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

MARCH 2026

Kontakion ON THE PRODIGAL SON
by Saint Romanos the Melodist

Prelude 1 - I have rivalled the prodigal by my senseless deeds and like him I fall down before you and I seek forgiveness, Lord. Therefore do not despise me, Master and Lord of the ages.

Prelude 2 - Of your mystical table, O Immortal, count me worthy, who have been corrupted by living as a prodigal. And the first robe of grace which I have befouled, wretch that I am, by the stains of the passions, in your unattainable mercy give me once again, *Master and Lord of the ages.*

Stanza 1 - Let us contemplate a supper magnificently spread for the former prodigal now become temperate, for his father, or rather the Father of all humankind, receives him repentant, in his love for humankind. Rejoicing at his repentance, he says to the slaves, "Hurry, make ready for us the all-holy supper. Hurry, above all sacrifice the calf to which a virgin heifer gave birth, because my son was lost before and has now been found. But let us celebrate. He was dead and has returned to life. And I have taken him to my bosom, I *the Master and Lord of the ages.*

Stanza 2 - So let us now hasten and share in the supper; if we have been counted worthy to rejoice with the Father. Let us banquet with the King of the angels. He provides bread which gives blessedness. As drink, he gives holy blood, source of life without corruption and without end, while angels stand and wait. Let us see how the first to take his place was the Lord himself who urges us. Then at once patriarchs, choirs of apostles and the prophets with the martyrs. He makes his son, the prodigal, take his place next to him*, the Master and Lord of the ages.*

Preludes 1 & 2 and stanzas 1 & 2 of 22 stanzas

ST. AMPHILOCHIUS ON AVOIDING DESPAIR

A certain brother, overcome by the passion of immorality, sinned every day. However, each time, with tears and prayers, he would fall before the Master and Lord and receive forgiveness from Him. And as soon as he had repented, the next day, being misled again by shameful habit, he would fall to sin.

Afterwards, having sinned, he would go to the Church, where he would prostrate himself before the honorable and revered Icon of our Lord Jesus Christ and tearfully confess to Jesus: "Lord, have mercy upon me and take away from me this fearful temptation, for it troubles me fiercely and wounds me with the bitter taste of the pleasures. O my Master, cleanse my person once more, that I may gaze upon your Icon and see your holy form and the sight of your face, brighter than the sun, that my heart might be sweetened and thankful."

And though his lips had just whispered these words, no sooner would he leave the Church than he would fall once again to sin.

Despite this, however, he did not despair of his salvation, but, returning from his sinful deed, would cry out in the Church the same words to God, to the Lord, Who loves mankind, adding the following: "My Lord, I swear to you on my word that I shall no longer commit this sin. Only forgive me, Good and Most Merciful Lord, whatever sins I have committed from the beginning to this moment."

No sooner would he utter these awe-inspiring words than he would find himself the captive of this evil sin. Let no one cease to marvel at the sweet love of God towards mankind and at His boundless goodness, with which He each day tolerated the uncorrected and evil transgression and ingratitude of the brother. Indeed, God, because of the greatness of His mercy, persistently accepted the repentance of that sinful brother and his inevitable return. For this happened not for one or two or three years, but for more than ten years.

Do you see, my brother, the measureless forbearance and boundless love of the Master? How He continually endures, showing to us kindness, tolerating our terrible transgressions and sins? And what evokes astonishment and wonderment with regard to the rich mercies of God is that He did not become wrathful with the brother in question, though the brother, agreeing not to fall to sin again, continually broke his word.

At any rate, one day when all that we have described again occurred, the brother, having fallen to sin, rushed to the Church, lamenting, groaning, and crying with anguish, to invoke the mercy of God, that He might have compassion on him and take him from the sin of immorality.

