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
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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- 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 2024

SAINT PORPHYRIOS (1906-1991)

Certainly the Gospel tells us in a symbolic language that the unjust man will find himself in a place where there is 'grinding and gnashing of teeth' — because that is what it is like far from God. And among the Fathers of the Church, who teach vigilance and prayer, there are many who speak about the fear of death and hell. They say 'Have constant remembrance of death.' If we explore these words deeply, they create in us the fear of hell. In our attempt to avoid sin, we invoke these thoughts so that our soul will be filled with fear of death, hell, and the devil.

Everything has its meaning, its time, and its place. The concept of fear is good in the initial stages [of the spiritual life]. It is for beginners, those in whom our ancestral fallen nature lives on. The beginner, whose sensibility has not yet been refined, is held back from evil by fear. And fear is essential since we are men of flesh and blood and earth-bound. But that is a stage, a low level of relationship to the divine. We think in terms of a business deal in order to win Paradise or escape hell. But if we examine the matter more closely we see that it is governed by self-interest. That's not something that appeals to me. When someone progresses and enters into the love of God, what need does he have of fear? Whatever he does, he does out of love, and that is of infinitely greater value. For someone to become good out of fear of God and not out of love is not of such value.

As we progress, the Gospel leads us to understand that Christ is joy and truth, that Christ is Paradise. Saint John the Evangelist says, *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. The person who fears is not perfected in love* (1 John 4:18). As we exert ourselves out of fear, we gradually enter into the love of God. Then the torment of hell, fear, and death all disappear. We are interested only in the love of God. We do everything for this love, as the bridegroom does for the bride.

***Wounded by Love,* Denise Harvey (Publisher), Limni, Evia, Greece 2015, pages 104-105.**

FROM FATHER'S DESK

Recently someone asked me to say something about how we reply when someone asks us, "are you saved?" The late Father John Matusiak answered this question and many more in the Questions and Answers on Orthodoxy on the Orthodox Church in America's website: https://www.oca.org/questions

Please take the time to read Father John's thorough answer to the question. Love, Father Matthew
https://www.oca.org/questions/scripture/hebrews-64-6-falling-away-from-the-faith

Orthodoxy, unlike some Protestant bodies, does not hold to the notion that we are "already saved." For Orthodox Christians, salvation is a process, not a once-and-done event. It is because of the understanding of some Protestant bodies which hold that one is saved at a precise moment—when one makes a commitment to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, or at some other moment in time—that much confusion arises. Orthodox Christianity understands that we are "being saved," not "already saved."

Salvation, for Orthodox Christians, is seen as deliverance from the curse of sin and death, which makes it possible for us to enter into union with God through Christ the Savior. Salvation includes a process of growth of the whole person whereby the sinner is transformed into the image and likeness of God. One is saved by faith through grace, although saving faith involves more than belief. Faith must be active and living, manifested by works of righteousness, whereby we cooperate with God to do His will. Hence, if one is "being saved," one is on the way to one's ultimate goal: eternal union with God and participation in the divine nature, as Saint Paul writes.

As a side note, the notion that one is already saved—and that one can know this absolutely and positively without taking into consideration where one's life may lead one in the future—has always struck Orthodox Christianity as a bit odd. If one is already saved, then what need does one still have for a Savior? Is this not like saying that one who has been completely cured of cancer is still in need of chemo-therapy? Or is this not like saying that one who has been cured of cancer will never find the disease surfacing again, perhaps years hence? In the Gospels Christ says, "I come not to save the righteous, but the sinner," and He goes on to make this very comparison with the individual who is physically ill as the one who needs a physician, rather than the one who is in perfect physical health. The essential question is, "If I have already been saved, then what more can the Savior do for me?" Another question that comes out of these considerations is, "If 'once saved, always saved' is the maxim, would this imply that if I go on to lead an extremely evil life it ultimately does not matter since I have already been saved?" When one acknowledges, as the Orthodox Faith teaches, that we are "being saved," such considerations do not arise…

