

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- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 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

FEBRUARY 2022

Kontakion ON THE ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO THE TEMPLE by ST. ROMANOS THE MELODIST

1. Let us run to the Mother of God as we wish to see her Son being brought to Symeon. From heaven the bodiless ones are amazed as they look on Him and say, “Wondrous and marvellous, incomprehensible, ineffable are the things we now see, for the One who created Adam is being carried as a babe. The uncontainable is contained in the arms of the elder. He, who is in the uncircumscribed bosom of His Father, is willingly circumscribed in flesh, but not in Godhead, the only Lover of mankind.

2. Having said this, invisibly they worshipped the Lord, while they call mortals blessed, because He who is borne on the shoulders of the cherubim makes His life with them; because He whom the angels cannot approach has appeared easily approachable to those born of earth; because He who carries and embraces the universe as Creator, who fashions babes in their mothers’ wombs, has, without change, become a babe from a Virgin, yet remained inseparable from the Father and the Spirit, like them without beginning, the only Lover of mankind.

3. While the angels sang in praise of the Lover of mankind, Mary was walking, carrying him in her arms, and pondering how she had become a mother yet remained a virgin. Realising that the birth was beyond nature, she was afraid and trembled. Reasoning to herself she said, “What title can I find for you, my Son? For should I call you, as I see you, man, you are more than man, who kept my virginity unsullied, only Lover of mankind.

4. Should I call you perfect man? But I know your conception was divine. None of humankind is ever conceived without union and without seed, as you were, sinless One. And if I call you God, I marvel as I see you like me in all things, for you have nothing which differentiates you among humans, even though without sin you were conceived and born. Shall I suckle you, or give you glory? For the facts proclaim you God without time, even though you have become man, only Lover of mankind.

Stanzas 1 to 4 of 18 stanzas

FROM FATHER'S DESK

On February 13 we will begin using the Lenten Triodion, the book from which the hymns for Vespers and Matins and Liturgy will come beginning that day and up through Great and Holy Week. This book will be our guide through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving leading us to Pascha. Even though Lent is weeks away, we begin with this book to orient ourselves gradually to the journey that lies ahead. These hymns and the Scripture readings of these Sunday lead us to prepare for the Lenten spring.

The Sunday we begin the Triodion is always the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the name coming from the parable Jesus tells us in Luke's gospel (18:10-14). It is a story of contrasts in prayer: the Pharisee boasting about the good he does and judging everyone else while the tax collector stands in the back and says only, "God, be merciful to me the sinner." Jesus is telling us first, not to judge others and second, the way we can keep from judging others is by humbly admitting our own sins.

This is a timeless lesson. In the lives of the saints of the desert of Egypt, centuries after our Lord Jesus spoke these words, we read that "one day Father Isaac of Thebes saw a brother sin and he condemned him. When Isaac returned to his cell an angel stopped him from entering, saying 'God sent me to fetch you to instruct Him where you want to throw the guilty brother whom you have condemned.' Immediately Abba Isaac repented and never judged again."

We also read that "a brother questioned Abba Poemen saying, 'If I see my brother committing a sin, is it right to conceal it?' The old man said to him, 'At the very moment when we hide our brother's fault, God hides our own and at the moment when we reveal our brother's fault, God reveals ours too.'"

This is a challenging lesson for us. And the challenge lies in the words of the publican, "God, be merciful to me the sinner." This prayer is found in the Liturgy, in the Jesus Prayer and is "God be merciful to me, the sinner" but in English we it is often mistranslated as "God, be merciful to me, A sinner." To call ourselves "A sinner" implies that I know there are other sinners, who could even be worse than me. "The sinner" says I am the only sinner of whom I am aware. No one else but me, the sinner. There is something in our mind that resists this correct understanding.

But when we read the lives and sayings of the saints, we see that they saw only their sins and themselves as the sinner in need of God's mercy and help. It was this that brought justification to the tax collector and the lack of this that brought judgment upon the Pharisee. Acknowledging ourselves as the sinner brings us to God. By seeing only his own sins St. Macarius the Great "became a god upon earth, because, for just like God, so Abba Macarius when he would see the sins of any it was as though he did not see them and when he heard the sins of any it was as if he did not hear them."

