

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Monthly 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- 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

JANUARY 2021

ON THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST (HYMN SIX) BY ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

Blessed be He Who was baptized that He might baptize you, that you should be absolved from your offenses! The Spirit came down from on high — and hallowed the waters by His brooding.— In the baptism of John, —He passed by the rest and abode on One:— but now He has descended and abode — on all that are born of the water.. Out of all that John baptized— on One it was that the Spirit dwelt:— but now He has flown and come down — that He may dwell on the many — and as each after each comes up — He loves him and abides on him. A marvel it is that surpasses all!— To the water He went down and was baptized.— The seas declared it blessed, — that river wherein You were baptized:— even the waters that were in heaven envied — because they were not worthy to be Your bath. A marvel it is, O my Lord, now also — that while the fountains are full of water — it is the water of baptism— that alone is able to atone. — Mighty is the water in the seas — yet is it too weak for atonement. Your might, O my Lord, if it abides — within the humble it exalts him — like as royalty if it abide — within the desert gives it peace.— Water by Your might has triumphed — over sin, for Life has encompassed it. The sheep exulted when they saw — the hand draw near to baptize them.— Receive, O you sheep, your sealing; enter and be mingled in the flock!— for more than over all the flock — over you rejoice the Watchers today. The Angels and the Watchers rejoice— over that which is born of the Spirit and of water:— they rejoice that by fire and by the Spirit— the corporeal have become spiritual. — The Seraphim who sing “Holy” rejoice — that they who are made holy have been increased. For lo! The Angels rejoice— over one sinner if he repent:— how much more do they now rejoice— that in all churches and congregations — lo! Baptism is bringing forth — the heavenly from the earthly! The baptized when they come up are sanctified;— the sealed when they go down are pardoned.— They who come up have put on Glory— they who go down have cast off sin.— Adam put off his glory in a moment — you have been clothed with glory in a moment. A house that is of dust when it has fallen — by means of water can be renewed:— the body of Adam that was of dust — which had fallen by water has been renewed.— Lo! The priests as builders — afresh renew your bodies. A great marvel is this of the wool — that it can take every dye — as the mind takes every discourse.— By the name of its dye it is called — as you who were —baptized when Hearers,— have gained the name of Recipients. The common waters he sanctified — even Elisha through the Name that is secret.— In them washed the leper openly — and was cleansed by the Power that is secret:— the leprosy was done away in the water, as transgressions in Baptism. Today, lo! Your offenses are blotted out — and your names are written down.— The priest blots out in the water — and Christ writes down in Heaven.— By the blotting out and the writing down — lo! Doubled is your rejoicing. Lo! Mercy has dawned today — and from bound to bound it stretches:— the sun has sunk and mercy has dawned. — Justice has drawn in her wrath; Grace has spread forth her love — lo! she pardons and quickens freely. The sheep that beforetime were in *the fold*— lo! They hasten forth to greet — the new lambs that have been added to it.— They are white and are clad in white — within and without white are your bodies as your vestments. From every mouth Blessed are you,— on every side Blessed are you.— Sin from you is driven out — and the Holy Spirit on you is dwelling.— The Evil One has become sad of countenance;— the Good God makes glad your countenance. The gift that you have received freely — cease not from watching over it:— this pearl if it shall be lost — cannot again be sought out — for it is like to virginity— which if it be lost is not to be found. May you from all defilement — be kept by the power of your white robes!— and he whose freedom has defiled itself — may it be able to wash itself clean by his weeping!— For me who am servant of the community — may the supplication of the community win pardon! To the author who has toiled in words — be reconciliation in rest!— to the teacher who has toiled with voice — be forgiveness through grace!— to the priest who has toiled in baptizing — let there come the crown of righteousness! From every mouth with one consent, — of those beneath and those above — Watchers, Cherubim, and Seraphim — the baptized, the sealed, and the hearers — let each of us cry aloud and say —Glory to the Lord of our feasts!

