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
Email: stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton
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

DECEMBER 2024

HYMNS from Compline and Matins FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Make merry, O heaven and earth, as the prophets foretold! Celebrate in the spirit, O angels and people! God is born from a woman and appears in the flesh to those who sit in darkness and shadow. A cave and a manger welcome him. Shepherds announce the wonder. Wise men from the East offer gifts in Bethlehem. Let us from our unworthy lips offer praise like the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!" The Expectation of the Nations has come. He has come and saved us from bondage to the Enemy.

Today heaven and earth are united, for Christ is born. Today God has come to earth, and humanity ascends to heaven. Today God, who by nature cannot be seen, is seen in the flesh for our sake. Let us glorify him, crying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace! Your coming has brought peace to us. Glory to you, O our Savior!"

"Glory to God in the highest," I hear the angels sing today in Bethlehem. Glory to him whose good pleasure it was that peace should come upon earth. The Virgin is now more spacious than the heavens. Light has shone on those in darkness; it has exalted the lowly, who sing like the angels: "Glory to God in the highest!"

Man was created in God's image and likeness, but when Jesus saw him fallen through transgression, he bowed the heavens and came down, dwelling in a Virgin's womb, without forsaking his divinity. Adam, once corrupted, was refashioned. He cried out: "Glory to your appearing, O my Redeemer and my God!"

The wise men, kings from Persia, perceived without any doubt that you were born on earth, O heavenly King. Drawn by the light of a star, they hurried to Bethlehem. They offered you acceptable gifts: gold, myrrh, and frankincense. They fell down before you and worshipped you, seeing you, the Timeless One, lying in the cave as an infant.

All the angels in heaven make merry and dance today. All creation leaps for joy. The Lord and Savior is born in Bethlehem. Every deception of idols is swept away, and Christ reigns unto all ages.

Suddenly, at the word of the angel, the armies of heaven cried: "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, among men — Good Will, Christ, has shone out. God of our Fathers, blessed are you!"

Virgin Mother of God, who have given birth to the Savior, you have overthrown the former curse of Eve, for you have become the Mother of the Father's Good Will, carrying in your bosom God the Word made flesh. None can fathom the mystery; by faith alone we all glorify it as we cry with you and say: Lord beyond interpretation, glory to you!

FROM FATHER'S DESK

In the book of Genesis we hear that the Lord promised Abraham that in him, Abraham, all nations would be blessed. The prophet Micah proclaimed that out of little, insignificant Bethlehem in the land of Judah would come the one to be ruler of Israel to everlasting. And Isaiah the prophet foretold the sign of a virgin who would bear a son who would be called Emmanuel, a name meaning "God with us." "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son." (Hebrews 1:1-2)

At the birth of Christ all prophecies are fulfilled. We look from the prophets to their prophecies fulfilled in the person of the Son and Word of God made flesh and born for us. In Bethlehem of Judea the Son of God is born in the flesh of the Virgin. Son of God and son of Abraham; in him we are all blessed.

The Son of God comes to us in simplicity. Not born in a royal palace but in the poverty of the cave. He comes not as a victor on a chariot but born as a little child of the Virgin. He comes to us in poverty that we in our spiritual poverty may be raised up to the heights through him. His birth is proclaimed by angels not to the world but to the shepherds who were attending to their night's work — watching their sheep. He comes to us so that the devil might be conquered through the human nature which he had conquered in the garden of Eden. (Saint Leo, sermon xxi, on the feast of the Nativity I) Let us sinners rejoice at the pardon to which we are invited through the Son of God made man for us.

The Virgin today gives birth, a birth like none other. For the child which took flesh in her is the Son of God. And her virginity remains inviolate. So we call her the Theotokos, the Birthgiver of God. And in her the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that a virgin would bear a son whose name would be Emmanuel which means "God with us." God is with us in the child born in Bethlehem. As true God he comes to us to save us from the slavery to sin, the slavery to death. As man he comes to us to reveal the fullness of our human nature fashioned in his image and likeness.