No sooner had he called on God, the Lover of Man, than the Devil, that evil of old, destroyer of our souls, seeing that he could gain nothing, since whatever he accomplished by sin, the brother expunged by his repentance, became infuriated and appeared visibly before the brother. Facing the Icon of Christ, the Devil said to our compassionate Savior: "What will become of the two of us, Jesus Christ? Your sympathy for this sinner defeats me and takes the ground I have gained, since you keep accepting this dissolute man and prodigal who daily mocks you and scorns your authority. Indeed, why is it that you do not burn him up, but, rather, tolerate and put up with him? ... It is because one day you intend to condemn all of the adulterers and the dissolute and you will destroy all sinners."

"Actually, you are not a just Judge. But by whim your power is sometimes applied leniently and overlooks things. So, while I was cast from the heavens down to the abyss for a little breach of pride, to this fellow here, even though an immoral man and a prodigal, you calmly show your sympathy, just because he throws himself down in front of your Icon."

"In what way can you be called a just Judge, then? For, as I see it, you receive individual people with great kindness, but ignore justice in general."

The Devil said all of this, poisoned with great bitterness, whilst there poured forth from his nostrils a black flame.

Having said these things, he fell silent. A voice was heard in response, coming forth from the divine sanctuary, saying the following: "O, all-cunning and ruinous Dragon, are you yet not satisfied with your evil and destructive desire to gobble up the world? Now you have even the nerve to try to do away with this man here, who has come with contrition to entreat the mercy of My compassion to devour him, too? Can you offer up enough sins that, by them, you can tilt the balance of justice against the Precious Blood which I shed on the Cross for this man? Behold My murder and death, which I endured for the forgiveness of his sins."

"You, Dragon, when he turns again to sin, do not turn him away, but receive him with joy, neither chastising him nor preventing him from committing sin, out of the hope that you might win him over; but I, who am merciful and love mankind, who counselled My laudable Apostle, Peter, to forgive sins seven times seventy (St. Matthew 18:22), do I not show him mercy and compassion? Indeed, simply because he flees to Me, I will not turn him away until I have won him over. Furthermore, I was crucified for sinners and for their salvation; My immaculate hands were nailed to the Cross, that those who so wish might take refuge in me and be saved. For this reason, then, I neither turn away nor reject anyone, even if he should fall many times a day and many times return to Me; such a person will not leave my Temple saddened, for I came not to call the righteous, but to call sinners to repent."

During the time that this voice was heard, the Devil was fixed in his place, trembling and unable to run away. The voice then again began to say: "We have heard from all that you say, O Seducer, that I am not just; to the contrary, I am just beyond all. In whatever moral state I find a person, in that state I judge him. Look at this man who a few moments ago repented, having returned from sin and having fallen at my feet with a sincere resolution to abandon sin, and thereby having conquered you."

"Therefore, I will accept him immediately and save his soul, since he did not lose hope in his hard toil for salvation."

"Look how much he merits by his repentance before Me, for which he is honored. As for you, let your hate be shred to pieces and you disgraced."

While this was being said, the repentant brother had thrown himself before the Icon of the Savior. With his face to the ground and lamenting, he surrendered his spirit to the Lord. At the same time that the repentant brother departed to the Lord, a great tempest fell upon Satan, like a fire from Heaven, and devoured him. From this incident, my brothers, let us learn of the limitless compassion of God and of His love of man—a good Master we have—, that we might never again be disheartened by our sins, but rather look after our salvation with zeal. **from the Evergetinos, Volume 1, pages 8-11**

Hours Schedule

March		April		May	
1	Barry	5	Staci	3	Staci
8	Lucy	12	Barry	10	Barry
15	Angelo	19	Angelo	17	Angelo
22	Madison	26	Lucy	24	Lucy
29	Lucy			31	Phil

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

Reader Schedule

March		April		May	
1	Madison	5	Barry	3	Barry
8	Staci	12	Staci	10	Staci
15	Katherine	19	Katherine	17	Katherine
22	Staci	26	Madison	24	Phil
29	Madison			31	Madison

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

Candle Stand Attendant Schedule

March		April		May	
1	Dennis Goodman	5	Dennis Goodman	3	Dennis Goodman
8	Susie Ford	12	Ian & Stephanie P.	10	Susie Ford
15	Christine Panoff	19	Christine Panoff	17	Christine Panoff
22	Ian & Stephanie P.	26	Susie Ford	24	Ian & Stephanie P.
29	Susie Ford			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).