Acknowledging our sinfulness, each of us calling to God to be merciful to us the sinner brings us to two fundamental truths: in relation to God we are nothing yet in God's heart, we are everything. Only realizing these two fundamental truths can bring us some peace. Don't confess other people's sins, don't even look to see them, only look at ourselves, our sins, confess ourselves as the sinner and we will truly call God's mercy upon us and not His fearful judgment.

The great monastic saint, Anthony of Egypt, was told by God that there was someone in the city who was even holier than he, Anthony. So Anthony went to a cobbler to ask him about his way of life. The cobbler couldn't figure out why this old holy man had come to him to ask him about his life. As he mended a shoe the man said, "I do not know, Abba, if I have ever done any good. Every morning I get up and do my prayers and then I begin my work. However, I first say to myself that all the people in this city, from the very least to the very greatest, will be saved, and only I will be condemned for my many sins. And in the evening when I lie down, again I think about the same thing." And Anthony embraced and kissed the cobbler saying "I have grown old in the desert, toiling and sweating, but I have not attained to your humility."

Our salvation is found in humbly seeking the salvation of our brothers and sisters, praying for them, aiding them, as we pray with the publican, "O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, be merciful to me the sinner."

MEMORY ETERNAL - CHRIST IS RISEN

DUŠAN JEVTICH fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, December 24. He was buried in Evergreen Cemetery on December 29. Please remember Dušan in your prayers that he rest in the light of Christ's face. Remember his family, also, that God sustain them in their grief. His memory be eternal in God! Bog da prosti! Christ is risen!

RONNA ROYER, mother of Father Robert Royer, Dr. Melissa Royer, and Meghan Durand, wife of James Royer, fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, January 4. Visitation was at Rossell Funeral Home on Friday, January 7. On Saturday, January 8 her funeral was from Mayfair Bible Church, Mount Morris. Please remember Ronna in your prayers that she rest in the light of Christ's face. Remember her family, also, especially her husband James and children Fr. Robert, Dr. Melissa, Meghan and all her family that God sustain them in their grief. Bog da prosti! Christ is risen!

LARISSA FREUDE NEWMAN, wife of David Newman, daughter of Archpriest Don & Popadia Donna Freude, fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, January 14 in Florida. Funeral services and burial took place in Akron, OH. Please remember Larissa in your prayers that she rest in the light of Christ's face. Remember her family, also, especially her husband David; parents, Father Don and Popadia Donna, and siblings Anthony & Julianna and all her family that God sustain them in their grief. Bog da prosti! Christ is risen!

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2022

February 1st - 6 pm at Assumption Church - Liturgy for the great feast of the Encounter of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple with Symeon and Anna.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters on February 3rd from 9-11:30 am. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom

CHRISTMAS CLEANUP will be February 4th at 10 am. We need as much help as possible as it's a big job.

PAN-ORTHODOX MOVIE NIGHT with refreshments is February 5th after vespers. The movie "The Shepherd" will be featured.

THE PARISH COUNCIL will meet on February 8 @ 6:30 pm. Please call or email the parish office if you are unable to attend this meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE Officers elected for 2022 are Sharon Jernigan, president; Paul Brayan, vice-president; Ellyn Serra, secretary; Stephanie Price, treasurer; Susie Ford, non-officer for executive committee. 2022 the parish finances ended in the black. God bless everyone for their continued financial stewardship. Stephanie Price is preparing a budget for the February meeting. Theophany banquet netted \$581. Meatfare is planned as a turkey dinner on February 27. Cheesefare is planned with pierogies, strata and French toast on March 6. People are needed to help prepare these dinners. Maintenance: Dave Houser removed the birch and lilac trees. Someone offered to replace the lilac with a new one in the spring Garage: John Borkovich and family offered to do the repair work on the garage. Pavilion: Painting is still needed. Cookers: Front siding needs to be replaced Defibrillator: Lena Bakousidis will ask her daughter-in-law Kelly, a nurse, if she will come in to teach parish council members how to use it. Old church photos: Would like poster boards to display past church events. Father suggested the photos can be uploaded on YouTube for display on the monitor during coffee hour. We are no longer accepting credit cards.