The Son of God lowers himself to take on our humanity. And by uniting it to his divine nature he exalts our human nature. He raises us up with himself in his taking on our human nature in the incarnation. He comes to us not to destroy but to re-create. He comes not to condemn but to call us to repentance. He comes to join our lives to his that we may have life in him. He comes to us in the very nature he created to reveal to us who we are and what we are: sons and daughters of the Father through adoption by the Holy Spirit. He reveals our true humanity to us. A humanity not in captivity to sin and death but a humanity liberated by the love of God to live toward God all the days of our lives. The Son of God comes to us to save us.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this month, let each one of us give thanks to God the Father through his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. Let us give thanks that he comes to us to give us life, to make of us a new creation, to give us new life in himself. Let us be born again into Christ, putting off the old man of sin and putting on Christ himself who comes to dwell in our hearts, in our lives. Let us who have been baptized into Christ put on Christ in our thoughts, words and deeds. May we acknowledge our dignity as children of the Father by the grace of Christ. May we remember that we are members of Christ's body and therefore members of each other. May we remember that we have become temples of the Holy Spirit.

As this month we celebrate this feast of our Lord Jesus' birth as the faithful of the Church of Saint Nicholas, as we will rejoice with our family and friends, let us be renewed in spirit, recommitted to living anew in Christ through whom all good things come and in whom find grace together with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever. with love in the newborn King, **Father Matthew**

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST For our own spiritual life, let us make the time to participate in the divine services celebrating the birth of Christ. The pre-feast begins on December 20 so the hymns focus us the more on His birth. Divine Liturgy during this pre-festal period will be served on Friday, December 20 at 9:30 am. Royal Hours with Scripture readings from the Old and New Testament concerning the birth of our Savior will be served on Monday, December 23 at 6 pm. Vespers with Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great will be served on Tuesday, December 24 at 6 pm. Divine Liturgy for Christmas will be served on Wednesday, December 25 at 10 am. We have many opportunities to keep holy the birth of the Lord. Let us sacrifice the time to do so.

Hours Schedule

December		January		February	
1	Phil	5	Phil	2	Angelo
8	Barry	12	Barry	9	Phil
15	Lucy	19	Lucy	16	Barry
22	Angelo	26	Alexander	23	Lucy
29	Alexander				

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

Reader Schedule

December		January		February	
1	Katherine	5	Alexander	2	Phil
8	Phil	12	Phil	9	Alexander
15	Alexander	19	Katherine	16	Katherine
22	Katherine	26	Angelo	23	Angelo
29	Angelo				

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

Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

December		January		February	
1	Dennis Goodman	5	Dennis Goodman	2	Christine Panoff
8	Susie Ford	12	Susie Ford	9	Dennis Goodman
15	Ian & Stephanie P.	19	Christine Panoff	16	Susie Ford
22	Christine Panoff	26	Ian & Stephanie P.	23	Ian & Stephanie P.
29	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.

PRAYER SERVICE for the sick & suffering are held at St. Mary Magdalene the second Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. Email names to smmocafenton@gmail.com

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on December 5 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom.

CONFESSIONS the sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturday, December 7 after Vespers and on Sundays, December 8, 15, and 22. Also, Confession may be taken at Assumption Church, Saint George Church or Saint Mary Magdalene Church.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES are on Wednesdays at 11:15 am. We are reading - ***Wounded by Love,*** a transcription of conversations with Saint Porphyrios (1906-1991). The cost of the book is $30. You may purchase them at the kiosk.

INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS led by Reader Alexander Gonser after the Divine Liturgy. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith. The class meets in the library.

VISIT WITH ST. NICHOLAS & LENTEN POTLUCK on December 8th.

DECK THE HALLS AT ST. NICHOLAS! On Saturday, December 7 at 10am we will arrange the flowers & put up and decorate the trees and Nativity scenes in the church and the hall.

ANGEL TREE Our parish will participate in this program for Christmas as part of our Advent fast, helping those in need. The tags with children's names are on the Angel Tree in the parish hall. **Gifts must be placed in a gift bag or wrapped and you must include the child's names and code number on the wrapping or bag for each gift.** Gift range is between $25 and $35. It's important to keep the amounts spent for kids in the same family the same. Please return the gifts by December 11. If there are any questions, contact Eileen Branoff at (810) 232-5132 or Cindy Branoff at (810) 714-1104.

HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS RAFFLE Tickets are 1 for $2 or 3 for $5. See Connie Maxim to purchase tickets. Proceeds will go toward Saint Nicholas' visit. The drawing will be on December 8 but the winner does not need to be present.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased. Forms are also in the narthex. The sponsors will be listed in the newsletter.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS If you would like to have your name(s) included on the annual Christmas greetings list please call or email the office no later than December 2nd. Donations are appreciated.

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES & EVENTS – DECEMBER 2024

December 5 6 pm Vespers with Divine Liturgy for our patron, Saint Nicholas, at our church.

COOKIE WALK will be held on Saturday, December 14th from 10 am to 1 pm. The Cookie Walk will be chaired by Lucy Hogg this year and requires help from many people. Please call Lucy at 810-695-3110 with any questions.

- Baked goods need to be delivered by Friday, December 13th before 3 pm.
- Sign-up sheet in the parish hall to volunteer whether with baking cookies, set-up, the day of the sale, or the break-down of the hall following the sale.
- Donations are also appreciated if you cannot bring cookies so baklava & some pre-made goodies can be purchased. There is a donation jar in the parish hall.
- Please help us get the word out about the Cookie Walk! Share our parish Facebook page event and posting on the Cookie Walk, take fliers to share, let your friends and neighbors know!

KITCHEN USE Please call the office to check on availability before planning to use the kitchen. If you would like to have a workshop of the cookie walk in the kitchen, please contact the office (810-744-0070).

ANGEL WING ORNAMENTS are available for purchase from Christine Panoff or can be picked up in the office. Cost is $5 per ornament. These are for families to put in photos of fallen asleep family members. The ornaments will then be placed on a Christmas tree in the church annually. On Sunday, December 8th a Trisagion will be held in memory of all those fallen asleep remembered on tree.

ELECTION RESULTS OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITORS & LAY DELEGATES

Parish Council elected were Lena Bakousidis, Eileen Branoff & Bill Economou.

Auditors Cathy Edwards, Susie Ford & Christine Panoff.

Lay Delegate - 2025 Diocesan Conference Chris Taylor and alternate is J. Joseph Tome.

Archbishop Alexander has blessed the installation of those elected. The installation of the new members will take place on Sunday, December 22. Newly elected – please receive Confession before that date and receive Communion that Sunday.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE ***financial report*** - statement of activity - we are $12,000 under where we need to be. "Statement of activity" is the term used for not-for-profits rather than "profit and loss." Checks will be written against the budget. Any check over budget will be red-flagged by QuickBooks. Upcoming expenses for November 2024 $22,942. In November 2023 income was $14,271.Upcoming expenses for December 2024 are $21,211. In December 2023 income was $21,253. ***endowment fund*** - October loss of $10,428.29. ***rector's report*** - Father Matthew updated on the "Our Diocese" phone application as a way to connect parishioners in the diocese and parishioners within a parish. Barry Cavett volunteered to worn the Our Diocese app for our parish. 7 catechumens. ***youth ministry/church school*** - need help with the gift bags for St Nicholas visit (December 8). Please donate money earmarked for "St Nicholas visit" as there are students with allergies and the gift bags will be prepared as allergen-free. ***community outreach*** - Trunk-or-treat was very well attended. Anyone can participate and candy can be bought in bulk in advance. . ***fundraising*** - Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to 1 pm. Please spread the word, drop of fliers at business you frequent, share the event on your Facebook page, and among your friends and neighbors. Saint Nicholas visit on December 8 is Lenten potluck. ***charity ministries*** - the Angel Tree is all ready for children's names to be taken and gifts bought for them. ***maintenance*** - circulating pump costs $5,000 and two other pumps that are $2,000 each so we have almost $10,000 worth of commercial pumps. Bearings need to be replaced in one of the pumps. The front door to the church was repaired. Our commercial furnaces require maintenance from someone licensed to work on commercial (not residential) furnaces. Catechumen Mike Donigan will assist with the cemetery. In 2023 over $4,300 was donated toward maintenance. In 2024 we have received $867. Big projects for capital improvements in the coming year - furnace work, new air conditioning/heating for conference room/offices More space has been freed up in the library for use for our catechumen/inquirers' classes. ***new business*** - annual meeting is Sunday, January 26, 2025. Start publishing announcement of annual meeting on January 5 in the Sunday bulletin. Theophany dinner on Sunday, January 12.