In the Orthodox Church, we understand that regardless of how sinful we become, even after being born again through water and the Spirit, we always have the possibility to repent, to change our direction and our vision and our hearts… Orthodox Christians believe that in our daily prayer we should continually ask God to forgive us and to have mercy on us, trusting that indeed "God does not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his sin and live," as we read in Psalms…Orthodox Christians also believe that, in addition to asking God for forgiveness in our private prayers, we should confess our sins sacramentally, thereby being reunited to Christ and to the faith community which whom we have broken communion through sin. Since most Protestants reject the Sacrament of Confession, they provide no real options or opportunities for reconciliation after they have "backslided" or, as we would say, after they have cut themselves off from the common union which they had shared with Father, Son and Holy Spirit and with the People of God. While some Protestants would say that once a person is saved, he or she is always saved, and other Protestants would say that once a person is saved, he or she can lose his or her salvation, Orthodoxy, by virtue of its understanding of salvation as an ongoing process of spiritual growth, would say that one can indeed jeopardize one's salvation, but that it is not realistic to say that one has "lost" something that one has yet to experience or possess in its fullness. We continually endure spiritual warfare, struggling against temptation and sin and evil and the delightful thought of doing our own will, even if it conflicts with the will of our Creator. That is why it is of great comfort to know that, if Our Lord commands us to "forgive seventy times seven," it is only because He is willing to forgive us at least that many times, provided that we, like the prodigal son, come to our senses, return to our Father, ask Him to accept us back into loving communion with Him, and humbly open ourselves to begin our journey to the salvation which finds its fulfillment in His Kingdom once again. Hence, while we travel the "superhighway" of salvation, we indeed can encounter a multitude of roadblocks and detours. We surely can get lost, either by getting off a wrong exit or by thinking that we can find our way without a map or directions. But if we are to reach our destination—in this case, the Kingdom of God—we need to circumvent the roadblocks, endure the detours, and ultimately ask directions, that we might get back on the right road or path. At the end of our earthly lives, as we complete our journey to salvation, we will indeed "rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is [our] reward in heaven."

MEMORY ETERNAL

KOSTA "DAVID" TODOROVSKY fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, November 27, 2023 at Regency Rehab in Grand Blanc. Kosta is the husband of Lubitsa "Luba" Todorovsky and the father of Anastasia (Nikola) Pirkovic and Diana (Branko) Mitevski. Kosta's obituary is here. The funeral was November 29 followed by the burial at Evergreen Cemetery with arrangements by Swartz Funeral Home. Remember Kosta in your prayers that he rest in the light of Christ's face, and also remember his family that the Lord sustain them in their grief. Bog da go prosti! Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

OLGA NIKOLSKY fell asleep in the Lord late on Monday, November 27, 2023 at home. Visitation and funeral took place on the same day, Monday, December 4 at church with burial at Saint Nicholas Cemetery. Arrangements by Dodds-Dumanois Funeral Home. You may view her obituary here. Her funeral was livestreamed here. Remember Olga in your prayers that she rest in the light of Christ's face, and also remember her son Oleg and daughter Nadia that the Lord sustain them in their grief. Bog da i prosti! Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

VIVIAN POPOFF KORTH fell asleep in the Lord Friday, December 1 at Regency Rehab, Grand Blanc. May she rest in the light of Christ's face and the Lord sustain her family in their time of grief. Visitation with Parastas took place at Swartz Funeral Home on Monday, December 4. You may read Vivian's obituary here. Bog da i prosti! Memory eternal! Christ is risen!

Hours Schedule

January		February		March	
7	Angelo	4	Alexander	3	Phil
14	Lucy	11	Angelo	10	Alexander
21	Calvin	18	Lucy	17	Angelo
28	Phil	25	Calvin	24	Lucy
				31	Calvin

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

Reader Schedule

January		February		March	
7	Alexander	4	Angelo	3	Alexander
14	Angelo	11	Alexander	10	Angelo
21	Phil	18	Phil	17	Phil
28	Katherine	25	Katherine	24	Katherine
				31	Alexander

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

Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

January		February		March	
7	Christine Panoff	4	Dennis Goodman	3	Dennis Goodman
14	Dennis Goodman	11	Christine Panoff	10	Susie Ford
21	Susie Ford	18	Susie Ford	17	Christine Panoff
28	Ian & Stephanie P.	25	Ian & Stephanie P.	24	Ian & Stephanie P.
				31	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).