MEATFARE is February 27th. A turkey dinner will be served. There will be a sign up sheet in the parish hall for those who can help with cooking, serving, cleanup & bringing desserts.

CHEESEFARE is March 6th. The dinner will include pierogies, strata and French toast.

MAKE YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING EASY AND CONVENIENT WITH GIVELIFY

Go to the website and on the home page 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). 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.

FACEBOOK PAGE Please visit & follow our parish page: <https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasburton>

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN we serve on Thursday, February 3 from 9 to 11:30 am.

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

CENTER OF HOPE WARMING CENTER is in need of coffee, creamer, individual cereal and oatmeal, muffins, bagels, individually wrapped snacks, sleeping bags, blankets, disposable cups, playing cards, books/magazines and chess sets. For more information call 810-265-7025. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri 9:30-3:30 at 812 Root St, Flint.

	
HOPE IN A BOX	
February	Shampoo & Conditioner
March	Feminine Care & Dental Products
April	Deodorant & First Aid Items

DIOCESAN CATHEDRAL

Protocol 01212022

21 January 2022

Dear Fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 12 of our Diocesan Constitution, which states that "ecclesiastical and spiritual matters of the Faith and Church order shall be within the competency of the Diocesan Prelate and the Spiritual Council," and in consultation with the Spiritual Council, I have decided to move our diocesan Cathedral to St. Nicholas Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The parish of St. George in Toledo will continue to retain the title "cathedral" as an honorific, in recognition of its years as our episcopal seat. Effective today, 21 January 2022, the parish of St. Nicholas in Fort Wayne will bear the title "Cathedral," becoming our new episcopal seat and the spiritual center of our diocesan life.

As my residence and the diocesan office will remain in Toledo, I will continue to be commemorated liturgically as Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese.

Clergy and faithful should be aware that I have consulted our diocesan attorney regarding the steps necessary to make this change in accordance with the requirements of secular authorities.

In Christ our Lord,

+Alexander

Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese

10TH ANNIVERSARY DORMITION MONASTERY micro-retreat took place January 20 virtually. You can see the Vespers [here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX-fp_ve9NQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX-fp_ve9NQ) and listen to Archbishop Nathaniel's edifying talk [here https://youtu.be/iX-fp_ve9NQ?t=5100](https://youtu.be/iX-fp_ve9NQ?t=5100). The Lord bless Fr Michael Bassett and Fr Dn Michael Schlaack for their work in organizing. Remember in prayer Mother Gabriella, Mother Macrina, Mother Olympia, Mother Melania, Mother Apolinaria, Sister Elysia, Sister Emily and Ruxandra Sheldon together with Father John and Preoteasa Anna Konkle who make up the community of the "monastery. Some statistics from Father Michael Bassett: "Zoom statistics indicate: Over 170 individuals registered, over 140 attended, over 70 did not. Of those not attending, many attended via YouTube. And, of course, many of those attending (either via Zoom or YouTube) did not attend alone but with one or more others watching with them. We await for Ruxandra Sheldon to assess the donations and purchases made via the links. In addition to donations made via the links I believe we have at least \$2,100 in donations made directly to two of our parishes that will be mailed in the next few days."

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kristin Hart
Luba Todorovsky
- 5 Joseph Oginsky, Jr.
- 9 Milica Beslach
- 10 Andy Yosheff
Nicole Hiteshew
- 11 Sharon Jernigan
- 13 Jordan Abu-Aita
- 15 Angelo Popoff
Sherry Brown
- 19 Paul Ellis
- 20 Matushka Lisa Butrie
Stojan Prusac
- 21 Mark Houser
- 25 Bob Edwards
- 26 Jerry Brucksch

*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

- 6 Dorothy Goodman
- 17 Bogdan Beslach
Theodore Stavridis
Theodore Wilhelm
- 25 Taras Evandenko
Taras-Michael Butrie
- 28 Kira Rabkina

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Jonathon & Jennifer Shann (2007)
- 12 Allen & Deborah Adams (1971)
Angelo & Helen Popoff (1961)
- 26 Ian & Stephanie Price (2000)

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! Please call the office to schedule a visit for Holy Communion.