FROM FATHER'S DESK

The feast of the baptism of our Lord Jesus (January 6) is called the Feast of Light. We know that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Jesus came into the world as the light of the world. That light, the Son of God in our midst, was not welcomed by all. Some preferred the darkness. King Herod who was in the darkness of his own jealousy for his power did all he could to kill the Christ child. Yet the light of Christ shone in the world by His presence, even in His death. And the Light who is Christ continues to shine by His presence in us.

When we were baptized we turned from the darkness of the devil, the darkness of sin. Instead we turned to the Light who is Jesus Christ. This happens dramatically before our baptism. Our godparents or if we were adults we, turned away from the altar to face the west, the place where the sun loses its strength, where the light dies and the darkness begins. We faced the darkness and spit upon the devil and all his works and all his service and all his pride. We repudiated the darkness of life without the one true God. Then we turned to face east. We faced the place where the sun rises, where light first begins to overtake the darkness of night. We set our face to the altar, to God's throne on earth.

Then we were washed with the waters of baptism. Then we were united to Christ by the Holy Spirit. Then we became children of God. We became kin to our Lord Jesus Christ and, through Him, to one another. Rather than being joined to one another by a blood relationship, we are joined by a deeper union, the union of being brothers and sisters in Christ. This connection to one another is so profound that godparents can't marry their godchildren. They are now as parent to child so marriage between them is unthinkable. Our baptism is a new life that surpasses earthly categories.

Though we once and for all turned from the darkness of sin to be filled with the light of Christ we still commit sins. We still bear the weakness of our fallen nature. We may struggle daily with some sins that have become habits. But even our sin cannot extinguish Christ in us. Nothing can destroy His presence in us. We can cover Him over with the dirt of sin but He is still there, waiting to shine in us.

Jesus loves us so much that He doesn't give up on us. He doesn't turn His back on us because we turn our backs to Him in order that we may enjoy the darkness of sin. He not only waits for us, He pursues us to bring us back to Him. We may be tempted to give up on ourselves, frustrated with the same sins we commit again and again. But our Lord Jesus does not give up on us. If our Lord loves us this way, how can we say no to Him? We turn again to Him who is the Light of the world when we repent and begin anew. We who sat in the darkness of sin have seen the great light who is our Lord Jesus Christ – we have Him alive in us. We who sat in the shadow of death have become kinsmen to the Life of the world Who lives in us.

On the night of Holy Pascha we stand in the church in darkness, when the sun is gone and night is at its deepest. Then we sing, "Come take light from the Light, who is never overtaken by night! Come, let us glorify Christ, risen from the dead!" And we rush to light our candles from that single candle that represents Christ our true Light who has accomplished all things for us: being born, baptized, the cross, the tomb, the resurrection, the ascension into heaven, even His second and glorious coming.

As we celebrate this feast of Light, this joyous day with the blessing of water let us re-commit ourselves to Jesus Christ our Light. Let us resolve not to be in despair or despondency over our sins, but rush to Him for forgiveness that we may be renewed, and He renewed in us, that we may be His lightbearers in the world, bearers of His image, His mercy and His love.

9TH ANNUAL DORMITION MONASTERY FUNDRAISER Our Genesee County Orthodox Community is working hard to bring to you our 9th Annual Winter Dinner for Dormition Monastery on January 21st, 2021 as a VIRTUAL ONLINE event!

- Vespers LIVE from Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan
- Themed talks on a subject important to our lives:
 - Two from our own local priests
 - Final talk from Mother Abbess Gabriella
- Perhaps a short Q&A session afterwards - maybe even in a panel discussion format!

We are excited at the possibility of not only continuing this January tradition this year, allowing you to participate in Vespers in the Monastery Church and to offer this event to a wider audience (using our online capabilities to invite the whole world to our local event!). More to come in the next few weeks!