PARISH COUNCIL meeting is Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30.

2025 CALENDARS have arrived and will be handed out at the candle stand.

FACEBOOK PAGE Please visit, like, and follow our parish page: www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton Please share posts to your page. This increases the number of people who know about our church. Those who have been at coffee fellowship have seen the number of inquirers who have been coming to Sunday Divine Liturgy. 2,100 people have liked our Facebook page and 2,200 people have followed it.

MEMORY ETERNAL

MITRA (PAPALAZAROU) PAGONIS fell asleep in the Lord October 27, 2024. Mitra is the daughter of parishioner Maria (Nedanis Papalazarou) Green and the wife of Taso "Tony" Pagonis. She has many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends at Saint Nicholas Church. You may read her obituary **here**. Her funeral was November 2 at Assumption Orthodox Church followed by burial at Evergreen Cemetery. May Mitra rest in the light of Christ's Face and her memory be eternal in Him! The same Lord Jesus sustain her family in their grief. Please remember Mitra and her family in your prayers. Christ is risen! Bog da i dušu prosti!

MARIJA (MIKLEUS) BOSIKA fell asleep in the Lord on November 13, 2024. She is the wife of Jonice and mother of Mimi, mother-in-law of Predram. A Trisagion was served at Allen Funeral Home on November 18. You may read her obituary **here**. May Marija rest in the light of Christ's Face and her memory be eternal in Him! The same Lord Jesus sustain her family in their grief. Please remember Marija and her family in your prayers. Christ is risen! Bog da i dušu prosti!

YOUTUBE CHANNEL subscribe to our YouTube channel Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church Burton to receive notifications of upcoming livestreams for services. Livestreams begin at 9:30 with Hours.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN we serve on Thursday, December 5 from 9 to 12:30 pm.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Socks, Towels, Toiletries & New Toys in December. Place the items in bags 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

Dec	Socks, Towels, Toiletries & New Toys
Jan	Toilet Paper & Lotion
Feb	Shampoo & Conditioner

December Coffee Social Volunteers & Sponsors	
1	
8	
15	
22	Connie Maxim
29	Fr. Matthew & Matuska Lisa

KROGER/COSTCO COMMUNITY REWARDS Remember to use your Community Rewards when checking out at the register. They send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend in their stores. We've received $75.32 so far this year!

PHYLLO DOUGH is available for purchase for $4 per roll. Payment can be made in the church office. You can put the money in an envelope (mark it "phyllo") & put it under the office door.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES can be picked up in the parish hall. If there are boxes for family members who have not been attending whom you will be seeing this month, please deliver them to help save on postage costs ($5 per box of envelopes). If you did not receive envelopes with your name on them and you want to receive numbered & dated envelopes, please let Marcia know. Using envelopes are extremely helpful to those who count the money & for the auditors.

MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH *GIVELIFY* Go to the website and click on the box Give now with Givelify which will walk you through the donation process; this is a secure site. (2.9% + $0.30 of your donation goes to Givelify 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.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP/SEMINARIAN OFFERING On the first Sunday of the month an envelope will be placed in the bulletin for this fund to be placed in the plate when it is passed. There is also a category marked "Seminarian" on your stewardship envelopes that you can include with your regular giving. This helps to support parish seminarians, those training to become catechists, and kiosk expense for theological materials for inquirers.