HOURS, READERS & CANDLE STAND. *Please look at each month's newsletter as the schedule may have changed since the previous publication.*

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

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

WEDNESDAY ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES are on hiatus until after Pascha.

INQUIRERS'/CATECHUMENS' CLASS led by Father Matthew after the Divine Liturgy from 12:15 to 1 pm,. Feel free to join in and let other inquirers know about these classes introducing the Orthodox faith. The class meets in the library. Additionally, there is a Tuesday 6 pm Google Meet class.

MEMORY ETERNAL! Milan "Mike" Stikovich fell asleep in the Lord Wednesday afternoon at Whispering Pines in Lapeer. Milan is the husband of Stephanie Stikovich and served as a member of parish council and is a past president of parish council. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Dodds-Dumanois Funeral Home in Flint. You may read Milan's obituary HERE**.** Please see the weekly schedule for the funeral arrangements. Please remember in your prayers his wife Stephanie, his children, and family and friends that the Lord sustain them in their grief. And pray that Milan rest in the light of Christ's Face. Bog da prosti! God forgives! Christ is risen! Memory eternal!

2026 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 receive Confession and Communion within the past year and return a signed pledge card even if you don't enter a pledge amount

PAYPAL **You can use PayPal for your financial stewardship! Go** to our website **www.saintnicholasburton.org** and click on the box **Give now with PayPal**; this is a secure site. (1.99% + $0.49 of your donation goes to PayPal as a fee). ***Please consider clicking the box 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
PayPal will send an email to the church to let us know a donation was received for St. Nicholas Church, the amount, and the giver.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the fellowship hall. 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 Julie 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 & COSTCO COMMUNITY REWARDS Remember to use the Community Rewards when checking out. If you haven't already signed up, you can do so online 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've received $114.68 in 2024.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

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

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting Feminine Care Products for the month of February. 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.

HOPE IN A BOX

Feb	Feminine Care Products
Mar	Deodorant
Apr	Bar & Hand Soap

MARCH **Coffee Social Volunteers & Sponsors**	
1	
8	
15	**In Memory of Nick Maxim (8 yrs)**
22	
29	**In Memory of Nikola Pirkovic (1 yr)**

CHURCH RETREAT at St. George Orthodox Church, "Guarding the Mind, From Inner Watchfulness to Living as Light" on Saturday, March 28, 2026, with Speaker Fr. Paul Matar. Session I: Shining as Light Bearers in Today's Society 9:00 am – 12:30 pm; Lunch 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm; Session II: Guarding the Mind: The Battle of Thoughts 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm; Closing 4:00 pm. The Flyer is posted on the Community Bulletin Board in the Fellowship hall for more information.

MEMORIAL SATURDAY / SOULS' SATURDAY In this newsletter there is a remembrance sheet for 2026 for you to put the first names of those you want to be remembered at the Souls Saturdays throughout the year. Extra copies are at the candlestand.