Deacon John Bocek	Gladys Edwards	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany
Linda Branoff	Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Bill Tadrack
Mary Abu-Aita	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Wendy Tadrack
			Dave Vuckovich

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

Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr.	Flint, MI 48532
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd.	Swartz Creek, MI 48473

The Orthodox Churches of Greater Flint

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611
St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720
St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 South Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1701
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

Come, Join Us for this Lenten Retreat by Fr. Bogdan Bucur!



Our Covenant with God: Lessons from the Patriarchs, Prophets, Scribes, and Pharisees

Fr. Bogdan will discuss some Biblical texts including the persons of Abraham, Jacob, Esau, Moses, and the woman caught in adultery.

Saturday, March 19, 2022

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church • 2143 S Center Rd • Burton, MI
Please RSVP by March 14 to (810) 744-0070 or
stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com

10 am	Divine Liturgy
11:30 am	Lunch (free will offering)
12 pm	Registration
12:30 pm	Session 1 with Fr. Bogdan
1:30 pm	Break
1:45 pm	Session 2 with Fr. Bogdan
2:45 pm	Break
3 - 3:30 pm	Questions and Answers
4 pm	Vespers followed by Confessions

Guest Speaker: Fr. Bogdan Bucur

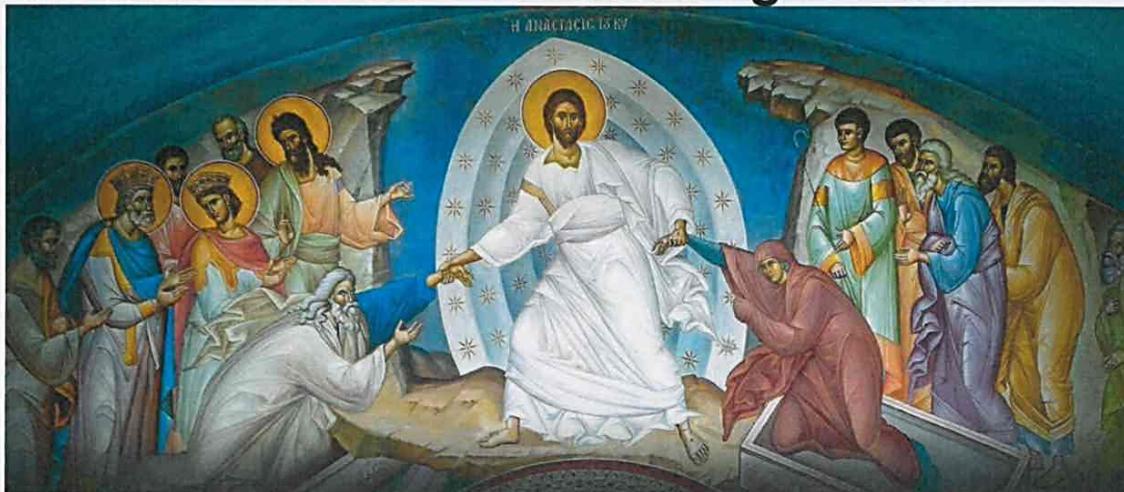
Fr. Bogdan Bucur is associate professor of Patristics at St Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY since 2020. He is a priest of the Antiochian Archdiocese who received his M.Th. in Orthodox Theology at the University of Bucharest in his native Romania and then came to the United States to study under now-Archbishop Alexander (Golitzin) at Marquette University where he received his M.A. in Theology and Ph.D. in Religious Studies. Between 2007 and 2020, he was Assistant and then Associate Professor of Theology at Duquesne University, in Pittsburgh, where he worked in the areas of Early Christian Studies and Reception History of the Bible. In 2010 he was ordained a priest in the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese and served as the pastor of St Anthony Orthodox Church in Butler, PA (2010-2020). Fr Bogdan He is a scholar of early Christianity, with a special interest in the link between reception history of the Bible and doctrinal developments in early Christianity and the Byzantine tradition.

Member Churches of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North America - A Vision of Orthodox Unity

Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, Michigan

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611
St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720
St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 S. Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1401
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

2022 Great Fast and Bright Week



Pan-Orthodox Divine Services

Great Compline at St. George (*Mondays, 6pm*) All are welcome every Monday night. This beautiful service along with the Lenten Hours on Wednesdays allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available from 5:30pm–6pm and after the service.

Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas (*Wednesdays, 10:30am*) All are welcome every Wednesday morning.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy and **Lenten Potluck Dinner** (*Wednesdays, 6pm*) We will celebrate together the Presanctified Liturgy and the Great Feast of the Annunciation according to the schedule below. Holy Communion is given at both. To partake of Holy Communion, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 Noon*). Confessions will only be available prior to the Liturgy from 5:30pm–6pm. The Lenten Potluck Dinners will be coordinated by the host parish.

March 16th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6pm

March 19th **Lenten Retreat** led by Fr. Bogdan Bucur (*more information to follow*)

March 25th **Great Feast of the Annunciation Divine Liturgy** and **3rd Akathist Stasis** at **Assumption** 6pm

March 30th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6pm

April 13th **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 6pm

April 16th **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 9:15am

Bright Week (April 24th-30th)

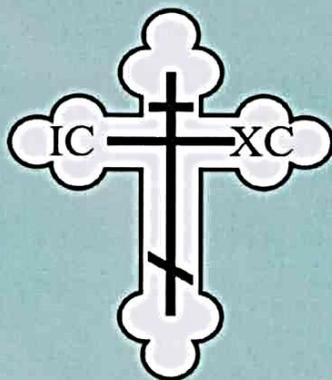
April 25th **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10am

April 26th **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10am

April 27th **Paschal Evening Liturgy & Feast of St. George** at St. George 6pm

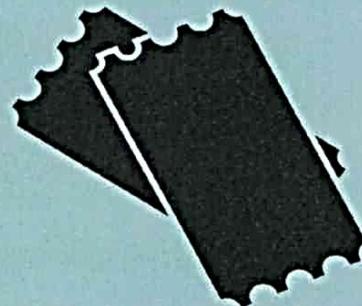
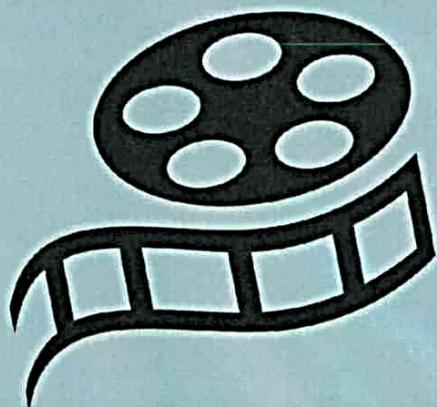
April 29th **Paschal Divine Liturgy for the Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10am

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A Vision of Orthodox Unity*



Pan-Orthodox Movie Night

Hosted @ St. Nicholas



First Saturday of the Month

- 1) December 4th - Martin the Cobbler
- 2) January 8th - New Men / From the Little Mountain
- 3) February 5th - The Shepherd

Vespers @ 5pm with Movie and Refreshments following

**2143 S. Center Rd.
Burton, MI 48519**

FEBRUARY 2022

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 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 6 pm Pan-Orthodox Liturgy at Assumption for the Entry of our Lord into the Temple	2  Entry of our Lord into the Temple No Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	3 9am to 11:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen Office Closed	4  10 am take down Nativity scenes and Christmas decorations	5 5 pm Vespers confessions Movie Night
6 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy after Liturgy 40 day Parastas for Dušan Jevtich	7 Fr. in Toledo	8 6:30 pm parish council	9  Leave-taking of the Entry of the Lord 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	10 Office Closed	11 	12 5 pm Vespers confessions
13 Publican & Pharisee beginning of the Triodion 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	14 Fast Free Week	15	16 No Divine Liturgy No adult ed	17 Office Closed	18 Fr. in Toledo	19 5 pm Vespers
20 Prodigal Son 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	21	22	23  9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	24 Office Closed	25 	26 Memorial Saturday 10 am Divine Liturgy with Trisagion 5 pm Vespers confessions
27 Meatfare Sunday 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy Turkey Dinner	28  Fr. in Toledo	29  March 1 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am adult ed	30  2 No Divine Liturgy No adult ed	31  3	 Fast  Dairy Permitted (no meat)  Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)  Fish Permitted (no other meat)	