PRAYER SERVICE for the sick & suffering will be 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 January 4 from 9 am-12:30 pm. "Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead." *St. John Chrysostom.*

THEOPHANY BANQUET AND OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER on Sunday, January 14. Bring your empty bottles to fill with Holy Water. Dress for the weather. The menu is: lamb, chicken, rice, vegetables, bread & butter, salad, dessert & drinks. There are sign-up sheets in the parish hall for volunteers for set-up, clean-up, your meal and also if you would like to make a dessert. Tickets can be purchased from Sharon Jernigan. Adults $18, children under 12 are free.

DOVES FOR THEOPHANY are sponsored by Angelo & Christine Panoff in memory of their grandsons Andrew & Matthew Panoff ~ Memory Eternal and by Calvin & Ruth Conrad.

12th ANNUAL WINTER DINNDER FOR THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD MONASTERY On Thursday January 18. We welcome Mother Abbess Gabriella, Father John and the Nuns from Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery as they come to Flint to be with the faithful from our four Orthodox Churches and our guests.
Our event will be held at St. George Orthodox Church (5191 Lennon Rd, Flint, MI 48507):

- **5:00 PM Vespers sung by the Nuns followed by a time to visit, appetizers and the Monastery Gift Shop**
- **7:00 PM Dinner, desserts and three spiritual talks speaking to our lives as Orthodox Christians as individuals, in the parish and influenced by monastics.**
  - **The reflections (starting around 7:30 PM) will also be Live Streamed on YouTube (click to set a NOTIFICATION reminder).**
- **8:30 PM Closing prayer and good night!**

Our event is a blessing to our community and a fundraiser for the Monastery so please be generous. You are welcome to join us for any or all of the evening even if you are unable to make a donation; just keep in mind that REGISTRATION is required if you are coming for dinner so that we can plan properly.

There are 4 ways to register: online at www.saintgeorgeflint.org, the QR code to the right and found on the registration form, by paper (fill out form and give to Katherine Gonser) or by phone (810-732-0720). Forms are in the parish hall. Our parish is to prepare the main course for the event. Katherine Gonser is our contact person. Please write checks out to Dormition Monastery.

We hope you are able to join us live, or watch the livestream! We thank God for a warm oasis of worship, fellowship and spiritual warmth on a cold January day!
In Christ, Fr. Michael Bassett and the Winter Dinner Team here in Flint!

ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Meeting of Saint Nicholas Church will be held on Sunday, January 28, beginning with a short prayer service after the Divine Liturgy. The meeting will then reconvene in the Parish Hall. All parish organizations must present a report, oral or written, to be given at this meeting. Please email reports to stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com
From the parish bylaws: "A quorum for membership meetings shall consist of 25 per cent of the total number of members in good standing on record…If at a time fixed for the meeting; the present parish members should fail to constitute the required quorum, another membership meeting shall be convened one hour later on the same day which meeting shall be considered valid in the presence of any number of attending members. This provision should be included in the text of the notice convening the general membership meeting."

PAN-ORTHODOX SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2023

February 1st - 6 pm Vespers with Liturgy 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.

HOUSE BLESSINGS Please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the office if you would like your home to be blessed with the new holy water by Father Matthew.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS On January 10 we will resume *Psalms and the Life of Faith* by Elder Aimilianos looking at twelve of the one hundred and fifty Psalms.

2024 CALENDARS are available in the narthex. Please, one of each per family. Thank you to Swartz Funeral Home for sponsoring our calendars again this year.

