

December 1, 2013

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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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2013 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Prophet Nahum (7th c. B.C.). Righteous Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor (792). Martyr Ananias of Persia.

TROPARIA

(Tone 6) The angelic powers were at Thy tomb the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure Body. Thou didst capture hell, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee!

(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 Sixth Tone: O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!

v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS (2:4-10)

Brethren: God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God -- not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Alleluia, Tone 6

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

v: He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust!”

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE (18:35-43)

At that time as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” And he cried, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me receive my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

COMMUNION HYMN

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

Because Saint Nicholas of Myra, celebrated on December 6, is remembered for generosity and gentleness, one event in his life surprises many people.

It happened at the Council of Nicaea in 325, which both he and the heretic Arius attended. The well-spoken Arius was confidently trying to convince the Council to accept his teaching that Jesus Christ is not truly the Son of God.

Nicholas listened until he could bear no more. He rose and struck Arius, believing that dangerous lies and distortions did not deserve the privilege of being listened to.

A number of articulate, popular atheists today write books and make public statements attempting to convince people that God does not exist. To believe in God, they say, is to subscribe to a false idea that has caused strife all over the world.

Because these writers particularly attack Christianity, we Christians should determine whether the quality of their scholarship and their actual knowledge of the faith they criticize entitles them to the privilege of being listened to.

In his book "The God Delusion" atheist Richard Dawkins writes that Adam and Eve, as a result of their sin, were "banished forever from the Garden of Eden" and

"deprived of the gift of eternal life." This is nonsense; the reason for Christ's coming is to restore our eternal communion with God.

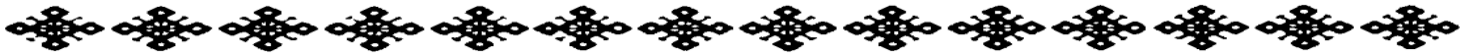
Regarding Christ Himself, Dawkins says that "Jesus was a loyal Jew. It was Paul who invented the idea of taking the Jewish God to the Gentiles." He quotes one John Hartung: "Jesus would have turned over in his grave if he had known that Paul would be taking his plan to the [Gentiles]." Reading Matthew 28: 19-20, a passage universally known as the "Great Commission", is enough to show that Dawkins is in error here—and is apparently unfamiliar with some of Jesus' best-known words.

Much more could be said about Dawkins' theological misrepresentations, but any serious reader will also take issue with his claims about other writers. For example, he writes that Martin Luther King, though a Christian, "derived his philosophy of non-violent civil disobedience directly from Gandhi..." But in his famous "Letter from the Birmingham Jail", King himself, having been called an extremist, lists other inspirational "extremists": Jesus, Amos, Paul. Gandhi's name does not appear.

Of fellow scientist Stephen Jay Gould, who wrote that science has nothing to say about God's existence, Dawkins says, "I simply do not believe that Gould could possibly have meant much of what he wrote..." What writer, whatever Dawkins believes, writes what he doesn't mean?

Again displaying his own beliefs, Dawkins refers to the Taliban dynamiting Buddhas in Afghanistan and writes: "I do not believe there is an atheist in the world who would bulldoze Mecca [or other holy sites]..." Is it possible he's unfamiliar with--for just one prominent example--the Soviets' destruction of countless churches in the name of atheism?

Saint Paul encourages us to "test everything" (I Thessalonians 5:21). Testing the claims of today's popular atheists shows their lack of intellectual substance. That lack means they have forfeited the privilege of being listened to.

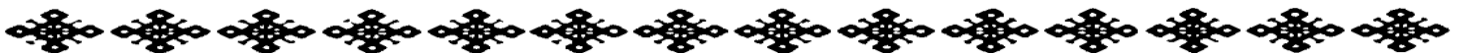


CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH & BLESSINGS OF

Health & God's Blessings Macy Lemmen.....	Uncle Joe & Teta
Dorothy	
Fr. Ilya, Fr. Lawrence, Fr. Joe, Deacon Anthony, Anna, Reggie, Evanka, Aretoula, Dorothy & Joe, Walter & Zina, Harold, Mira, Bosa, John & Gloria, Peter & Olga, Elaine, Helen, Rosemary, Jeanette, Diane & Jimmy, Ted & Marlene, Fr. David, Gladys, My family & friends	
	Joe Tome
Health & God's Blessings Dan Moss, Sue Goodman, Mike Goodman	John & Rose Goodman
Special Intention Diane, Art Zambito & family, Nancy, Ken & Maggie Laycock, Gloria & John Zelenko, Helen & Doug Phillips, Patricia Miculka, Gladys Edwards, Jeanette Hildreth, Brett w/Cancer, Linda Branoff, Anne Smith & family.....	
	Anne Smith
Health & God's Blessings Anna Branoff.....	Alex & Magda Popoff
Health & God's Blessings Macy Lemmen.....	Gigi & Dedo
Happy Birthday Susan Oginsky, Health & Blessings Families of Oginsky, Fred, Miculka, Lyon, Kuptz, Jerry & Carol Smith, Bill & Marie Haw, V. Rev. John Govrusik & Matushka Olga, Evdokia Ponomarenko, Quinton, Harold & Laurie Brock, Sick & shut-ins of St. Nicholas	
	Anne Smith
Special Intention	Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Blessed Repose Dorothy Bagale	Allison Borkovich
Sylvia Sopheia-Memory Eternal	Joe & Dorothy
Goodman	
Carl Smith & our son, Harold Smith & Mary, Minerva Smith & Benjamin, Olga Elasivich, Maud Andri & Costan, Dolores Piper, Maria Ljiljak, Fr. Basil Karpelenia, Nick Makidon & Sonia, Douglas Siewart, Daisy Karkoski.....	
	Anne Smith
Dorothy Bagale-Blessed Repose	Anne Smith
Peter Popoff-Memory Eternal	Alex & Magda Popoff



We welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas. Please join us for a coffee and donuts in the parish hall.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED At least 2 volunteers with vans or trucks are needed to help pick up the wreaths and garland for Wolverine Greenhouse (6106 Lahring Rd, Linden) on Saturday, December 7. If you are willing to assist with the pickup please see Fr. Matthew.

