday, Dec 28**  
 10 am Visitation at church for Ponte Brown  
 12 noon Funeral followed by burial at Evergreen

**Saturday, Dec 29**  
 5 pm Vespers

**Sunday, Dec 30**  
 9:30 am Hours  
 10 am Divine Liturgy  
 No Church School

**Orthodox Churches of Genesee County**  
**Services for Christmas**

**St. Nicholas**

Sun. Dec. 23 6:30 pm Royal Hours  
 Mon. Dec. 24 6 pm Vespers & Liturgy of St. Basil  
 Tues. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

**St. Mary Magdalene**

Mon. Dec. 24 7 pm Vigil  
 Tues. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

**St. George**

Mon. Dec. 24 4:50 pm Matins  
 6 pm Divine Liturgy

**Assumption**

Mon. Dec. 24 6 pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy  
 Tues. Dec. 25 10 am Divine Liturgy

**Offerings for the week December 16, 2018**

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,410.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,034.03
	<b>\$-2,624.03</b>

*81 people were in attendance on  
 Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.*

**“Human charity is suspicious: it fears lest it may somehow give to a person who already has something, or lest it may give too much. But the Lord’s charity is not like this: ‘The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.’” – St. John of Kronstadt**

*Christmas Blessings*