THANK YOU and GOD BLESS everyone who

- helped decorate the church, hall, and put up the indoor and outdoor nativity scenes
- cared for our poinsettias to keep them for the Nativity season
- helped make our annual Cookie Walk a success, especially to Lucy Hogg who chaired the event
- sponsored children from our Angel Tree and to Eileen Branoff who chaired this ministry
- Joe Tome for leading the choir or responses for the celebration of our Lord's birth
- our choir members and chanters for raising up voices of prayer to the Lord for His birth
- Protodeacon Luke for all his help in the altar for the divine services of Christmas
- Father Robert Royer and Father Michael Bassett for serving the Divine Liturgies when Father Matthew was with Archbishop Alexander during his recuperation
- Calvin Conrad, Barry Cavett, Alexander Gonser, and Dat Gerzevske for their serving in the altar
- those who bake prosfora for the Divine Liturgy
- all those who offered their sincere gifts to the Lord at Christmas
- anyone who did unseen good works, the Lord will repay you!

Thanks be to God for every person and everything!

2024 PLEDGE CARDS If you haven't already done so, please return your pledge card so the parish council can budget accordingly. Remember in order to be considered a voting member here at St. Nicholas you must return a signed pledge card even if you don't enter a pledge amount.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH THROUGH GIVELIFY Go to our website www.saintnicholasburton.org and click on the box Give now with Givelify; 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the narthex. If there are boxes for family who have not been attending whom you will be seeing, please deliver them to help save on postage costs ($5 per box of envelopes). Please let Marcia know if you haven't received envelopes and would like to have them. Using envelopes is very helpful to those who count the stewardship collection & for the auditors.

ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE - KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS Remember to use the Community Rewards at Kroger when checking out. If you haven't already signed up, you can do so online at www.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 $78.97 in 2023!

HOPE IN A BOX	
Jan	Toilet Paper & Lotion
Feb	Shampoo & Conditioner
March	Feminine Care & Dental Products

January Coffee Social Volunteers & Sponsors	
7	
14	Theophany Banquet
21	Annie & Alec Bailey
28	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Lloyd Kilbourne Jr.
2 Barbara Vuckovich
6 Stella Nedanis
7 Anastasia Branoff
10 Jennifer Brucksch
15 Cathy Edwards
Luba Yosheff
16 Stacey & Michael Grousopoulos
20 Alex Nedanis
21 Nancy Borkovich
26 Deborah Gonser-Adams
Chris Taylor
27 Ressa Borkovich
29 Protodeacon Kerry Luke Gonser

ANNIVERSARIES

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

NAMESDAYS

1 Bill Cvetkovski
Bill Economou
Bill Kosman
Bosiljka Kantar (St. Basil)
Vasilios Georgopoulos
William Zelenko
2 Asher (Seraphim) Whittaker
Julia Peck
Juliana Loomis
Julie Marie Conover

NAMESDAYS continued

3 Genevieve Whittaker
Jenna Carole Paul
Jennifer Lynn Borkovich
Jennifer Broadfoot
Jennifer Nicole Brucksch
Jennifer Nicevski
6 Donna (Ordana) Slaughter
Fannia Young
Fanny Cvetkovski
Fanny Popoff
Jordan Abu-Aita
7 Jeanette Brayan
John Borkovich
John Cvetkovski
John Joseph Tome
John Popoff
John Sfetkidis
John Zelenko Jr.
Johnny Kantor
Jonathan Sfetkidis
Jonathon Shann
12 Tiffany Oliver (Tatiana)
Tonya Cvetkovski
14 Benjamin Goodman
Nina Sfetkidis
17 Anthony Mitevski
18 Atanas Želevarovski
21 Janja Beslach
22 Hayley Louise (Lynn) Paul
25 Gregory Oginsky
26 Chris Taylor
28 Les (Ephraim) Ford

THEOPHANY - PRAISES at MATINS

Light of light, Christ our God, the God Who shone forth, has shone in the world. O people, let us worship Him!

O Christ, our Master, How will we Your servants worthily honor You? For we have all been renewed in the waters.

By being baptized in the Jordan, O our Savior, You sanctified the waters; by letting a servant lay his hand on You, You have healed the passions of the world. Great is the mystery of Your divine plan. O Lord Who loves mankind, glory to You!