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN Please come & minister to Christ with our brothers & sisters January 7th from 9 am-1 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." St. John Chrysostom

HOUSE BLESSINGS will be different this year. In-person blessing by Father Matthew will not take place, rather, you will take home holy water with you and then sing the Troparion of the Theophany while sprinkling your home with the holy water.

THE PARISH COUNCIL will meet on January 12th @ 6:30 pm. Please call or email the parish office if you are unable to attend this meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL met on Tuesday, December 8 virtually. November saw a dip in parish finances. \$10,000 had to be transferred from savings to cover expenses. Please continue your giving whether in person, through Givelify, or by sending in your donation to the office or dropping it off during office hours. The cleaning of the radiators in church has begun to remove any soot or dust before painting begins in January. There is only one compressor for the heating system. It would be best for us to have a back-up compressor. A motion was passed to purchase a back-up compressor for \$200. The light outside the storage room door has been flickering and will need to be looked at. Work is completed on the installation of the storage room door. The installation of the new parish council members and auditor will take place on Sunday, December 20. Sharon Jernigan, parish council president, said thank you to Calvin Conrad and Susie Ford for their work on parish council these past three years and extended a welcome to Stephanie Price and Jonathon Shann who also joined the meeting and will be sworn in this month. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 pm.

OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER will be held on Sunday, January 10th following the Divine Liturgy. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather.

OFFERING ENVELOPES can be picked up at the candle stand. 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).

2021 CALENDARS have arrived and are in the narthex. Please, one per family.

ANNUAL MEETING With the blessing of Archbishop Alexander there is no in-person Annual Meeting this year but all written reports need to be submitted by January 24th. All of the reports will be e-mailed/mailed. If you have any questions, please send them in and the parish council will work to answer them.

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.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS Remember to sign up for Community Rewards online at Kroger.com or go to the customer service desk in the store. They send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend in their stores. We received a check in December for \$31.94 that will be used for charity.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN St. Nicholas, 1st Thursday of every month, 9 am to 1 pm. St. George, 4th Tuesday, 9 am to 12:30 pm. Assumption – *Center for Hope, 517 E Fifth Ave, 3rd* Wednesday, 11 am to 1 pm.

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. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri 9:30-3:30 at 812 Root St, Flint.

 HOPE IN A BOX	
January	Mouthwash & Toilet Paper
February	Shampoo, Conditioner & Lotion
March	Dish Soap

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

FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Commemorated on [January 6](#)

TROPARION — TONE 1

When You, O Lord were baptized in the Jordan / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest / for the voice of the Father bore witness to You / and called You His beloved Son. / And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself / and have enlightened the world, glory to You!

KONTAKION — TONE 4

Today You have shown forth to the world, O Lord, / and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us. / Knowing You, we sing Your praises. / You have come and revealed Yourself, / O unapproachable Light.

VISITATION TO THE SICK Presently, Fr. Matthew may bring Communion to those who are at home. When permitted, Fr. Matthew will resume bringing Holy Communion to those in nursing homes, assisting living homes, and other care facilities shut-ins on Tuesdays. If you would like to be added to this list, please contact the office. Presently, those receiving weekly visits at home are: Milica Beslach, Angelo Popoff, Eleni Servinis, and Peter & Jo Sredich.

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.

Larry Bladecki	Gladys Edwards	Mary Karayanis	Ron Salhany
Deacon John Bocek	Paul Ellis	Nick Karayanis	Bill Tadrick
Linda Branoff	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Wendy Tadrick

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

Larry Bladecki	3254 E. Midland Rd	Bay City, MI 48706
Gladys Edwards	2 Harbor Dr.	St. Clair, MO 63077
Paul Ellis	2360 Stonebridge Dr.	Flint, MI 48532
Vasilka Karatza	Regency 1330 Grand Pointe Ct	Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Jo Sredich	Victoria's House 1219 N. Dye Rd.	Flint, MI 48532 *Note new address



from THE PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF WATER ON THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