ST. NICHOLAS DAY POT LUCK LUNCHEON will be held next Sunday, December 8 following the Divine Liturgy. Please bring a meatless dish or dessert to share. Everyone is welcome to stay and join in the fellowship. There will also be a visit from St. Nicholas.

2014 MEMBERSHIP/PLEDGE CARDS have been mailed out. To be considered a member of St. Nicholas you must fill out and return a membership card. You do not have to pledge a dollar amount. Please do not send any money with your pledge card or it will be credited to your 2013 pledge. We sent out 150 pledge cards, 29 have been returned.

2014 CHURCH CALENDARS are in the rear of the church. Please, only one per family at this time.

CHRISTMAS GREETING If you would like your name included in the 2013 parish Christmas greetings, please contact the parish office by December, 8.

HOPE IN A BOX for the month of December is hats and gloves. Please place the item in the blue Hope in a Box container located in the parish hall. The hats and gloves will be distributed by Catholic Charities Community Closet.

FOOD DRIVE Our next pick up is Monday, December 16. A list of food items is located next to the Hope in a Box.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE There is an opening on the Endowment Committee. If you or a parishioner you know would be willing or able to serve on the committee, please see Fr. Matthew or Subdeacon Johnny Kantor.

ETERNAL MEMORY to +Konstantinos Georgopoulos, father of Mary Batzos, Alex and Billy Georgopoulos. +Konstantinos fell asleep in the Lord yesterday, November 30, 2013. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. Funeral arrangements are in the schedule of services below.

“AS MANY AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST...” Serafina Naomi Whittaker, daughter of Asher and Katie Whittaker, will be baptized today at 12:30 pm. God grant her many years!

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN ANGEL TREE PROGRAM More than 2,000 children in Genesee County received gifts from Angels last Christmas. This year, even more are registered for gifts through the North End Soup Kitchen Angel Tree Program. These children will find no gifts under the tree Christmas morning, without the generosity of people who donate to the program. Our parish will participate in this program for this Christmas. We are adopting two (2) families of three –a mother and two children. The names and ages for family #1: Julian (10 years old) and Anna (6 years old), family #2: Jarquise (17 years old) and Moshon (14 years old). We will be collecting monetary donations for their gifts. The funds will then be used to purchase items for the family for Christmas. Their gifts will then be dropped off at the North End Soup Kitchen to be distributed at the Christmas Dinner at the Soup Kitchen. **Please have your donations into the parish office by Dec. 1.** Please be generous! We will need volunteers to help wrap and deliver the gifts. See Father Matthew if you are willing to volunteer.

Schedule of services and events for the Week of December 1

Sunday, December 1

12:30 pm Baptism of Serafina Naomi Whittaker

Monday, December 2

5:45 pm Adult Education – The Lord’s Prayer
7:00 pm Advent Paraklesis

Tuesday, December 3

2 to 8 pm Visitation for +Konstantinos Georgopoulos at Swartz Funeral Home
7:00 pm Parastas at Swartz Funeral Home

Wednesday, December 4

10:00 am Visitation for +Konstantinos Georgopoulos at church
11:00 am Funeral followed by interment at Evergreen Cemetery
6:30 pm St. Catherine’s League Meeting

Thursday, December 5

6:30 pm

Great Vespers with Litya and blessing of koliva

Friday, December 6

10:00 am

St. Nicholas Day

Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 7

4:30 pm

Vespers followed by Confessions

Sunday, December 8

9:30 am

Third Hour

10:00 am

Divine Liturgy

Visit from St. Nicholas & Pot Luck Luncheon

Please bring a meatless dish or dessert to share.

No Church School

Sunday Offerings for November 24, 2013

<i>Weekly Offering Envelope</i>	<i>\$930.00</i>
<i>Children's Offering</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>Cemetery Maintenance</i>	<i>\$ 5.00</i>
<i>Charity Envelope</i>	<i>\$ 20.00</i>
<i>Love Inc</i>	<i>\$ 15.00</i>
<i>Diocesan Support</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>OCA Envelope-Charity</i>	<i>\$ 30.00</i>
<i>Candle Fund</i>	<i>\$ 192.35</i>
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>\$ 44.00</i>
<i>Seminarian Fund</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>Loose Offering</i>	<i>\$ 55.00</i>
<i>Kiosk</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>
<i>Total Sunday Income Nov. 24, 2013</i>	<i>\$ 1,301.35</i>
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 3,496.10</i>

<i>Actual Income</i>	<i>\$ 187,220.05</i>
<i>Actual Expense</i>	<i>\$ 180,545.08</i>
<i>+/- to date</i>	<i>\$ 6,674.97</i>

*113 people were in attendance on
Sunday November 24, 2013.*