The true Light has shone forth granting enlightenment to all. Though He is beyond all purity, Christ is baptized with us. He sanctifies the water, and it becomes a cleansing for our souls. What is seen is earthly, but what is known is above the heavens. Through washing comes salvation, and through water comes the Spirit. By descending into the water we ascend to God. Your works are wonderful, O Lord: glory to You!

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN we serve on Thursday, January 4 from 9 to 12:30 pm.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Toilet Paper & Lotion for the month of January. Place the items 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.

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

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATION DONATIONS

Poinsettias

(2) Paul & Jeanette Brayan	**In Memory of Boris S. & Mary Lou Brayan**
(1) Ruth & Calvin Conrad	**In Honor of Jeremy, Christa, Landon, Joshua, Rachael, Elias, Theophan, Basil, Genevieve, Elizabeth, Jerry, Janelle, Cambrey, Jorian, Austyn, Kendan, Jaidrick, Zachiah & Avalai**
(4) Bill & Cindy Economou	**In Memory of Milton, Violet & JoAnn Economou, Bill Gogas and Ray Hancock**
(1) Cathy Edwards	**In Memory of John Edwards**
(2) Dennis & Eileen Goodman	**In Memory of John & Rose Goodman, Angelo Branoff and Freda Farone**
(1) Bosa Kantar	**In Honor of & health for Bosiljka, Milan, Mira Jim, Miroslav, Alex, Tatiana, Radmila, Jeff, Nikolas, Jeffrey, Hannah, Nikki & family**
(1) Connie Maxim	**In Honor of my beloved daughter Ellyn Serra with God's blessings for good health & recovery** **In Memory of my loving husband Nicolas Maxim**
(1) Alex & Menka Nedanis	**In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Alex Nedanis & family**
(2) Debbie, Ralph, Joe & Sarah Neely	**In Memory of Joseph, Dorothy, Harry & Julia Goodman & George & Themyana Brown**
(5) Julia Peck & family	**In Memory of Olga & Peter Samaras, Mary & John Ferchak Jr. and Jerome Peck**
(3) Kira Rabkina	**In Memory of Luba & Don Stevens and Ivan & Ann Zubovich**
(5) Donna & Marv Zischke	**In Memory of Daisy & Sam Marvosh**

10" Wreaths

(2) Debbie, Ralph, Joe & Sarah Neely	**In Memory of Joseph, Dorothy, Harry & Julia Goodman & George & Themyana Brown**

24" Wreath

(1) Lucy Hogg	**In Memory of Evdokia & Ivan Ponomarenko**
(1) Dedo (Angelo) & Baba (Christine)	**In Honor of our kids & their families and for good health** **In Memory of our grandsons Andrew & Matthew Panoff**

36" Wreaths

(1) Linda Branoff	**In Memory of Tom & Stella Branoff**
(1) Bill & Cindy Economou	**In Memory of Milton, Violet & JoAnn Economou, Bill Gogas and Ray Hancock**