Today paradise is opened to men and the Sun of righteousness illumines us. Today the bitter water that was in the time of Moses is changed into sweetness for the people by the presence of the Lord. Today we are delivered from the ancient lament and are saved as a new Israel. Today we are redeemed from darkness and are illumined with the light of the knowledge of God. Today the mist of the world is cleared by the manifestation of our God. Today all the creation shines with light from on high. Today the deceit has been destroyed and the coming of the Master makes for us a way of salvation. Today those on high keep the feast with those below, and those below commune with those on high. Today the sacred and loud-voiced assembly of the Orthodox rejoices. Today the Master hastens to baptism, so that he lift up humanity on high. Today the Unbowed bows down to his own servant, so that he free us from servitude. Today we have bought a kingdom of heaven, for the kingdom of the Lord will have no end. Today earth and sea share the joy of the universe, and the universe is filled with gladness.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS DONATIONS

Poinsettias

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| (2) Lucy Hogg | In Memory of Evdokia & Ivan Ponomarenko |
| (1) Connie Maxim | In Memory of my loving husband Nicolas Maxim |
| (1) Linda, Peter & Marilyn Branoff | In Memory of Tom & Stella Branoff |
| (2) Ruth & Calvin Conrad | In Honor of Calvin, Ruth, Jeremy, Christa, Landon, Joshua, Rachael, Elias, Theophan, Basil, Genevieve, Jerry, Janelle, Cambrey, Jorian, Kendan, Jaidrick, Zachiah and Avalai |
| (1) Bosa Kantar | In Honor of & health for Bosiljka, Milan, Mira Jim, Miroslav, Alex, Tatiana, Radmila, Jeff, Nikolas, Jeffrey, Hannah, Nikki & family |
| (1) Kira Rabkina | In Memory of Luba & Don Stivens |
| (5) Donna & Marv Zischke | In memory of Daisy & Sam Marvosh |
| (2) The Akkerman family | In Memory of Yegor, Anna, Tatiana & Maria |
| (2) Val & Nik Evanenko | In Memory of Sam & Vera Chorenko, Lydia Dorohova & Raiisa Bocharova |
| (2) Stojan & Mira Prusac & family | In Honor of Stojan, Mira & the Prusac family |
| | In Memory of Danica, Milosh, Mary, Milka, Luka, Mara, Luba, Ljubomir, Mile, Evica, Dushan, Draginja, Damyan & Dushan |

10" Wreaths

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| (2) Dedo (Angelo) & Baba (Christine) | In Honor of our grandchildren & their parents |
| | In Memory of our sweet grandsons Andrew & Matthew Panoff |

24" Wreath

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| (1) Ruth & Calvin Conrad | In Memory of Kenneth, Winnie, Harold, Lorraine, Erastus, Ruby, Meme, Albert, Alma, Morsten, Iva, Harley & Viona |
| (1) Val & Nik Evanenko | In Memory of Sam & Vera Chorenko, Lydia Dorohova & Raiisa Bocharova |

36" Wreaths

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) Linda, Peter & Marilyn Branoff | In Memory of Tom & Stella Branoff |
| (1) Magda Popoff | In Memory of Alex & Peter Popoff |

20' Garland

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (2) Diane & Randy Broadfoot | In Honor of Lawrence Bladecki |
| | In Memory of Mildred Bladecki |

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Lloyd Kilbourne Jr.
- 2 Barbara Vuckovich
- 6 Stella Nedanis
- 10 Jennifer Brucksch
Nikolai Evanenko
- 15 Cathy Edwards
Luba Yosheff
- 20 Alex Nedanis
- 21 Nancy Borkovich
- 26 Deborah Gonser-Adams
- 27 Ressa Borkovich
- 29 Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

NAMESDAYS

- 1 Bill Cvetkovski
Bill Economou
Bill Kosman
Bosiljka Kantar (St. Basil)
Vasilios Georgopoulos
Vasilka Karatza
William Zelenko
- 2 Asher (Seraphim) Whittaker
Julia Peck
Juliana Loomis
Julie Marie Conover
- 3 Genevieve Whittaker
Jenna Carole Paul
Jennifer Broadfoot
Jennifer Lynn Borkovich
Jennifer Nicole Brucksch
Jennifer Nicevski

NAMESDAYS cont.