2025 PLEDGE CARDS & QUARTERLY STATEMENTS were mailed out the last week in October. If you have not received yours by Nov. 15th, contact the parish office by phone 744-0070 or email stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com so that we may get a pledge card to you. Please fill out and sign your pledge card so the parish council can budget accordingly. Remember, in order to be considered a voting parishioner at St. Nicholas you must return a signed pledge card and receive Confession and Holy Communion. We would like for them to be returned by December,1. **DO NOT send your 2025 pledge donation back with the card or it will be credited to 2024.**

SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Schedule at the four Orthodox churches of Genesee County:

Mon, Dec 23

6 pm Royal Hours at St Nicholas Church
St George Church *to be determined*

Tues., Dec 24 – Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

10 am Royal Hours at St Mary Magdalene Church
5 pm Vespers w/Liturgy at Assumption Church
5:30 pm community Holy Supper at Saint Mary Magdalene Church
5:45 pm carols and Vespers w/Liturgy at St Nicholas Church
7 pm Vigil at St Mary Magdalene Church
St George Church *to be determined*

Wed, Dec 25 - Nativity of our Lord

9:30 am Hours, Carols, & Liturgy at St Nicholas Church
10 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church
St George Church *to be determined*

Tues, Dec 26 - Synaxis of the Theotokos

10 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church

VISION MEETING Thank you to Stephanie Price for chairing the vision meeting on November 5 which is being shared as a graphic in this and January's newsletter. The graphic shows goals to reach in five years and then breaks that down into three-year and one-year goals. Please take the time to look it over and reach out to any of the parish council members for more information or to offer to assist with one of the ministries.

ST NICHOLAS 5 YEAR VISION

A financially secure parish, with 100 Sunday Liturgy regular attendance, a large Church school, and several parishioners serving a multitude of ministries.

1 YEAR 2026

- 65 Adult Regular Liturgy Attendance & 5 Children Attending Sunday School
- 10 Regular Vespers Attendance
- 10 New Catechumens
- 4 Altar Servers
- +1 Reader & 1 Subdeacon
- 1 Catechist and +1 Candidate Training
- 1 Sunday School Teachers & 1 Substitute
- New Choir Director Training
- New Maintenance Ministry With Chairperson
- New Outreach Ministry With Chairperson
- New Media Ministry With Chairperson
- New Fundraising Ministry With Chairperson
- 3 Potential Additional Revenue Streams

3 YEARS 2028

- 80 Adult Regular Liturgy Attendance & 15 Children Attending Sunday School
- 20 Regular Vespers Attendance
- 15 New Catechumens
- 7 Altar Servers
- 1 Diaconal Training & 1 Subdeacon
- 2 Catechists and +1 Candidate Training
- 2 Sunday School Teachers, 1 Substitute, & 1 Coordinator
- 1 Weekday Chanter
- New Choir Director Trained
- New Care & Grief Ministry With Chairperson
- +1 Revenue Stream Outside Of Parish Contributions
- 1 Community Fundraiser Per Quarter

5 YEARS 2030

- 100 Adult Regular Liturgy Attendance & 30 Children Attending Sunday School
- 30 Regular Verspers Attendance
- 20 New Catechumens
- 10 Altar Servers
- 2 Deacons & 1 Subdeacon
- 3 Trained Catechists
- 3 Sunday School Teachers, 1 Substitute, & 1 Coordinator
- 1 Weekday Chanter
- Established Care & Grief Ministry
- Established Maintenance Ministry
- Established Outreach Ministry
- Established Media Ministry
- Established Fundraising Ministry
- Established Revenue Streams Outside Of Parish Contributions
- 1 Community Fundraiser Per Quarter

1 QUARTER

APRIL 2025

- Identify Choir Director Trainee
- Create Maintenance Ministry
- Create Outreach Ministry
- Create Media Ministy
- Create Fundraising Ministry
- Identify 3 Potential Additional Reoccurring Revenue Streams

October 30, 2024

Dear Parishioners of Saint Nicholas Church,

If we have the proper attitude in giving, what then should we give? Saint Paul says, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay aside some as God has prospered him." (1 Corinthians 16:2) From this we learn who should give, when, how and how much:

Who should give? Every Christian.
When shall we give? Every Sunday.
How shall we give? Regularly.
How much shall we give? A proportion of what the Lord has given to us.

Knowing this, here is where Saint Nicholas Church stands in terms of financial stewardship. For the year 2023 the church received 90 pledge cards totaling $122,372. For 2024 so far the church has received 95 pledge cards totaling $145,515. The 95 pledges are broken down here in an anonymous way by listing them by total yearly pledge in descending order.