BAPTISMS Jeff (Nicholas) Muma and Jeffrey (Gabriel) Muma were baptized into Christ on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Paul Brayan is godfather to both Nicholas and Gabriel.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & NAMESDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Steven Krych
Angela Bakousidis Murphy
2 Gerry Bakousidis
3 Petro Ahejew
5 Adam Lang
Michelle Gerzevske
7 Amir Abu-Aita
Andy & Isabella Bakousidis
Johnny Kantor
9 Linda Kilbourne
13 Rachel Wiles
Stojan Prusac
14 Megan Krigner
15 John Popoff
Ryan Broadfoot
Theodore Wilhelm
18 Jim Grossi
19 Joseph Oginsky Sr.
Lena Bakousidis
20 Abigail Zayan
Mary Batzos
Sandra Ahejew

NAMESDAYS

7 Eugene Akkerman
10 Leonid Rabkin
17 Alexis Nedanis
23 Lydia Nicoloff
25 Angela Bakousidis
Angelo (Vangel) Panoff
Evangelos Stavridis
26 Gabriel Paul
27 Robert Elieff
Robert Russell
Robert Steiner

ANNIVERSARIES

5 John & Fanny Popoff (1967)
26 Gregory & Danni Burns (2003)

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

LILLY CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT In October the parish council voted unanimously for the parish to applu for the **Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant** for Father Matthew. This grant would provide the finances for Father Matthew to take a sabbatical. If the grant is awarded, Father Matthew plans to spend three months in Slovakia and one month with family in the states. The grant would cover the honoraria for visiting priest or priests, a guest speaker, a "welcome back" catered parish dinner, and a book study. Archbishop Alexander has already given his blessing. The grant proposal is due by March 18. Grants that are approved will be announced near the end of August. If awarded, the sabbatical must be taken between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2028.

FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE 6:35 pm prayer. In attendance: Christopher Taylor, Eileen Branoff, Staci Shank, Connie Maxim, Bruce Watson, Lena Bakousidis (via FaceTime). Absent: Bill Economou, Dennis Jernigan, Stephanie Price. Minutes approved as presented. Financial report was given. Please fill out a pledge card to help with budget planning. Endowment fund went up $22,492.41 in January. At the Rector's report: written report was presented, added info: Father Matthew will be attending the priestly ordination of Deacon Bogdan Popescu on Sunday, March 8 at St Vladimir Seminary by Archbishop Alexander. When the spring semester is completed Father Bogdan is to be assigned as priest-in-charge of our diocesan mission of St John the Baptist in Los Angeles. Church school students made greeting cards for our homebound parishioners. Outreach: family game night was Friday, February 6 at 6 pm - 20 people attended. Fundraising: 40 tickets purchased so far for Meatfare dinner. Charity ministries: North End Soup Kitchen on Thursday, March 5 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Church building and

grounds: a new solenoid for the bells was purchased by Richard Baranko. We need an invoice in order to re-imburse him for the solenoid as the package contained only a packing list. Old business: Father Matthew's housing allowance was approved - same as previous year. New business: budget was presented for 2026, motion to approve the budget, seconded, approved. Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant: motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved the budget for congregational expenses which will be paid by the grant. The deadline to make the Clergy Renewal Grant proposal is March 18 and Father Matthew plans - God-willing - to submit all the documentation in the online portal before the Great Fast begins on February 23. Review of stipend and salaries. 110th anniversary ideas - a parish picture directory that can be self-funded by sponsorship pages, Archbishop Alexander serve Liturgy, banquet, other activities. Adjourned with prayer at 7:42 pm.

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS – March

March 1 icon procession

8 **Saul (elementary) (high school)**

15 **David (to Goliath) (elementary) (high school)**

22 **David/Jonothan (elementary) (high school)**

29 **Solomon (elementary) (high school) - Confessions**

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!