- 6 Donna (Ordana) Slaughter
Fannia Young
Fanny Cvetkovski
Fanny Popoff
Jordan Abu-Aita
- 7 Evanka Zelevarovski
Jeanette Brayan
John Borkovich
John Cvetkovski
John Joseph Tome
John Popoff
John Sfetkidis
John Zelenko Jr.
Johnny Kantor
Jonathan Sfetkidis
Jonathon Shann
Robert John Edwards
- 12 Tatyana Safford
Tonya Cvetkovski
- 14 Benjamin Goodman
Nina Sfetkidis
- 17 Anthony Mitevski
- 18 Atanas Zelevarovski
- 21 Janja Beslach
- 22 Hayley Louise (Lynn) Paul
- 24 Ksenya Tveritina
- 25 Gregory Oginsky
- 26 Chris Taylor
- 28 Les (Ephraim) Ford

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Randall & Diana Broadfoot (1978)
- 31 John & Marie Todorovsky (2004)

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



PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2021

February 1st - 6 pm Vespers for the great feast of the Encounter of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple with Symeon and Anna. Location to be announced.

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Burton, MI 48519

A decorative vertical graphic element consisting of a series of rectangular blocks stacked vertically, with a small tree-like shape at the top and a pointed bottom.

JANUARY 2021

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Burton, MI 48519

810-744-0070

stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 No fast New Years Day <i>Circumcision of our Lord</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	2 No fast 5 pm Vespers <i>no confessions</i>
3 No fast 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	4 No fast	5 EVE OF † THEOPHANY 6 pm Vespers with <i>Liturgy of St Basil and blessing of water</i>	6 Fast Free THEOPHANY 9:30 am Divine Liturgy <i>No adult ed.</i>	7 <i>Fr. in Toledo</i> 9 am - 11:30 am <i>North End Soup Kitchen</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	8 †	9 5 pm Vespers <i>confessions</i>
10 Sunday after Theophany 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy <i>Outdoor blessing of water</i>	11 <i>Fr. in Toledo</i>	12 6:30 pm <i>parish council meeting</i> 7 pm online Church School	13 † 9:30 am Divine Liturgy <i>11:15 am adult education</i>	14 <i>Office Closed</i>	15 †	16 5 pm Vespers <i>confessions</i>
17 St Anthony the Great 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	18 <i>Fr. in Toledo</i>	19 7 pm online Church School	20 St Euthymius  the Great 9:30 am Divine Liturgy <i>11:15 am adult education</i>	21 <i>Virtual Annual Dormition Fundraiser</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	22 †	23 5 pm Vespers <i>confessions</i>
24 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	25 <i>Fr. in Toledo</i>	26 7 pm online Church School	27 Transfer of the † relics of St John the Golden-mouth 9:30 am Divine Liturgy <i>11:15 am adult education</i>	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29 †	30 Three Holy Hierarchs 10 am Divine Liturgy 5 pm Vespers <i>confessions</i>
31 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	FEBRUARY 1 <i>6 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers with Liturgy for the Encounter of our Lord in the Temple - location tbd</i>	2 Encounter of our Lord with Symeon in the Temple <i>Fr. in Toledo</i> 7 pm online Church School	3 † 9:30 am Divine Liturgy <i>11:15 am adult education</i>	4 <i>Office Closed</i>	† Fast  Dairy Permitted (no meat)  Wine & Oil Permitted (no meat)  Fish Permitted (no other meat)	