1. $10000	18. $2500	35. $1200	52. $ 600	69. $ 300	86. $ 100
2. $9600	19. $2400	36. $1200	53. $ 600	70. $ 300	87. $ 50
3. $6500	20. $2400	37. $1040	54. $ 600	71. $ 300	88. $ 50
4. $6000	21. $2080	38. $1040	55. $ 600	72. $ 300	89. $ 50
5. $6000	22. $2080	39. $1000	56. $ 500	73. $ 300	90. $ 0
6. $5400	23. $2000	40. $1000	57. $ 500	74. $ 250	91. $ 0
7. $5200	24. $1820	41. $1000	58. $ 500	75. $ 240	92. $ 0
8. $5200	25. $1800	42. $1000	59. $ 500	76. $ 240	93. $ 0
9. $5200	26. $1800	43. $1000	60. $ 500	77. $ 240	94. $ 0
10. $5000	27. $1560	44. $1000	61. $ 500	78. $ 200	95. $ 0
11. $4800	28. $1560	45. $1000	62. $ 500	79. $ 150	
12. $3900	29. $1500	46. $1000	63. $ 480	80. $ 150	
13. $3640	30. $1440	47. $ 780	64. $ 400	81. $ 150	
14. $3240	31. $1300	48. $ 780	65. $ 400	82. $ 150	
15. $2600	32. $1200	49. $ 780	66. $ 400	83. $ 150	
16. $2600	33. $1200	50. $ 600	67. $ 400	84. $ 100	
17. $2600	34. $1200	51.$ 600	68. $ 325	85. $ 100	

In 2024 we have been far below our goals to meet our expenses and had to transfer a total of $36,000. We know that inflation has taken a bite out of everyone's income. Please be as generous as you are able.

There are 143 families on the church mailing list of which 140 families live in Michigan. Only 95 families have turned in pledge cards. Please, if you have not yet done so, fill out a pledge card and return it to the church as soon as possible.

If you are unable to attend church on Sundays due to work or illness, you can make your giving securely online at our website www.saintnicholasburton.org, download and use the Givelify app or you can send them by mail or stop in the office during the week. We'd like to see you!

We will follow up with an update when more pledges are received.
Know that the Lord blesses the cheerful giver and that His blessings and gifts to us always far outweigh anything we can offer back to Him. But we must offer back to Him if we are to be a people of thanksgiving to God for all His mercies to us.

For those who haven't yet, please take the time to fill out the enclosed pledge card and return it to the treasurer. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to approach Father.

As a guide to help you in making a proportional gift, two guides are provided in this letter.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Matthew
Father Matthew-Peter Butrie
Rector

Susie Ford
Susie Ford
Treasurer

PROPORTIONATE GIFT PER WEEK

If Annual

Gross Income Is:	3% *Weekly*	4% *Weekly*	5% *Weekly*	10% *Weekly*	12% *Weekly*
$ 5,000	$ 2.88	$ 3.85	$ 4.81	$ 9.61	$ 11.54
6,000	3.46	4.62	5.77	11.54	13.85
7,000	4.04	5.38	6.73	13.46	16.15
8,000	4.62	6.15	7.69	15.38	18.46
9,000	5.19	6.92	8.65	17.31	20.77
10,000	5.77	7.69	9.62	19.23	23.08
12,000	6.92	9.23	11.54	23.08	27.69
15,000	8.65	11.54	14.42	28.85	34.62
17,000	10.10	13.46	16.83	33.65	40.38
20,000	11.54	15.38	19.23	38.46	46.15
50,000	28.85	38.46	48.08	96.15	115.38

PROPORTIONATE GIFT PER MONTH

If Monthly

Gross Income Is:	3% *Monthly*	4% *Monthly*	5% *Monthly*	10% *Monthly*	12% *Monthly*
$ 500	$ 15.00	$ 20.00	$ 25.00	$ 50.00	$ 60.00
750	22.50	30.00	37.50	75.00	90.00
1,000	30.00	40.00	50.00	100.00	120.00
1,500	45.00	60.00	75.00	150.00	180.00
2,000	60.00	80.00	100.00	200.00	240.00
2,500	75.00	100.00	125.00	250.00	300.00
3,000	90.00	120.00	150.00	300.00	360.00
3,500	105.00	140.00	175.00	350.00	420.00
4,000	120.00	160.00	200.00	400.00	480.00
4,500	135.00	180.00	225.00	450.00	540.00
5,000	150.00	200.00	250.00	500.00	600.00