Deacon John Bocek	Bill Haw	Macy Lemmen	Bill Tadrick
Paul Ellis	Mary Karayanis	Helen Popoff	Wendy Tadrick
Joan Gajewski	Nick Karayanis	Ron Salhany	Dave Vuckovich

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

Jeanette Brayan @ Serene Gardens	1481 E Hill Rd room MC-6	Grand Blanc, MI 48439	
Paul Ellis @ Flat Rock Manor of Goodrich N	7280 S. State Rd.	Goodrich, MI 48438 *New	
Mary & Nick Karayanis	2238 Old Hickory	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-1169
Helen Popoff	2221 Bellemeade Dr.	Davison, MI 48423	810-653-3867
Dave Vuckovich	9352 Morrish Rd	Swartz Creek, MI 48473	810-348-4733 (Barb)
Diane Todorovsky	14182 Moffett Dr	Fenton, MI 48430	810-750-7860
Luba Todorovsky	5077 Wishing Well Dr	Grand Blanc, MI 48439	

PAN-ORTHODOX

Lenten Retreat

WITH FR. BARNABAS POWELL

"Be Watchful- Be Sober: St. Paul's Wisdom for Spiritual Maturity"

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

5:00pm Registration & Lenten Meal

6:00pm 4th Salutations to the Theotokos

7:00pm First Talk with Fr. Barnabass

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

8:30am Registration & Lenten Breakfast

9:30am Second Talk with Fr. Barnabas

Q & A to follow

HOSTED AT ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2245 E. BALDWIN RD
GRAND BLANC, MI 48439

SCAN THE CODE TO REGISTER ONLINE
OR CONTACT THE OFFICE AT
ST. MARY MAGDALENE
SMMOCAFENTON@GMAIL.COM
810-750-1401

The Pan-Orthodox Churches of Genesee County

REGISTER TODAY Registration deadline will be March 13th. If your parish would like to do a paper sign-up for the event please get me any names by the 13th to add to the online registration.

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

2026 Great Fast and Bright Week

Pan-Orthodox Divine Services and Lenten potlucks

Great Compline at St. George (*Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays 6 pm, Fridays 6 pm Akathist)* All are welcome. This beautiful service along with the Lenten Hours on Wednesdays allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available after the service.

Lenten Hours at St. Nicholas (*Wednesdays, 10 am)* All are welcome.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy and **Lenten Potlucks** *(Wednesdays, 6 pm)* 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 at evening liturgies, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 noon*). Confessions will only be available prior to the evening liturgies from 5:30pm–6pm. The lenten potluck dinners will be coordinated by the host parish.

March 4 **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6 pm

March 18 **Presanctified Liturgy** at St Mary Magdalene 6 pm

March 20 & 21 **Lenten Retreat with Fr Barnabas Powell** at Assumption

March 25 **Great Feast of the Annunciation - Divine Liturgy** at Assumption 10 am

April 1 **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6 pm

April 4 **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 9:30 am

Bright Week (April 12-18)

April 13 **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10 am

April 14 **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10 am

April 15 **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. George 6 pm

April 17 **Paschal Divine Liturgy for the Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10 am

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

THE TRIODION - the book with the hymns we will use from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee through Holy Saturday - is here https://www.ponomar.net/data/lenten_triodion.pdf and the hymns for the weekdays of the Great Fast are here https://www.ponomar.net/data/lts.pdf This time of the Great Fast takes the name the time of the Triodion from this book because of the three odes (triodion) for the canons - poetic hymns - at matins. Reading the Scriptures of the day during the Great Fast and the hymns from the Triodion leads us along the journey to Pascha.

RESOURCES FOR THE GREAT FAST

Beloved in the Lord,

As we are in the Great forty days' Fast (Great Lent) I want to help prepare and encourage you with these various resources for your Lenten journey.

The season of the Great Fast is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. It is the living symbol of a human's entire life which is to be fulfilled in your own resurrection from the dead with Christ. It is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors.

In the Orthodox Church, Great Lent is not a season of morbidity and gloominess. On the contrary, it is a time of joyfulness and purification. We are called to "anoint our faces" and to "cleanse our bodies as we cleanse our souls." The very first hymns of the very first service of Great Lent set the proper tone of the season: "*Let us begin the lenten time with delight . . . let us fast from passions as we fast from food, taking pleasure in the good words of the Spirit, that we may be granted to see the holy passion of Christ our God and his holy Pascha, spiritually rejoicing.*"

"*Your grace has arisen upon us, O Lord, the illumination of our souls has shown forth; behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the time of repentance*" (Vespers Hymns).