50' Garland

(2) Diane & Randy Broadfoot	**In Memory of Lawrence & Mildred Bladecki**

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE **Barry Cavett was installed to parish council at the beginning of the meeting. Sharon Jernigan thanked Shari Nicoloff and Ellyn Serra who fulfilled three years on parish council and welcomed Barry Cavett, Connie Maxim, and Stephanie Price who were elected in November.** *Financial report* **Financial reports are on their way to being prepared for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024.** *Endowment fund* **no report.** *Rector's report* **highlights - Mira Prusac is at Wellbridge Grand Blanc, Mary Abu-Aita is presently in Arizona, Janja Beslach is recuperating at home after surgery, Sonny Louise Bailey will be baptized on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 12:30 pm.** *Youth ministry/church school* **Saint Nicholas bags were prepared by Stephanie Price and took into account allergies.** *Community outreach.* **A full schedule has been prepared for 2024. Meatfare Saturday, March 9 dance/vecherinka. Meatfare Sunday, March 10 - turkey dinner - 4 turkeys in freezer.** *Fundraising* **Theophany dinner on Sunday, January 14. Cost $18 adults. Palm Sunday bake sale by pre-order.** ***Cookie Walk*** **took in $5,000 (expenses need to be deducted). Thank you to Lucy Hogg for chairing.** ***August picnic*** **- enough funds have been raised for Skimos Band for the August picnic.** *Charity ministry* **January 4, 2024 North End Soup Kitchen 9 am to 12:30 pm. Thanks to Eileen Branoff who chaired and the parishioners who sponsored all 50 children.** *Building and grounds* **church saved $2,000 on heating and electricity. The pavilion needs some work on the concrete flooring before the dance in August.** *Old business* **suggestion of portable dishwasher and to use re-usable coffee cups for the kitchen. At this time, parish council will not move on this.** ***Cookie Walk*** **cookies leftover after Sunday sales - what to do with them? This year they were donated to Carriage Town Ministries and they really appreciated the donation for those in need. Parish council agrees to donate cookies that remain after Sunday sales.** *New business* **our parish is responsible for the main course at the Dormition Fundraising dinner on Thursday, January 18 at St George banquet center. Sharon Jernigan is making contacts with people about preparing the meal. Kathy Gonser is parish contact for registrations. Annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024.**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING **The next Parish Council meeting will be January 9th at 6:30 pm.**

CONFESSIONS **the sacrament of Confession is offered on Saturdays after Vespers and by appointment. Call the parish office 810-744-0070 or e-mail stnicholasburtonmi@gmail.com to make an appointment.**

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	**Paul Ellis**	**Nick Karayanis**	**Bill Tadrick**
Linda Branoff	**Bill Haw**	**Macy Lemmen**	**Wendy Tadrick**
Mary Abu-Aita	**Mary Karayanis**	**Ron Salhany**	**Dave Vuckovich**

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

Mary Abu-Aita	**19820 W. 13th Ave. Unit 167**	**Phoenix, AZ 85027** ****New address****
Linda Branoff	**5238 Sandalwood Circle**	**Grand Blanc, MI 48439**
Paul Ellis	**2360 Stonebridge Dr**	**Flint, MI 48532**
Mary & Nick Karayanis	**2238 Old Hickory**	**Davison, MI 48423**
Dave Vuckovich	**9352 Morrish Rd**	**Swartz Creek, MI 48473**

NEW ICONS Seven (7) icons have been commissioned for the temple – 11 inches by 17 inches with relics mounted in each. John Jurewicz will paint the icons and they will take a year to complete. He is one of the children of Father Theodore Jurewicz who did the icons in the church. The sponsorship for each icon is $1,000.

The icons are

- **St Cornelius, martyr, bishop of Rome, 253 AD – feast on September 16** *available to be sponsored*
- **St Felicitas of Rome, martyr, 164 AD – feast on January 25** ***sponsored***
- **St Patapios of Thebes, monk, 4th century AD – feast on December 8** *available to be sponsored*
- **St Perpetua, martyr, 203 AD – feast on February 1** ***sponsored***
- **St Pontian, martyr, bishop of Rome, 235 AD – feast on August 13** *available to be sponsored*
- **St Stephanida, martyr at Damascus, 170 AD – feast on November 11** ***sponsored***
- **St Victoria of Rome, martyr, 250 AD – feast December 23** ***sponsored***

If you would like to sponsor one of the available icons: Saint Cornelius, Saint Patapios, or Saint Pontian, please contact the office or Father Matthew.

FIRST ORTHODOX WORSHIP / TEACHING IN AN MDOC FACILITY

Saturday, 11/18, was a historic day for Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry in Michigan. Protodeacons Michael and Luke (I was not able to go because of an exposure to COVID) committed their day to visiting the Saginaw Correctional Facility (CF) and meeting with 4 inmates. one of whom, beginning in June, had requested assistance and direction in exploring Orthodox Christianity.

This event was preceded by several months of working with the CF to understand what we needed to do and then passing background checks and going through volunteer orientation.