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	Mary Karayanis	Angelo Popoff	Bill Tadrick
Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Helen Popoff	Wendy Tadrick
Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Ron Salhany	Dave Vuckovich

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

(new) Paul Ellis @ Beaconshire	**21630 Hessel Ave**	**Detroit, MI 48219**	**313-534-8400**
Mary & Nick Karayanis	2238 Old Hickory	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-1169
Angelo & Helen Popoff	2221 Bellemeade Dr.	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-3867
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd	Swartz Creek, MI 48473	810-348-4733 (Barb)
Mike Stikovich	3417 Edgewood Ct	Davison, MI 48423	810-658-8321
Diane Todorovsky	14182 Moffett Dr	Fenton, MI 48430	810-750-7860

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

3 Nick George
4 Donna Nedanis
6 Diane Todorovsky
9 Kassandra Lang
Sandy Taylor
12 Hailey Paul
13 David Vuckovich
17 Kosta Slaughter
19 Doug Brown
21 Christine Brucksch
23 Caitlyn Rittman
John Sfetkides
Laurie Brock
Susie Ford
24 George Branoff
26 Chad Conover
Marla Houser
27 Alexandra Price
Constance Maxim
28 Bogdan Beslach
30 Marilyn Branoff
31 Vladimir Akkerman

ANNIVERSARIES

17 Jim & Kristin Hart (2011)

NAMESDAYS

4 Barbara Brown
Barbara Vuckovich
6 Nicholas Karayanis
Nicholas Karayanis
Nicholas Nicoloff
Nicholas Ponomarenko
Nicholas Sfetkidis
Nick George
Nicola Pirkovic
Nicole Grousopoulos
Nicole Steiner
Nicole Zelenko

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

NAMESDAYS cont.

8 Adam Ford
Adam Michael George
Cierra Joy Conover (form of Sarah)
Noah Gonser
Sarah Rose Neely
Rachel Nicevski
9 Hannah Shann
16 Allison Borkovich
Alyson Wilhelm
17 Daniel Krigner
22 Anastasia Branoff
Debbie Neely
Deborah Adams
Deena Marie Karayanis
23 Victoria Krych
27 Robert Steven Elieff
Stephanie Price
Stevan Pirkovic
Steve Spankie
Steven Krych
Steven Nicoloff
Steven Nikoloff
Steven Panoff
29 Charles Joseph Jernigan
David Batzos
David Condon
David George
David Goodman
David Houser
David Jernigan
David Mitevski
David Vuckovich
Jesse Popoff
Jessica Biggs
Joseph Brock
Joseph Oginsky
Joseph Oginsky Jr.
Kraig David Houser
30 Joseph Neely

Looking Ahead...

Theophany banquet& Outdoor Blessing of Water & lamb dinner - Sunday, January 12
Dormition Fundraiser – Thursday, January 23
Annual Parish Meeting – January 26

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

2143 S. Center Road
Burton, MI 48519
810-744-0070

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Saturday
December 14, 2024
10 am - 1 pm

Ethnic Cookies and Many Other Baked Goods

Cookies Sold at $15 per Pound, Cash or Check

Enjoy a hot beverage while you stock up your freezer for the holidays with yummy holiday treats!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Christmas flowers can be sponsored in honor of the living or as a memorial for the deceased.

Please fill out the form below as soon as possible. Return the form to the office or put it into the collection basket on Sunday. The names of those honored or memorialized will be published on a later date.