It is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God's mercy. We mortify our flesh, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into life everlasting. We make ready for the resurrection during Great Lent, both Christ's Resurrection and our own. (source)

Resources for Great Lent

Read about the services of Lent here.

Read about the Sundays of Lent here.

Read about Presanctified Liturgies here.

Orthodox Pebbles Resources for KIDS! is here.

Attending Services during Lent

This is the season of a marked increase in divine services. Please simplify, plan ahead, and prepare yourself for attending as many of the services of the Church as possible. I especially encourage a serious effort for laying that groundwork in the first week of Lent. There is a service to attend every day. Take turns with your spouse in attending services. Turn off Netflix, silence your phone notifications, give of your time and treasures, eat less, and pray more. You will discover that Christ is closer to you than you are to yourself...

Praying during Lent

Seek God in prayer. Read the Psalms. Do your morning and evening prayers. Consult the priest and get a prayer rule. Read these homilies by St. Theophan on prayer. Memorize the prayer of St. Ephraim appointed to be read during the weekdays of Lent. Pray and do prostrations. Use your prayer rope! Seek God in prayer.

Fasting during Lent

"*Let us fast with a fast pleasing to the Lord. This is the true fast: the casting off of evil, the bridling of the tongue, the cutting off of anger, the cessation of lusts, evil talking, lies and cursing. The stopping of these is the fast true and acceptable.*" (Monday Vespers of the First Week).

Fast according to the tradition of the Church. Unless you cannot do so, seek advice as to how to enter into the fast. Refrain from unnecessary and excessive food and drink. The Fathers are clear that our war against the passions starts with fasting. Here is a refresher essay from Metropolitan Kallistos Ware and Mother Mary on the True Nature of Fasting. Here is also a wonderful reflection from Fr. Sergei Sveshnikov Fasting for Non-Monastics. Read more about fasting here.

Almsgiving during Lent

Almsgiving is another invaluable pillar of Lent and of our lives in Christ. Read this reflection on almsgiving. One of the assumptions of the Fast is that the money we save through fasting is owed to the poor. Find a way to give, give in secret, give generously, and give from your heart.

Confessions during Lent

We are given 40 days of the Lenten Season before we enter Holy Week. Please make your confession during these 40 days. I am available for confession by appointment as well as after Vespers on Saturdays. I will not be hearing confessions after the evening service on Holy Wednesday, unless there is a particular need (distance, illness, etc.). If you have any questions please let me know!

"Even if we fall a hundred times a day, it does not matter; we must get up and go on walking toward God without looking back." - Elder Thaddeus, *Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives*

Spiritual Reading during Great Lent

"*Hearken, I entreat you, all you that are careful for this life, and procure books that will be medicines for the soul.*" St. John Chrysostom

PDF of entire Old Testament Readings for Great Lent - compiled by Deacon Raphael Shelton

The Lenten Triodion translated by Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) and Mother Mary online or hardcover

To the indolent soul by Saint Ephrem of Nisbis

On watchfulness by Elder Aimiianos (talks give by Bishop Emilianos of Meloa)

On the holy lenten fast by Saint Dorotheos of Gaza

Homily on the publican and the Pharisee by Saint Cyril of Alexandria

Kontakion on the prodigal son by Saint Romanos the Melodist

Book Recommendations

Fr. Alexander Schmemann "Great Lent: Journey to Pascha"

Fr. Thomas Hopko "The Lenten Spring"

Elder Aimilianos - works available from Ormylia Monastery

Olivier Clement "The Song of Tears: An Essay on Repentance based on the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete"

Elder Thaddeus "Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives"

St. John of Kronstadt "Season of Repentance: Lenten Homilies of St. John of Kronstadt"