Then on Saturday, dressed in cassocks and carrying a case with icons, an Orthodox Study Bible, Typika Service Booklets, and sheets with Morning and Evening Prayers they waited, went through several levels of security and searches and waited some more and then received their reward: An hour with 4 men who were very attentive and interested and asked lots of fundamental questions - basically a group of inquirers - and then prayed the Morning Prayers together.

Three of the men were on our list of 8 (now 7 as one has been paroled). One of the men was not on our list. We do not know what we will encounter next Saturday.

We will be working out a schedule for every Saturday in the foreseeable future to lead these men (and hopefully others) through a time of Worship and Inquiry. At this time only the three of us are involved and "certified" as volunteers. As we move forward and better understand the situation we may involve lay people and of course welcome any of you who are interested to participate.

And, since onsite volunteers are generally not allowed to correspond with inmates, we are looking for many more correspondents.

Please keep the Protodeacons and me and the inquirers at the Saginaw CF in the prayers of your parish as we continue this new work, in addition to working to continue correspondence with approximately 30 inmates and establish correspondents for the ones who are inquiring.

All thanks be to God!

Love, Fr. Mike Bassett
Flint, MI · Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska,

I am writing to you, brothers-and-sisters-in-Christ, to thank you once more for your kindness and generosity in giving to the funds aimed at supporting the work of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska. Leo the Great once said, "nothing belongs to each individual more than what has been spent on one's neighbor." The good work being done in the Diocese of Alaska truly belongs to you.

Through your generosity, I have reason to hope that the work of the Church in Alaska can by the grace of God continue to move forward. At present, you have helped us raise $600,000 for the Clergy Stipend Fund which has been the primary focus of our fundraising. You have also helped us raise $12,000 for rectory construction and $300,000 in securities for land management. You have also helped us raise $16,000 for the missionary fund, which has been put to apostolic use, enabling me to travel throughout this vast diocese providing basic spiritual and educational materials (pictures will follow). Given the joyous tidings of Blessed Matushka Olga's upcoming glorification, the fund to which many of you have been contributing will be known as the Saint Olga Fund for Clergy Stipends. We pray that she continues to bless everyone who has given what they can. Blessed Matushka Olga lived in conditions like those of our clergy today, the same clergy for whom I am advocating. She did so with humility, piety, and love for all. As we move towards the glorification of this holy Matushka, I ask that we honor her by imitating her love, her humility, and her eagerness to share with those in need far and wide.

Looking towards the new year, I believe with your help we can meet our initial goal of $1,000,000 for the Saint Olga Fund for Clergy Stipends and begin offering our clergy much-needed additional support. An anonymous donor has generously agreed to match any donations given up to $50,000 between now and December 31st, thereby doubling the impact of your donations offered to this fund during this time frame.

For those of you who have supported the Orthodox Church in Alaska, I am very grateful to you all. Your prayers, love, and alms have enabled the Diocese of Alaska to make significant steps towards restoring our ability to engage the issues facing the people of Alaska and the faithful of our Orthodox Church. By your prayers and continued support, the work of Saint Herman, Saint Innokenty, Saint Yakov and the Blessed Matushka Olga will continue; our people will be taken care of, our churches will grow, and the blessed traditions of the elders will be passed down. Thank you again for being a part of this.

May the blessings of the Alaskan Saints and Matushka Olga be with all of you at Christmas.

With gratitude in the God made flesh of the most Pure Virgin,

+*ALEXEI*
+Bishop Alexei
+Allgiliyaq Kilirnaq
+Епископ Алексий
The God-protected Diocese of Sitka and Alaska

12th Annual Winter Dinner for the Holy Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery

⇒ **When:** Thursday, January 18, 2024, 5 – 8:30 PM
⇒ **Where:** St. George Orthodox Church
5191 Lennon Rd., Flint, MI 48507

Evening Schedule

- ✓ *5:00 Vespers led by the Monastic Community followed by Social Time, Appetizers & The Monastery Gift Shop*
- ✓ *7:00 Dinner and Program (A Rule of Prayer: Individual, Parish, Monastic)*
- ✓ *8:30 Closing Prayer & Good Night!*