I wish to donate:

_____ Red poinsettia ($25 each) (21 available) *Any donation welcome*
(How many)

_____ 36 inch wreath ($90 each) (2 available) *Any donation welcome*
(How many)

_____ 24 inch wreath ($65 each) (2 available) *Any donation welcome*
(How many)

_____ 10 inch wreath ($30each) (2 available) *Any donation welcome*
(How many)

_____ 25 foot garland ($35 each) (2 available) *Any donation welcome*
(How many)

In honor of (for the living)

_____

_____

Or, in memory of (deceased)

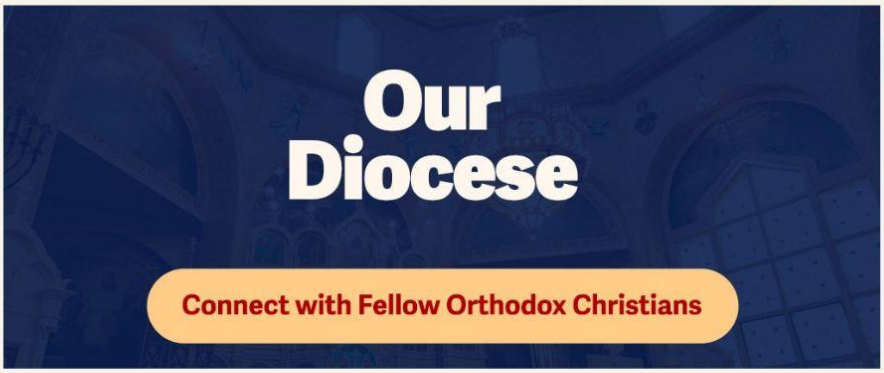
_____

_____

Name: _____

Amount $_____

2024



The Bulgarian Diocese of Toledo's Centralized Communication Hub

Let's Get Started!

Roll Out Plan
Step 1. Get all Rectors added to the platform and assigned to their parish group.
Step 2. Identify a trusted key individual from each parish to help the priest with the onboarding process.
Step 3. Have each parish's key individual work with the diocesan app manager for a training and tutorial.
Step 4. Work with the diocesan app manager to develop a plan to get your parish community up and running on the app.

It's Better on the App!

Be sure to download the **"OUR DIOCESE"** App from the app store. Prefer to use **"OUR DIOCESE"** on the computer? You can use it on the desktop too!

No matter which way you choose, you can always stay up to date with your parish, groups and diocese!

Our Diocese | Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Barry Cavett is our parish contact person for this app.

Rebekah Humphreys
Diocesan Digital Content Coordinator
Diocesan App Manager
diocese@bdoca.org or bdoca01@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2024

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
1 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy **Church School - St. Barbara**	**2** ‡	**3**	**4** ‡ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed.	**5** **North End Soup Kitchen 9 to 12:30** **6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers & Liturgy for the feast of St Nicholas** Office Closed	**6** **Saint Nicholas**	**7** **10 am decorate church and hall** 5 pm Vespers
8 **St. Nicholas visits & lenten potluck** 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Trisagion @ Angel Wing Tree Angel Tree gifts due	**9** Fr. in Toledo	**10** 6:30 pm Parish Council 6 pm Prayer Service @ St. Mary Magdalene	**11** ‡ 9:30 am workshop for Russian tea cookies (Fr Matthew) No adult ed.	**12** Office Closed	13 Repose of St Herman of Alaska **9 am ABC 12 interview** 10 am Set-up for Cookie Walk	**14** **Cookie Walk 10 am-1 pm** 5 pm Vespers **Confessions**
15 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy **Church School - St. Nicholas of Japan and Confessions**	**16** ‡	**17** Fr. in Toledo	**18** ‡ 11:15 am adult ed.	**19** Office Closed	**20 Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ begins** ‡ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	**21** 5 pm Vespers **Confessions**
22 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy **Installation of new council members** **Church School- St. Stephen**	23 6 pm Royal Hours for the Nativity of our Lord	**24** ‡ 5:45 pm Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great	**25** **Nativity of Christ** 9:30 am Carols 10 am Divine Liturgy	**26 Synaxis of the Theotokos** 10 am Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Office Closed	**27** ‡ **Office Closed**	**28** **5 pm Vespers** **No Confessions**
29 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	**30**	**31** 6 pm Vespers & Liturgy at St Mary for Circumcision of our Lord / St Basil	Services are streamed on our YouTube channel St Nicholas Burton	All texts in blue are links to the livestreams for the divine services	‡ fast dairy & fish permitted (no meat) wine & oil permitted **(no meat)** ***fish permitted (no other meat)***	

FAST FREE from December 25 through January 4