Read the Lives of the Saints

"In the Lives of the Saints are shown numerous but always certain ways of salvation, enlightenment, sanctification, transfiguration, 'christification,' deification; all the ways are shown by which man conquers sin, every sin; conquers passion, every passion; conquers death; conquers the devil, every devil. There is a remedy there for every sin: from every passion — healing, from every death — resurrection, from every devil — deliverance; from all evils — salvation. There is no passion, no sin for which the Lives of the Saints do not show how the passion or sin in question is conquered, mortified, and uprooted." - St. Justin Popovich, Orthodox Faith & Life in Christ, "Introduction to the Lives of the Saints"

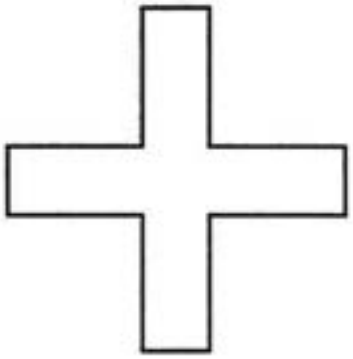
Online at the OCA Website

The Synaxarion (Complete Set)

Prologue of Ohrid either online or hardcover

The Lord be with us on this journey of these forty days leading to his holy passion and resurrection.

love, Fr Matthew



FOR THE REPOSE OF
(first names only – please print)

Requested by: _____ 2026 _____

March 2026

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
2143 S. Center Rd.
Burton, MI 48519
810-744-0070
Email: stnicholas1916@att.net **Website: www.saintnicholasburton.org**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **Sunday of Orthodoxy** 9:30 am Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy procession with the holy icons	2 ‡	3 ‡ 6 pm inquirer/catechumen /neophyte class on Google Meet	4 10 am lenten Hours ‡ 6 pm pan-Orthodox Presanctified at St Nicholas Church Please bring a lenten dish to share	5 ‡ Office Closed	6 ‡ Fr with Archbishop Alexander	7 **Souls' Saturday** 4:30 pm Trisagion 5 pm Vespers Confessions
8 **St Gregory Palamas** 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	9 Fr with Archbishop Alexander	10 ‡ 6 pm inquirer/catechumen /neophyte class on Google Meet	11 ‡ 10 am lenten Hours 6 pm Presanctified Please bring a lenten dish to share	12 ‡ Office Closed	13 ‡ 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy	14 **Souls' Saturday** 4:30 pm Trisagion 5 pm Vespers Confessions
15 **Cross Sunday** 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	16 ‡	17 ‡ 6 pm inquirer/catechumen /neophyte class on Google Meet	18 ‡ 10 am lenten Hours 6 pm pan-Orthodox Presanctified at St Mary Magdalene Church – lenten potluck	19 ‡ Office Closed	20 ‡ 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy 6 pm Salutations at Assumption Church 7 pm Lenten Retreat ***(see flier)***	21 8:30 am registration/breakfast 9:30 am Lenten Retreat ***(see flier)*** 5 pm Vespers Confessions
22 **St John of "The Ladder"** 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	23 ‡	24	25 **Annunciation** **10 am pan-Orthodox Liturgy at Assumption** **7pm at Dormition Monastery - Matins with Canon of St. Andrew and Life of St. Mary of Egypt**	26 ‡ Office Closed	27 ‡ 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy	28 **Akathistos Saturday** 9:30 am Liturgy & Akathist 5 pm Vespers Confessions
29 **St Mary of Egypt** 9:30 Hours 10 am Divine Liturgy	30 ‡	31 ‡ 6 pm inquirer/catechumen /neophyte class on Google Meet	**April 1** ‡ 10 am lenten Hours 6 pm pan-Orthodox Presanctified at St George Church – lenten potluck	**April 2** ‡ Office Closed	**April 3** ‡ 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy Office Closed	**April 4 Lazarus Saturday** 9:30 am preparation/ Liturgy at St Mary Magdalene Church 5 pm Vespers Confessions