Minimum Suggested Dinner Donation

- ➢ $35 / Adult
- ➢ $25 / Child or Student

Make Checks Out To:
DORMITION MONASTERY
OR
Use your phone's camera and the QR Code below to Register / Donate Online

REGISTER / VOLUNTEER / DONATE by Sunday 1/07

- **Online:** ***www.saintgeorgeflint.org (or the QR Code below)***
- By paper: *Fill out the form below, detach and give to your Parish Contact*
- By phone: *Call St. George Church (810-732-0720)*

PARISH CONTACTS

- ✓ Assumption Greek Orthodox Church ..... Lori Photiou
- ✓ St. George Church ..... Fr. Michael Bassett
- ✓ St. Mary Magdalene Church ..... Dn. Michael Schlaack
- ✓ St. Nicholas Church ..... Matushka Kathy Gonser

A Pan-Orthodox Event Sponsored by the Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

Online Registration / Donation QR Code

Register / Donate Online

OR

Fill in the form below and give it & your donation to your Parish Contact

- -

PAPER REGISTRATION FORM
V = Volunteer / $$ = Amount Given / M = Meal / D = Donation Only

Name (please give cell # if Volunteering)	V	$$	M / D

Fr. Michael Bassett – 12/13/2023

Theophany Banquet

Sunday, January 14

Following the Outdoor Blessing of water
and the Divine Liturgy

MENU

Lamb/Chicken
Rice
Vegetable
Salad
Bread & Butter
Dessert
Coffee and Soft Drinks

Adults $18
Children 12 and under free

Theophany House Blessings

We **(I)** wish for Fr. Matthew to visit our home with the traditional blessing this year.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Please visit _____ on a weekday
_____ on Saturday only
_____ any day

Please indicate what time of day works best for you.

_____

Father Matthew or the parish office will call the day before your house blessing.
Please have the following prepared:

1. A dignified place covered by a white cloth with a candle placed there along with an Icon or Cross.
2. Please turn off television and radios.

Father will bring the Holy Water.

JANUARY 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
Times and events are subject to change	1 **No fast** *Office Closed*	2 **No fast**	3 **No fast** *No Divine Liturgy* *No adult education*	4 **No fast** ***9 am-12:30 pm North End Soup Kitchen*** *Office Closed*	5 *EVE OF THEOPHANY* *12pm 40 day Parastas for Kosta Todorovosky at church*	6 ***THEOPHANY*** ***9:30 am Hours*** ***10 am Divine Liturgy*** *5 pm Vespers* *confessions*
7 *9:30 am Hours* *10 am Divine Liturgy* ***Church School-Light of the World***	8 *Fr. in Toledo*	9 *6:30 pm Parish Council* *6 pm Prayer service at St. Mary Magdalene*	10 *No Divine Liturgy* *11:15 am adult ed.*	11 *Office Closed*	12	13 *5 pm Vespers* *confessions*
14 *9:30 am Hours* *10 am Divine Liturgy* ***Water blessing & banquet***	15 *Fr. in Toledo*	16	17 *9:30 am Divine Liturgy* *11:15 am adult ed.*	18 ***12th Annual Dormition Fundraiser at St. George Church*** *Office Closed*	19	20 *5 pm Vespers* *confessions*
21 *9:30 am Hours* *10 am Divine Liturgy* *12:30 pm Baptism for Sonny Bailey* ***Church School-Fruit of the Spirit***	22 *Fr. in Toledo*	23	24 *9:30 am Divine Liturgy* *11:15 am adult ed.*	25 *Office Closed*	26	27 *5 pm Vespers* *confessions*
28 *9:30 am Hours* *10 am Divine Liturgy* ***Church School-Armor of God*** ***Annual Meeting***	29 *Fr. in Toledo*	30 ***Three Holy Bishops*** *Fr. in Toledo (tentative)*	31 *9:30 am Divine Liturgy* *11:15 am adult ed.*		***fast*** ***dairy & fish permitted (no meat)*** ***wine & oil permitted (no meat)*** ***fish permitted (no other meat)***	